



Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.

Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

Newsletter

August, 1986

Dear Friends:

With summer half gone, we have much to report. The Strawberry Festival at the end of June was a great success. 197 people consumed 90 pounds of strawberries, $16\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of ice cream, 24 gallons of lemonade and 200 biscuits.

There were many volunteer helpers. The biscuits were baked by eight local cooks while seven other helpers took care of such items as flowers, tickets, posters, tables and chairs. The servers were helped by nine able young girls.

Following the festival, a brass trio from the Vermont Symphony orchestra put on an instructional program to show how certain instruments are used.

NEW TRUSTEES NOMINATED

At the July 10 meeting the nominating committee, headed by Gwen Wilder, put up the following names in nomination for new Trustees: 2-year terms: Elsie Norton, Larry Roach, Kevin Rooney, and David Wright. For one-year term: Priscilla Lane. Remaining Trustees: Kay Avery, Herb Davison, Carolyn Haynes, Karen Kay, Theron Krouse, Jane Purrington, and Gwen Wilder.

A nomination for Trustee may be made by any member of the Society up to 48 hours before the annual meeting on September 7 through a letter to Gwen Wilder, South St., Middletown Springs. A nominee must be a member of the Middletown Springs Historical Society.

The annual meeting of the Society will be held in the Adams House September 7 at 5 p.m. for a pot-luck supper before the brief meeting for Trustee election.

Following that will be a local talent entertainment.

The new Board of Trustees is asked to remain afterward for the election of officers.

The Summer '86 GUIDEBOOK, put out by the Vermont News Guide contains a six-page well illustrated article on Middletown Springs, written by Phebe Ann Lewis, one of the editors.

WORK AFOOT THIS SUMMER

Efforts to improve the Springs Park and make the Adams House a more useful community center are progressing. New park benches are in place, as well as a covered stand with note paper for visitors to record their names, addresses and comments.

Repainting the dining room of the Adams House finishes the projected work on the first floor. Now, a new roof for the north wing and a stronger support for that roof is on the agenda. In earlier years that second-floor room was the town's recreational center for plays, dances and indoor sports.

Future plans call for renovation of the second floor of the main building; this would provide for a storage area and work room for the Historical Society, plus two more rooms for community use. Action on this will require raising more money. Since 1970 the Society has spent almost \$50,000 and countless hours of volunteer labor on the Springs and Adams House. Membership money meets current costs, but we need more to finish this big job!

Please make checks payable to the M.S. Historical Society and send to Mrs. James Webber, South St., Middletown Springs, VT 05757. The dues are: Individual-\$4; Family-\$5; Contributing-\$10; Sustaining-\$50; Life-\$100

Name

Address

Zip

Amount

MUSEUM WELL VISITED

During this first year that the Museum was open every Sunday afternoon from June to October, there have been many visitors. In addition to the permanent objects on display in the southwest room there have been special exhibits using the middle, or stencil, room also:

Tombstone rubbings by Hannah Hedding
Dana Carpenter, photographer, printer,
pharmacist and naturalist, assembled
by David Wright (for 3 weeks)

Old button collection by Billie Stelzer
Collection of greeting cards by Frances
Krouse.

Coming on September 7 will be an exhibit of old clocks by Alan Grace, and one on pressed glass on September 21 by Jane Furrington. Others are being scheduled.

EVENTS TO COME

Two events to look forward to are the Apple Festival, scheduled for October 19, with Carolyn Roach in charge, and Christmas in the Park with lighted tree and carol singing. This date will be announced later on.

EARLY TOWN DOCUMENTS

Mr. Fred A. Field of Mt. Holly, who is the grandson of Henry Clark, a direct descendant of Jonas Clark, Sr., whose son Jonas Clark, Jr. built the Spa Shop in town about 1814, has turned over to the Historical Society several priceless documents pertaining to the very early

days of Middletown. One is a tabulation of the 466 pupils attending the eight schools in town in 1810. Another is a meeting of the school board in April, 1811 - just three months before the flood wiped out all but one 14 mills along the Poultney River.

Another is a notice dated 28th Oct^r 1784 that the Vermont Legislature had granted that "the tract of land or district hereinafter described is to be incorporated into a Township by the name of Middletown."

MEMBERSHIP

On the first page of this Newsletter is a form for renewal of membership if needed. Some are not sure, and have used it anyway. Here is a way to be sure:

If you are listed as a paying member of the Society, your addressed name on this Newsletter will be followed by either Pd or NP (Paid or Not Paid for 1986). There will be no notation for Life members or on complimentary mailings.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the Historical Society to help us in continuing the job of renovating the Adams House for a community center, please use the slip for that - with our undying gratitude!

For the Trustees

Herbert M. Dawson

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