



Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.
Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

Newsletter

August, 1987

Dear Friends:

After a successful Strawberry Festival at the end of June, The next few weeks of museum exhibits were devoted to Antique Transportation, Gadgets, Ironstone China, local artists, and Old Family Histories. Still to come: Railroading (9/6), Stenciling (to be announced), Old Clothes (20) and finally the Apple Festival (10/18)

During the past two months 149 visited the museum, 94 were from out of town, and 38 asked to be sent our next Newsletter.

In putting on this summer's exhibits, especially the old cars, the art show and early town families, many willing hands have helped, both in preparation and in talking with guests. Among them were Doyle Lane, Kevin Rooney, Hazel Grover, Sue Gobets, Dave Wright, Karen Kay, Dora Parker and Earl Haynes.

CALL FOR HELP ANSWERED

In response to our request for help in organizing museum material, Peggy Carr and Evelyn Wilson have volunteered to do some necessary typing. Also we are grateful to Aileen Stevenson for her advice on museum maintenance.

THE MONTVERT HOTEL

The lure of the mineral springs that were rediscovered in 1869 led to the erection of the Montvert to



accommodate over 200 guests. It was very popular for the rest of the 1800s and until the invention of the gasoline engine cut deeply into the horse and carriage trade. It was finally dismantled in 1906.

There is one person who still remembers these good old days. He is 106 year-old William Thomas, now living in Traverse Nursing Home in Poultney. His grandfather was Dr. Oscar F. Thomas, who practiced in Middletown from 1836 to 1882.

William, whose eyes are getting dim, but whose mind is clear, had written to an old friend some reminiscences of his boyhood:

"I know that the Montvert was built right after the Civil War. Henry Buxton helped dig the foundation. They started it before the frost

If we do not have your membership renewal for 1987, there will be a '86 after your name. Please send it to us c/o Mrs. James Webber, South St., Middletown Spa. 05757. The dues: Individual-\$4, Family-\$5, Contributing-\$10, Sustaining-\$50, Life-\$100

Name	Address	Zip	Amount
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was out of the ground and they had to blast to start digging. The Eager family of New York City had owned it for a long while. In my youth I sold flowers in bunches to the women on the porch. My mother washed and ironed for the Eagers. They had a pond to fill their ice houses annually. The mineral springs were cased in marble."

NEW CURTAINS?

In readiness for the new season, the Community House dining room floor has been painted a dark red and we really need new curtains. If you care to help, please send a small check to the Society c/o Janet Webber, South St. Middletown.

WERE WIVES SLIGHTED?

In a perusal of Frisbie's History of Middletown, covering roughly the town's first hundred years, a fact emerges. In all 130 pages, 557 names occur, but only 51 of these are the given names of women.

Perhaps the most notable discrepancy was that of Jonathan Brewster's wife, Eunice, who came to Middletown with him before the first town meeting in 1785 and lived a year after he died in 1820.

Jonathan Brewster was one of the most important men in town during the first 35 years. Frisbie uses his name on fifteen pages in his History. He also names Jonathan's children: four sons and three daughters, including one named

Eunice, but no mention of his wife.

True, those who cleared the land, built the mills and shouldered the guns were men, but women did take part in many recorded events. To those looking back to early times, it would be helpful to have those names, even though the women couldn't vote then.

One useful device lies in the old cemetery, where names are important. And there we found Eunice - right beside Jonathan!

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last listing, we offer a cordial welcome to the following new members to the Society:

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Bluhm
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Copley
James W. Flye, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Golubjatnikov
Mr. and Mrs. Laurence B. Rossbach, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schubert
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Taran
Daniel Weinstein
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton W. Wright

ARE YOU STILL WITH US?

There are a very few who have yet to renew their membership for 1987. If your name on this Letter is followed by '86, please renew!

For the Trustees,

Herbert M. Davison
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Research Chairman

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