



# Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.

Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

## Newsletter

December, 1986

Dear Friends:

As a result of the elections held at the annual meeting, Sept. 7, the new slate of 12 Trustees is as follows: those with at least one more year to serve: Herbert Davison, Carolyn Haynes, Karen Kay, Gwen Wilder. Permanent Trustees: Kay Avery, Theron Krouse. Those elected to fill expired terms: Priscilla Lane, Larry Roach, Elsie Norton, Kevin Rooney, David Wright.

At a following organizational meeting, the new Board elected Shirley Moyer as Treasurer and Larry Roach as Secretary. The heads of committees are: Building & Grounds: Edmund Ritchie, Herbert Davison; Membership: Janet Webber; Publicity: Marion Geddes; Posters: Karen Kay; Historical Research: Herbert Davison; Museum in the Library: Elsie Norton.

### MUSEUM

The Museum in the Community House, which opened the summer of 1985, was again open this year every Sunday afternoon from June to late October. There were special exhibits also on display: gravestone rubbings and old photographs, the varied interests and accomplishments of Dana Carpenter, buttons, old greeting cards and paper memorabilia, antique clocks, pressed glass, and the apple festival.

The Museum has become a major effort for the Society, and a large number of friends have willingly helped. Those who had special duties are: Carolyn Roach (arranging for attendants for the weekly openings); Elsie Norton, Ginny Turnauer, Janet Webber (setting up exhibits); Jane Purrington, Carolyn Haynes, Elsie Norton (gift acceptance committee); and Hazel Grover, Elsie Norton, Ginny Turnauer, Janet Webber (cataloging museum items).

### CONTINUED RESTORATION

Since the August Newsletter mentioned several projects either in progress or planned, here is a report. Following the painting of the dining room, all windows were taken out and given a good cleaning. The front and two sides of the building have been painted. The upper section of the north wing is in need of extensive roof repair which will be tackled next spring. Meanwhile the interior walls and

ceiling covering has been taken off in preparation for repair.

To provide more space for the needs of the Community Church next door, the renovation of the upper floor of the main building will take preference over the north wing roof this winter. It will also provide space for a work room and storage for the museum, which has become a very important asset for the society.

### LET'S SETTLE ON ONE NAME

Our building has long had three names: Adams House, Community House, and Middletown Springs Historical Society Building. Research has recently found out that a James Ives, and not Cyrus Adams, was the earliest known owner. And since our aim is to make it useful for the whole town, we hope that the Community House is the name that will have general acceptance.

### CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN

Last year a very successful event occurred when Christmas on the Green was held early in December under the auspices of the Grange and supported by many other social and civic organizations. A large crowd gathered around a tall lighted evergreen and sang Yuletide songs. Afterwards refreshments were prepared in the dining room of the Community House.

This year the same event is again scheduled by the Grange, under the direction of Jean DeVoe, for Sunday, December 7. The Christmas tree lights will be turned on at 5 p.m. Following the singing, Gwen Wilder will have light refreshments ready in the Community House. The Museum will be open from 2 to 5 with an exhibit of music boxes supplied by Doyle Lane.

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In the October, 1984, issue of YANKEE MAGAZINE, Middletown Springs received eight illustrated pages in the "This is New England" section. This fall YANKEE

has published a 9"x11" 223-page hard-cover book entitled NEW ENGLAND; CERTAIN PLACES AND SPECIAL PEOPLE. It is superbly illustrated and gives an intimate and perceptive account of the character and people of 30 Vermont towns that YANKEE editors have visited. Middletown Springs is the first town in the book.

#### IS RESEARCH BORING?

To some people the word "research" may sound dull and tedious, but not so in our town. Examples:

A couple from Anchorage, Alaska, came by to see the headstone of grandfather Lewis Barrett. We found it in Pleasant View Cemetery. They had already located the house he had once owned down on South Road called Spoon Mountain Bed & Breakfast. It looked kind of old. Did it have a history? Yes. We found that it was built around 1800 by Azor Ferry, who bought the land in 1777 from the town of Timmouth, built a log cabin because there were no mills then. got married and reared eleven children. Stories exist of his rugged prowess against marauding bears.

A descendant of the Buxton family and his wife from Longview, Washington, wanted to visit the graves of his ancestors. When they learned that there were 35 Buxton graves, they spent the day viewing headstones, looking over the old farm area and chatting with descendant Robert Buxton on West Rd.

Visitors from Wellesly, Mass. asked about the graves of the Woodward family in the 1800s. We found the first wife and their son in the Old Cemetery, but not the father and his second wife. Disappointed, they left.

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A few days later we played a hunch and found the graves of father and second wife in Pleasant View Cemetery. And the monument by the grave had their names and also the names of the two back in the Old Cemetery!

#### SPRING BOTTLES, ANYONE?

A friend of the Society, now living away, has offered to sell one or two of her rare Middletown Springs bottles and donate a percentage of it to the Society. Her price is \$35 a bottle, plus whatever the postage would be if mailed. Janet Webber, our Membership Chairman, will accept the first two or three orders, and take the names of others if more should be available. Her phone is 235-2306 and address is Box 715, South St., Middletown Spa.

#### TOWN PLAN

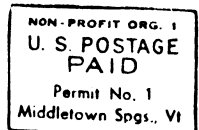
After a year of hard work, a proposed Town Plan was presented at a public hearing November 12. After a few minor changes it will be submitted to the Selectmen who, if approving, will also call a special public hearing, Jan. 12.

#### MEMBERSHIP

We have 14 new members enrolled since last spring, but a few others have not yet sent their dues for 1986. If there is a penciled "NP" after your name on this Newsletter, why not mail in your dues for both 1986 and 1987 and get ahead of the game? Use the slip at the bottom of the other side. The membership year begins in January, so some may wish to renew for 1987.

The best of wishes for a happy Christmas!

*Herbert Dawson*  
For the Trustees



MR. DAVID WRIGHT

TOWN