



# Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.

Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

## Newsletter

February, 1986

Dear Friends:

Since our October Newsletter much time has been spent reviewing our fall efforts and making plans for 1986. At the end of October the annual meeting saw these new Trustees elected: Delight Gartlein, Jane Furrington, Carolyn Haynes, Karen Kay and Gwen Wilder. Remaining Trustees are Janet Webber, Sue Vandersande, Herbert Davison, Peggy Carr, and Ginny Turnauer.

At a later meeting of the new Board of Trustees the new officers will be Janet Webber, President; Herbert Davison Vice President; Ginny Turnauer, Secretary, and Edmund Ritchie, Treasurer.

### NEW HISTORY

Efforts have begun in earnest to collect information and material to be used for the new history of Middletown from 1867 to the present. Oral history is now being taken on tape from local residents with long memories, and the search is on for old pictures, letters, diaries and news clippings. If any of our members living away from Middletown Springs have such items, we would be glad to have them sent to us on loan or as gifts. We shall take good care of them. Please label them.

An example of how much help one person can be is a file of folders that Col. Henry Bigelow gave to the Society a few weeks before he died in January, 1985.

Col. Bigelow was very active in town affairs during his last 25 years here and kept many notes of actual events as

well as his own comments. Among them are a resume' of the history of the Community Church from 1793 to 1924, data on the Men's Club and the Improvement Association, autobiography of Bernard Shattuck, notes and comments on the town's school, the Fire Department and town meetings; and the biographies of Frank Rogers, Earle Hubbard and Ben Buxton.

There were also several notes and clippings on the Mineral Springs, Civil Defence, Dana Carpenter, the Grange, the Montvert Hotel, and just "Old Times."

### CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN

A new event occurred on December 8 as a large gathering of townspeople and visitors assembled on the Green around a huge lighted tree, sang Christmas carols, then came into the Historical Society building for refreshments and to look over the museum, which had an old-fashioned Xmas tree with ornaments and a display of antique toys and small children's chairs.

This event, sponsored by the Grange and other town organizations, was under the direction of Jean Devoe. It was so successful that it may become an annual event.

### LOOKING AHEAD

At the January Trustee meeting plans were discussed to continue our weekly Sunday exhibits at the museum. Hannah Hedding and Bert McClure will begin the season on June 1 with an exhibit of local photo-

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Please make checks payable to M.S. Historical Society and send to Mrs. John VanderSande, Birch Hill, Middletown Springs, VT 05757. The dues are: Individual-\$4; Family-\$5; Contributing-\$10; Sustaining-\$25; Patron-\$50; and Life-\$100

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Name

Address

Zip

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graphs and grave-stone rubbings. We need more ideas and participation to carry on this program for another season.

Projects which will take priority for this year are: building improvement and repairs at the Mineral Springs. At the same time a program of events was laid out for the next few months in our own building.

On March 15 there will be a music fest featuring Tom MacKenzie, a master of the hammered dulcimer and banjo, who will offer traditional tunes and songs that will delight young and old alike. After the program refreshments will be served. Admission is \$2 for adults and #1 for school children. Come and have some fun!

On Sunday afternoon, June 29, the annual Strawberry Festival will be held on the Green. An added attraction this year will be a performance of a small group of musicians from the Vermont Symphony. The details of this event will come in our next Newsletter - but save the date!

**WE'VE MADE THE REGISTER!**

In late November after nearly two years of hard work and much correspondence, we finally got word that Middletown Springs has been listed in the National Register.

The following are excerpts from letters from the Division for Historic Preservation:

"The Historical Society and voters of Middletown Springs are to be congratula-

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ted on their strong support of this project. This is the first project in Vermont that has drawn upon Revenue Sharing Funds to raise the local share of the cost. This show of broad-based support from voters is highly commendable.

"It is heartening to know that the historic buildings of the village are in the care of residents who recognize and appreciate their value and who are committed to preserving the special historic character of Middletown Springs. Again, our congratulations and gratitude to you and the Historical Society for making this a reality!"

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

This is the time of year when we ask for the renewal of membership in the Society for 1986. Please use the slip at the bottom of the other side of this sheet. About 25 members sign for renewal of membership when we sent out the October Newsletter. These have been credited for 1986, but all others (except life members) should renew now.

The income from memberships does not provide us with funds for continued renewal of our building, but it is very much needed to cover running expenses. Please help us to stay in the black!

Most sincerely,

*Herbert M. Davison*

For the Trustees  
Herbert M. Davison

