



# Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.

Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

## Newsletter

May - June, 1985

Dear Friends:

Since our February Newsletter, future plans are under way. The Strawberry Festival, ever a welcome spring event, is set for Sunday, June 30, at 3 p.m. It will be held rain or shine!

A guided tour of interesting buildings around the center of town is scheduled at 2 p.m. starting at the Adams House.

Tentative plans are being made for tours of other town areas of historic interest that could be taken on other occasions.

### UPON REQUEST

The following lists the Trustees and Officers of the Historical Society:

Kay Avery  
Peggy Carr  
Marion Geddes  
Nanette Gilmour  
Theron Krouse  
Elsie Norton  
Jane Purrington  
Edmund Ritchie, Treasurer  
Carolyn Roach, President  
Virginia Turnauer, Secretary  
Sue VanderSande  
Janet Webber, Vice-President

### LIBRARY DISPLAY

As an outreach of interest for children as well as adults, the Historical Society will maintain a display case of Old Middletown items in the Town Library. It will be rotated and renewed periodically

to maintain interest.

### MUSEUM PROGRESS

On April 15, Dawn Andrews, representing the State Historical Society, met with our Trustees to discuss the best way to start and maintain a workable museum.

On April 21 the Society hosted a wine & cheese snack and discussion on the most effective way to use available space for a museum in the building. Over 40 came and many suggestions were offered. A guest speaker at the meeting was Margaret Onion, of the Vermont Historical Society, who approved of the plans already made for a rotating display museum, and added suggestions for collecting, itemizing, and protecting items loaned or donated for the museum.

### WORKSHOP TRIP

Early in May three Officers, Janet Webber, Carolyn Roach and Ginny Turnauer, went to Montpelier to take part in a series of workshops on the management and maintenance of historical societies. Much descriptive material was available which will be of help to our organization as our plans for a museum develop. Many are needed for this project, and we are looking for volunteers!

### THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Middletown Springs' application for membership in the National Register of Historic Places has reached the final stage, and a decision is expected this summer.

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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

Amount

Following a two-week survey of the town last October by an architectural historian sent by the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, the results of the survey, the area designated as the "historic district", and photographs of the buildings within the district were sent. Included also were descriptions of the buildings for the owners or occupants to look over and make any comments or suggestions for change.

#### PICTURES ON DISPLAY

This material was on display at the Historical Society building for a full week in April, and a final report was filed at the Vermont Division.

One more step remains. Each owner in the "district" will receive a letter asking for any change in the description they might have. Then the State's final report goes to the National Register in Washington for final action.

#### PROBLEMS

In laying plans for a museum and its management, two problems have to be met and solved. One is where to keep all the historic material available to the Society in one place, so that it can be used a little at a time on a rotating display basis.

The entire upstairs in the Adams House is unused, but so far unfinished and with no prospect of completing it soon. Many items are kept in individual homes but cannot be indexed or inventoried.

#### WHERE DO YOU HOUSE AN ELEPHANT?

Among the many items of Old Middletown are three that are not easily tucked away. The Society owns one large-wheel old fashioned bicycle, three Gray horse-powered threshers, with another in the offing if we want it. These are definitely part of the town's history, but how can we display them? We have used one of them in Memorial Day parades now and again, but they need a permanent, public-display home!

#### 1985 MEMBERSHIPS

A number of memberships for 1985 are still to be renewed. We know that you are interested and want to keep informed of the Society's activities. And you know that we need membership fees to meet normal operating expenses.

Please use the slip at the bottom of the other side page.

Herbert M. Davison  
Research Chairman

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