



Middletown Springs Historical Society NEWSLETTER

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September 2006

Society and School Form Community History Partnership

by Jon Mathewson

The Middletown Springs Historical Society and the Middletown Springs Elementary School have been chosen for the Community History Partnership Program sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society for 2006-2008.

The Historical Society and the School will work together on a series of programs with the students focusing on local history. Students will research town history by visiting historic sites and repositories of local history, including the Historical Society archives and various area libraries. Student teams will choose aspects of Middletown history on which to concentrate, leading to a final project. The projects will be featured on the Middletown Springs Historical Society web site, as well as on the Community History Partnership site.

The co-ordinators for the project will be Historical Society Collections Manager Jon Mathewson, Elementary School Principal Bob Bruttomesso, Afterschool Program Director Rosemary Moser, and Community History Partnership Coordinator Sarah

Andelman. For participating in the program, the Historical Society and Elementary School will receive technical help from the Community History Partnership, as well as a desktop computer, a laptop computer and a copy of Past Perfect, a collections management software.

This state of the art collections management program for small museums, will be used by the Historical Society to proceed with the cataloguing of the collections. The students participating in the Community History Partnership program will learn how to use the software, producing digital images, entering data, and creating virtual exhibits for the Historical Society and Community History Partnership web sites.

Middletown Springs is the first town in Rutland County to be chosen to take part in the Community History Project. To see projects produced by other schools which have taken part in the project, visit the Community History Project web site at www.vhscommunityhistory.org/.

Montvert Hotel Site Tour on Vermont Archaeology Month Calendar

Society President David Wright led a walking tour of the Montvert resort and mineral springs on September 2 as part of the Vermont Archaeology Month. Organized by the Vermont Archaeological Society, the annual September event

features lectures, hikes, tours, demonstrations and other activities all over the state. The complete calendar can be viewed at www.vtarchaeology.org.

The Montvert tour began in the Mineral Springs Park with an overview of the history of the springs



John Franz

and the resort development. The group proceeded to the hotel cellar site, an L-shaped foundation, 100 feet long each direction surrounded by forest. Still visible are lanes and paths lined with maple trees, the circular base of a fountain, and the foundation of a gas

house. The hotel carriage barn remains largely unchanged, while the bowling alley has been made into an Arts & Crafts style bungalow.

Ten visitors participated in the tour, which was co-sponsored by the Historical Society.

Bylaw changes

On the agenda for the Annual Meeting on September 24 are several changes to the Society's bylaws. The first change to Article II corrects an ambiguous word order, while the second adds the maintenance of a web site and use of the Internet to the list of the Society educational activities.

Changes in Article III, Section 1, relate to proposals by the Board of Trustees to change the structure of Society membership. Under the new structure, annual membership dues would be raised from \$8 to \$10 for individuals, and from \$12 to \$15 for families. Contributing and Business memberships would remain at \$25 and \$50, respectively, and a new annual category, Sustaining, would be added at \$100. The categories of Individual Life and Family Life would be eliminated for new memberships. All current life memberships would, of course, continue.

Proposals to raise annual dues and eliminate life memberships reflects the trustees' concerns for maintaining adequate income to pay monthly bills

for phone and electricity, postage, printing and property maintenance, as well as annual charges for fuel oil and insurance. Costs of all of these items increase every year, and our income must keep pace. The trustees hope that eliminating life membership categories for new memberships will increase annual support for the Society. As always, the trustees thank everyone in every category of membership who gives a little extra to the Annual Fund!

Consistent with these changes, Section 2, which allows designation of honorary Life memberships, would be eliminated. Also, the reference in Section 3 to life memberships would be deleted and other wording in that section would be changed for clarity.

Changes to Article IX clarify that the assets of the Society that might remain in the unlikely event of the dissolution of the organization would include its real estate as well as its collections.

Changes to the bylaws are proposed from time to time (last changes in 2004, last dues increase in 1999) to keep up with inflation and with the times. We hope the membership will support the proposed changes at the Annual Meeting.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Middletown Springs Historical Society will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24, at the Historical Society Building.

Agenda

7:00 p.m. Dessert Buffet

7:15 p.m. Business Meeting & Election of Trustees

7:45 p.m. Historian Don Wickman will speak on
*"The Military Adventures of Oscar Wait,
10th Vermont Volunteers"*.

Oscar Wait of Franklin County, served nearly three years with the 10th Vermont Infantry, the Civil War regiment in which twenty-four young men from Middletown served. The editor of Wait's recently published memoirs, Don Wickman will relate the history of the regiment and Wait's experience as a soldier.

Don Wickman is a historian and writer. He is recognized as an expert on Mount Independence in Orwell during the American Revolution and the Vermont Civil War flags. He has just completed a study of Brattleboro photographer George Houghton and his images taken of Vermont soldiers during the Civil War. He has written nearly eighty historical features for the Rutland Herald and has been published in several other journals and magazines. Wickman is also a history instructor at Community College of Vermont.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The following amendments to the Bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Copies of the current Bylaws can be obtained by mail, or by email from montvert@vermontel.net.

Article II Purpose

Paragraph 3 - Move "When feasible," to the beginning of the sentence.

Paragraph 3, line 1 - insert "and will maintain a web site;" after "will publish historical material;"

Line 2 - insert "and the Internet"

Article III Membership

Section 1, line 1 - Delete "except Life".

Section 1, line 2 - delete "Family Life"

Schedule of dues: Increase Individual to \$10.00; increase Family to \$15.00.

Delete "Individual Life" and "Family Life".

Add "Sustaining \$100.00", after "Business \$50.00"

All existing Life Memberships shall remain in effect.

Section 2 - delete all of Section 2

Section 3, line 2 - delete "All life memberships, along with" and capitalize "Any".

Section 3, line 6 — Change "general fund" to "operating fund"

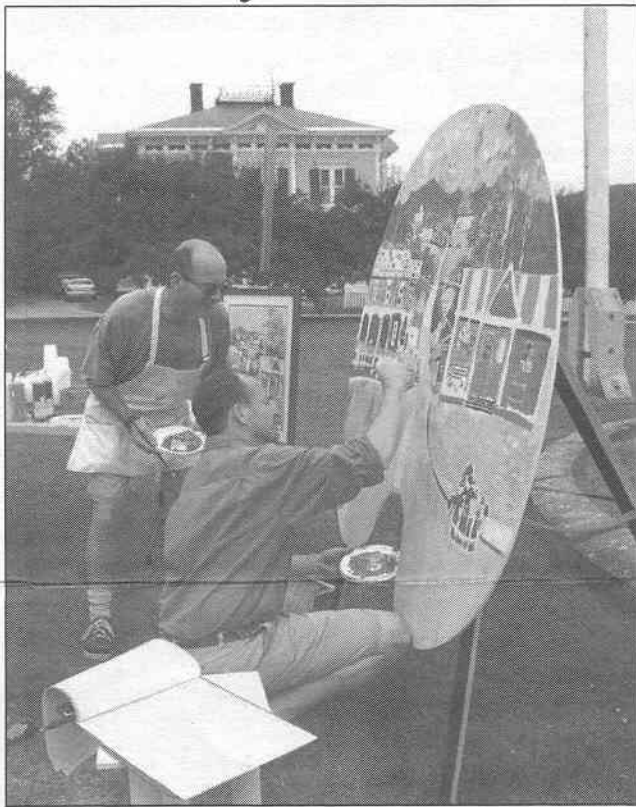
Section 3, line 9 — Change "property" to "properties"

Article IX Dissolution

Line 1 — Add "properties," before "collection in its entirety"

Line 2 - Add "and all other tangible assets" after "entirety".

Strawberry Festival



David Wright

Middletown Springs water color artist and teacher Peter Huntoon directs a Community Painting at the annual Strawberry Festival. Festival-goers completed a painting which Peter had sketched of a Middletown Springs scene. In conjunction with the Vermont Arts Council's "Palette Project", the painting was done on a palette-shaped panel created by Barbie and David Carr.

Spring House Makeover



Emmett Francois

Betti and Nelson Jaquay of Tinmouth have painted the spring house in the Mineral Springs Park in a color scheme based on paint fragments found on pieces of the original spring house, now in the Historical Society collection.

Historic Photo Note Cards, Bottles and Pewter Plates Available

It's never too early to think about holiday gifts for folks who appreciate Middletown Springs and its rich history.

Sets of note cards featuring eight historic Middletown Springs photographs from the Historical Society collection are still available for sale. Packaged in an attractive box, eight cards, each with a different photograph, and eight envelopes are offered for \$12, postage included.

Pewter plates commemorating five Middletown Springs landmarks (Spring House, Congregational Church, Jonas Clark house, Elementary School and Hoadley Civil War monument) were produced in limited editions in the early 1970's. The family of a former member has donated a complete set (in perfect condition, including wire hangers for wall display). The set of five can be yours for \$100, plus postage. The individual plates are available for \$25, postage included.

Genuine antique Middletown Springs mineral water bottles are available from the Society, starting at \$75. Please visit the museum (Summer Sundays 2-4 pm or by appointment) or email David Wright at montvert@vermontel.net.

Keep these items in mind for holiday gifts and watch for an order form with the Annual Fund appeal in October!

RECENT DONATIONS

Janice Leffingwell recently brought in a copy of the 1869 edition of Beer's *Atlas of Rutland County*, which was owned by Anstys Cairns Perry Spaulding, who died in 1997. The donors were Mrs. Spaulding's daughter and son-in-law, Arlene and Bryce Masters of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Priscilla Lane gave a set of plans and specifications for the Leonidas Gray house on South St., where Priscilla operated a bed & breakfast for many years. Produced by a Poultney architect named S. E. Smith, the drawings show a building somewhat different than the one that was built. Priscilla also gave several photographs from the Gray family.

The Slate Valley Museum has given the Society a telephone system that includes an answering machine and three cordless handsets.

John Arsenault donated an 1870's stereoview photograph of "The Swing from the Croquet Grounds at the Lower Springs, Middletown" by T.G. Richardson of St. Albans, a great addition to our collection of Richardson photographs.

Membership Information

Membership dues for 2006 were due in January. Dues for 2007 will be decided at the Annual Meeting.

Dues for 2006:

Individual	\$8.00	Contributing	\$25.00
Family	\$12.00	Individual Life	\$125.00
Business	\$50.00	Family Life	\$150.00

Send to: Pat Hemenway, *Treasurer*
Middletown Springs Historical Society
P.O. Box 1126
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

- Frisbie's *History of Middletown* CD-ROM or photocopy, \$20, post paid.
- Eight notecards with historic photos of Middletown Springs, \$12 postpaid.
- *Historic Architecture of Middletown Springs* pamphlet, \$3, post paid.
- *A Gem in the Hills*, by Frances Krouse, \$25.00, post paid.

Donations to MSHS, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, are tax deductible.

Visit our web site:

www.middletownspringshistoricalsociety.org

Business Members

Thanks to local businesses that have joined MSHS under our "Business" membership category:

Archideck—Sarah Grimm

Estelle Ellis—Business Image, Inc.

William Emberley—Antique Bottles & Collectibles

Friends in Adoption—Dawn Smith Pliner

Green Mountain Timber Frames—Dan McKeen

LaValley Building Supply

Jim Marquis—Antiques Appraiser

Southview Arts—Digital Recording Studio

Stewarts Dairy

Twin Mountain Farms B&B—Annie & Walt Pepperman

Williams Hardware, Poultney—Bob Williams

The MSHS Newsletter is published twice a year for members and friends of the Society. Comments and manuscripts on subjects of interest are encouraged and should be sent *clo* David Wright, editor.

Middletown Springs Historical Society
P.O. Box 1126
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Return Service Requested

Welcome! New Members

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Dennis Clark, *Charleston, S.C.*
Adina Roberts, *Pasadena, Calif.*

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Elsie Norton & Jean Ann Reynolds, *Middletown*
Aileen & Peter Stevenson, *Middletown Springs*

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Estelle Ellis, *New York, N.Y.*
Larry & Evelyn Ritchie, *Middletown Springs*

2006 COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 24 Annual Meeting, 6 pm

Sunday, Oct. 15 Museum Open House &
Donor Celebration, 1-4 pm



VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE

www.middletownspringshistoricalsociety.org
or google
"Middletown Springs Historical Society"

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION
VT 050 2 L
16 SEP 2006 PM

