

MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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Our mission is to enlighten our community with an understanding of our past to promote an objective vision of the future.

Home of the Vermont State Terrestrial Fossil

50TH ANNIVERSARY 1968-2018 Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

At a dinner party in town during the summer of 1968, Edna Mae DesJardins, whose mother's maiden name was White, suggested that we should create a historical society and museum. Her idea was to turn the old Will White blacksmith shop building into a museum. It had become available with the death of Warner Edminster a year earlier. His family in Massachusetts was looking to sell the building that had been converted into a house several years prior. Allen Devereux was in contact with the Edminster family and told them about the museum plans. Knowing the building needed a lot of renovation, they agreed to sell it for reasonable price. They also left many bottles and labels that Mr. Edminster had used in his travelling druggist business along with an old hand operated printing press.



(above) Milton Unterman in front of The Will White Blacksmith Shop Museum in Belmont circa 1970 (below) The Blacksmith Shop interior after second renovation circa 2010.



To learn more about the donors and hear details about the renovations over the years please attend the museum's annual meeting on July 17th at 6 p.m. The evening starts with a potluck supper, short business meeting, and then a discussion about the museum's history.



L to R: Charles, Edna Mae, Margaret, Philip, Carol, Edna, Robert and Tom. The VanBibber family in 1927. Richard was born later. This photograph was taken in their Belmont, Vermont home. (now the residence of Gerry and Don Tarbell, 1994.)

Edna Mae with her family in Belmont

Lake Ninevah

(Part III of III)

By Paul Nevin

Wilderness Corporation to Farm and Wilderness Years



Lake Ninevah

Photo credit - Scatterbone

The first thing I need to do is explain the organizations that have had a recent history around Lake Ninevah. The Wilderness Corporation was formed in 1961 to buy and preserve lands on the east and southern ends of the lake. This group was led by Ken Webb. Ken and his wife Susan founded Farm and Wilderness Camps which still have a presence on Lake Ninevah today. Larry Kelly bought a small tract of this land from the Davis family as well. Shortly afterward Larry sold his tract to the Wilderness Corporation.

To keep the Wilderness Corporation solvent, the members created the Wilderness Community. Lots were sold, mostly on the north end of the lake, to people wishing to enjoy a pristine mountain lake. In 2001 the for profit Wilderness Corporation was dissolved and the new non-profit Ninevah Foundation was created. Over the years much confusion has existed around the names of these four organizations.

The Wilderness Corporation land stretched from the dam south and included all the lands bordering the marsh at the south end of the lake. Larry proceeded to develop the lands he purchased. He built an A-frame for himself, sold a lot to a good friend, Joe Beauparlant, and sold one additional lot to the Rice family. He also quickly had the property logged. Shortly after the logging, the Wilderness Corporation bought the remaining land and the A-frame from Larry Kelly. At this time the Kelly tract was surveyed and divided up into mostly one acre lots. This would become the heart of the Wilderness Community. Some additional lots were also sold around

the lake but very little of the lake shore. Instead of dividing the lakeshore up into tiny lots, community beaches were established for Wilderness Community members to share. Today six beach areas are available for community members. Since 1960 many dwellings have been constructed. These dwellings range from simple shelters to year round homes. Some owners have chosen to never build and the use their lots for camping only.

Ken Webb also had in his vision starting some additional wilderness camps in the Ninevah area. He already had a number of camps on Timberlake in Plymouth. Three camps were started in the Ninevah area. Saltash Mountain Camp (SAM) was a wilderness camp for boys. Flying Cloud is a boys camp with an Native American flavor. Dark Meadow was a girls camp on the south end of the Lake Ninevah. Sam and Flying Cloud are still active today. The girls camp operated for about ten years but then ceased operation. Sam has been converted into a coed camp but remains similar in scope. You always know when SAM is in operation because they have a large hoop that is struck to call campers. The sound can be heard all around the lake. Flying Cloud has remained much the same as it was when started in the 1960s.

The main lodge of SAM dates back to the Davis family. In 1946 the Davis family wanted to have a camp they could use for family gatherings. With the help of many of their friends a rustic cabin was built on the eastern side of the lake near the dam. The lodge, as well as the acreage around the lodge were rented to the Farm and Wilderness Camps. Farm and Wilderness has added additions to the original camp but the original building is still quite evident. The eastern shore of the lake also has a number of shelters which are the homes for the campers during their seven week stay. An outdoor pavilion was added for meals and activities. In the summer it is hard to see any of these structures as they are screened by leaves.

Vin Blakely continued to own the west side of the lake. But in 1964 he decided to sell his holdings to the Wilderness Corporation for cash and stock. This added another 300+ acres to the Wilderness Corporation's holdings. With this purchase the Wilderness Corporation controlled about 90 percent of the shoreline. Vin Blakely continued to come to the lake and rent cabins until 1970.

(continued on next page)



Lakefront Cabin

After that he retired to Florida. Many of the old cabins he had rented were then torn down. They were named Lakeside, Mountain View, Beach Comber, Lazy Days, and Holiday. Other Blakely cabins were sold rather than razed. These included Bluebird, Meadowlark, Blueberry Patch, Hearthside, Sunny Days and Lakeview.

All these cabins still exist except for Meadowlark and Hearthside which were razed and replaced with modern structures. The Wilderness Corporation also purchased three private cabins on the shore of the lake and razed them.

Also demolished, were the Ninevah Grocery store, a storage shed, and the combination changing room and laundromat which was in the Blakely Meadow. Judy and I ran the store in the summer of 1971 and the campers were our best customers. We could hardly keep enough candy in stock. The Blakely meadow, once the center of lake activities, was now void of buildings.

In addition to the Davis and Blakely lands additional tracts were purchased around the lake. Lands to the Northeast and south of the lake were acquired. These purchases gave the Ninevah Foundation 3300 acres of land. Most of the development rights have been donated to a land trust making sure that the lands around the lake will remain as beautiful as they are today.

In the late 1990's the Wilderness Corporation directors decided to convert to a non-profit organization. No-one got rich holding Wilderness Corporation stock. Finances always seemed to be an issue. It took considerable hard work to convert to a non-profit. This was accomplished

in 2001. This conversion however worked and the Ninevah Foundation has been financially secure largely through selling development rights. The goals stay the same. Both groups wanted to preserve the lake and the surrounding lands.

Although many things have changed, others have endured. The Pinney/Chang/Swartz family has owned land on the lake for almost 100 years. The Nowak family has owned the same cottage for over 65 years. The Hewlett/Boudro family has owned their lot, now with a new dwelling, for over 60 years. Many other lake community families have been long time visitors to the lake. Many started as renters from Vin Blakely. I have known some of these families as good friends for almost 70 years.

When the Wilderness Corporation first came on the scene they were viewed with some suspicion. Long time property owners were approached with the intent of buying their land. This did ruffle some feathers. But over the years most property owners have come to value what the Wilderness Corporation and Ninevah Foundation has been able to achieve. Thousands of people come to the state access each summer to enjoy this beautiful mountain lake. I for one, have come to appreciate all of the Ninevah Foundation's conservation efforts.

The last chapter just happened in the last few weeks. For a number of years the Ninevah Foundation has been working toward a merger with Farm & Wilderness Camps. The two non-profit organizations are now merged. I don't think you will notice any changes but the merger opens many new and exciting opportunities.



Townsend/Hayes Barn Oldest building at Ninevah

Museum Legacy

*Have you
thought about your
legacy?*

Do you have fond memories of Mount Holly, Belmont, Star Lake, the Odd Fellows dinners, the Library, the Community Association, the Mt. Holly Community Historical Museum, the sense of community the town provides?

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum is a repository of these memories of the town. Not only does it provide educational displays, the Museum educates all Mount Holly school children annually, puts on week-end special events, and answers your questions about local ancestors.

Perhaps you are a Mount Holly native, perhaps you spent your growing-up years as a summer resident, perhaps you have decided to make Mount Holly your home, perhaps your ancestors came from the area. Perhaps winter sports are your thing. Perhaps the summer activities entice you. Perhaps you value a corner of well preserved rural and scenic America.

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum Board hopes you will consider a legacy gift to honor your feelings for the town and community. Your gift will go a long way in encouraging and sustaining the future of the Museum located at the heart of Belmont.

Such a gift is easy to arrange with your family, your lawyer, your estate planner. By designating a portion of your estate to the Museum's future, you can help to guarantee that your ancestors will have the ability to enjoy the town's history. Such a gift is a pledge to the future.

Your gift is not about having great wealth, but more about sharing your deeply held values and recognizing your fond memories. You can provide a simple bequest by naming the Museum in your will or trust. You can provide the Museum with funds from your IRA or you can designate the Museum as a partial or complete beneficiary of your life insurance policy. In any case, none of these options will take place until after your death. Each option will likely save your family estate taxes.

Thank you for your support and for helping to secure the Museum's future for generations to come. The Museum is a completely volunteer run organization that receives no town funding.

To make your legacy wishes known, please contact:
Dennis Devereux
P.O. Box 1, Belmont, VT 05730
802.259.2460

The Marshall “Medallion Stone”

An important piece of Mount Holly history was acquired this past fall. Since the 1920's a large brass medallion, purchased by Belmont Postmaster Howland Marshall, has been attached to a stone step leading up to his house across from the Belmont Village Store. The 7-inch circular medallion was attached to a nearly 4-foot square block of stone that has bored holes along its edges. It was cut from a larger block to create the step. The information on the medallion includes that it was produced by the U.S. Geological Society, and is located at 1,840 feet above sea level. It is fitting that its new location at the Perkins House Museum across the Village Green is at about the same height.

Usually the postmaster is also the store owner and the office was located inside the store. By 1942, when business was slowed during our nation's involvement with World War II, the store was closed for a few years and it caused Postmaster Howland Marshall



to move the office across the street into his home. After his passing in 1946 his wife, Ethel, replaced him until she moved into a nursing home. In 1960, storeowner Allen Devereux was appointed to replace her, and the office was moved back into the store.

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Recently the new owners of the Marshall House wanted to rebuild the stone wall and remove the stone steps. We are grateful that town resident Jeb Porter was involved with the project and thought of our historic Perkins House Museum as a good place to reset it. Last October Jeb delivered the stone step to us and placed it in front of the unused main door of the original building. Included on the medallion is a large arrow pointing north, the latitude location of 48 degrees, 24 minutes, and 66.9 seconds, and the longitude location of 72 degrees, 49 minutes, and 15.65 seconds. Also included is the altitude of 1,840 feet above sea level, magnetic north of 18 degrees, and H.C. Marshall.

Keeping the Lights On

How the museum pays for itself

Our museum is entirely self financed. We receive no regular funds from public sources or from any other private organization. From time to time we receive bequests or large donations. The primary source of funds for our regular operating budget is dues from museum memberships, and from our fundraising activities. For large projects like the renovation of the Perkins House, we had a separate fund raising program and received grants from public and private sources. Our current project to improve the accessibility of our collection is funded on a shared basis by the museum and a generous member.

In the fiscal year that ended on June 30, the museum had income of \$9,050.00 from the following sources:

Membership dues of \$1,895.00 from 55 families or individuals

Donations of \$1,001.00

Fundraising activity income of \$5,820.00

Miscellaneous (Sales, Interest etc) \$334.00

The regular expenses include heating, alarm system, telephone, insurance, electric service, cleaning, fundraising expenses, landscaping, and snow removal. These amounted to \$10,346.00 in the current fiscal year. In addition to these regular expenses, we have building maintenance, and repairs to various systems as required which amounted to over \$5,000.00 due to a failure of some heating devices. We typically use our reserve funds for these items once our annual funds are exhausted.

As you read through this newsletter and consider the wonderful resources the museum provides to the Mount Holly community and beyond as well as the active contributions the museum makes to local schools and to community life, please feel inspired to help us to continue for another 50 years by continuing. or renewing your membership, making a donation or both! Of course, you would be welcome to become an active partner.

Education Committee Report

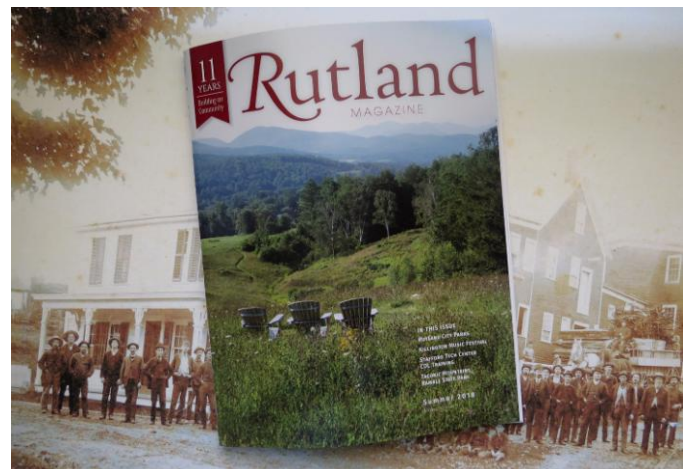
The museum board has been once again involved with educational programs for the children in our elementary school. The fifth and sixth grade students were spoken with several times in their classroom last fall. The third and fourth grade classes visited the museum in the fall to learn about old fashioned tools. This spring they attended a program about the completion of the railroad in town and the discovery of the mammoth tooth and tusk.

In June, the rest of the grades will visit the museum. The kindergarten will be learning about the Chase Toy Factory. The first graders will learn about the many one room school houses and our only two room school house. The second graders will learn about he life of the farmer. And the fifth and sixth grade students will learn about Mount Holly's cemeteries.

We are pleased to be able to make the history of our wonderful town come alive for the children.

Judy Nevin
School Committee Chairperson

The museum is featured in the summer edition of Rutland Magazine



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The Annual Festival of Lights fund raising event was held at the Perkins House this past December. Due to the generosity of individuals and business, over 100 items were donated for our silent auction and raffle. Thank you to the participants who made the event a success.

We thank the following for supporting the museum through their donation(s).

ALEC MCCALLUM
ALYNN AINES
BABA A LUIS
BELMONT STORE
BENSON CHEVROLET
BIG EYES BAKERY
BLUSH SALON
BOOK NOOK
BREWFEET
CAFE AT DELIGHT
CAROL DEVINE
CAROL SERAVEZZA
CINDY HINCHLIFF
COMMUNITY GUILD
COOKSTER
CROWLEY CHEESE
D. LASSER POTTERY
DEBBIE & DENISE EASTMAN
DESIGN BY COLLEEN
DORIS REISER
EASTWOOD ANIMAL CLINIC
EDWARD JONES INVESTMENTS
EXPRESS COPY
FERN FARMSTEAD AND GARDENS
FLEECE ON EARTH
FLETCHER FARM SCHOOL
GARDEN CAFÉ
MOUNT HOLLY GARDEN CLUB
GARDEN TIME
GENE JENNINGS
GREEN MOUNTAIN SUGAR HOUSE
HANNOUSH JEWELERS
HARRY'S CAFÉ
HOMESTYLE HOSTEL
HOUNDS FOLLY
INN AT WESTON
JEB PORTER
JOY OF NAILS
JUDY NEVIN

LAVALLEY'S
LYNN ANDERSON
MADELYN FAY
MAGGIE BLANE
MARY GORMAN
MASTER PLUMBING AND HEATING
METAL WORKS
MODERN CLEANERS
MOJO'S
MR TWITTERS
NANCY MCKEEGAN
NORTHERN SKI WORKS
OKEMO RESORT
PAT LABELLA
PENNY CALDWELL
PETER & STEPHANIE SMITH
RIVERSIDE VETERINARY CARE
ROBIN NELSON
ROSE & ANTHONY SEGRETO
RUSTIC ROOSTER
RUTH DICKEY
SEAN & SUMMERS WILLIAMS
SENSATIONAL NAILS
SEVENTH HEAVEN SALON AND SPA
SILVERSPoon
SINGLETONS
SOUTHSIDE STATION
VT SPORT AND FITNESS
STEPHANIE STOUFFER
STEVE FLANDERS
STONE CREEK
SUE COVALLA
SUZI HAMILTON
SWEENEY TODD
SWEET SURRENDER
THE NEXT CHAPTER
TISA VON DIM
VERMONT COUNTRY STORE
VIOLA HIGGINS
WESTON PLAYHOUSE
WESTON VILLAGE STORE

Mark Your Calendars

The Festival of Lights will be held on Saturday December 15th, 2018 from 6-8 p.m. at the Perkins House Museum. For adults, this fun event will feature a silent auction, wine basket raffle and door prizes. There is no admission charge. Wine, punch, cheese board and hors d'oeuvres will be served!

2018**MUSEUM SUMMER SCHEDULE****2018**

Museum Open Each Weekend during July and August ~ Saturdays and Sundays 2 to 4 pm
 Note Additional Special Times on Calendar

JULY	SUNDAY 3 RD	Open for browsing 2 to 4 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY 4 TH	Town Parade 11 a.m. and Barbeque at the Odd Fellows Hall, Museum open for browsing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
	SATURDAY 7 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SUNDAY 8 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SATURDAY 14 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SUNDAY 15 TH	Herbs, A Way Of Life program by Lory Doolittle at 2:15 p.m., Perkins House *
	TUESDAY 17 TH	Annual Meeting...Pot Luck Dinner 6 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont Program to Follow: History of the Museum's Founding*
	SATURDAY 21 ST	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SUNDAY 22 ND	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SATURDAY 28 TH	Early Roads Tour , meet at Perkins House 1 p.m.*
	SUNDAY 29 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
AUGUST	FRIDAY 3 RD	Meet the Artists of ArtFest 7 to 9 p.m. Perkins House*
	SATURDAY 4 TH	ArtFest Perkins House 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
	SUNDAY 5 TH	ArtFest Perkins House Noon - 4 p.m.
	SATURDAY 11 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SUNDAY 12 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SATURDAY 18 TH	FarmFest Sheep Shearing, Demonstrations and More 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.*
	SUNDAY 19 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
	SATURDAY 25 TH	Green Mountain Mineral Springs Tour , meet at Perkins House 1 p.m. *
	SUNDAY 26 TH	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.
SEPTEMBER	SATURDAY 1 ST	Baked Ham Fundraising Dinner at the Odd Fellows Hall starting at 5 p.m. *
	SUNDAY 2 ND	Open for browsing, 2 to 4 p.m.

*See Summer Program Highlights on back page for More Info.

Museum will be open during Cider Days October 6th and 7th
 Visit our website www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org for more event details.
 Like and Follow the Museum on Facebook

* Summer Program Highlights

Wednesday, July 4th 10a.m. – Noon

Pre & Post Parade Browsing at Perkins House. Special Display:
50 Years of The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

Sunday, July 15th 2:15 p.m.

Herbs, a Way of Life by Lory Doolittle

Lory is a second generation, 43 year member of the Herb Society of America for which she has served several times on the National Board of Directors. She will discuss an herbal lifestyle: growing, cooking, designing, preserving. New chemical studies have started to confirm and debunk ancient herbal uses pursued by our ancestors. Come for a presentation gleaned from a lifetime of enjoyment with herbs.

Tuesday, July 17th 6 p.m.

Annual Meeting...Pot Luck Dinner at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. Town Historian, Dennis Devereux, will present the program **History of the Museum's Founding**. Public invited. (potluck postcard notification will be sent to members.)

Saturday, July 28th 1p.m. Meet at Perkins House

Early Roads Tour Car tour to visit the various locations of the early roads around town. Led by Dennis Devereux.

August 3rd – 5th ArtFest Show and Sale.

Meet the artists and shop on Friday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Additionally, the museum will be open for sales Saturday, 11– 3 p.m. and Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m. Please plan to support our hard working Mount Holly artists who have been so generous with the museum.

Saturday, August 18th FarmFest 11a.m. – 2 p.m. On the Green Entertaining presentation about sheep shearing. Several sheep will be sheared throughout the afternoon. Craft demonstrations on the green and/or inside Perkins House.

**Saturday, August 25th 1p.m. Meet at Perkins House
The Green Mountain Mineral Springs**

A car tour to the site with presentation about the spring. Led by Dennis Devereux

Saturday, September 1st Baked Ham Fundraising Dinner Odd Fellows Hall Starting at 5p.m. \$12 person, 11 and under \$6. Family Style – All you can eat.

Please check the Mount Holly Newsflash and our Facebook Page for information about last minutes changes.