



MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Summer 2019

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

GREEN MOUNTAIN MINERAL SPRING

Long before the Civil War people were aware of the medicinal powers of drinking water from mineral springs. Vermont had a town and several areas that were already named for their springs. Middletown Springs, sections of Clarendon and Highgate being a couple of the better known areas.

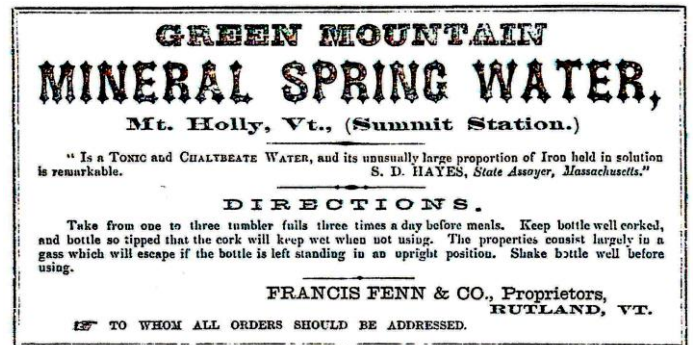
Few people are aware that for about a decade Mount Holly also was home to a mineral spring. It seems it was exposed when a cut was being blasted while building the railroad in 1848 near what is known as the Summit. Little was known more than a few stories and some old bottle labels that mentioned the Green Mountain Mineral Spring in Mount Holly. Carroll Tarbell wrote the History of Mount Holly and certainly heard the stories but did not mention any information in his 1987 book.

Until recently we had little to share about the spring, but with the advent of the Internet there is a lot more information available. I had only heard about the spring several years ago from a person who collects bottles and had seen a bottle label that mentioned our Green Mountain Mineral Spring.

The spring water was sold by a Francis Fenn & Co. in Rutland, Vermont. The label provided directions for its use by shaking well before using and taking between one and three "tumbler fulls" 3 times a day an hour before meals. Another mentions not to exceed 2 small tumblers full and claims that continued use of the water can almost guarantee a cure. It notes that much of its healing powers come from the presence of gas and explains that the bottles should be laid down on their side so the water may remain in contact with the cork to maintain a tight seal.

Child's 1881 Rutland County business directory mentions that Mr. Fenn was a dealer in drugs, fancy

goods, and toys, and that his business was located on Center Street. The information touts the quality of the sparkling water, gives an analysis of its benefits, offers several endorsements, and explains that it is sold by the quart bottle or \$7.50 per case of two dozen bottles. The information includes a letter-to-the-Editor placed in the Rutland Herald and a response from the editor who had visited the spring several times. The endorsements, all from 1869, are testimonials by a medical doctor, several town residents, and a Reverend Pillsbury. The writers provide details about the medical properties of the water that can improve problems with "dyspepsia, indigestion, and general debility." Also mentioned are claims for the treatment of acute rheumatism, gout, dropsy, and kidney, urinary, and bilious diseases.



The spark for this article came when two Columbia University professors called about visiting our spring site while in the area to check out the springs in Middletown and Clarendon. They set a date for early November, and of course it turned out to be a dark and rainy day. After walking about 600 feet down the railroad tracks we came upon an outcropping of rocks where water was seeping. Not sure if this was the location, they proceeded to take a sample to test the water temperature. It was obvious that iron and sulfur were present from the color and odor. The geologist said that the water was about 6 degrees warmer than it would normally be, and that it was certainly the right spot.

(continued on Page 2)

The spring area is not identified on the 1869 Beers map. We surmised that there was likely a cistern located nearby to hold the water until it was hauled by train to be bottled. The analysis of the spring finds a flow rate of .83 gallons per minute and a water temperature of 51.4 degrees F. Both measurements compare closely to the 1903 US Geological Survey test results. They also recorded the location of the spring, and the elevation at 1542 feet. The water contained sulfur, iron, manganese, silica, magnesium, potassium, and CO2 gas. Our museum appreciates the research done by the professors, and particularly would like to thank our local neighbor Jon McCann who shared much of the information and was familiar with the area.

Dennis Devereux
Board Chair

Mount Holly Is For The Birds!



The museum is having its biannual silent auction fundraiser featuring bird related art. Stop in the museum to make your bid on the lovely birdhouses, note cards, photos and much more. Then during the summer check back in the museum to make sure you are the highest bidder on the item you can't live without. Bidding will close on the Sunday of Cider Days weekend.

Thank you for supporting the museum.

Education Committee Report

All the children in grades kindergarten through sixth came to the museum this spring to learn about the town's history. The museum staff was impressed by the thoughtful questions the children asked while visiting. The kindergarten learned about the Chase Toy Factory. The first grade learned about the many school in early Mount Holly. The Second Grade learned about the life

of the farmer. The Third Grade learned about the railroad coming to Mount Holly and the discovery of the mammoth bones and tusk. The Fourth Graders learned about the life of a farmer's wife. The Fifth and Sixth Grades learned about the many cemeteries in town and visited both Mechanicsville cemeteries. I wish to thank the volunteers who helped present the programs to the children.

Judy Nevin
Education Committee

“Who Really Discovered Vermont?”

Saturday August 17, 7pm

"During this talk I will give an overview of the first human settlement of New England and Vermont specifically. I will then talk about what we know of the lives of those early peoples and how that knowledge relates to the Mt. Holly region and the mammoth specifically."

Dr. Nathaniel Kitchel is an anthropologically trained archaeologists specializing in human responses to environmental and social change through the study of material culture, particularly stone tools.

Dr. Kitchel's current research focus is the terminal Pleistocene (Ice Age), and early Holocene inhabitants of the Americas with a specific focus on New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. His ongoing research employs geochemical techniques to understand the transport patterns of stone tools to better understand how humans create and maintain social connections across space among highly mobile late Pleistocene foraging populations. Dr. Kitchel has also begun exploring social and technological responses to rapid climate warming in the Northeast between 12,000 and 11,000 years ago. Dr. Kitchel's current fieldwork program involves testing and excavation of prehistoric stone tool manufacturing workshops in the Munsungun Lake region of northern Maine.

Dr. Kitchel received his PhD in anthropology from the University of Wyoming in 2016 and is currently The Robert A. 1925 and Catherine L. McKennan Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology at Dartmouth College. Dr. Kitchel grew up on a dairy farm in Danville, Vermont spurring his interest in the archaeology of northern New England.

Mount Holly's Woolly Mammoth...Update

In 1848 woolly mammoth bones, at least one tooth, some foot bones, a rib and tusks were found as the railroad was being built through Mount Holly.

The fossils then travelled widely from Harvard University to various private collections, then the American Museum of Natural History and eventually back to Harvard. One tusk remained in Vermont. That tusk and a replica of the tooth eventually made their way back to our museum in Belmont.

For the last several years we have been communicating with the people at Harvard in hopes of getting the original tooth and the few bones returned to the museum and displayed alongside the tusk. Last Fall Harvard did suggest that they could make us replicas of the remaining parts in their collection

A professional archeologist looking at the tusk in 1993 noticed markings that he thought might have been caused by humans in the distant past. One of the questions we have asked Harvard people is whether there are any marks on the remaining bones that would indicate possible butchering by people.

The Paleo-Indians living in Vermont some 10,000-12,000 years ago were big game hunters, and from evidence elsewhere, definitely capable of killing mammoths. From archeological surveys conducted for the powerline from Ludlow, we know that Paleo-Indians were present in Mount Holly and nearby Ludlow.

Recent word, May 9, from Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology indicated that they would make replicas for us of the bones they have and cover the cost. This is where things stand now.

Peter Smith

Artifact photos from the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) at Harvard.



Mammutus primigenis tooth (Replica of tooth on display at museum)



Mammutus primigenis tarsal-foot bone



Mammutus primigenis tarsal-foot bone



Mammutus primigenis rib

2019 SPRING MEMBERSHIP FUNDRAISER

Our Spring 2019 membership drive/fundraiser, to which many of those receiving this newsletter contributed, was very successful. So far, we have received 70 annual memberships and donations totaling just under \$5,000.00. This is a significant increase over the last several years both in memberships and in funds received. These memberships and donations represent almost half of our annual operating expenses. The museum board extends their sincere thanks to all who have contributed and hope to see you at the museum this summer and at our annual meeting in July.

Phil Crane, Treasurer

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Our annual Festival of Lights fundraiser will take place Sunday, December 8 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Odd Fellows Hall in Belmont. Wreaths decorated by Local Artists, Restaurant and Area Business Gift Certificates, Special Donations of Artwork, Gift Baskets and Tickets are some of the items featured in the Silent Auction. For adults, this popular event includes Wine Basket Raffles and Door Prizes. Wines, punch, cheeses and hors d'oeuvres will be served. The admission charge is waived in honor of your attending. Please join us for an evening of fellowship and fun to support our Museum's Projects and Activities.

**Carol Serravezza
Festival of Lights Co-Chair**

Celebrating 50 Years The Will White Blacksmith Shop

The summer of 1969 found several volunteers busy renovating the old Will White Blacksmith Shop located on Tarbellville Road. The building had been purchased that spring by the charter members of the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum for a future museum. The shop had been converted into a tearoom by Will's daughter Mildred in the 1930s. Around 1960 J. Warner Edminster purchased it to use as his home after the death of his wife.

The building renovation group with advice from part-time resident Bob Glazer, a contractor by trade, decided to reinforce the main section to create one large room. It was the original location of the blacksmith shop and would become the focus of the main display. Blacksmith shops played an important part in making and repairing tools, creating shoes for oxen and horses, and making nails to erect buildings. They replaced the roof and hired a mason to rebuild the forge area. While cleaning the area below the floor they discovered the old forge bellows and decided to use it in the display.

The Edminster family had donated many items used in his home remedy business along with an old printing press he had used to make labels. He was likely one of Vermont's last travelling druggist making and delivering his own cooking flavorings and medicinal concoctions in what was an unregulated market until the 1950s.

An old cast iron coal stove converted to kerosene was used to heat the small living area in the building. Being too heavy to move the volunteers decided to hide it within the support system of an old chimney that they planned to leave in place. The stove was found during a recent renovation to the large display room that included the addition of new boards to the walls.

It took most of the summer but they were able to have the large room ready for a grand opening that September with many other donated items also on display. The enthusiastic board was busy making plans for the next summer season to offer programs and continue to work on the rest of the building.

We appreciate the vision and efforts of the early board members that took a dream and created a museum. Without their tireless work, and the support of the local community, our town could not have saved our history.

Dennis Devereux, Museum Chair

2019 MUSEUM SUMMER SCHEDULE 2019

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

JULY	Thursday 4 th	Town Parade 11am followed by BBQ at the Odd Fellows Hall Museum open for browsing 10am – Noon
	Thursday 4 th	Silent Auction Fundraiser begins at 10am: “FOR THE BIRDS” Stop by the museum to place your bid throughout the summer on lovely birdhouses, note cards, photos and much more. Auction ends (during Cider Days) 3pm, Sunday, October 13 th . Perkins House
	Saturday 6 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Sunday 7 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Saturday 13 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Sunday 14 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Wednesday 17 th	Pot Luck Dinner, Annual Meeting starts at 6pm Odd Fellows Hall Program to Follow: State Archaeologist, Jess Robinson, PhD will be our speaker. His presentation is about the Native Occupants as revealed through archaeology, concentrating on the earliest occupants from items discovered in sites in the Mount Holly area.
	Saturday 20 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Sunday 21 st	Walking Tour of Belmont or (if rain) Collections Tour 2pm Meet at Perkins House
	Saturday 27 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Sunday 28 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
AUGUST	Saturday 3 rd	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Sunday 4 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Saturday 10 th	FarmFest Sheep shearing and more! 11am to 2 pm Church Green
	Saturday 10 th	Quarry Hike Led by Paul Nevin Short hike to the Mount Holly stone quarry. Wear good hiking shoes and bring a camera and water. The total hike will be about an hour. Meet at Perkins House to start the adventure! 2pm
	Sunday 11 th	Walking Tour of Belmont or (if rain) Collections Tour 2pm Meet at Perkins House
	Saturday 17 th	Program “Who Really Discovered Vermont?” Dr. Nathaniel Kitchel will give an overview of the first human settlement of New England and Vermont and how that relates to the Mount Holly region and the mammoth. Perkins House 7pm
	Sunday 18 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Saturday 24 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Sunday 25 th	Open for browsing 2-4pm
	Saturday 31 st	BAKED HAM Fundraising Dinner at the Odd Fellow Halls starting at 5pm
SEPTEMBER	Sunday 1 st	Open for browsing 2-4pm

For program details check: The Mount Holly Newsflash, Our Facebook page and website: www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org

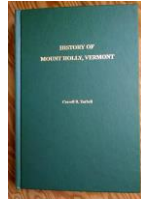
THE GIFT SHOP

Mammoth Plush Toy
\$20 plus shipping



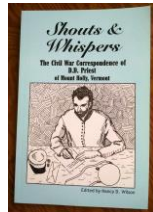
Books:

Mt. Holly, Its Early Days
by James F. Holden
\$10 plus shipping

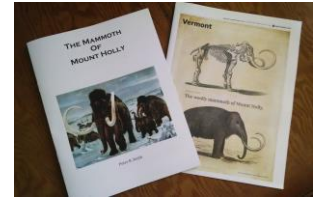


A History of Mt. Holly
by Carroll Tarbell
\$50 plus shipping

Shouts and Whispers
The Civil War Correspondence
Of D.D. Priest of Mount Holly
Edited by Nancy D. Wilson
\$20 plus shipping



The Mammoth
of Mount Holly
By Peter B. Smith
\$5



Photos:

A panoramic view of Belmont & Star Lake circa 1900, when Belmont was still known as "Mechanicsville" & Star Lake was "Jackson's Pond" \$15 (shipping included)

To purchase any items, please visit the Museum, or contact:

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