

MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Summer 2020

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

Membership Appeal

Operating the museum is difficult during a pandemic. We are unsure as to whether or not we will be able to have our normal fundraisers. This being said, our membership drive is very important. Dues and donations will be a more important this year. Our regular yearly expenses of approximately \$10,000 include heating, alarm system, telephone, insurance, electric service, cleaning, fundraising expenses, lawn mowing, snow removal and guest speakers. In addition to these regular expenses, there are constant maintenance issues with the buildings.

We are unsure as to what events will be in our calendar this year. We have planned two outdoor tours for this summer, a Belmont village tour and an old schoolhouse tour. Our annual meeting has been moved from July to August in hope that pandemic restrictions will be eased and a large group gathering will be allowed. We are offering personal tours of the museums by appointment. **Please call Dennis Devereux 259-2460, Paul Nevin 259-2443 or Maggie Blane 259-2983.**

Please consider joining the museum. We are always looking for new people to become involved in the keeping of our town's story. Full time and part time residents both have so much to offer in their knowledge and experiences. We are hoping that this year will be a banner year for membership.

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

Not Just An Old Brick!

When is a brick not just another old brick, when that brick comes from the last brick house standing in town built from locally made bricks. It was common to use clay deposits found along river banks to make bricks. They proved easier to work with and were also used to build fireplaces and chimneys.

There were never many houses in town built from bricks, but Carroll Tarbell mentions in his book *The History of Mount Holly* that there were several brickyards located around town for a few years. None of them proved very successful. Some of the best quality bricks came from an area south of the railroad tracks behind the present-day home of Jerome and Natalie Brown.

This brings us to the last brick house in Mount Holly built from locally made bricks. You may have already realized that it is the white brick two-story building in Belmont Village.



Brick Home built in 1820

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It dates to about 1820 so that makes it two hundred years old. This building has been owned by many, who lived in it, but it was once used as a hotel, and in 1942, during World War II, a section on the north side was used as the general store. Business was so slow during the war years that Mrs. Devereux moved it from the large store on the corner to a room attached to their home.



Brick Home as it looks today

During a recent renovation local contractor Charlie Conroy had to remove some bricks and discovered one that was not broken. He thought of the museum and asked if it would be something we would like for our collection. We are fortunate that he contacted us.

When leading tours of the village the brick house usually raises some questions about the lack of brick houses in town and they want to know more about this one.

Two New Additions To Our Collection

The museum is pleased to announce that we have two new additions to our collection.

Joan and Alec McCallum have given us a beautiful horse drawn cutter on permanent loan. Christine and Kevin Thompson have given us a John Deere horse drawn mowing machine. John Deere, a very successful inventor, was from Rutland.

Both of these items are at the Will White Blacksmith Shop.

We are currently researching the history of these two items. Visit the museum and see what we have learned.



John Deere Horse Drawn Mower



Horse Drawn Cutter

Education Report

We started the school year full of hope to see all the children as we do every year. The third and fourth grades came to the museum in the fall and learned about old tools and the hard working life of the farmer's wife. We did not see the rest of the children because the school closed due to the pandemic. We are looking forward to getting back on schedule for the next school year.

Judy Nevin

School Committee Chairperson

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who supported our Festival of Lights with donations. Please patronize these businesses to show them our continual appreciation.

Alec McCallum
Aubuchon Hardware
Barbara Pallotta
Belmont General Store
Benson's Chevrolet
Big Eyes Bakery
Blue Sky Trading Company
Book Nook
Brewfest
Bromley Mountain
Cafe de Light
Carol DeVine
Carol Serravezza
Chef Mei
Chris Kohut
Cindy Hinchliff
Clear River Tavern
Colleen Wilcox
Cookster
Crowley Cheese
D Lasser Ceramics
Dennis Derereux
Design by Colleen Casey
Diane Eastman
DJ's Restaurant
Doris Reiser
Du Jour Vermont
Eastwood Animal Clinic
Edward Jones Investments
Express Copy
Fenn Farmstand and Gardens
Garden Market
Gary Cole
Gerry Wilkins
Grandma Miller's Pies
Green Mountain Oral Surgery
Green Mountain Sugar House
Hannoush Jewelry Store
Harry's Cafe
Home Depot
Japanese Auto Specialists
Jean Fitzgerald
Jeb Porter
JK Adams - The Kitchen Store
Joy of Nails
Judy Nevin
Kelley Real Estate
Killarney Pub
LaValley's
Lory Doolittle
Luise Durr
Lynn Anderson

Maggie Blane
Magic Mountain
Maria Fortier
Mary Gorman
Master Plumber
Maureen Vonick
Minga Dana
Michelle Kaufman
Mojo's Cafe
Mount Holly Community Guild
Mount Holly Garden Club
Mr. Twitters
Nancy McKeegan
Northern Ski Works
Northshire Books
Neal's Restaurant
Okemo
Outer Limits Brewing
Pat LaBella
Paramount Theatre
Paul Nevin
Peter Smith
Plew Family Farm
Ramunto's Pizza
Rebecca Zelis
Robin Nelson
Ruth Dickey
Seventh Heaven Spa
Singleton's Store
Smokeshire Design
Stem Winders Wine Bar
Stephanie Smith
Stephanie Stouffer
Stone Creek Pottery
Stonehedge Golf
Southern VT Hydroponics
Southside Restaurant
Sue Covalla
Susie Hamilton
Sweet Surrender Bakery
The Silver Spoon
The Vermont Butcher Shop
Thrive Center
Vermont Canvas Products
Waterwheel Quilt Shop
Weston Christmas Shop
Weston Playhouse
Woodcock Farm
Vermont Canvas Shop
Vermont Country Store
Vermont Sport and Fitness
Viola Higgins
Yankee Paint

**Annual Business Meeting (No Potluck or Program)
Tuesday, August 25th, 6:30 pm at the Odd Fellows Hall**

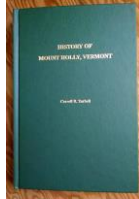
THE GIFT SHOP

Mammoth Plush Toy
\$20 plus shipping



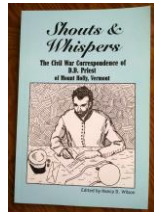
Books:

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

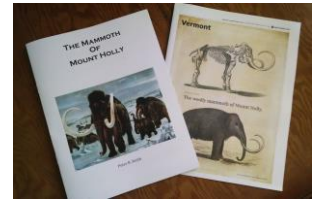


A History of Mt. Holly
by Carroll Tarbell
\$50 plus shipping

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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