



CHITTENDEN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# CHITTENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

PO Box 89 • Chittenden, Vermont 05737

WINTER 2006

## FALL MEETINGS

### October

#### Farm Security Administration Photos

In October, Nancy Price Graff was our Vermont Council on the Humanities speaker. Nancy presented a slide lecture of pictures taken in rural Vermont by Farm Security Administration photographers between 1936-1942. This organization was part of Roosevelt's New Deal.

Before the program, members from Pittsford, Pittsfield and Chittenden historical societies enjoyed a supper catered by Walter O'Brien of chicken and biscuits, assortment of breads, macaroni and cheese, brownies and raspberry crisp for dessert. The fall season decorations created by Fran Wheeler and her daughter Michelle made the evening special.

### November

#### Chittenden's Morgan Horse Farm

Katherine Sivret shared a tape of the Morgan Horse Farm made for her by Sandy Lathrop, the son of Dr. and Mrs. (Margaret) Lathrop, owners of the Morgan Horse Farm on River Road. Margaret Lathrop lived at the farm until the mid-1990s when it was purchased by Dr. Margaret Waddington. Katherine Sivret's husband Edgar worked with Dr. Lathrop in training and showing the horses in the 1960s. The beautiful photography of the horses, the farm and the seasons on the tape brought back memories of decades ago. Life on the farm seemed positively idyllic and the showing was enthusiastically enjoyed by all.

### December

#### Election of Officers

The slate of officers for 2007 was presented by Reggi Dubin as no change from those of the current year. Fran Wheeler decided to resign as secretary. Karen Webster agreed to take her place. The slate was passed by vote.

Officers for 2007:

President: Bob Muzzy

Vice-President: Fran Wheeler

Secretary: Karen Webster

Treasurer: Kathy Bernier

Directors: (year office expires)

Alan Arthur (2007)

Reggi Dubin (2008)

Newt Wetmore (2008)

Elmer Wheeler (2007)

This year dues increased for the first time since the 1970s, from \$3 to \$6. A committee will make recommendations for changes in the remaining dues structure at the March meeting.

◇ ◇ ◇ ◇ ◇

Shaina MacLaughlin received the annual Davenport/Muzzy Historical Society Award for 2006 with a \$100 US Savings Bond. She presented her project on the building of Chittenden Dam to the Society in September.

*The Chittenden Historical Society meets on the second Thursday of the month, March through December at 7:30 pm in Town Hall. Visitors and new members are welcome!*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROJECTS NEWS

### Cemetery Project

You may have noticed that the town's cemeteries now have signs indicating their name. Thanks go to Phillip Bernier and Fran Wheeler.

On a recent trip to one of Chittenden's cemeteries several broken stones were observed, and overgrown plantings were found obscuring stones of some early residents. The Chittenden Historical Society has joined the Vermont Old Cemetery Association (VOCA) and is applying for a grant to help restore the town's cemeteries.

The Historical Society is planning a program for next spring with a speaker to educate us as we begin restoration.

For those interested, it will be another opportunity to volunteer in the community

and to learn some history as well. If you are interested in helping, please call Fran Wheeler at 483-9563.



*A Wetmore Cemetery stone*

### Grange Hall

Changes are taking place at the old Grange Hall in North Chittenden. The Historic Building Preservations Committee, which operates only with the approval of both the Selectmen and the Historical Society, has been planning the restoration of the historic 1830 building for a while, and now the plans are being put into action. This fall the project was broken into five phases to achieve use of the building as soon as possible. The first phase, scheduled for 2006, was to install the well and septic system and to move the access back to the original road site. And it is done!



In the spring of 2007, construction will begin on the shell of a small addition on the southeast side. This will also address some structural conditions on the southeast side and roof. An engineered support system will be installed under the Grange Hall floor. (The pronounced sag in the floor was one reason the Selectmen banned use of the building for safety reasons.) The finished lower level will include a catering kitchen plus a bathroom and lift in the small addition.

Later, a third phase will address the outer shell; the fourth, the interior of the hall, the addition and the lower level; and last will be the final landscaping.

The committee welcomes donations of labor, materials and expertise to keep the project's cost to the taxpayers as low as possible. Financial support is welcome also. Please support the forthcoming fundraising activities in the works for later in the spring. Donations by check may be made to Town of Chittenden Historic Preservation Fund, Chittenden Town Clerk, PO Box 89, Chittenden, VT 05737. For information, please call Karen Webster at 483-6471.

### Cataloging

This spring the Historical Society is continuing the cataloging project by establishing a card file listing each item of the Society's collections. Not only will this file allow better assessment and tracking of the Society's collections, but will better enable researchers in finding material. The card file can be used to build an electronic database in the future.

This should be a fun project as we identify, classify and list the photos, letters, manuscripts and objects. On-the-job training will be provided - anyone who wants to help can work on this project. We welcome community participation. We are meeting on Tuesday mornings, weather permitting.

For information, call Fran Wheeler at 483-9563 or Karen Webster at 483-6471.

### Mystery Photo



Can anyone identify this lady from one of our albums of Chittenden residents?



The Chittenden Historical Society is a non-profit organization. It receives no money in taxes and depends on fund-raising, dues and donations to carry out its many functions.



## MEMBERSHIP

We would love to have you join the Chittenden Historical Society. Pick the level where you feel most comfortable and fill out the form below and mail it with your payment to the Chittenden Historical Society, PO Box 89, Chittenden, VT 05737. Our thanks to all of you who have already answered.

### Membership Levels

Basic	\$ 6*
Contributing	\$ 10*
Supporting	\$ 30*
Sustaining	\$ 100*
Life	\$ 75*

\* Subject to change in April

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Membership Amount Enclosed

*Thank you for your generous support.*

**Coming events....**

No meetings in January or February.

March - Review of Collections

April - Antiques Appraisal with Jim Marquis. This annual event has proved to be a fun evening. Jim informs us about antiques with his expansive knowledge while entertaining us at the same time with his humorous tales.

The event is our local "Antiques Roadshow," and as in the popular TV series, you never know what will turn out to be a real treasure. "What's in your attic?"

CHITTENDEN

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 89

Chittenden, VT 05737

Chittenden, VT  
05737

POSTAL PATRON  
CHITTENDEN, VT 05737

---