



CHITTENDEN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# CHITTENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

PO Box 89 • Chittenden, Vermont 05737

SUMMER 2007

## Ice Cream Social - July 29

Marjorie Muzzy and Art Wardwell, who are both turning age 100 this year, will be honored by the Society with an ice cream social at Town Hall, where they were once classmates in the old School District No. 5.

It will be free and everyone is invited. The Society would especially like to see other students who attended the old district schools.

Come to Town Hall on Sunday, July 29, from 1 until 4 pm.

## Howard Coffin to Speak

*Save this date -- Thursday, October 25...*

Howard Coffin, well-known author and Civil War historian, will be our Vermont Humanities Council speaker this year. His subject for the evening in Chittenden will be Vermont Civil War sites. He is in the process of writing his fifth book and has plenty of anecdotes to share

every speaking engagement is different -- because he keeps finding new information. He is a cousin of Art Wardwell and is very familiar with Chittenden. If anyone has local Civil War information to share, they are encouraged to do so.

Howard is highly entertaining and says that

The talk is scheduled for 7:30 pm and is free and open to the public.

## Muzzy-Davenport Award

Each year at Barstow Memorial School Graduation, the Chittenden Historical Society gives the Muzzy-Davenport award for outstanding achievement in history.

The award, accompanied by \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, was first offered in the 1990s in memory of Bert Muzzy; Ed Davenport's name was added last year and the bond value increased to \$100.



This year's recipient, Virginia Bones of Mendon, chose the Civil War era for her project. She is scheduled to present her project to the Society in September.

*left, Virginia Bones receives Muzzy-Davenport History Award from teacher Bob Meyers*

*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

Charles Marchand met with Cemetery Commissioners, members of the Chittenden Historical Society and a member of the Chittenden School Board at Wetmore Cemetery to review the gravestones and make suggestions for repair of those that are broken, leaning or fallen.

Mr. Marchand is a Town of Townsend, Cemetery Commissioner. As a former teacher, he has often involved students in restoring cemeteries there.

George Butts wishes our cemeteries could be surveyed with stones noted. Mr. Marchand suggested that this process might make a good community service project for students, especially those interested in building a resume for college applications.



*Charles Marchand (right) and George Butts, a Chittenden Cemetery Commissioner, discuss a stone in Wetmore Cemetery*

### Cataloging the Society Collections

The project is proceeding well, and there is plenty left to do. Processed to date:

- Lena Osgood photos
- Flood of 1947 photos, news clippings, correspondence and financial records of flood related losses
- Samantha Horton collection, including three photo albums full of turn-of-century town residents
- Royal Barnard collection of postcards with Chittenden scenes
- Information and photos of the old school districts in Chittenden (once there were eleven)
- Warren Dexter collection including his many photographs, some genealogy, and source material relating to Chittenden accumulated during the writing of his book, *From Wilderness to Statehood*
- Book I of obituary clippings for use in genealogical research.

A card catalogue is being developed to coincide with each collection for help in searches.

We welcome help with cataloging and any donation of items of interest to the Chittenden Historical Society. The society does not hold formal hours, but we would be willing to show items held in the society's collections by appointment.

Our summer cataloging schedule has been erratic; we meet at various convenient times. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call Fran Wheeler, 483-9564 or Karen Webster, 483-6471.

### Grange Hall

*In Next CHS NEWS Issue: Before and After Pictures!!*

The Chittenden Historical Society is working towards the restoration of the North Chittenden Grange Hall at the invitation of and under the auspices of the Town Board of Selectmen.

*(continued on next page)*

Although not much activity could be seen taking place at the Grange Hall this spring, a lot has been going on in preparation for the next phase of renovation.

Some final details were added by Jay White of NBF Architects, but that required more than pencil and paperwork. For instance, the original frames of the windows on the east side, which had been covered over, needed to be bared to find the configuration of the original windows, which were taller by one-half than the windows you see now. A structural engineer inspected the wood frame for structural integrity.

Although heating, cooling and plumbing systems will not be put in place this year, all

planning must take place before any construction begins to allow for proper clearances.

The well has been dug, but it needs a pump plus a permit from the State before use.

This year the infrastructure and outside shell of the building will be restored. Also the shell of a small addition will be constructed that will eventually house a second exit, bathrooms and a lift for access between the two levels.

Anyone who would like to participate in this historic restoration project by contribution of time, materials or funds may contact the Historical Society or the Town Clerk.



**Mystery Question:**

When did the first telephone come to Chittenden? Answer will be in our next issue. (No one identified our mystery picture from the last issue!)



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**

Student	\$ 3
Senior	\$ 6
Regular	\$ 10
Contributing	\$ 20
Supporting	\$ 60
Life	\$150

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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Address

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

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Phone

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E-mail

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Membership Amount Enclosed

*Thank you for your generous support.*

## SPRING MEETINGS

### APRIL -- Jim Marquis

On April 25 Jim Marquis, a well-known area antiques appraiser, brought to Chittenden a local version of "Antiques Roadshow." Jim has a vast knowledge of antiques and delighted the audience with colorful stories as he reviewed each item. Of interest this year was a bayonet from the War of 1812 found in the chimney of a local home.

### *also -- The Forge*

Many old deeds in North Chittenden refer to "the Forge." The area south of Stoney Hill was named Forge Flats for the fact the T.J. Leonard's Forge was located there in the 1840s. Recently, there have been efforts to locate the exact location of the forge.

At the April 10 regular meeting, Bob Muzzy gave a presentation on the operation of such a forge and displayed slag, now owned by the Society, found in Furnace Brook near the site of the old forge.

### March and May

The March and May meetings were strictly for business. A new dues structure was implemented in March (see page 3) to better address the needs of the Society. In May plans were made for June's potluck dinner and program.

### JUNE -- Charles Marchand & Supper

On June 14, Charles Marchand of the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association (VOCA) addressed the Society regarding problems and solutions associated with old cemeteries, some of which are abandoned and/or overgrown, with broken and leaning or fallen stones. VOCA is also interested in identifying all cemeteries in Vermont, even the old abandoned ones.

His slide show of Vermont cemeteries showing restorative work was entertaining and informative.

Seven members of the Pittsfield Historical Society came over for the evening's dinner and presentation.



*Potluck dinner - just before the slide show*

CHITTENDEN

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