



CHITTENDEN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# CHITTENDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

PO Box 89 • Chittenden, Vermont 05737

FALL/WINTER 2007

***CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE! [www.chittendenhistory.org](http://www.chittendenhistory.org)***

## FALL MEETINGS

### October

#### **Vermont Humanities Council Speaker**

The society hosted Civil War scholar and lecturer Howard Coffin to share some of the results of his research for a new book on Civil War sites in Vermont on October 25, sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. He arrived at 4 pm to tour Civil War sites in Chittenden, including Bump and Wetmore Cemeteries, and gather Chittenden information for his book. Members of the Chittenden, Pittsfield and Pittsford Historical Societies joined for a potluck supper in Town Hall. Many others from the community joined us for his talk and shared dessert at 7:30.



*Howard Coffin and Deb Rolland at Wetmore Cemetery*

### November

Cliff Dutton presented ideas for Web site design. Yes, the Chittenden Historical Society is joining the 21st Century! Cliff will host the new Web site for the society, which may be found at [ChittendenHistory.org](http://ChittendenHistory.org).

The society proposes to post news, items of interest, progress on projects, and eventually historical data.

### December

The year-end business meeting scheduled for December 13 to elect officers for the coming year was cancelled by bad weather. Elections were postponed until the March 11 meeting.



*Howard Coffin speaks at Town Hall*

*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 PROJECT NEWS

### Cemeteries

Members of the society met in January with Cemetery Commissioners and a Rutland Eagle Scout for a project to begin in spring at

Wetmore Cemetery to map and inventory stones, noting those that need repair.

### Cataloguing

Regular sessions for cataloguing were suspended in cold weather, but they are expected to resume after warmer weather returns. The Chittenden Historical Society is very pleased to announce four recent donations to society collections:

A vise used by Stephen Baird in the manufacture of the famous Baird Rifle - from the Pittsford Historical Society

Copies of printed material relating to the Barstow family - from Ann and Alex Volz

Copy of the Minutes of the Congregational Society in Chittenden 1834-1854, listing original members, dismissals and some baptisms with typed copy

*Pittsford, Then and Now* - from Linda Barnard

### Grange Hall

We are very excited about the \$15,000 grant from the State of Vermont and the Vermont Cultural Facilities Coalition through the Vermont Arts Council, which was awarded to the Town on January 11, 2008 at an awards ceremony in Montpelier. This grant, which requires matching funds, will furnish a lift for handicap accessibility and electricity for the lift, emergency lighting and one level of general lighting at the Grange Hall.

Other grants for the project, through Preservation Trust of Vermont, are \$15,000 from the Freeman Foundation for structural repair and \$5,000 from the Cerf Community Fund for repair of the plaster ceiling.

There will be request on the Town Meeting ballot to continue funding at the current level of \$20,000 per year towards completion of the Grange Hall project as a cultural and recreational center for the community.

Many more photos detailing different areas of restoration may be found at the historical society's new Web site in the Grange Hall Project Photo Album. Be sure to click on each album to find additional photos.

This year's progress has been to correct structural issues and to renovate the exterior shell and to add the shell of the addition to house the bathrooms and lift. The completion of this

year's project will have to wait for warmer weather.



*New addition on south side.*



*Basement floor excavated, hall floor leveled, steel beams added for support*



*Old joists removed to reveal coved ceiling,...*



*...balcony and original window height*

The bid for construction of this **stabilization** phase was awarded to Dave Dutton of Dutton Construction in Chittenden. He has chosen local subcontractors to work with him: Stub Smith for excavation and Jud Thurston for masonry.

The next phase will be for **occupation**, finishing the interiors of both levels. The historical society looks forward to the community use of this historic building.

Find more pictures of renovation on our Web site, [www.chittendenhistory.org](http://www.chittendenhistory.org)

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Answer to last issue's mystery question:

According to Henry Long's Diary, the first telephone in town came on August 23, 1900.

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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.

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## 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

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Name

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Address

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Town State Zip

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Phone

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E-mail

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

*Thank you for your generous support.*

*Watch for coming activities:*

Meeting March 11, 7:30 pm

Meeting April 10, 7:30 pm

Barstow 75th Birthday May 2

Meeting May 8, 7:30 pm

Spring Walk - - where would YOU like to go? Let us know.

This year we will also be planning trips to places of historical interest. Watch for details. Check our Web site: [www.chittendenhistory.org](http://www.chittendenhistory.org)

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