



Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

VOLUME 12

NUMBER 1

JUNE 2005

Our mission is to enlighten our community with an understanding of our past to promote an objective vision of the future.

THIS OLD HOUSE



Perkins House, Belmont, southern exposure (2004)

The property where the small house and attached barn sit on the Belmont Green first appears in Town records in 1847 when it was sold for \$30. Twenty-one years later in 1868, John and Lucy Taylor bought the lot with the house and barn for \$275. In November 2004, their great granddaughter, Alice Perkins Bennett, and great great grandson, Todd McCabe, transferred ownership of the house to the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum.

Their extraordinarily generous gift to the Museum ends 136 years of continuous family ownership and begins an exciting new era for the modest house at the crossroads.



Dessie Taylor Perkins and her children, Louella, Perley John, Lucille, Phillips and Dewey at their Belmont home (c.1908)

The Taylor/Perkins family history in the house is remarkably direct. John and Lucy Taylor's daughter Dessie married George Perkins and in time they inherited the little house from her parents. Dessie and George in turn passed the house on to two of their children, Dewey and Lucille. Lucille subsequently gave up her rights, deeding it to her brother Dewey and his wife Hilda. Hilda Perkins was the last full-time resident, living in the house on Maple Hill Road until her death in 1994. Hilda and Dewey had two daughters, Alice and Marjorie. Alice Perkins Bennett and Marjorie's son, Todd McCabe, inherited the house upon Hilda's death.

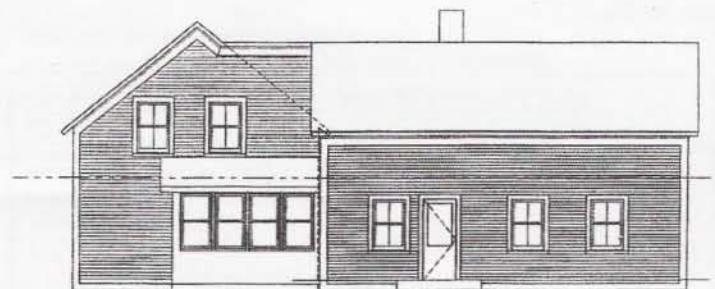
Alice Perkins Bennett has recorded a videotaped anecdotal oral history of the house, her family, and of village life during the 1930s and 1940s. She recounts that her great grandfather, John Taylor, bought the property following his discharge from the Navy. He was a Civil War veteran, serving on the Minnesota when it was shelled at the Battle of Hampton Roads. His grandson Dewey, Alice's father, was born in Tarbellville in 1898. Alice's parents brought her and her sister Marjorie to live in the house in 1939. Alice herself graduated from eighth grade at the Belmont School and Todd grew up in the small house with his mother and his grandparents.

A number of Alice's videotaped reminiscences are compelling reminders that the life she describes was of another era:

"There was a wood stove in the kitchen...and another in the living room. There are holes that go through the ceilings of those rooms up into the rooms overhead so that the stovepipe could connect to the chimney. There were pieces of tin fitted around them so not too much heat would go up. There was a heavy curtain hung over the stairway and the door at the top of the stairs was kept shut so there wasn't a lot of heat up there. On a very cold night before we got into bed my sister and I were allowed to remove the piece of tin...and warm our feet from the heat. We would also have a hot water bottle that would start us for the night."

Alice recalls that Todd, too, held the holes for the stovepipe in high regard during his youth:

"Todd would be put to bed and...the adults...were in the living room watching television, so he would sneak out of bed and go into his mother's room and sit by the hole and he could listen to the television."



NORTH ELEVATION

Perkins House, north elevation (2005)
Drawing: **peter morris** architect

(continued on second page, column 2)



The Museum has for sale 27" x 7" prints of this charming **panoramic photograph** of Belmont circa 1900. The print rolled in a cardboard cylinder costs \$20. To order, complete the form in the lefthand column below.

Order Form – Panoramic Photo of Belmont

How many? (\$20 each) _____ Enclosed \$ _____
 Shipping \$ 5.00
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail with your check payable to

Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730

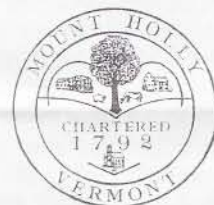
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

YOUR HOUSE IS HOW OLD?

CIRCA
1801



Whether your house dates from the 18th century or the 21st century, you will be able to display its year of origin and its place in the community with a specially designed plaque that is now available through the Museum. A rendering of the plaque appears above. It is made of wood, measures approximately 16" x 7", and is painted white with a black border, lettering, and Town seal. Each plaque costs \$35. Complete the order form below.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Alice Bennett and Todd McCabe whose gift of Perkins House has set the Museum on a new and historic course.

The Community Guild for what has become an annual generous contribution in support of Museum activities.

Ray and Clare Dana for their donation of a large photographic archive to the Museum.

Hazel Devereux for her collection of 18 scrapbooks of her columns from the *Black River Tribune* that chronicle 40 years of comings and goings of Mount Holly folk.

Ernie McClain whose generous unrestricted gift in memory of Augusta has kicked off fund raising for Perkins House.

Mount Holly Town Meeting for granting property tax exemptions to the Museum for the Blacksmith Shop and Perkins House.

Robert Perry for his donation of a handmade Windsor rocker crafted by his great great grandfather, Abel Holden, a landowner at the Summit in the mid 19th century.

Don Reiser and Express Copy for donating the beautiful color postcards announcing the gift to the Museum of Perkins House.

Robert Sincerbeaux Fund of the Preservation Trust of Vermont for a grant to fund an engineering assessment of Perkins House.

Order Form – House Plaque

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Year for plaque _____

Amount enclosed _____ (\$35.00 plus \$7.00 shipping for each plaque). If you are ordering more than one plaque, please attach additional information.

Mail with your check payable to

Mount Holly Community Historical Museum,

P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730

2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check to the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730. Thank you for your support. Dues and donations are tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Lifetime \$500

Student \$ 5 Patron \$ 50

Individual \$10 Sustaining \$100

Family \$25 Friend \$250

2005

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

2005

The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday from 2 pm until 4 pm from July 2 through August 28 and on Saturday and Sunday, October 8 and 9.

Programs begin at 2:15 pm unless otherwise noted.

- Sat July 2** **INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE OPEN HOUSE.** Museum open 12-4 pm.
- Sat July 9** 2-4 pm. **QUILTING FOR KIDS.** Ages 8 and up. Contact Judy Nevin at 259-2443 to register.
- Sun July 10** **CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS** - POETRY AND PROSE ABOUT AN HISTORICAL EVENT OR PERSON IN MOUNT HOLLY – Mount Holly School students will share their winning entries.
- Sun July 17** 2-4 pm. **INTRODUCTION TO WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC BELMONT VILLAGE** AND PERKINS HOUSE WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE COMMENTARY AT SPECIFIC SITES. The program begins at the Museum with a video interview of Alice Perkins Bennett.
- Thu July 21** **Annual Meeting of Members and Pot Luck Supper.** At 7 pm join Concert on the Green performance. In case of rain, the concert will be held at the Odd Fellows Hall.
- Sun July 24** **MOUNT HOLLY'S BEAR CORRIDOR – HISTORY AND PRESERVATION EFFORT.** A joint program with the Mount Holly Conservation Trust. Presenters: Nancy Bell and Kim Royar.
- Sun July 31** 7 pm. Odd Fellows Hall. **OLD TIMERS REFLECT ON LIVING AND WORKING IN MOUNT HOLLY.**
- Sat Aug 6** **ART FESTIVAL,** 10am - 4 pm. This two day show and sale will feature works by local artists. If you are able to volunteer to help out at the festival, contact Stephanie Stouffer (stphnstouf@aol.com, 259-2686).
- Sun Aug 7** **ART FESTIVAL,** Noon-4 pm
- Sat Aug 13** 2-4 pm. **RUG HOOKING FOR KIDS.** Ages 8 and up. Adults welcome. \$5 for materials (optional). Contact Lory Doolittle at 259-3722 or email lory@vermontel.net by August 1 to register.
- Sun Aug 14** **SHEEPFEST ON THE GREEN IN BELMONT AND AT THE MUSEUM**
- Sun Aug 21** **GENEALOGY WORKSHOP – HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY** – Michael Dwyer
- Sun Aug 28** **THE CROWN POINT ROAD – ITS HISTORY AND MOUNT HOLLY LOCATION** – Dennis Devereux
- Sat Sept 24** 5:00 pm. **ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER,** Odd Fellows Hall.
- Sat Oct 8** CIDER DAYS ON THE GREEN IN BELMONT. Museum open for browsing 10 am – 4 pm.
10 am-noon – **BUS TOUR OF MOUNT HOLLY VIEWS, SITES, AND LANDMARKS** (complimentary for MHCHM members; \$5 for others, children to age 18 free).
- Sun Oct 9** CIDER DAYS ON THE GREEN IN BELMONT. Museum open for browsing noon-4 pm.



Seal of the Town of Mount Holly

Mount Holly Community
Historical Museum
P.O. Box 17
Belmont, VT 05730

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #8
Mt. Holly, VT 05758

CREATIVE YOUNG HISTORIANS

MOUNT HOLLY HISTORY PRIZE AT BLACK RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum will award its annual history prize, consisting of a copy of Carroll Tarbell's book, *History of Mount Holly, Vermont* and an honorarium, to a graduating BRHS senior from Mount Holly who has demonstrated exceptional interest in the study of history. The Guidance Department at Black River has additional details.

MOUNT HOLLY SCHOOL HISTORICAL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Mount Holly School students in Grades 3-6 participated in the Museum sponsored 2004 historical creative writing contest under the direction of Judy Nevin. Third place winners were Morgan Hyjek, Grade 3; Josh Bixby, Grade 4; Sarah Hawkins, Grade 5; and Joseph Harlow, Grade 6. Second place winners were Willy Crawford, Grade 3; Vincent Guerrero, Grade 4; Kyla Loso, Grade 5; and Kaitelynd Palmer, Grade 6. Entries awarded first prize are reproduced below. **The 2005 contest winners will present their work at the Museum on Sunday, July 10, 2:15 pm.**

Mount Holly By Alexis Palmer, Grade 3

I am Mount Holly that
is rich in history.
I am the history of
a woolly mammoth.
I am a woolly mammoth that
is in a museum.
I am a museum that
has some Chase Toy Factory toys.
I am toys that
were built in a mill.
I am the mill that
made lumber for our school.
I am the school that
had a wood stove.
I am a wood stove that
kept kids warm.
I am warm
in the summer.
I am summer in
Mount Holly.
I am Mount Holly.



From the Museum collection: Doll rocking chairs (c.1880) manufactured at the Chase Toy Factory in Belmont

Maple Sugaring By Phoenix Garrow, Grade 4



Maple sugaring in Mount Holly has changed over the years
Wooden buckets and wooden spouts
Gathered by hand, sap yoke, and pails
Boiled in iron kettles and hung over an open fire

Wooden buckets and wooden spouts
Now plastic tubing connects to the trees
Boiled in iron kettles and hung over an open fire
Now boiled in stainless steel

Plastic tubing connects to the trees
Gathered by hand, sap yoke, and pails
Now boiled in stainless steel
Maple sugaring in Mount Holly has changed over the years

Maple sugaring in Mount Holly is still the same
Families still gather it together
It is a very tasty treat
It always has a scrumptious taste

Families still gather it together
You can put it on snow
It always has a scrumptious taste
It makes pancakes and waffles irresistible

You can put it on snow
It is still a very tasty treat
It makes pancakes, and waffles irresistible
Maple sugaring in Mount Holly is still the same

The Greenstand Hotel By Chloe Demers, Grade 5

On the dusty grounds of Healdville,
Owned by Joseph Green
Stood the Greenstand Hotel
The first hotel built in Mount Holly

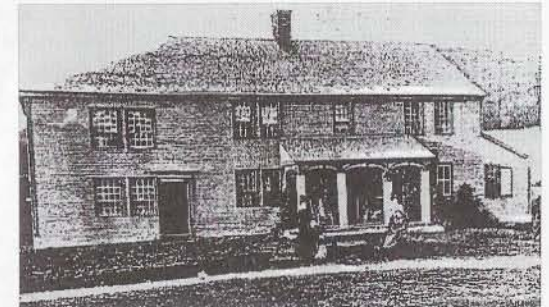
Owned by Joseph Green
Across from Green Cemetery
The first hotel built in Mount Holly
The exciting site of many dances and parties

Across from Green Cemetery
Stood the Greenstand Hotel
The exciting site of many dances and parties
On the dusty grounds of Healdville

A busy active hotel
Bragging of its stables which could hold 90 horses
A post stop for the Burlington to Boston stagecoach
Taken down around 1919

Bragging of its stables which could hold 90 horses
A two story house
Taken down around 1919
A barn across the road

A two story house
A post stop for the Burlington to Boston stagecoach
A barn across the road
A busy active hotel



The Green Stand in Healdville, c. 1887

Mount Holly Vermont By Jake Goraj, Grade 6

Mountains border this small town
Outrageously high peaks
Uncommon events have happened here
Natural springs, lakes, and ponds
Typical small town

Historic happenings have occurred
Outsiders seem to like it here
Lakes, forests, pastures, farms
Lucky to live here
Yet, no matter what this is my home

Views of mountains
Engineers built train tracks
Railroads rushing through the hills
Mammoth bones buried
Ongoing changes in this town
Numerous lakes and ponds
Tiny town in the mountains

Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

2004 Members

Thank you for your support!

Life Members

Douglas C. Ahlers
Carol Andlauer
Patrick/Jane Burns
Walker/Mary Connor
Dennis Devereux
Donald/Robin Eatmon
Nelda Holden
Phil/Linda Nexon
Dr. Mark Pecker/Elizabeth McGee
Robert M. Perry
Dean Phipers
Ruth Schafstall*
Duncan/Ruth Williams
Kenneth/Shirley Wilson
Brett Wright

Friends

Andrzej/Teresa Bolalek
Pete/Lory Doolittle
Richard/Patricia Nye

Sustaining Members

R. Christian/Lynn Anderson
Robert/Barbara Haff

Patrons

Diane Bachtell
Deborah/Anthony Costa
Phil/Katy Crane
Brian/Erika Davies
Richard/Virginia Freeman
Donald/Judith Hartmann
Brigid Sullivan/David Hoeh
Roger Hoeh
Elizabeth Jones
Richard/Jane Jones
David/Janice Linehan
Rick/Barbara Ludwig
Adelaide Segerman/Irwin Naitove
Paul/Judy Nevin
Margaret Peirce
Evelien Moes/Michael Sherman
Aviva Weintraub
Tom Whalen Family
Nancy Dana Wilson
William/Susan Zabransky

Family Memberships

Irene Armstrong
William/Jane Armstrong
Paul/Cecilia Ayres
Allan/Janice Bamforth
Peter/Barbara Berg
Margaret Blane
Gerald/Nedra Bloch
Frank/Jean Borrelli
Charles/Jacqueline Brown
Jerome/Natalie Brown
Harold/Catherine Chadburn
Robert/Karen Chan
Robert/Joyce Clark
Owen/Mildred Coffey
Philip/Jeanette Conderino
George/Susan Covalla
Joseph Hammond/Joann Crowley
Paul/Jane Crowley
Chad Getchell/Minga R. Dana
Raymond/Clarise Dana
William/Marion Dassler
Garwin/Helen Dawley
Maurice/Annette Doucette
Elise/Luise Durr
George Feller
Lisa Freeman/John Fiske
Lawrence/Elizabeth Garvin
Kristin/Greg Gawlick
Ken/Sue Godshall
Peter/Sally Haaren
Lynn Roberts/Ted Hall
William/Lois Harris
Andrew/Mary Haskell
Sandra Hoeh
John/Ruth Hunter
Bill/Mary Ellen Jacobs
William/Ruth Johnson
Gassenmeyer/ Jordan Family
James Kaufmann
David/Karen Lyon
Ruth/Jerome Maisel
Thomas/Sylvia McEntegart
James/Marion McPartland
Murray/Betty Merlin
Durwood/Sandra Montgomery
Joseph/Deanna Mossa

Robert/Valerie Nixon
Donald/Patricia Oresman
Richard/Betsy Pepperman
Thomas/Judy Perkins
John/Lois Perry
Don/Shirley Pratt
Lawrence/Virginia Ramsden
Stanley/Arlene Ramsden
Miles*/Mamie Richards
Jack/June Sabey
Peter Scola
Amanda Smith
Anne Spencer
James Emery/Charles Spiegel
Russell/Patricia Sturges
Andy/Marcy Tanger
Sean/Alice Twomey
Dottie Finnerty/Ronald Unterman
Semah Unterman
James/Carol Van Hoof
Richard A./Mavis VanBibber
David/Carol Venter
Rick/Alison Weintraub
Christopher/Mary Winslow

Individual Memberships

Mary Anderle
Arooth Family
Susan Dana Bassett
Alice P. Bennett
Thomas J. Caldwell
Charles Carpenter
Angelo/Bessie Centini
Lillian K. Chapin
Dana Devereux
Hazel Devereux
Barbara Eppes*
Liz Flint
Carol S. Galbraith
Ferris Harris
Emily Hedal
Elizabeth Helberg
Shel Hochman
Mary P. Hyde
David Johnson
Lawrence Kelley
William Kezema

Carolyn Laumann
Peter LeShane
Roland/Patricia Marx
Ernest McClain
Dianne Moore
Marie L. Moran
Gail Nadok
Barbara Pallotta
Neil Pelsue
Christine Pratt
Timothy J. Regan
Helen Schoenemann
Stephanie Stouffer
Francis Tarbell
Wilfred E. Thompson
Aileen White
Maryanne Witters
Dr. Carroll Wonson

Student Members

Brett Bassett
David Bickford
Joshua Bickford
Ryan Blow
Dannielle Bussino
Laura Clark
Codie Gates
Jake Goraj
Dylan Graves
Otis Gray
Joseph Harlow
Wesley Josselyn
Katelynd Palmer
Chelsie Skidmore

*deceased