



# MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

*Summer 2023*

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*

## Visit the Museum This Summer

The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays every weekend from 2-4 pm throughout July and August. Come view the mammoth tusk and other exhibits of historical interest in both the Perkins House and the Blacksmith Shop which are in the Village of Belmont.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Visit Our Facebook page and website:  
[www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org) for details!

## 2023 Calendar of Events

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Parade at 11am**

**Museum Open from 10 am to 1 pm**

**Wednesday - July 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Meeting**

**Odd Fellows Hall at 6 pm starting with  
a potluck meal and short business  
meeting.**

***Presentation following by George  
Wood about Vermont Birds.***

**Saturday - July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Belmont Village Tour at 2 pm  
(collection tour if raining) Meet town  
historian Dennis Devereux at the  
Perkins House.**

**Saturday - July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Weaving Demonstration at 2:15 pm  
by Bonny Dutton at Perkins House**

**Tuesday - August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Old Timers Night at the Odd Fellows  
Hall at 6:30 pm**

**Saturday - August 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Belmont Village Tour at 2 pm  
(collection tour if raining) Meet tour  
guide Dennis Devereux at the Perkins  
House.**

**Saturday - September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Annual Ham Dinner**

**5 pm at the Odd Fellows Hall**

**October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Cider Days**

**Museum Open Saturday 10am - 4 pm  
and Sunday Noon to 4pm**

**Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Festival of Lights**

**Fundraising Auction at 4 p.m.  
at the Odd Fellows Hall**

## Year in Review

### By Board Chair *Stephen Michel*

The past year continued to be a challenge for the Museum. But the Museum buildings were open all summer and for Cider Days. The working groups addressed different aspects of the Museum; buildings, fund raising, publicity, acquisition, education. These groups are working hard to improve the museum. If interested in helping, please contact any Board member.

We determined repairs and maintenance for the buildings are needed. Last year the gutters were replaced on the Perkins House.

We are presently painting the Perkins House, replacing clapboard and repairing dry rot in the windowsills. We are in the process of having the White Blacksmith Shop building post and beam construction repaired and re-siding the back wall. Our normal operating costs are \$10,000 a year. The need to address deferred maintenance requires us to spend an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 this year.

Please become a member and volunteer, as we continue to save and display our town's rich history.

The Museum expanded the mammoth themed items for sale. In addition to Mattie, the stuffed mammoth, we also offer t-shirts, hats, mugs, puzzles and holiday ornaments. We are investigating additional items to be added for sale.

Stop by the Museum. View our unique collection. Such as the Vermont's Terrestrial Fossil (Mammoth Tusk), a John Deere Number 1 and a unique typewriter. Learn how our ancestors lived and worked. Learn about your town. We like to say we are a community. Please join us.

**Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, Board of Directors:** Lynn Anderson, Maggie Blane, Philip Blyskal, June Capron, Philippe Crane, Dennis Devereux, Craig Fortier, Maria Fortier, Susie Hamilton,

Mary Leonard, Stephen Michel, Judy Nevin, Paul Nevin, Doris Reiser, Carol Serravezza, Peter Smith, Alison Weintraub, Richard Weintraub, Robin Eatmon (Curator)

## Membership Information

### Membership categories:

**Individual \$10**

**Family \$25**

**Patron \$100**

**Friend \$250**

**Or any amount you wish to contribute.**



## Clarke Lyon and his Estey Organ

Clarke Lyon began visiting Mount Holly with his family when he was a child. His paternal grandmother, Ella White Lyon, was a descendent of early settlers there, and his grandfather was a minister and preached in the Baptist Church in Belmont. Although Clarke was the only one of the five Lyon siblings who did not eventually own property in Mount Holly and retire there, he visited often with his wife Helena and daughter Trudy for large family reunions with his brother Jud Lyon and sisters, Betty Bagg, Margie Peirce and Mary Connor and their families.

He lived in Holyoke, MA, where he was an attorney, and he owned a bunkhouse in Stowe where the family visited to ski. He enjoyed fishing at Wantastiquet Lake in Weston.

The Methodist and Baptist Churches in Belmont Village merged in 1918. The town took over the former Methodist Church building (which is now the town library and community center) and its contents in 1923. A music lover, Clarke Lyon purchased the pump organ for \$15 in 1949, outbidding a \$10 offer from the Estey Company.



Using his considerable tinkering skills, he later restored the instrument himself. It was in his front hall in Holyoke and his friend Claude Lagacé, a renowned organist, played it (just for a few minutes) when he visited.

He donated the instrument to the Mount Holly Museum upon his death. The organ itself was made by the Estey Company in Brattleboro, which at its height produced more than 1,000 instruments per month.



## BAKED HAM DINNER

**to Benefit the Museum  
Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**First seating at 5:00 pm**

**Take Out Available**

**The Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont**

**All You Can Eat - Served Home Style**

**Adults \$12 - Children 11 and Under \$6**

## GIFT SHOP ITEMS

**Mugs \$10.00**

**Mammoth Logo Baseball Hat \$20**

**T-shirts short sleeve \$15**

**T-shirts long sleeve SPF50 \$25**

**Standing Mammoth Cutout \$20**

**Mammoth Ornament \$10**

**Woolly Mammoth Puzzles \$20**

**Woolly Mammoth Plush \$20**



## Books

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

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

**To purchase any of the above items, please  
visit the Museum, or contact:**

**Dennis Devereux**

**ddevereux@vermontel.net**

**P.O. Box 1**

**Belmont, VT 05730**

**802.259.2460**

**Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Weaving demonstration at 2:15pm**  
**by Bonny Dutton at Perkins House**

2023 Artist Statement Excerpt...read full statement online at museum website: [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org)

My love for fiber began when my mom, an home-economics teacher, taught me to sew a straight seam and stitch my first quilt when I was six years old.

Years later I would earn degrees in Fashion Design and Merchandising from Kent State



University which set me on a course to pursue my love of cloth professionally.

in 2008 when I was blessed to study with Betty Atwood, UVM professor emeritus. With loom basics under my belt my weaving fervor exploded as I added many different types of looms to my studio and earnestly studied various weave structures and techniques.

Lately I have been taking a deep dive into the world of Tartan Plaids, an homage to my Scottish ancestry. Inspiration of course comes from nature, colors and shapes around me, and the vast and diverse array of natural fibers and the potential each cone of thread holds within...now there is true potential! Honing skills, overcoming limitations of equipment or materials, reevaluating projects throughout the process all add worth to the

experience, the value of learning a new skill and the joy of creation.

My designs have been sold at juried craft fairs, through my own brick and mortar store, in galleries, retail shops and my on-line store [www.FleeceOnEarth.com](http://www.FleeceOnEarth.com).

**Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual Meeting Special Presentation**  
**George Wood, author of *Bird Tales***

Excerpt from the Princeton Alumni Weekly March 2023:

George C. Wood '79 Documents his Birding Journey

At a young age, George C. Wood '79 set a goal to see 600 bird species by the time he was 50. He's accomplished this and then some, now having seen over 800 bird species.

In his new book ***Bird Tales*** (Woodworks Editions) Wood, now in his 60s, shares his story through a series of short narratives, photographs, humor, and more as he identifies birds across the U.S. and Canada.

George C. Wood '79 is the senior director of major gifts at The Haverford School, in



Pennsylvania. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Princeton and masters in environmental science from Ohio State University. A lifelong lover of birding, Wood documents his journeys on his blog [birdtalesblog](http://birdtalesblog).