

# Mount Holly Community Historical Museum Newsletter

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1 JUNE 2009

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

## MUSEUM MARKS 40<sup>TH</sup> YEAR At Blacksmith Shop Site

The Community Historical Museum concept was presented by Edna Mae DesJardins at a dinner party in 1968 and a group of residents began working to make the idea a reality. When they learned that one of Belmont's earliest buildings was for sale, they decided to obtain it to create a home for the Museum.



*Early photo of blacksmith and blacksmith shop*

The W. H. White Blacksmith Shop had also been used as a casket shop, tea room, and children's playhouse. In 1968, the building was owned by the family of J. Warner Edminster, one of the last traveling "druggists" in Vermont who had conducted his compounding and printing operations in the small building.

On Sept. 10, 1968, 21 people met at Lakeview, the home of Edna Mae DesJardins to discuss the possibility of forming a Historical Society using the Edminster property as a museum. Acting chairman, Randolph Smith presided and enlisted the help of Mr. and Mrs. John Hurd from the Weathersfield Historical Society. One week later the group met again and elected Milton Unterman, Chair, L. L. Dudley and K. Laumann, Vice Chair, Edna Mae DesJardins, Secretary/Treasurer and Harriet Parmenter, Historian. The following were elected as Directors: Miriam Bone, William and Florence Clark, James and Virginia Clifford, Ken and Iris Cully, Flossie Dana, Allen and Hazel Devereux, Maude

Devereux, Lee and Edna Greenwood, Evelyn Leino, Jud and Peg Lyon, Herb and Liz Morse, Orrin and Ruth Priest, Earl and Helen Ramsden, Miles Richards, Randolph and Grace Smith, Drs. Charles and Rebecca Solomon, Sid and Dorothy Solomon, Rose Valpreda. The group adopted a constitution and by-laws and set up standing committees and membership categories. *(continued on page 2)*

## Grand Opening of Restored Perkins House Planned for August 8 and 9

The final phases of the Perkins House Restoration Project are coming together. Contractor David Josselyn has worked on the interior all winter. Electrical wiring, including gallery lighting, and plumbing, much of which was donated by Tom Perkins, have been completed along with a new HVAC system. Walls have been refinished with the help of a Vermont Division of Historic Preservation Grant which restored the historic plaster in the old section of the house. Robin Eatmon, Curator, has worked with local artist Nancy McKeegan to select wall colors and stencil designs appropriate to the building.



Andrzej Bolalek and David Hoeh are working to incorporate into the kitchen design cherry wood from the original kitchen built by George Dewey Perkins, Alice Bennett's father. Plans are under way for the creative use of the lower level as an education area for students.

Members of the Museum Board have worked tirelessly to create a new space for display, education and storage of Museum artifacts throughout the building. During the early summer, collections which need to be stored in a dry, pest free environment will be moved from the Blacksmith Shop site to the Perkins House. The Blacksmith Shop will remain open and will house collections which can weather an environment with no heat. We look forward to sharing both sites with the community and to the expanded educational opportunities these sites will bring to the town.

## Message from the Chair

Dennis Devereux

We look forward this season, much like the first Museum Board did in 1969, to the opening of a renovated building. Over the last few years the Museum Board has devoted most of its energy to the Perkins-Bennett House Restoration project. As we approach the project's completion, we want to express our appreciation for the wonderful support we have received. The generous donation of their Belmont home by Alice Bennett and her nephew Todd McCabe, marked the beginning of this fine community project. Under the leadership of Lory Doolittle the Board organized a large scale capital campaign with specific goals for the new site and for the funding needed. Maggie Blane brought her enthusiasm to head the capital campaign and Brigid Sullivan became our Grants Chair. Their inspired work has garnered generous contributions from individuals, families, businesses and funding organizations. David Hoeh has worked diligently with Allan Bamforth and local contractor David Josselyn to rebuild an appropriate facility. Doris Reiser and her Festival of Lights committee continue to amaze us with creative ways to fund raise at our popular annual winter event. Robin Eatmon, curator, has worked closely with the contractor and museum professionals to make the many decisions for gallery space, storage and educational areas at the new site.

We urge the community to join us for the week-end of August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Blacksmith Shop Museum and the opening of the Perkins House. Special guests and programs are being planned and we look forward to thanking the community for its generous support.

*(continued from page 1)*

The new members agreed to clean out and sell the contents of the building. As remembered by Liz Morse in July 1977, the building was "jam packed from floor to roof – with just narrow aisles to walk through the rooms. In the attic we even found boxes carefully tied up with string and labeled 'Empty Boxes.'" After weeks of hard, dirty work, the sale took place on a July weekend. The group earned over \$600 for the Edminster family and also set aside many Edminster artifacts as a start for the Museum collection.

The building needed much work to evolve into an appropriate exhibition area to house the growing numbers of donations of local historical items. The materials and labor costs for the work came to \$2400. Board members gathered courage and took out a bank loan for \$1500 and used many volunteer hours and membership dues to round out the necessary figure. The bank loan was paid off several years later. On Columbus Day, 1969, a pre-opening tea and reception was held. Four hundred artifacts were listed, 350 people attended and viewed a complete blacksmith shop, a cheese making exhibit, and a demonstration of antique apple peelers. An Edminster exhibit included a vast array of compounds, his printing press, labels and a collection of his post cards advertising his wares. Many of these items remain on display in the Blacksmith Shop site today.

The following year, the schedule of summer week-end activities began and an annual potluck supper was held each July. Kitty Laumann, Jan Bamforth's mother, became the first curator of the Museum.

Over the past two years, the White family, under the leadership of Allan and Jan Bamforth, have contributed generously toward the ongoing upkeep of the Blacksmith Shop site which will continue to serve as an important center for Mount Holly's historical treasures. The Museum Board is grateful for the many contributions of the White family which help us continue our mission of educating the public about the history of Mount Holly.

## Museum Endowment

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum is interested in hearing from friends who would like to direct donations in their estates or trusts to help ensure the long term success of the Museum.

Contact Maggie Blane at 802-259-2983 or [maggielane@aol.com](mailto:maggielane@aol.com)

Visit our website at:

[www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org)

**MUSEUM OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

<i>Chair</i>	Dennis Devereux
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Lory Doolittle
<i>Membership Chair</i>	Nelda Holden
<i>Curator</i>	Robin Eatmon
<i>Treasurer</i>	Linda Nexon
<i>Secretary</i>	Maggie Blane
<i>Past Chairs</i>	Barbara Berg
	Joyce Clark
	Dennis Devereux
	Lory Doolittle
	Sally Haaren
	Sandy Montgomery
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Lory Doolittle
<i>Webmaster</i>	Amanda Smith Frank

Lynn Anderson	Dottie Finnerty	Judy Nevin
R. C. Anderson	Linda Guerrero	Amber Nye
Lucy Athas	David Hoeh	Doris Reiser
Allan Bamforth	Barbara Ludwig	Addie Segerman
		Sue Zabransky

**Order Form – *Mount Holly, Its Early Days***

This 36-page book by Jim Holden is in its third printing, with additional photographs and a removable reproduction antique map of Mount Holly suitable for framing.

How many? (\$10 each) _____	Enclosed	\$ _____
	Shipping	\$ 2.00
	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Mail with your check payable to

**Mount Holly Community Historical Museum**

P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

***HISTORY OF MOUNT HOLLY  
ORDER YOUR COPY NOW***

The Historical Museum has for sale a limited number of copies of ***History of Mount Holly, Vermont by Carroll R. Tarbell.*** To order, please complete this form and mail with your check payable to Mount Holly Community Historical Museum, P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730.

\$50 (plus \$5 shipping out of town – free delivery locally)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If you are ordering multiple copies to be shipped to more than one address (\$55 each with shipping), please attach additional information.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights  
Saturday, December 5  
Roundhouse at Jackson Gore  
Auction of Live Trees and  
Wreaths decorated by Local  
Artists and Businesses  
Ticket Price Includes Dinner**

**Museum Board Approves Hiring  
Nathan George to Help Supervise  
Move and Perkins House  
Collections Displays**

This spring Nathan George, of Weston, Vermont, will be helping Curator Robin Eatmon and a team of volunteers as a portion of the collection is moved from the Blacksmith Shop to Perkins House, where he will assist with arranging Museum Display areas.

Mr. George has a professional background in collections management and has worked as a collections manager at the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

**Congratulations to  
*Melanie Blais*  
winner of the  
2008  
Black River High School  
Mount Holly Community  
History Award**

## MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM -- 2008 MEMBERS AND PERKINS HOUSE HONOR ROLL

### LIFE MEMBERS

Douglas Ahlers  
 Carol Andlauer  
 Alice P. Bennett  
 Andrzej/Teresa Bolalek  
 Patrick/Jane Burns  
 Walker/Mary Connor  
 Minga Dana  
 Raymond/Clarise Dana  
 Dennis Devereux  
 Donald/Robin Eatmon  
 David Hendee  
 Nelda Holden  
 Todd McCabe  
 Phil/Linda Nexon  
 Elizabeth McGee/  
 Dr. Mark Pecker  
 Richard/Patricia Nye  
 Robert Perry  
 Dean Phypers  
 Adelaide Segerman  
 Kent Smith  
 Roger/Karen Stevens  
 Duncan/Ruth Williams  
 Kenneth/Shirley Wilson  
 Brett Wright  
**FRIENDS**  
 R. Christian/Lynn Anderson  
 Pete/Lory Doolittle  
**SUSTAINING**  
 Deborah/Anthony\* Costa  
 Richard Hamilton  
 Donald/Patricia Oresman  
 Miriam Pope  
 Anne Felton Spencer  
 Rick/Alison Weintraub  
 Margaret/Paul Whyte  
 William Zabransky  
**PATRONS**  
 William/Lucy Athas  
 Paul/Cecilia Ayres  
 Allan/Janice Bamforth  
 Ronald/Sally Burns  
 Joe/Jeanne Clifford  
 Phil/Katy Crane  
 Paul/Jane Crowley  
 William/Marion Dassler  
 Russ/Mary Desautels  
 Francis/Carol DeVine  
 Sam/Margaret Fogel  
 Matthew/Jennifer Hamilton  
 Donald/Judith Hartmann  
 Brigid Sullivan/David Hoeh  
 Sandra Hoeh  
 David/Janice Linehan  
 Susan Presson/John McClure  
 Thomas/Mary McNally  
 Durwood/Sandra Montgomery

Mem Englehart/David  
 Morrissey  
 Paul/Judy Nevin  
 Lawrence/Virginia Ramsden  
 Jack/June Sabey  
 David/Keay Wagner  
 Aviva Weintraub  
 Nancy Dana Wilson  
 Christopher Winslow  
**FAMILY**  
 Peter/Jo Bania  
 Margaret Blane  
 Gerald/Nedra Bloch  
 Gwen Gautsch/Philip Blyskal  
 William/Carolyn Bountress  
 Kenneth/Irene Brannin  
 Phillip/Florence Carroll  
 Angelo/Bessie Centini  
 Harold/Catherine Chadburn  
 Robert/Joyce Clark  
 Charleen Cole  
 Chris Colm  
 George/Susan Covalla  
 Robert/Louise DeCormier  
 Maurice/Annette Doucette  
 Elise/Luise Durr  
 Ken/Sue Godshall  
 Marta Flanagan  
 Bruno/Linda Guerrera  
 Peter/Sally Haaren  
 Ahmet/Meliha Haicoglu  
 William/Lois Harris  
 Dalmer/Irene Hoskins  
 Emily Clifford Jackson  
 Bill/Mary Ellen Jacobs  
 William/Ruth Johnson  
 Koudela Family  
 Rick/Barbara Ludwig  
 Sandra Mackay  
 Roland/Patricia Marx  
 Eleanor Mazzone  
 Alec/Joan McCallum  
 Thomas/Sylvia McEntegart  
 Carl/Kathy Mitchell  
 Ruth Dickey/Pam Myers  
 Will/Amber Nye  
 Barbara Oswald/  
 Thomas Pelsue  
 Richard/Betsy Pepperman  
 Thomas/Judy Perkins  
 John/Lois Perry  
 Stanley/Arlene Ramsden  
 Will Saunders  
 Peter Scola  
 Edward/Sylvia Smith  
 Sean/Alice Twomey  
 Dottie Finnerty/  
 Ronald Unterman

Richard A./Mavis Van Bibber  
 James/Carol Van Hoof  
 David/Carol Venter  
 Wasilewski Family  
 John/Nicole Whalen  
 Terry/Dorothy Wilcox  
**INDIVIDUAL**  
 Nancy Dana Bassett  
 Richard Cascio  
 Lillian K. Chapin  
 Anne Hamilton  
 Elizabeth Helberg  
 George/Betsy Hinckley  
 Shel Hochman  
 Mary P. Hyde  
 David Johnson  
 Elizabeth Jones  
 Peter LeShane  
 Judson (Rick) Lyon  
 S. Merenda  
 Marie Moran  
 Barbara Pallotta  
 Lana Parks  
 Christine Pratt  
 Thelma Price  
 Timothy Regan  
 Don Schweisthal  
 Margaret Shaub  
 Donald Tarbell  
 Francis Tarbell  
 Wilfred Thompson  
 Semah Unterman  
 Dr. Carroll Wonson  
**PERKINS HOUSE HONOR ROLL**  
 Barbara Alsbury  
 Mary Anderle  
 R. C./Lynn Anderson  
 Paul/Cecilia Ayres  
 Diane Bachtell  
 Alice P. Bennett  
 Peter/Barbara Berg  
 Maggie Blane  
 Gwen Gautsch/Philip Blyskal  
 Andy/Teresa Bolalek  
 William/Carolyn Bountress  
 Charles/Jacqueline Brown  
 Cascio Family  
 Harold/Cathy Chadburn  
 Community Guild  
 Philippe/Katharine Crane  
 Minga Dana  
 John/Carol Delaney  
 Francis/Carol DeVine  
 Pete/Lory Doolittle  
 Peter/Steffany Doolittle  
 Maurice/Annette Doucette  
 Elise Durr

Luise Durr  
 Don/Robin Eatmon  
 Sam/Margaret Fogel  
 John Fiske/Lisa Freeman  
 Richard/Virginia Freeman  
 Josie Gallup  
 Carol Galbraith\*  
 Bill/Bev Gove  
 Peter/Sally Haaren  
 Jason/Margot Hammond  
 George/Betsy Hinckley  
 Shel Hochman  
 Nelda Holden  
 Dalmer/Irene Hoskins  
 Irving Oil  
 William/Ruth Johnson  
 Fred/Charlotte Jordan  
 Josselyn Brothers Inc.  
 LaValley Building Supply  
 David/Janice Linehan  
 Barbara/Rick Ludwig  
 Eleanor Mazzone  
 Todd McCabe  
 Alec/Joan McCallum  
 Ernest McClain  
 Susan Presson/  
 John McClure  
 Merck Partnership for Giving  
 Carl/Cathy Mitchell  
 Mem Engelhart/  
 David Morrissey  
 Joseph/Deanna Mossa  
 Don Hugh Munro  
 Adelaide Segerman/  
 Irwin Naitove\*  
 Paul/Judy Nevin  
 Phil/Linda Nexon  
 Richard/Patricia Nye  
 Neil Pelsue  
 Elizabeth McGee/  
 Dr. Mark Pecker  
 Tom Perkins  
 Robert Perry  
 Miriam Pope  
 Nancy McKeegan/  
 Dan Quaranto  
 David/Karen Ramsden-  
 Zahler  
 Don/Doris Reiser  
 Marilyn Roberts  
 Robert/Kimberly Roscoe  
 Jack/June Sabey  
 Estate of Ruth Schafstall  
 Evelien Moes/  
 Michael Sherman  
 Virginia Shipley  
 Aviva Spring Foundation/  
 Max Weintraub

Roger Stevens  
 Stephanie Stouffer  
 Russell/Patricia Sturges  
 Andy/Marcy Tanger  
 Glenn/Tina Tatangelo  
 Jim/Carol Van Hoof  
 The Vermont Country Store  
 Paul/Janet Warren  
 John M. Whalen  
 Paul/Margaret Whyte  
 Duncan Williams  
 Ken/Shirley Wilson & family  
 Haldor/Helene Woldengen  
 Wright Construction Co.  
 Yankee Paint  
**Devereux Family**  
 Richard/Cindy Berge  
 Dana Devereux  
 Dennis Devereux  
 Douglas/Lynnette Devereux  
 Estate of Hazel Devereux  
**Robert and Priscilla Hoeh Family**  
 Andrew C. Hoeh  
 Laurie Bozzi/  
 Christopher Hoeh  
 Isaac Hoeh  
 Brigid Sullivan/David Hoeh  
 Nicholas Hoeh  
 Roger Hoeh  
 Sandra Hoeh  
**Randolph and Grace Smith Family**  
 Kent Smith  
 Ashley Wilder Smith  
 Ashton Smith  
 Casper Smith  
 Peter/Stephanie Smith  
 Amanda/Sebastian Frank  
 Ryan Smith  
 Lucinda Smith Hughey-Wiley  
 Leah Hughey/Sergei Bomba  
 Rebecca Wiley  
**Unterman Family**  
 William/Susan Boyle  
 Matthew/Jennifer Hamilton  
 Boden Hamilton  
 Emily Hamilton  
 Taber/Susan Hamilton  
 Brigid Sullivan/David Hoeh  
 Laurie Bozzi/  
 Christopher Hoeh  
 Isaac Hoeh  
 Karen Kringsel/Jeff Hoeh  
 Calvin Hoeh  
 Claudia Hoeh  
 Giselle Lederman/  
 Jonathan Hoeh

Elena Hoeh  
 Lila Hoeh  
 Sandra Hoeh  
 Lee and Bernard Jaffe  
 Family  
 Ara Kurnit  
 Jean Kurnit  
 Susan Kurnit  
 Katrina Kurnit  
 Paul/Susan Kurnit  
 Diane Katzin/Richard Kurnit  
 Abbe Heller/Scott Kurnit  
 Maria Imbesi/Larry Lerner  
 Roy/Jolie Lerner  
 Marnie Lerner  
 Ross Lerner  
 Hannah Swacker  
 Casey Unterman  
 Dottie Finnerty/  
 Ronald Unterman  
 Semah Unterman  
**White Family**  
 Sarah Adams  
 Carol Andlauer  
 Allan/Jan Bamforth  
 Charles Bamforth  
 Jan Bamforth  
 Joan Connor  
 Walker/Mary Connor  
 William/Marnie Dassler  
 Susan Polley Dauphinee  
 Betsey Douglas  
 William/Jean Hallager  
 Richard H. Hamilton  
 Jervis Family  
 Judson (Rick) Lyon  
 Karin Martel  
 Chandler/Cynthia Peirce  
 Tom/Barbara Prunera  
 Richard/Mavis Van Bibber  
 Richard/Alison Weintraub  
 Richard/Cynthia Wonson  
 Carolyn Laumann Woodsburgh  
**Grants**  
 Jeld-Wen Foundation  
 VT Div. for Historic  
 Preservation  
 Preservation Trust of VT/  
 Robert Sincerbeaux Fund  
 Preservation Trust of VT/  
 Freeman Foundation  
 Windham Foundation

\*deceased