



Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

VOLUME 13

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JUNE 2006

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

MOUNT HOLLY'S EARLY SETTLERS 1781-1818

In 1781, Abraham Jackson and twenty-nine other residents of Wallingford secured a large grant of land between the towns of Ludlow and Wallingford from the State Legislature. Jackson, along with Stephen, Ichabod and Chauncey Clark made the first settlement in what became known as Jackson Gore in 1782. The following year Jacob Wilcox and Benjamin Dawley joined them and soon after Jonah, Amos and Ebenezer Ives arrived. By 1786 Joseph Green; Richard Lawrence; Nathaniel, Joseph and Jonathan Pingrey; Abram Crowley; David Bent; Silas Proctor; Samuel Cook and John and Jonas Hadley were settled three miles east of Jackson Gore in a part of Ludlow that was cut off from the rest of that settlement by difficult terrain. Neither Jackson Gore nor the western Ludlow settlement was aware of the other; they had reached their settlements from opposite directions and were separated by an unbroken wilderness. A search for stray livestock by the Ludlow settlers led to their discovery of the Jackson Gore settlement in the vicinity of the present crossroads of Hortonville and Old Turnpike Roads. The acquaintance accidentally made resulted in the union of the two settlements into one town. The State Legislature was petitioned and on October 31, 1792, Jackson Gore and part of Ludlow were incorporated into a township that was named Mount Holly.



Stone walls deep in the woods today once marked off meadows and pastures cleared by the early settlers

Abraham Jackson's large landholdings included a small lake (now Star Lake) and valuable water privileges at its outlet. Sometime before 1797 he built a dam that was probably made of timber and erected the first sawmill in town. He was a Quaker and it was in the kitchen of his house where the meetings of the first religious society in town were held. **Joseph Green**, a Revolutionary War veteran who settled in town in 1786, kept a tavern, the Green Stand, across Branch Brook from the Green Cemetery. The tavern was a large square, two-story building. A large barn across the street served as stables for the changing and caring of horses on stagecoaches and freight wagons. He also operated a saw and gristmill on Branch Brook. He served as a Town Selectman. A

monument in the Green Cemetery marks his grave. **Ichabod, Stephen, John, and Chauncey Clark** served in the Revolutionary War battle at Hubbardton and also at Bennington. Stephen Clark was a prime mover in organizing the town and likely gave it the name Mount Holly. He built a tavern at the north Mount Holly crossroads, served as a Selectman, Town Clerk and Treasurer and as a representative to the Vermont Legislature. There is a marble monument to Ichabod Clark in the Packer Cemetery. **Nathaniel Pingrey** served in a Revolutionary War regiment raised to guard General Burgoyne's army. He is buried in the Old Mechanicsville Cemetery. **Silas Proctor** was a Minute Man and was at Concord Bridge in 1775. He joined in the pursuit of the British soldiers to Cambridge and was in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He, too, served as a Selectman. He lived on Proctor Hill and is buried in the Mount Holly Cemetery. **Samuel Cook** purchased his land on the east side of town (then Ludlow) for \$1,000. He served as a Selectman. He was a lieutenant in the militia until he joined the Quakers, when he resigned. **Abram Crowley** deeded his farm to his son John in 1815 so that John would care for him and his wife Hannah through their lifetimes. Abram died in 1820. His son speculated in land, became overextended and failed in 1827. The farm was sold several times, always with the encumbrance "to care for the Widow Crowley." Hannah died in 1839. **Benjamin Dawley's** nephew, Perry Green Dawley, Jr., born in 1783, was the first white male child born in Mount Holly. Dawley descendants still live on the land their ancestors cleared in the 18th century.



The Dawley farm about 1900

The land in Mount Holly was originally covered with a heavy growth of timber. The early settlers cut and burned the trees to clear fields and pastures. Excepting South and Okemo Mountains, about 75 percent of the town was cleared before 1830. The first settlers were farmers. The fortunate ones owned an ox team, a sled, and an ox cart. Roads were called traces and were little more than paths through the woods.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Bill & Carolyn Bountress	Judy Nevin	Stephanie Stouffer

Editor, Newsletter Linda Nexon

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2005 was an active and productive year for the Museum. The Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance awarded us a *Building Accomplished Museums Grant* that provided a two-week internship focusing on collections care, providing valuable education to our curator and board members and assisting us in cleaning out, evaluating and cataloguing our collections. Fund raising successes included Art Fest on the Belmont Green in August with 25 local artists participating and in December, the Festival of Lights, an auction of live trees and wreaths decorated by local artists and business owners. Volunteers continued work on Perkins House, cleaning out the house, gutting the first floor and removing the side porch. A capital campaign feasibility study was completed. The study found that there is significant community interest in the Perkins House project, and that it will be possible to obtain the necessary funding through grants, donations and hard work. Allan Bamforth and Bill Gove designed and constructed a scale model of Perkins House. The model was displayed at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Preservation Trust of Vermont at Shelburne Farm and was on exhibit at the annual meeting of the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier. It will be the centerpiece of the Museum's exhibit at the **2006 Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge on June 24 and 25.** The Museum received an award from the Vermont Historical Society for the Belmont Walking Tour brochure conceived and designed by Robin Eatmon and Judy Nevin and published by Kelley Real Estate. Alice Perkins Bennett and Todd McCabe received an award from the Vermont Historical Society in recognition of their gift of their family home to the Museum.

Lory Doolittle, Chair

**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.

**IN MEMORIAM
HAZEL DEVEREUX**

Hazel and her husband Allen were charter members of the Museum and she remained an active participant in its activities throughout her lifetime. In 2004 she donated to the Museum a collection of 18 scrapbooks containing her weekly columns and other news items from the *Black River Tribune*. This priceless archive records 40 years of comings and goings of Mount Holly folks. Haze's faithful chronicle and her meticulous scrapbooking are an invaluable addition to the Museum collection. A generous outpouring of gifts in Hazel's memory has benefited the Museum's campaign for the restoration of Perkins House, just as Hazel enriched and enlivened our town and all who knew her. Our sincere condolences to her family.

LIZZIE TARBELL

A great-granddaughter's tribute to Lizzie Tarbell earned a first place in the 2005 Mount Holly School Creative Writing Contest and is included in the enclosure with this newsletter. We can only add that Lizzie was a loyal and supportive Museum member for many years. In the acknowledgements to his *History of Mount Holly, Vermont*, her late husband Carroll salutes her significant contribution to that work. Our deepest sympathy to her family.

EUDICE SEGAL

Eudice Segal and her husband Ed were founding members and long-time supporters of Museum activities. They opened their historic Mount Holly home for the 1994 Museum tour of old houses. The house, begun in the late 1790s by Jedediah Hammond, became their home in 1965. Eudice organized summer programs for Mount Holly children at the Town Library. Her hospitality and enthusiasm and open warmth toward all are well remembered.

We also record the passing of Museum members **John Graves** and **Elva Hudtwalker**.

Early Settlers (continued from first page)

Everything was done by hand. Houses and livestock shelters were made of logs. "Windows" often consisted of greased paper that let in scant light. Plows were made of wood with an iron point. Men with scythes entered the hayfields at daybreak and mowed, several men one behind the other. Early settlers kept only enough livestock - mostly cows and sheep -- for their own use. Butter and cheese were made at home until the 1880s. Butter was salted down in a stone crock. When the fall rains came, the men went to work in local saw and gristmills. Women picked, carded, and spun their own yarn, made their own cloth and garments, made candles, soap, baskets, carpets and quilts. There were few books aside from the Bible, no daily newspapers and no post office until 1808 in Mount Holly.

Schools and churches served as the centers that linked the community together. Fittingly, the Jackson Gore settlers were at a Sunday service at the cabin of Ichabod Clark when the settlers from west of Ludlow happened upon them on the occasion when the two groups of settlers first became aware of each other. Ichabod Crane served as the first deacon of the **(continued on third page, column 1)**

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Baptist Church in Mount Holly. The Quakers had the first meetinghouse in town, a small wooden structure north of Mechanicsville. The Quakers also organized the first district school. By 1804 there were eight school districts, each an independent entity, raising and collecting taxes to support the school. In 1818, there were nine school districts and a school census of 392. The primitive early settlement had become an organized town.

[Credit to Carroll R. Tarbell's *History of Mount Holly, Vermont* (1987) for material used in this sketch of the Town's early settlers.]

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YOUR HOUSE IS HOW OLD?

CIRCA
1801



Display the year of origin of your house 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.

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

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
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail with your check payable to
Mount Holly Community Historical Museum
P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS KICKS OFF PERKINS HOUSE FUND RAISING

A success by any measure, the grand kick off event for the Perkins House capital campaign drew close to 100 to the Jackson Gore Round House on December 3 for a gala dinner and auction of beautifully decorated holiday wreaths and trees. The generous participation and creative talents of local merchants and artists from Mount Holly, Belmont, Chester, Ludlow, Rutland, Shrewsbury, and Danby created a glittering holiday wonderland of magnificent auction items. The Museum Board is grateful to them and to Ron Unterman for his masterful auctioneer/standup skills, to our own Doris Reiser for so ably managing every detail of planning and execution, to Express Copy for donating printing services, and to the friends who were unable to attend but nevertheless made thoughtful donations to the Perkins House project.



Alice Nitka and Stephanie Stouffer at the Festival of Lights with a tree featuring ornaments of Stephanie's design

2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

	Lifetime	\$500		
Friend	\$250	Family	\$ 25	
Sustaining	\$100	Individual	\$ 10	
Patron	\$ 50	Student	\$ 5	

CREATIVE YOUNG HISTORIANS

MOUNT HOLLY SCHOOL HISTORICAL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Mount Holly School students in Grades 3-6 participated in the Museum sponsored 2005 historical creative writing contest under the direction of Judy Nevin. Third place winners were Holly Towne, Grade 3; Willy Crawford, Grade 4; and Hanna Colm, Grade 6. Second place winners were Cole Tarbell, Grade 3; Tiffany Norton, Grade 4; Lucey Gagner, Grade 5; and Cody Ahonen, Grade 6. Entries awarded first prize are reproduced below. **The 2006 contest winners will present their work at the Museum on Sunday, July 9, 2:15 pm.**

Mount Holly By Ethan Baker, Grade 3

I am Mount Holly
that is in Vermont.
I am Vermont
that has many trees.
I am the trees
that rock in the wind.
I am the wind
that blows over Lake Ninevah.
I am Lake Ninevah
where horses were watered by soldiers.
I am the soldiers
who walked on the Crown Point Road
I am the Crown Point Road
that is near Shunpike Road.
I am Shunpike Road
that is in Mount Holly.
I am Mount Holly.



Lake Ninevah (formerly known as Patch Pond)

My Favorite Place in Mount Holly By Alexis Palmer, Grade 4

My favorite place in Mount Holly is the Cook House. People call the Cook House the haunted house because it is old and creepy. It is on Hortonville Road. It is my favorite place because old things in Mount Holly are cool.

The Cook House is my favorite place because it has a lot of neat things like the floating staircase, all the old furniture, and

how big it is. The floating staircase is the best thing to me because I thought they really floated but they don't float. The Cook House is old. I like old places because it is interesting to see how long ago people used things, what they used it for, and what it looks like. I just like history.

This is why my favorite place in Mount Holly is the Cook House.



Cook House (left) on Hortonville Road

My Great-grandmother's House By Alyssa Collins, Grade 5

My great-grandmother's house is full of wonderful memories.

My great-grandmother's house is full of warmth and comfort.

My great-grandmother's house has old treasures full of stories that are waiting to be told.

My great-grandmother's house has smells of her love and cookies.

My great-grandmother's house is near a barn where memories are locked in the old wood that holds it together.

My great-grandmother's house has a wooden porch swing that sways with the wind reminding all of us of the wonderful rides that we have taken.

My great-grandmother's house sits on an old dirt road that carried weary travelers on their way home in the early days of Mount Holly.

My great-grandmother's house will always remind me of home, here in Mount Holly, Vermont.



Porch swing at the Tarbell house in Healdville

The Mount Holly Town Library By Chloe Demers, Grade 6

The bright, blazing sun comes out,
and I know that I shouldn't pout
because summer is beginning.
I can smell the lilacs in bloom
and without feeling any gloom
I feel the scorching sun beat down
Every time that feeling comes around,
my happiness is totally found.
In summer we take a trip with joy,
every child, girl and boy
to the Mount Holly Library.
There's arts and crafts and magic acts.
There's games and books, and delicious
snacks.
Projects, music, friends, and lots more for
you to do.
In the summer at the Library. You should
go, too.

The library is really special to me,
where I go to have fun and read books, you
see.

The books are big and little, thin and fat,
About magic, or horses, and even a cat.
Go there and read, and play games till day's
done.

It's a real special place in Mount Holly to
have fun.



The Library is in the Mount Holly Community Association building in Belmont, formerly a Methodist Church

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 COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

2005 MEMBERS

Thank you for your support!

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Carol Andlauer
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George/Susan Covalla
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Joann Crowley
Chad Getchell/Minga R. Dana
Raymond/Clarise Dana
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Kent Smith
Francis Tarbell
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Semah Unterman
Mary Van Dyke
Bernice R. Wellin
Aileen White
Maryanne Witters
Helene Woldengen
Dr. Carroll Wonson

2006

CALENDAR OF MUSEUM EVENTS

2006

The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday from 2 pm until 4 pm from July 1 through August 27 and on Saturday and Sunday, October 7 and 8. Programs begin at 2:15 pm unless otherwise noted. **Accessioning program continues at the Museum on Thursdays from 10 am to noon from July 11 through August 30. All welcome, no experience necessary.**

- Sat** May 27 11 am. **PERKINS HOUSE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**, on site in Belmont.
- Sat-Sun** June 24-25 10am-5pm. Visit the Museum's Perkins House exhibit at the **VERMONT HISTORY EXPO**, Tunbridge Fairgrounds.
- Sat** July **INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE OPEN HOUSE.** Museum open 12-4 pm.
Sun July 2 Open for browsing
- Sat** July 8 2-4 pm. **QUILTING FOR KIDS.** Ages 8 and up. Contact Judy Nevin at 259-2443 to register.
Sun July 9 **CREATIVE HISTORY CONTEST WINNERS** – WRITINGS AND ART PROJECTS ABOUT AN HISTORICAL EVENT OR PERSON IN MOUNT HOLLY – Mount Holly School students will share their winning entries.
- Sat** July 15 Open for browsing
Sun July 16 **20TH CENTURY SETTLEMENT OF THE FINNS IN THE MOUNT HOLLY AREA.** Alice Suojanen and Becky Wilson. Following the program, traditional Finnish pastries and coffee will be served.
- Tue** July 18 **Annual Meeting of Members and Pot Luck Supper.** (Slide presentation on old cemeteries by Peggy Jenks) **A proposed amendment to the MHCHA Bylaws will be presented to the membership. The proposal is to delete from Article III, Section 4:** "A Director who has served two consecutive three year terms shall not be eligible to serve as Director again until one year has elapsed."
- Sat** July 22 Open for browsing
Sun July 23 **MOUNT HOLLY'S HISTORIC BARNs.** A presentation of the Mount Holly Barn Preservation Association.
- Sat** July 29 Open for browsing
Sun July 30 **TAKING A STAND IN HISTORY.** Local students present their award-winning National History Day projects.
- Sat** Aug 5 **ART FESTIVAL**, 10am - 4 pm. Village Green, Belmont. The 2-day show and sale features works by local artists.
Sun Aug 6 **ART FESTIVAL**, Noon-4 pm
- Sat** Aug 12 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 to register.
Sun Aug 13 2-4 pm. **ANTIQUES APPRAISALS** by Jim Marquis. Bring your treasures to the **Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont.**
- Sat** Aug 19 Open for browsing
Sun Aug 20 12-4 pm. **FARMFEST** on the Village Green, Belmont
- Sat** Aug 26 Open for browsing
Sun Aug 27 **BLACKSMITHING TECHNIQUES.** A demonstration by Ed Burgess.
- Sat** Sept 16 5:00 pm. **ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER**, Odd Fellows Hall.
- Sat** Oct 7 **CIDER DAYS ON THE GREEN IN BELMONT.** Museum open for browsing 10 am – 4 pm.
Sun Oct 8 **CIDER DAYS ON THE GREEN IN BELMONT.** Museum open for browsing noon-4 pm.
- Sat** Dec 2 **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS WREATH AUCTION AND DINNER.** Roundhouse at Jackson Gore. Tickets and information: Doris Reiser, 259-2722.



Seal of the Town of Mount Holly

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

SebastianFrank/Amanda Smith
939 Jenifer St. #4
Madison, WI 53703

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