



Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2 DECEMBER 2007

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

www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org

THREE YEARS LATER

The Perkins House Restoration project is in the home stretch! In November, 2004, the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum elected to accept the donation of Perkins House from Alice Bennett and Todd McCabe. Since 1969 our collections had been housed in a former blacksmith shop, a structure permeable to bats and mice, with a leaky roof, and almost no storage facilities. With no running water and no heat, the Museum could welcome visitors only in the summer months. The generous donation of Perkins House would add safe storage capability, allow expanded educational programs, establish new gallery space and extend hours of operation. Heat, running water and a public bathroom would enhance Museum operations and the site on Belmont Green would add to the ability to participate in community activities.

Perkins House presented a serious challenge to the Museum Board of Directors, a group of volunteers who would be responsible for raising the funds needed for the project. With the help of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Vermont Historical Society and the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, Board members led by Lory Doolittle set about educating themselves for the task of restoring the new site. They took workshops on fund raising and mounting a capital campaign and earned grants that funded an assessment of building condition, engineering requirements, and preservation strategy. Board members took on these tasks with interest and enthusiasm and stunned the community with an audacious plan to raise \$400,000. While the annual budget for the Blacksmith Shop had been only several thousand dollars a year, now a strategy to raise substantial capital funds was required.

And, of course, Mount Holly and Belmont folk made the challenges surmountable and put the goals within reach. The Board was fortunate to be able to engage the talents and energy of Brigid Sullivan to help pursue grant funding. Maggie Blane agreed to head up our capital campaign and has done a fantastic job promoting community interest in the project. Allan Bamforth created a model of Perkins House that served as an exciting conceptual tool. Individuals and families responded generously and enthusiastically to the appeal for funds.

New fund raising events have contributed to community awareness of the project. The Festival of Lights, an annual silent and live auction of wreaths decorated by local artists and businesses, has proved to be financially rewarding and fun, thanks to the fine auctioneering skills of Ron Unterman and the organizing genius of Doris Reiser. During the summer the Museum participates in community-wide events and has added the ARTFEST to our roster of programs to celebrate Mt. Holly artists.

The Board can now report that 65% of the campaign goal is achieved!

Two phases of the restoration project have been completed by Josselyn Construction. The final phase is being studied with the help of architect Peter Morris and collections care consultant Erica Donis. This spring the house will be painted with materials donated by Yankee Paints in Rutland, under the direction of Terry Wilcox, retired painting contractor and Belmont home owner.

Perkins House is now at the point where we can envision display space for the surrey donated by the Ramsden family, the mammoth tooth and tusk returned from UVM, furniture donated by Don Munro, and a signature quilt in the Garden Maze design being created by Susan Zabransky to honor donors of \$1000 or more. We can also begin to visualize the space where Mount Holly School students will study a curriculum being developed by Judy Nevin.

The Museum Board is excited to see our project coming together. We are dedicated to meeting the challenge of having Perkins House up and running by 2009 to celebrate the Museum's 40th birthday. We will continue to use the Blacksmith Shop site to meet the needs of our expanding collections, but look forward to having programs throughout the year which a refurbished, heated site will allow.

We sincerely thank all who have been involved in our project over the past three years and those who have supported us financially and in spirit. Perkins House is truly a community project that will be a significant local resource for generations to come, linking us to the past and the future.

Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

PERKINS HOUSE HONOR ROLL

as of November 27, 2007

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 Pete/Lory 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 Jeld-Wen William/Ruth Johnson Fred/Charlotte Jordan Josselyn Brothers Inc. LaValley Building Supply David/Janice Linehan Eleanor Mazzone	Todd McCabe Alec/Joan McCallum Ernest McClain Susan Presson/ John McClure Merck Partnership for Giving Carl/Cathy Mitchell Don Hugh Munro Adelaide Segerman/ Irwin Naitove* Paul/Judy Nevin Phil/Linda Nexon Richard/Patricia Nye Neil Pelsue Miriam Pope Preservation Trust of VT/ Freeman Foundation Preservation Trust of VT/ Robert Sincerbeaux Fund Nancy McKeegan/ Dan Quaranto Robert Perry David/Karen Ramsden- Zahler Don/Doris Reiser Marilyn Roberts Robert/Kimberly Roscoe Jack/June Sabey Estate of Ruth Schafstall Evelien Moes/ Michael Sherman Ashley Wilder Smith Aviva Spring Foundation/ Max Weintraub 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 Windham Foundation Haldor/Helene Woldengen Wright Construction Co. 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 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 Kringel/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 Jesse 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 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 Carolyn Laumann Judson M. Lyon Karin Martel Chandler/Cynthia Peirce Tom/Barbara Prunera Richard/Mavis Van Bibber Richard/Alison Weintraub Richard/Cynthia Wonson
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*deceased

Please support the Perkins House Restoration Project.

\$1,000 \$50
 \$ 500 Other
 \$ 100 Contact me about a gift of securities

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

Apply my gift to endowment in support of future operations of Perkins House

Mail your gift with the completed form to **MHCHM, P.O. Box 17, Belmont, VT 05730.**

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 P.O. Box 17
 Belmont, VT 05730