



MOUNT HOLLY COMMUNITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Summer 2022

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 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 for details!

2022 CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

July 4

Parade in Belmont 11 a.m.

Museum open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

July 19

Annual Meeting and Potluck

6 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall

September 3

**Annual Ham Dinner at the Odd Fellows
Hall at 5 p.m.**

October 8

Cider Days on the Village Green

Museum Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 9

Cider Days on the Village Green

Museum Open Noon to 4 p.m.

December 3

Festival of Lights Fundraiser

Odd Fellows Hall 4 p.m.

THE CROWN POINT ROAD IN MOUNT HOLLY

During the French and Indian War (1754-1763), soldiers travelled from several British colonies to defend the Fort at Crown Point, New York. Fort No. 4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire, became one of the mustering points to move soldiers and supplies. The need for a passable road from Fort No. 4 led to an order from General Amherst to rough out a trail through the New Hampshire Grants in the fall of 1759, to be completed the following year.



This early Crown Point Military Road, about 78 miles long, entered what later became Mount Holly in an area now known as Buttermilk Falls and continued northwest, following close to the Shunpike Road of today through Hortonville Four Corners and into Shrewsbury. It is worth noting that the Twenty-eight Mile Encampment was a short distance north of the falls in our town. Prior to 1776 the section of the road between the towns of Cavendish and Shrewsbury was relocated farther north.

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The new trail crossed through the Dix Hill area of Ludlow into the Town of Plymouth, entering Mount Holly near Lake Ninevah, and continued south of Proctor Hill. Not far to the west the soldiers camped at what was known as the Halfway Encampment beyond the end of what we now call Perry Road. From here the road headed west and rejoined the original 1759 road near the Shrewsbury town line.

Many soldiers returning home from fighting used this road, and it later provided a trail when early settlers were coming into Vermont in the 1780s.

About this time a turnpike was surveyed on the south side of Buttermilk Falls. Settlers were already moving into the west side of Ludlow Mountain which became part of the new Town of Mount Holly in 1792.

MOUNT HOLLY RAILROAD HISTORY

Mount Holly was the setting for two significant events in Vermont railroad history. In 1848 workers were digging in a swampy area, searching for bedrock to support the railroad tracks. Nearly ten feet down they found a mammoth tusk and tooth, as well as several ribs. The workers were likely unaware of what they had unearthed. The tusk, declared our state's Terrestrial Fossil in 2014, is on permanent loan from the University of Vermont and is displayed at the Perkins House Museum in Belmont along with an old cast of the tooth.

In December 1849 the last spike was driven not far from the discovery site, completing the railroad from Burlington to Boston. This area, the highest elevation along the route, became known as the summit. A railroad station was later built for freight and passenger service at a crossing that became Summit Road. The two mayors traveled by train from their respective cities and met for a ceremony where they poured water on their locomotives' cowcatchers. Celebrants toasted the occasion with local cider and Boston rum.

A Special Thank You to a Very Special Town

The Mount Holly Community Guild, the Mount Holly Historical Museum and the Colfax Odd Fellows Lodge wish to thank everyone who made the May 28th fund raising dinner for Ukraine such a success. We were able to send more than \$4000. to World Central Kitchen which is feeding the people of Ukraine.

The following businesses donated more to pay for the food: Scott Crawford at Salt Ash Nursery, Kelley Real Estate, Stryhas Construction, Jeb Porter at Vt. Stonework, Steve Flanders Excavator and Countryside Lock & Alarms. Please patronize the generous businesses to thank them for their part in this success.

We couldn't have had such a success without the cooking skills of Vicky Seward and Denise Young in the kitchen. They worked tirelessly all day. The wonderful bakers in town made a huge variety of pies which contributed to the dinner's success.

Lastly, thank you to all the people who came and bought dinners

Belmont Village Tours

Led by Town Historian, Dennis Devereux

July 23rd And August 20th

Meet at Perkins House 1p.m.

If raining, Museum Collection Tour.

**BAKED HAM DINNER
to Benefit the Museum
Saturday, September 3rd**

First seating at 5:00 pm

Take Out Available

**The Odd Fellows Hall, Belmont
All You Can Eat - Served Home Style
Adults \$15 – Under 12 \$7**

THE YALE UNIVERSITY FOREST 100TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the donation by the Bowen family from Pawtucket, Rhode Island of 462 acres in Mount Holly to Yale University.

Their son, Joseph Brown Bowen, earned a master's degree in 1917 from The Yale Forestry School. He died when his plane was shot down in France during World War 1.

Joseph's parents, Edward and Elma Bowen, had purchased several pieces of property in Mount Holly between 1909 and 1912. They bought the first piece from Fred and Ella Dow. It is likely that the Bowens visited the area, staying at the inn the Dows operated along with a farm in Mechanicsville Village. The Dows had moved from Massachusetts to Mount Holly and probably advertised their inn in southern New England newspapers.

By the early 1900s people were traveling by train to Vermont to vacation. The Dows were instrumental in renaming the village and its nearby body of water in 1911. They knew Star Lake in Belmont would sound better in advertisements than Jackson's Pond in Mechanicsville.

The Dows sold what was known as the Abel Ray Farm to the Bowens in 1909. James Rice, also from Pawtucket, purchased the adjoining Townsend Lot the same year from the Bowens but by 1912 had sold his property back to Elma Bowen. Ray had purchased his land from David Fuller. Fuller, from Weston, owned most of the land to the south. He and his son David operated a sawmill on a small brook east of what is now Route 155. The younger David served in the 9th Vermont Regiment in the Civil War, enlisting from Mount Holly.

We may never know exactly why the Bowens purchased the land here, but it was probably connected to Joseph's interest in forestry. In 1922 Elma Bowen deeded all the property to

Yale University School of Forestry in memory of her son. Later she had a plaque attached to a large boulder honoring Joseph. The plaque reads: Bowen Memorial Forest in memory of Joseph Brown Bowen. Yale '17 F. Lieutenant, United States Air Service. Killed in Action in France, September 7, 1918. She added a quote from one of Joseph's letters: "It does not matter when a man dies, but how." Yale University – School of Forestry.

While researching the forest's history, it was discovered that Yale University had the town of Mount Holly mistakenly located in Windsor County, as the area where the 462 acres is located was part of Ludlow until 1792. Yale was happy to make the correction to Rutland County.

If you are interested in hiking into the forest in the fall, please contact a member of the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum.

New Donation to the Museum



A yearling black bear, that was killed last year crossing Route 103 was given to Peter Smith by Ryan Smith of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Peter had the bear mounted by Pete Lajoie, a taxidermist in Shrewsbury. Peter recently donated the bear to the museum, and it is mounted in the Perkins House. We plan to have a contest to name the bear. Please stop by to see our latest acquisition and suggest a name.

MUSEUM BOARD REPORT

The past year has been a challenge for the Museum. But the Museum tried to be open as much as possible. Working groups were created to handle different aspects of the Museum; buildings, fund raising, publicity, acquisition, etc.; consisting of Board members and members of the community. If interested in helping, please contact any Board member. We determined repairs and maintenance for the buildings. Gutters were replaced on the Perkins House. Thanks to the generous donations by the Town of Mount Holly, Kevin Hollebeek, of Belmont Septic, and Robert Beardmore, of Master Plumbing, the Perkins House now has water.

A new museum addition is a yearling bear, a Vermont roadkill that Peter Smith acquired, generously mounted and donated.

The Museum expanded the mammoth themed items for sale.

We were happy to award two graduating high school seniors a history award of \$100 and a copy of "History of Mount Holly" by Carroll Tarbell.

Our museum still needs your support. During Covid we were unable to have any fundraisers. Community members generously covered our shortfall. However, we still need your support. Due to deferred maintenance, we now must paint the Perkins House and repair its windowsills; re-side the White Blacksmith Shop's back wall; and stabilize the Sears House. Our normal operating costs are \$10,000 a year. The need to address deferred maintenance requires we spend an additional \$5-10,000 a year.

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

Membership Information

Membership categories:

Individual \$10

Family \$25

Patron \$100

Friend \$250

Or any amount you wish to contribute

GIFT SHOP ITEMS

The Museum is delighted to again offer Woolly Mammoth Logo products using the Mammoth Image from Maria Fortier's Painting. We have expanded the colors and sizes in our T-shirts, both short sleeve and long sleeve.

Thank you for purchasing these products. Profit supports the Museums' overhead and Mount Holly Community Projects.



Mugs \$10.00

T-shirts short sleeve \$15.00

T-shirts long sleeve SPF50 \$25

Standing Mammoth Cutout \$15

Mammoth Ornament \$8.00

Woolly Mammoth Puzzles \$20

Woolly Mammoth Plush \$20

Woolly Mammoth Caps \$20

Visit Our Facebook page @mthollymuseum and website: www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org

Email: mounthollymuseum@gmail.com

Perkins House Museum located at the corner of Healdville Road and Maple Hill Road

Will White Blacksmith Shop Museum located on Tabellville Road in Belmont