



# NEWSLETTER

## ~ 100 YEARS AGO ~

### CLIPPINGS FROM THE NEWS & CITIZEN NEWSPAPER JANUARY - JUNE, 1913

That winter - spring, January to June, 1913, it was noted in the paper that many trees had been logged but there was barely enough snow to skid the logs out of the woods. It was feared that some of that wood might be ruined as a result. Loggers from other towns came to help haul out the logs when there was the opportunity to do so. Also, in the March 12th issue, it was noted that some farmers had started sugaring. Later issues indicated that it was a very poor sugaring season that year.

Here are six clippings, tidbits of interesting "news" in Stowe in 1913.

George Colby of Montpelier, who recently returned from California, was in town Monday. Mr. Colby was the first volunteer from Stowe in the Civil War and says that he intends to spend Memorial Day here for the first time in twenty-five years.

Ned Dallas, who is now living in Shelburne, is visiting friends in Stowe. Ned is one of the few ex-slaves now living in Vermont, having been brought North by the late "Mick Mansfield", in his return from the Civil War.

E. E. Bamforth, the landlord of the Green Mountain Inn, is repairing the hall connected with the hotel, used formerly for a theatre, and will install a moving picture machine.

The house on Maple street, owned by Frank V. Smith and occupied by Bert M. Newcity and family, was burned last Friday evening, but little of the contents being saved. The house and household were insured. Mr. Newcity built a fire in the stove in the basement early in the evening and went down street. Neighbors discovered the fire at about 8:30 o'clock

The play, *The Private Secretary*, was given to a crowded house by the Senior class of Stowe High school Friday evening at the Akeley Memorial Building. The production was in charge of Prin. R. G. Reynolds. Those taking part were Roy Robinson, Mark Ploof, Norman French, Donald McMahon, George Hall, Charles Gale, Leo Sargent, Margaret Harris, Bernice Lang, Bernice Town and Mary Moody. Specialties between acts were given by Elton Forbes, Maurice Cleveland, Cornell Riley, John Hosmer, Romona Dunbar, Henry Jenney, Lillian Godfrey, Helen Morgan, Muriel Pike and Mildred Sleeper, with Mrs. J. L. Stafford at the piano. A musical melodrama, "Just Then the Hero Came Round the Corner," was given by Messrs. Hale, McMahon and Munn Boardman with Mrs. Stafford accompanying. At the close of the play the ladies of the Stowe Cemetery Association served refreshments in the banquet hall followed by a dance under the auspices of the Stowe Military Band.

At the annual village meeting Wednesday evening at the Akeley Memorial Building the following elections were made:—Chairman, C. M. Watts; clerk, J. R. Wells; trustees, O. A. Luce, A. A. Pike and C. F. Eddy; collector, C. M. Watts; treasurer, H. E. Pike; water commissioners, I. E. Stafford, H. W. Barrows and H. F. Shaw; auditors, L. L. Harris, A. H. Cheney and C. A. Riley. It was voted to raise a tax of 40 cents on the dollar and to pay the firemen 50 cents an hour for practice and service. It was also voted to establish a minimum of \$5 for electric current.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings are the third **Friday** of each month at 12:00 noon at the SHS Museum, 90 School Street. The public is welcome!

**DECEMBER:** All month, see our tree at the Festival of Lights at the Helen Day Art Center.

*Monthly Meeting:* None this month. See you next year!

**JANUARY:** BBL Part 2, #3 - Monday Jan. 14th, Noon at the Community Room.

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Jan. 18th, at 12:00 pm

**FEBRUARY:** BBL Part 2, #4 - Monday, Feb. 4th, Noon at the Community Room.

BBL Part 2, #5 - Monday, Feb. 25th, Noon at the Community Room

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Feb. 15th, at 12:00 pm

**MARCH:** BBL Part 2, #6 - Monday, March 11th, Noon at the Community Room

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Mar. 15th, at 12:00 pm

**APRIL:** Program to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Universalist/Community Church. Date TBD.

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Apr. 19th, at 12:00 pm

**MAY:** *Monthly Meeting:* Friday, May 17th, at 12:00 pm

**JUNE:** *Monthly Meeting:* Friday, June 21st, at 12:00 pm.

**WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?**

2012 has been a busy time at the museum as we continue to accession items in our collection. What does that mean?? When items are given to the museum, a record of each piece is entered in PastPerfect, our special museum collections software program. Each item is also scanned or photographed and given a number that matches the number of the record in the computer and put on the item as well.

At this point, it is estimated that only about 2/3 of the items in our collection have been fully accessioned (been processed). In addition, there are many, many photos that are in need of being recorded. The process is a slow one, but we are most definitely making progress. As of the end of October, nearly 250 individual items or photos had been documented just this year!

In the meantime, we are most fortunate to continue to acquire "new" old items. A small sampling of items that have come in this year include a cleaver from Stoware which was marked "Stoware" and was part of a cutting board set. We have items advertising Trapp Family Music: a publicity booklet, sheet music, and the program of a concert held in Waterbury in 1943. We are now proud owners of a collection of 18 Stowe restaurant menus from the 1980s. The prices are very interesting!

We are also pleased to have added to our collection of souvenir china (from the early 1900s) a creamer and lidded sugar bowl, each with a Stowe scene on the delicate porcelain. The set was a wedding gift presented to a teacher from the Town of Stowe. Upon her marriage, the teacher resigned from her position, as did most teachers at the time. These items were made in Germany specifically for the Miles, McMahon & Co.

As you clean out your closets of old Stowe family items, please consider the Historical Society before you throw anything away! Remember, one person's junk can be a museum's treasure!





## WINTER HOURS

### at the HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Visit us on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons

2:00 - 5:00 or by appointment

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

Contact us: [info@stowehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@stowehistoricalsociety.org) 802-253-1518





Fourfold Legacy Services and Stowe Historical Society  
are partnering in  
*Stowe Speaks*, a community Oral History project.



[www.fourfoldlegacy.com](http://www.fourfoldlegacy.com)

*Preserving the story of our past  
from those who lived it ... right here in Stowe.*

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

**NEWS FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT - by Barbara Baraw**

As I sat here listening to the rain caused by Hurricane Sandy, I started day dreaming about our past year in the life of the Society. We had put the final touches on the newly filled exhibit cases, we had mounted our "Where to Stay Through the Years" ; we had a Grand Opening of our new museum, and several new volunteers and new members of the board were settling in to the rhythm of our weekly doings. Not quite fast forward, but drifting through winter and spring we were very busy. Lois Keefer's organization of the school files became our primary new exhibit for the summer and fall season: Stowe High School Graduates! Is that graduates- the verb or gradu- uts the noun? That's my New Jersey accent. Commencement announcements, yearbooks, team trophies prom dress and pictures are attracting prolonged attention when former Stoweites return for a visit and come into "this new building " next to the high school.

Our annual meeting was well attended by about 30 new and long time members of the society. We were very fortunate to be informed and entertained by Brad Limoge and John Sargent of the "Vermont Civil War Hemlocks- a group of Civil War historians, educators, and re-enactors. I still wince when I think about the wool clothing worn year round and the mess kit, roll up blanket with canvas cover and the many other items they carried daily.

That same evening we elected Kermit Spaulding, great grandson of Samuel (Santemore) Spaulding a Civil War Veteran and Paul DeCelle who has a relative who left Waterbury, was credited to Stowe, fought in the Civil War and returned to live on a farm in the south Hollow.

Paul came from Waterbury and started his career in Stowe as a meat cutter for Harry Walker in the Brick Store on the corner of Main and School Streets in the late 1950's. In the early 1960's he purchased the Moscow Market and inherited the position of Post Master of the Moscow Post Office, a role he had until he retired from being a storekeeper. Ask any Moscovite and they will say Paul always has a good story to tell.

Kermit grew up not far from where he lives on Barrows Rd. He has had various careers, farmer banker, Selectman, Representative to the state Legislature and Sergeant at Arms at the Vermont State House to name a few.

Along with Sonny Davis, Kermit and Paul bring knowledge and stories of Stowe as it changed from a farming and lumbering community to a community of sports, recreation, and hospitality, where many people's careers allow them to telecommute, thus bringing a greater diversity of experiences and cultural backgrounds. Because of the growth in population and diversity, the importance of telling the Stowe Story becomes more important. Some of Kermit's and Paul's stories can be heard on "Stowe Speaks" CDs at the museum.

The sun peeking out between showers leads me to thinking about the future.

Most of my questions are when, not will. When will we catch up with filing the articles that create our chronologies, when will be complete our move into the museum and open all our boxes to discover the forgotten gems of the collection, and how often will be change our focus exhibit? I encourage each of our members to visit the museum for a chat and exploration. Your support keeps us moving forward. I would like to share with you that which your support provides.

Keeping history alive, Barbara Baraw



*Annual Meeting, August 2012. John Sargent in background wearing his Civil War uniform.*



*Chuck Dudley gives an interesting talk at one of his Brown Bag Lunches to a full house.*

## **BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES - PART II**

### **with Chuck Dudley**

The Historical Society is pleased to present the continuation of the **Brown Bag** discussions held last winter and spring. During this past summer, our very dedicated volunteer, Chuck Dudley, has expanded his research to include properties outside Stowe Center Village. You are invited to the Community Room at the rear of the Library with your lunch in hand to hear and participate in the remaining sessions:

The first two sessions of the Part 2 series took place in October and November. Once again, participation was enthusiastic with lively exchanges of information and interesting stories. The New Year brings us 4 more discussions so please plan to attend:

**#3 (January 14<sup>th</sup>)** - The early history of Stow(e) will be discussed, including its Charter in 1763; the proprietors; land subdivision and speculation; migration of early settlers; tax (vendue) sales; and the annexation of portions of Mansfield and Sterling. Also, Stow had several controversies during the early years.

**#4 (February 4<sup>th</sup>)** - Gold Brook (formerly Hull's Brook) & Stowe Hollow was settled early. Some of the farms can be traced back to the early 1800s. Further, there were several mills in this area. Also, there was land speculation along Hull's Brook in the hope of finding gold.

**#5 (February 25<sup>th</sup>)** - The homes and farms and along Mountain Road will be discussed. Chuck has extended the research on lodging performed by Jan Griffiths to document earlier events, tracing some of the farms back to the early 1800s.

**#6 (March 11<sup>th</sup>)** - Four villages evolved out of the land included in the 1763 Charter of Stow. Chuck will review the development of Center Village, Mill Village, Upper Village and Moscow. He will summarize his findings that were presented in the twelve sessions of Brown Bag Lunch Series.

Please mark your calendars for these Brown Bag gatherings. Talks will begin promptly at 12:00PM for one hour. We encourage your participation in these discussions. Everyone benefits from our collective knowledge of Stowe's history.



**MEMORIAL BUILDING  
HALLWAY DISPLAY CASE**



The display case in the main hallway of the Memorial Building has been recently updated with a new exhibit showing theater events that have been held in the upstairs auditorium over the years. See early playbills, the High School Drama Club as shown in yearbooks, a Victor Coty poster and some more recent playbills.

Karin Gottlieb, whose mother Ruth was a longtime member and director of the Historical Society, has gathered Historical Society artifacts and information for your viewing interest. The display case is located opposite the entrance to the Town Clerk's office. Please take a moment to notice the case and imagine (or remember) when a night at the theatre in Stowe was a fun night out at the Memorial Building.

**HEAVY SUMMER TRAFFIC AT THE MUSEUM**

The Historical Society Museum was a busy place this summer! With our doors open just 9 hours each week over the summer, we spoke with visitors from all over the world. Between June 1st and mid-October, there were over 80 entries in our Guest Book, representing well over 200 visitors. They hailed from many states: Maine, Ohio, Nebraska, Vermont, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, New York, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Delaware, Michigan, Washington (state) and D.C.

Many foreign visitors signed our book as well, coming from far away places like Canada, England, Peru, Chile, Austria, and Japan.

In addition, the Society receives inquiries via email regularly. There are not one or two most popular or recurring questions -- we get asked about everything from the story about Emily's Bridge, to specific family genealogical questions, to questions seeking information about buildings or property. In most cases, we are able to provide at least some information if not completely answer the question at hand.

If you have a houseguest this winter, consider entertaining them with a visit to our museum! There's sure to be something interesting to everyone.

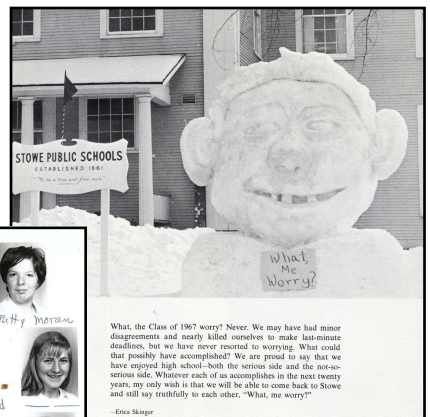
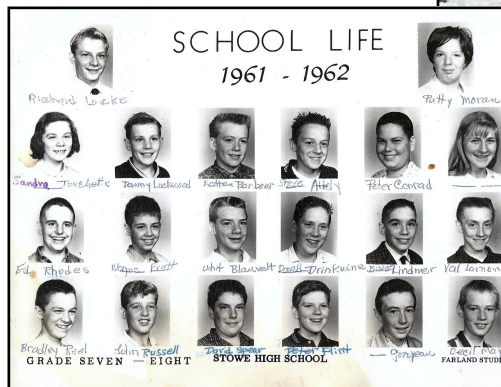
**Check out our website to see who has been interviewed for STOWE SPEAKS and see what they talked about! Click a name and a list of the track titles will come up in a new window.**

**Officers & Directors**

The following slate of Officers and Directors was approved at the August 2012 Annual Meeting:

- Barbara Baraw, President
  - Wendy Parrish, V. President & Secretary
  - Barbara Sorokin, Treasurer
  - Pat Haslam, Director
  - Sonny Davis, Director
  - Jon Hanson, Director
  - Karin Gottlieb, Director
  - Tom & Rudi Hamilton, Director team
  - Kermit Spaulding, Director
  - Paul DeCelle, Director
- Contact the Society:**  
**Email:** [info@stowehistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@stowehistoricalociety.org)  
**Phone:** 802-253-1518  
**Mail:** PO Box 730, Stowe VT 05672

The SHS class of 1967 is only one of the many that is featured in our *Stowe High School Graduates* display. Don't miss it!



What the Class of 1967 worry? Never. We may have had minor disagreements and nearly killed ourselves to make last-minute deadlines, but we have never resorted to worrying. What could that possibly have accomplished? We are proud to say that we have enjoyed high school--both the serious side and the not-so-serious side. Whatever each of us accomplishes in the next twenty years, my only wish is that we will be able to come back to Stowe and still say truthfully to each other, "What, me worry?"  
 -Eric Skinger

On display through May

## SEE OUR TREE at the HDAC FESTIVAL OF TREES

Shown here is volunteer Ruth Hamilton (far right) and her band of merry elves setting up last year's tree decorated with gingerbread cookie ornaments, all hand made using an old, traditional recipe, by Ruth. Each was in the shape of a schoolhouse with photos and information about the various District schools that once dotted the Stowe landscape. This was to commemorate the moving of the West Branch Schoolhouse to its present location to begin its life as the Historical Society headquarters and museum.



Once again, Ruth will guide her team through the baking of many ornaments, this time in the shape of oval historical house markers, with photos and information about some of Stowe's historic homes. These homes have been researched and have been the basis of our Brown Bag Lunch series. (See the article on page 4).

The oval historic marker ornaments set the theme to the kick-off of a summer fundraising effort by the Society. The Society will make available historic markers to Stowe's historic home owners later this year. Introductory information regarding these markers will be available as part of our Christmas Tree exhibit. More detailed information regarding details -- how to obtain a marker for your home, the application process, the cost and starting date for this fundraiser -- will all be announced in our June newsletter and elsewhere later in the spring.

So, be sure to visit us at the Helen Day Art Center's Festival of Trees. The opening reception will be on Friday, December 7th and the exhibit will run through December. Further details were not available at the time we went to press.

*Your feedback about this program will help us plan a better event. If you own a historic home, would you consider buying a plaque? If you do not own a historic home, might you want a plaque to indicate when your house was built? These are some of the questions we are still discussing as we work through the details. If you have ideas or want to work on the committee, please contact the Society.*

## TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

As our year comes to an end and you consider your tax deductible donations before December 31st, please think about the Stowe Historical Society.

Invest knowing that your town, heritage, traditions, industries and residents' stories will be preserved for generations to come through the efforts of its volunteers.

Write your check today to:

Stowe Historical Society  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672

Thank you for helping the Historical Society preserve Stowe's past, present and future since its founding in 1956.



## STOWE LANDMARK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

In 2013, the building that we know as the Stowe Community Church will be 150 years old. Construction was completed during the midst of the Civil War in 1863. It replaced the "Old Meeting House" built in 1818, which was moved to its current site (occupied now by the Ski Museum).

Chuck Dudley is working with the Stowe Community Church to update its history which was documented in 1980. He is supplementing the church's records with information that has been collected by the SHS about the Community Church and the Universalist (aka Unitarian, Unity) Church that owned and utilized this building originally.

We are discussing plans with the Stowe Community Church to present this 150 year history in celebration of this landmark event. Stay tuned.

## Do you have CURIOSITY, a few HOURS and a DESIRE to help?

**Curatorial Assistants** - Work with artifacts, entering data, relocating items in storage. Archival assistants support projects using library resources including indexing, cataloguing, transcribing letters and diaries, and entering data. Do a little of everything or focus on one activity - your choice! Hours are flexible and training is provided.

**Exhibit Assistants** - Can work on single projects or the changing projects (usually one a year). Training is available and commitment need not be more than two hours a visit.

**Program Coordination** - Help plan a program (such as the Maple Sugaring program we've started to plan for April, 2013). This involves working with a team on publicity, gathering items and people, and general creative thinking to make an event that will be well attended.

**Newsletter** - Twice a year the Society sends out a newsletter. We think it might be time for a fresh look and need someone to put their creative talents to work! The program you use is up to you -- no need to learn something new.

**Website** - Our website is a simple one and it can stay that way. Or if you have skills and interest, you can make it snazzy!

**Post Card Distribution** - Our volunteer who manages our various post card retail accounts is a SNOWBIRD! While she gets warmed by the Florida sunshine, we need someone to contact our retail accounts to insure their SHS post card supplies are full for the season. This usually involves one or two visits per season.

Our most immediate needs are for  
**Curatorial Assistants** - Learn to record incoming artifacts  
**Clipping & Filing** the newspapers we have saved. This can be done at home.

Call or email the Society! When you volunteer, you make a difference in the community.



A post card view taken by A. H. Cheney of Stowe and post marked 1908 shows the village as a quaint place to live, work and play before the winter tourist business really boomed. Note the lack of trees on the distant Sunset Hill and the children out in the snow covered street. It is hard to tell if the wagon is just arriving into town or if the errands are done at the Hardware Store and now the driver and his team are heading back home. Sometimes it is just fun to imagine the circumstances that make a photo an interesting glimpse into the past.

