



Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.

Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

APRIL, 1984

Dear Friends:

Membership renewals for 1984 are soon due from all except Life Members, who may wish to make a voluntary donation. The Society counts on membership fees for two important needs: the historic activities of the Society in researching the town's past, and the maintenance of its building as a community center.

We know that you are interested, so please use the slip below to renew your membership.

ONE BIG STEP AHEAD?

For some time the Society has felt that it would be of great advantage to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Ten Vermont towns are now in the Register and Middletown has been invited to apply.

To process an application requires a detailed survey of the town by an architectural historian that costs around \$3,000. Of this the state agency will pay up to \$1,500, but the town must meet the rest. On March 6 the town voted to use \$1,000 in Revenue Sharing Funds toward the project. With this encouragement the Society has made a firm application for membership and has been assured of further individual donations if needed. We're on the way!

OUR "COMMUNITY" HOUSE

In 1971 the Historical Society took

over the Adams House from the town as a permanent home and to provide a much-needed center for town activities. The cost of renovation has been high, and the job is only about half done. The lower floor is used partly by the Town Clerk, and the rest has seen a great deal of activity for meetings, town voting, dinners, dance groups and a number of church activities. Some income comes from modest rental fees, but continued restoration will need major funding. It is on the agenda!

ONE SOLUTION

With the realization that the job of complete restoration of the rest of the Adams House would take many more years and a lot more money than the Society could anticipate raising, new ideas were suggested.

One was to make some arrangement with the next-door Community Church. Their enlarged congregation and increased activity has created a need for more space than is available in their present building.

A possible solution might be to arrange a lease with the Church for a portion of the Adams House. This might make it possible for the Society to continue the restoration of the remaining part of the building sooner than it could otherwise. No decision has been made, but it is still under consideration.

Please make checks payable to M.S. Historical Society and send to Mrs. John VanderSande, Birch Hill, Middletown Springs, VT 05757. The dues are: Individual-\$4; Family-\$5; Contributing-\$10; Sustaining-\$25; Patron-\$50; and Life-\$100

Name

Address

Zip

Amount

HISTORY UPDATE

The gathering of material for a town history from Frisbie's History of Middletown to the present has been a major Society objective. Now it is slowly getting under way. Needed are items of the past: tools, letters, pictures, documents, diaries. Personal recall of family events, stories handed down, interesting history of one's old house are all needed.

Of perhaps greater need are people: someone(s) to do the actual writing, to collect, itemize and safely store items for historic display; and a few dedicated ones to interview and talk with those who have interesting accounts of earlier family members.

If you have any items or information that might be useful for this work, please send it or write to me. It will be gratefully acknowledged!

EVENTS

The Society held a very successful potluck supper in February. Everyone was invited, and many brought their children. Mr. Ray Williams of Poultney gave an interesting slide program on the covered bridges of Vermont.

Our usual strawberry festival will be held again in June, but the date will have to be given later - as soon as we have promise as to what our fickle spring weather will be.

Once more - please remember to renew your membership. And we are always glad to have you drop in to see us whenever you come to Middletown!

Herbert M. Davison
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President

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