



# Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.

Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

## Newsletter

February, 1985

Dear Friends:

For those of you who could not attend the Town's bicentennial celebration in October, a brief report: Well over 200 visitors spent three days renewing old friendships, looking over exhibits put out by our Society and by individuals whose families have lived in Middletown for many years, and attending programs planned by the efficient Bicentennial Committee.

### SOCIETY BUSINESS

Though taking an active part in the bicentennial, the Historical Society held its annual meeting, elected the slate of Trustees mentioned in our September Newsletter, and laid plans for the future. Already completed: a replacement of the pictorial display board in the Mineral Springs Park and the sign-up book for visitors to register. Also a handrail on the steps at the entrance to the Adams House.

### ROOMS USED BY CHURCH

The Community Church has engaged the two front rooms in the Historical Society building for its Sunday School classes during this school year.

### PLANNING AHEAD

One of the main objectives of our Society is to make Middletown's history visible. Over the past fourteen years

many objects of earlier days have come to us as a safe, useful repository: pictures, family genealogies, documents, tools, diaries, heirlooms, and personal letters. We also welcome the temporary loan of such objects to put on display a short time, then returned.

The finished and usable part of the Historical Society building can house this material, but not for a complete display. At a recent meeting of Trustees it was decided to install shelving or cabinets that would provide a rotating display for visitors, and to appoint a committee to plan and maintain the project. This would be our "museum."

Part of this display planning includes a cabinet display in the Town Library building of objects of interest to school children and their parents.

### CAN YOU HELP US PLAN?

The overall aims of our Society are far broader than mere display cases. We have set Sunday, April 21 at 3 P.M. as the time to have an open discussion, followed by refreshments of wine and cheese, a party for everyone interested. We need new ideas on how we can extend our efforts beyond what we are already doing. Can you help? All are welcome!

### TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We are in sound financial condition, but now is the time to renew your member-

---

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
------	---------	-----	--------

ship in the Historical Society. The income from memberships is not enough for the maintenance of our building, but it is badly needed; and further, it is an indication of how much the work we are doing is appreciated by our friends. Please use the return slip on the other side of this page.

#### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At the Feb. 7 meeting of the Trustees the following officers were elected:

President: Carolyn Roach  
Vice President: Janet Webber  
Secretary: Virginia Turnauer  
Treasurer: Edmund Ritchie

Sue VanderSande and Herbert Davison will continue to serve as Chairman of Membership and Historical Research.

#### NEW SIGNS FOR SPRINGS PARK

Plans are afoot for new regular road signs on Routes 140 and 133, pointing to the entrance of the Mineral Springs.

#### REWARDS OF RESEARCH

One of the interesting results of the Bicentennial Celebration was the increased interest among the visitors in Middletown's history. Questions raised during conversations held in the three-day affair or in previous correspondence required research to find the answers.

Two interesting ones: Who was the stone

mason who carved the winged heads and weeping willow on the old tombstones? The answer: Enos Clark (1764-1815) of the family that built the Old Spa Shop in the center of town.

The family of Philo Stoddard (1759-1850)? The earliest known was William Stoddard, who came to England in 1066 with his cousin, William the Conqueror.

Both answers were found in genealogies belonging to our Society.

#### TOWN TO GET NEW LISTING

About the beginning of this year the Michelin Guide and Maps asked the Historical Society to submit a resumé of Middletown Springs, both historical and current, for the new edition of their Guide to be published this spring. The material was sent to them in January.

#### TWO REMINDERS

Please make every effort to attend our party on April 21. We need your help. And remember to send in your renewal of membership. (This will take the new 22¢ stamp!)



President

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

