



Middletown Springs Historical Society, Inc.
Middletown Springs, Vermont 05757

Newsletter

June, 1987

Dear Friends:

Now that the winter and mud season has passed, efforts are afoot to spruce up the Green. The crabapple trees have been pruned, and three additions are planned: one more crab along the east side of the Green, one elm and one or two maples to replace weakened trees along the south side.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The best way to welcome the early days of summer is with the annual Strawberry Festival. This year it will again be held on the village green on Sunday, June 28, from 2 to 4 p.m. The Museum will be open with an exhibit of Old Tools.

Local growers expect a good berry crop this year, and the ice cream will be from the Homestead Farm Dairy. The price is \$3 for all except the very young children. The toddler's serving will be \$1.

A sunny afternoon has been ordered, but if the weather is bad, it will be held in the dining room of the Community House, just above the Green.

HOW DID IT GET THERE?

Some time ago the large direction signboard at the town's center became badly weathered and wobbly.

In the course of time a replica was built and painted.

A slightly different location was chosen, and two deep holes were dug. About 18 inches down the first one the shovel struck something very hard. After quite a bit of picking and scraping, a long arm reached down and brought up a small and badly eroded horseshoe.

The only building ever located in that spot was the log cabin built by Luther Filmore either slightly before he and the other four first settlers left for the Battle of Bennington in the summer of 1777 or right after they came back in 1778 or 79. How did it get there?

WHO ARE WE?

In answer to the occasional question about how widely spread out our membership is, here are the facts for 1987:

There are 186 names on our membership list from the east coast to Hawaii, and divided as follows: Middletown Springs 59, the rest of Vermont 39, New England & New York 33, and 55 in 18 other states. Included in the total are 41 Life Members and five who receive complimentary copies of the Newsletter for a specific reason.

If we do not have your membership renewal for 1987, there will be a '86 after your name. Please send it to us c/o Mrs. Janet Webber, South St., Middletown Spa VT05757
The dues: Individual-\$4, Family-\$5, Contributing-\$10, Sustaining-\$50, Life-\$100

Name	Address	Zip	Amount
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SUMMER MUSEUM EXHIBITS

With the possibility of new additions or a change of date, these are the Sunday afternoon dates when the Museum will be open from 2 to 4:

July 12: Antique Transportation
" 19: Gadgets
" 26 Ironstone China
Aug. 16: Art: Past, Present, Future
" 23: Family Histories
" 30: " " (carried over)
Sept 20: Old Clothing
??? : Railroadng
Oct. 18: Apple Festival (Museum will be closed after this date.)

THE MINERAL SPRINGS

The early settlers, who came here from 1774 on, learned from the few local Indians about a mineral spring that cured a lot of ailments. The settlers, however, were more concerned with just keeping alive. The "freshet" of 1811 buried the springs under tons of earth.

In 1869 another but smaller storm changed the course of the river and uncovered the springs. A. W. Gray, whose horsepower factory owned the land, tasted the water, thought it was strong enough to be medicinal, and established a company to bottle and sell the product.

This endeavor was so successful

that the Montvert Hotel was built in 1871, big enough for 250 guests. Fortune smiled for 40 years until the carriage trade dwindled and the hotel was dismantled in 1906. The flood of 1927 also washed away the springhouse.

In 1970 the Historical Society was founded; and using old pictures of the building it was able to construct another very much like the original. Visitors are welcome to the springs and surrounding park.

EARLY MIDDLETOWN SCHOOLS

Up to 1898 there were eight small school buildings scattered around the township to accommodate the widening population. The following is a hand-written report about the finances of School 5 for 3 months: some year around 1890:

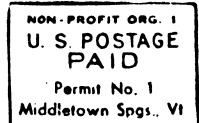
Nine families had 23 children in all the grades. The teacher was paid \$1.75 per week, or \$20.00. The family that boarded the girl received \$24.00, and the school was heated by 12 cords of wood at \$1.00 per cord. School 5 was about two miles up North Road.

HELP WANTED: a museum typist to work at home. Call Mrs Webber at 235-2306.

For the Trustees

Robert M. Denison
Research Chairman

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Mr. David Wright
Jan 05 2007