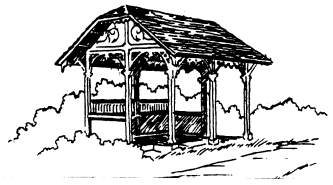


Middletown Springs Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

Vol 23 No 2

August 1992

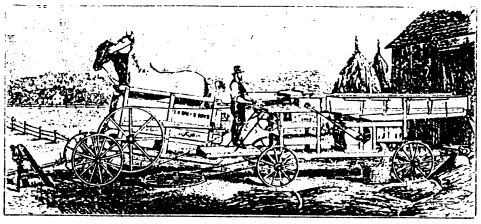
Historical Society Acquires an A.W. Gray Two-Horse Power and Thresher

A dream of the founders of the Historical Society came true August 8 when the Trustees acquired an A.W. Gray Horsepower for the museum collection at an auction in Townsend. The two horse model, in working condition and mounted on its original four wheel "truck," has resided in Marlboro for many years. It was brought to auction by antique dealer Gene Bourne, proprietor of The Restoration Shop in Putney. Bud Krouse transported the horse power back to Middletown Springs for storage at Burnham Hollow Orchard.

In May the museum acquired another Gray thresher, our sixth, from Steve Holnan of Bristol, who is active in the historical society in Lincoln.

OUR MOUNTED TWO HORSE POWER.

With Thresher, Separator and Cleaner, also Mounted.



The machines are specially adapted for parties who intend to go around from place to place threshing, it being convenient to move, always ready for work. All that is required, being with the aid of a jack to raise the rear end of the power, take off the hind wheels, let the axle down on to the floor (or ground), put on the main belt, and you are ready for business. This makes the most complete arrangement of the kind ever introduced.

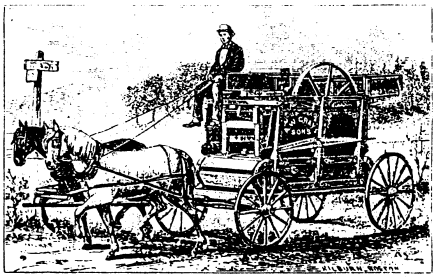
The trucks sent out with our machines are manufactured in our own factory, and are well and thoroughly made in every respect. The objection to every machine we have examined has been that they were too heavy, took more time to move the machine and get ready for work than to do it; but here you have a set of machines the combined weight of which, including both trucks, is only 3,700 pounds, and which can be set at work in ten minutes after reaching the barn, thereby saving much valuable time, and allowing parties to thresh in several places during the same day, where, as frequently happens, there are several small jobs to do.

Price of the above Mounted Two Horse Power, Thresher (18×30 inch patent iron cylinder), Separator and Cleaner, also mounted, complete with oilers, wrenches and jack, Bagger and 36 feet of four inch rubber belt, ... $400 00

The cut shows shafts on the Trucks of the Thresher, but we now send out pole and whiffletrees instead of shafts unless especially ordered.

OUR MOUNTED TWO HORSE POWER.

With Thresher, Separator and Cleaner Loaded inside the Power.



AS IT APPEARS WHEN ON THE ROAD

Parties who desire to go out threshing find a very good arrangement is to have the power mounted on trucks, and Thresher, Separator and Cleaner not mounted. Then, when desirable to move it from place to place, the Thresher, Separator and Cleaner can be loaded into the power, making a very convenient method of transportation. Above we give a cut showing these machines as they appear when on the road.

This combination of machines has proved very satisfactory to a large number of purchasers. They take up a little less room than when the Threshers are on trucks, and for going around are quite convenient. Weight of the whole combined, including weight of trucks, is 3,100 pounds, and, as will be readily seen, can be easily handled by a pair of ordinary horses. Can be set at work in a very few minutes, and is altogether a very desirable arrangement.

Price of the above Mounted Two Horse Power, with Thresher (18×26 inch patent iron cylinder), Separator and Cleaner, oiler, wrenches, etc., and jack, and 30 feet of four-inch rubber belting, complete for threshing and cleaning grain, ... $342 00

Above, with our large size Thresher (18×30 inch patent iron cylinder), extra, 10 00

Notice of the MSHS Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 24, members of the Historical Society will gather for the annual meeting, when we will elect trustees and officers and share an overview of what the MSHS has done during the past year.

The potluck dinner begins at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7:30 and a talk by Jeannette Marcy on "Fifty Years in Middletown Springs."

According to the Bylaws, any member of MSHS can submit trustee nominations to Nan Gilmour, chair of the nominating committee, no later than 48 hours before the meeting. Nominees must be members of the Historical Society.

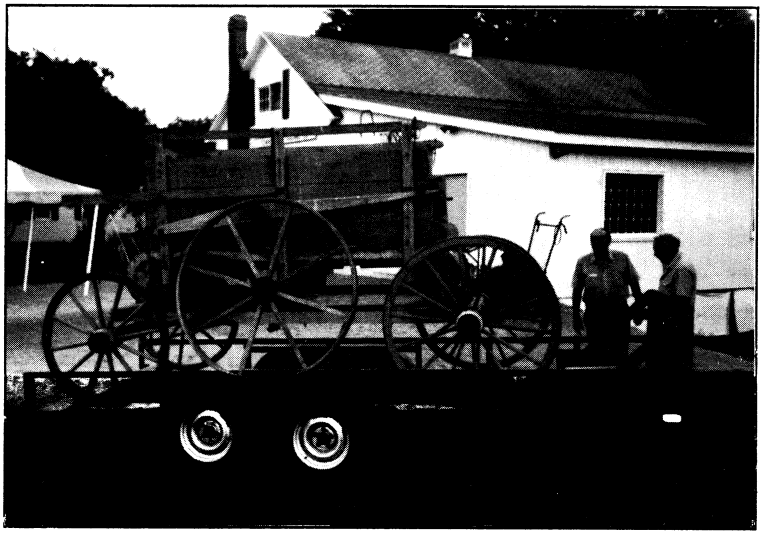
All members and friends of the Historical Society are encouraged to attend.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

David Wright

Thanks to Our Many Volunteers for a Successful Summer

This summer has been a season of extraordinary accomplishment for the Historical Society. Thanks are in order from the president to many individuals and businesses:



Jim Geddes and Bud Krouse load the horse power on the trailer. The A.W. Gray horse power now resides in Burnham Hollow Orchard's barn.

- Steve Holnan of Bristol who donated an A.W. Gray thresher;
- Doyle Lane who loaned a giant brass bell for the Memorial Day float, "Let Freedom Ring," and brought various music machines to entertain at other events;
- The many volunteers (mentioned last issue) who labored on the auditorium painting;
- Linda McKeen for painting the stairs to the auditorium;
- Anne Moore of Greenfield, Mass., who donated the new stair lift;
- Ed Querrey, Jim Geddes and Randy Kniffin who retrieved and reinstalled the stair lift;
- Larry and Job Roach, Bud Krouse and Tom House who, with help from Jim Geddes and others, shingled the tin shop roof;
- Tom Snyder of Sankanac Antiques in Poultney for donating the Grace fanning mill he bought at the M.S. Firemen's auction;
- Bill Carris and Carris Reels, Inc. who donated new scrollwork brackets for the Spring House in the Mineral Springs Park;
- Bob Wedin and Gene Adamson of Carris Reels, Inc. who cut out and installed the new scrollwork brackets in the Spring House;
- Dan Querrey for painting the new scrollwork;
- Priscilla Lane and Nan Gilmour who provided refreshments for work crews at the Springs Park;
- Bud Krouse who, with his equipment, transported the new thresher from Bristol, pulled the Memorial float he helped build and fetched the new horsepower from Townsend;
- Bud Krouse for installing the antique turnpike mileage marker in the Springs Park;
- Jan and Frank Asch, for a generous donation toward the purchase of the new horsepower;
- Art and Fran Oken, Bruce and Judy Hirschon, and Dan and Judy Querrey for offering new barn storage space;
- Anna Fenton who donated several items to the museum;
- Barby Carr and Salal Huber who painted signs for the Historical Society Building and the Tin Shop;
- Mark McManus, architect for drawing plans for the future fire escape;
- Trustees Janna Tornabene, Nan Gilmour, Kevin Rooney (trustee emeritus) and Jere Berger for organizing the summer's events;
- Retiring trustee Patty McWilliams for 3 years of outstanding graphics, newsletter publishing, and membership recordkeeping;
- Retiring trustee Carolyn Kenney who was our outstanding secretary for two years and imaginative editor of the newsletter;
- The many volunteers on the Pie List who produce and serve the yummy desserts which make our events so successful;
- Jim Geddes who has put enormous energy and initiative into just about everything the Society has accomplished this year.

The Historical Society's record of accomplishment is, of course, a list of energetic volunteers and generous friends. They are responsible for the Society's continued success, and we salute them!

The Historical Society Gets a Lift

Marion Ackerman and her daughter Dana try out the chairlift during the Antique Transportation Festival.

Thanks to Anne Moore of Greenfield, Mass. the Historical Society Building has a stairlift to assist visitors in negotiating the stairs to the newly restored auditorium. The Trustees, feeling that acquiring a lift was a top priority in their plan to expand the Museum to the new space, advertised in the *Rutland Herald* to purchase a used stairlift.

Mrs. Moore responded, and upon learning more about the Society, decided to donate the stairlift, which was in her former home in Windham.

Jim Geddes, Randy Kniffin and Ed Querrey drove to Windham, removed the lift and brought it back to town. Jim and Ed installed it in time for the Antique Transportation day, when it was given sustained testing by visitors young and old, who contributed a dollar a ride. These donations will go toward the cost of building a necessary, and required, fire escape on the north end of the auditorium.

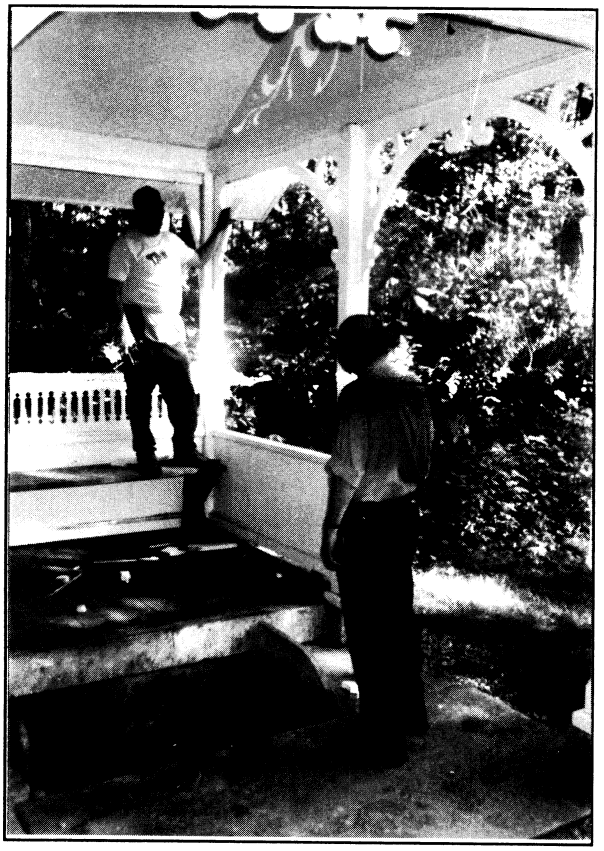
Carris Reels Helps Restore Spring House

The Spring House in the Mineral Springs Park has been restored to its earlier elegance thanks to the generous donation of labor and materials by Bill Carris and Carris Reels, Inc. of Center Rutland.

Since the Spring House replica was built in 1971, time and vandalism had destroyed most of the intricate scrollwork brackets decorating the lovely Victorian shelter.

Carris sample reel maker Bob Wedin spent 48 hours cutting out, routing and sanding the many intricate parts from specially made one-inch plywood. After Dan Querrey applied three coats of paint to the finished parts in Middletown Springs, Wedin and Carris shop carpenter Gene Adamson spent a day installing the brackets in time for the August 9 Picnic in the Park. The spectacular results were admired by dozens of Historical Society members and friends.

Enormous thanks to Bob and Gene and to Carris Reels, Inc.!



Jim Geddes watches as Bob Wedin of Carris Reels fits the new scroll work onto the Spring House.

Membership Information

Membership dues for 1992 are due in January.

Dues (Check one):

Individual	$5.00	Individual Life	$125.00
Family	$8.00	Family Life	$150.00
Business	$50.00		

Send to: Dan Querrey, Treasurer
Middletown Springs Historical Society
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

The newsletter is mailed third class and will not be forwarded or held for you by the Post Office. Please be sure we have your correct address. You may give us a seasonal address.

Donations

If you have an item you would like to give or lend to the museum, please write to David Wright, president, or Jim Geddes, museum director, c/o MSHS.

Business Members

Thanks to local businesses that have joined MSHS under our new "Business" membership category:

Burnham Hollow Orchard
Carris Reels, Inc.
Friends in Adoption
Green Mt. Timber Frames
The Herb Patch
Mark McManus, Architect
Middletown Springs Inn
Stewarts Dairy
Write Stuff Communications

HELP WANTED:

The Historical Society will need assistance in two important areas during the coming year.

- We need someone with an IBM compatible computer to manage the Mailing List; also someone with basic typing ability to transfer names from guest registers to mailing labels.
- We need many volunteers in coming months to help expand the Museum: plan and visualize the new exhibits, create and build displays, inventory museum items, move displays to the second floor, write and type out labels and explanatory material.

If you are interested in assisting or want more information, contact Patty McWilliams, Jim Geddes or David Wright.

Middletown Springs' "Believe It or Not"

Middletown Springs is the longest two-word town name in Vermont. (White River Junction has more letters, but it is three words.)

Editor's Note: This is a new, regular feature, hopefully. Send us your Middletown trivia and "firsts!"

Mark Your Calendar

September 19	Apple Festival
September 24	Annual Meeting
December ???	Christmas in the Park

We will have more information on these upcoming events in future issues of the MSHS Newsletter.

Middletown Springs Historical Society
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

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