

CAMBRIDGE HARKENER

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF CAMBRIDGE, VERMONT

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February 2022

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The Sweet House has been Sold

On February 10, 2022 the Cambridge Historical Society sold the Sweet House, garage, and 0.52 acres of land to Matthew and Andrea Stanley. The CHS retains ownership of a side and the rear portion of the original parcel, consisting of 0.64 acres and a barn (where we store larger items in our collection). This sale was authorized by a July 1, 2021 vote of the membership. The proceeds from the sale will be invested and used to help defray CHS expenses. The former tenant of the property (the Mary Elizabeth Preschool) moved out in June, 2021 and relocated to the owner's property in Cambridge.

The new owners of the Sweet House currently operate a business called "Red Leaf Gluten-free Brewing", further up Main Street in Jeffersonville. They anticipate moving the business to the Sweet House in the Spring, and operating a tasting room and retail shop. The actual brewing will still be done at the existing brewery next to their home in Fairfax.

When they submitted their offer to purchase the Sweet House, the Stanleys included a letter to the CHS, introducing themselves and explaining their vision for use of the Sweet House. A slightly edited copy of their letter follows. If you have questions about the sale, please feel free to contact Joel Page at joelwpage@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering our offer for the property at 208 Main St in Jeffersonville. We would like to provide you with more information about us to assist in your decision-making.

Andrea and I are both native Vermonters who believe we live in a very-special state. Andrea was born and raised in Colchester, and I grew up in Georgia / Fairfax. We are both full-time employed while we grow Red Leaf as our side-business independently.

Andrea and I are committed to the character, landscape, and history of Vermont. Along with our native Vermont background, both of us were raised with strong ties to its independent, make-your-own-way work ethic. Vermont's progressive spirit and inclusiveness are well-aligned with our mission of crafting gluten-free beer that can be enjoyed by everyone, including those who with celiac disease or gluten intolerance.

Since opening our tasting room at 105 South Main in Jeffersonville in May 2019, we have welcomed hundreds of customers through our doors from across the Northeast. While we certainly have regular customers, over 55% of our customers are new and typically are tourists. We readily share information about local businesses, attractions, and the experiences that can be found within the Lamoille, Franklin, and Chittenden county area.

Our intention for 208 Main would be to expand our tasting room and retail capacity. Our

Early History of Cambridge

by Ida Morgan Anderson

Beginning in 1935, Ida Morgan Anderson began serializing a column on the History of Cambridge in the *Cambridge Town Crier*. Many of our readers may remember the series of 27 Installments. The Harkener continues publishing the installments for a new audience on the assumption that the copyright (if it ever existed) has long since expired. We hope you will enjoy these "blasts from the past."

Installment Thirteen

Cambridge Boro was picturesquely situated between the Seymour and Lamoille Rivers, with hills rising on every side. The wide street through which ran three roads, was parklike with rows of elms and maples. The people were largely self-supporting. Nearly every family owned their neat home, kept their own cow, made their own butter, raised their own pig, and made a barrel of soft soap every spring.

That was thrift and economy raised to the nth degree. "Boughten soap" was enexcusable extravagance when a year's supply could be made by saving waste grease, "setting up a lye-leach and running out some lye" and borrowing a cauldron kettle to boil it in. Genuine Vermont families always made soft soap. There were no electric light bills to meet. Folks dipped their own tallow candles and read and did fine sewing by their flickering light. At certain seasons of the year it was quite the usual thing to announce that evening meetings would begin at "early candle lighting".

There was no bother about water rent. Every

family had a drove well, or water piped from springs on the hill. Only instead of pipes they used "pump logs" which were spruce logs with a hole bored from end to end and joined together by sharpening one end like a lead pencil and driving it into the end of the log next to it. On some farms those old-fashioned pump logs are still doing good service. Those old settlers could be depended upon to rise to the emergency and supply every need from their own resources.

The street now called "Mansfield Avenue", at first was called "Pig Lane". Whether the citizens of that street raised more or better pigs than the other villagers, or whether it was a sly dig at the folks, or what was the reason, no one seemed to know. Later, as more intercourse was held with the outside world and manners became more polished, the name was changed to "South Street" and at a comparatively recent date it blossomed out into "Mansfield Avenue."

Johnson village had a similar experience. One of its streets was first named "Pollywog Street" and was later changed to "Pearl Street" in honor of one of its residents by that name.



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current space constrains us to hosting approximately 3 parties indoors at any given time. The space on the first floor of your property is ideal to support a larger bar area, with 3 different rooms to support far more customers and table sizes. The separate kitchen area would allow us to increase our inclusivity by offering gluten-free food options, something that is highly sought by our clientele since they typically travel 1 or more hours to find us and routinely find there is little in Jeffersonville to meet their health and dietary requirements. Serving food will also allow us to serve full pours (glasses of beer) on a routine basis, much like the Stowe Publick House on Main Street in Stowe. The separate barn/garage might be a great venue to showcase a very small-scale brewing process, essentially at the home-brewing level; since we are routinely asked “how do you brew gluten-free, anyways?” This said, we would not anticipate large-scale brewing at 208 Main. Instead, we plan to continue that at the existing brewery adjacent to our home.

We do not aspire to be a “huge” brewery and the biggest thing out there. Our goal has always been to establish Red Leaf as a destination and boutique brewery; known for hospitality, friendliness, a relaxing atmosphere – and of course, excellent craft beer! Establishing our retail operation at 208 Main would ensure that Red Leaf delivers the one-of-a-kind, intimate experience sought by the beer tourists who routinely travel through our area.

Andrea and I both enjoy antiquing. Over 20 years ago, one of the first “prizes” we found was an 1859 schoolhouse map of Lamoille county. Of course, we bought it, but never really knew where we’d display it. Now we know! We certainly think it will make a great display at 208 Main alongside other historical pictures and artifacts from Jeffersonville and Cambridge. We can’t think of a better way to promote the history of Vermont to a broader audience of both Vermonters and visitors to our area.

Thank you for your consideration,



Membership Application/Renewal

Please complete this form and mail to: Cambridge Historical Society
PO Box 16
Jeffersonville, VT 05464-0016
or email to: rgtle@stoweaccess.com

New

Renewal

Name _____

Address _____
Number Street Town State Zip

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership Category

Individual \$15.00

Family \$25.00

Business \$25.00

Please consider becoming a:

Patron \$500.00

Benefactor \$1,000.00+

If you have suggestions about program topics or have some great ideas for fundraisers,
please let us know by listing your ideas below.

Cambridge Historical Society
PO Box 16
Jeffersonville, VT 05464



We want to thank everyone who has stuck with us through these very strange times. We have been trying new ways to keep the membership informed of happenings and to present programs as best we could. We were not successful at all of it, but not for want of trying.

Now that we have transferred ownership of the Sweet House, we can start concentrating on what we all love - the History of Cambridge. As the pandemic winds down (we're hopeful) we will again hold our monthly meetings with interesting programs. Stay tuned!

If you have an idea for a program please let us know. You can call Georgetiana Little at (802) 335-2002 or email to rgtle@stoweaccess.com

Membership renewals for 2022 are now due. A membership application is included in this Newsletter and current members should have received a renewal notice in the mail. This Newsletter in one of the perks of membership, so to continue receiving The Harkener renew your membership, and THANK YOU.