

CAMBRIDGE HARKENER

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF CAMBRIDGE, VERMONT

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Winter 2006

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Advisory Board Members: Harold Putnam, Wendell Wells

2005 in Review

January

January's meeting was held at the Smugglers Notch Inn, at the invitation of new Innkeepers Pat and Lisa Martin. The meeting was well attended, despite typical rotten January weather. The large turn out was due, in part no doubt, to curiosity about how the Inn had been refurbished. Everyone was encouraged to look around and after a short business meeting people shared remembrances of the Inn in days past. CHS presented the Martin's with an official plaque recognizing the building's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The CHS building was open on Saturday during the annual Winterfest. We presented a continuous slide show of historic pictures and offered hot chocolate and coffee for sale. Attendance was disappointing, but all members who helped out had a good time, nonetheless.

February

In February, debatably the least hospitable month of the year, we had voted not to have a meeting.

March

A society member, Bill McKone, discussed how to trace your Civil War relatives at a sparsely attended March meeting. March can vie with February for bad weather.

April

Many announcements were made at the April meeting. The first mention of the Sterling celebration (see October) was made, a meeting was announced to plan the Junction Bridge Park, and the beginning of work on the new school addition was reported (old news now). Roberta, Program Chairman, being desperate for programs, had Geana Little give a slide show on Greece. Only a few people fell asleep.

May

Maurice Pouliot, local resident and avid apiarian, gave a fascinating presentation on beekeeping. He even brought some bees. Happily they were safely isolated behind glass.

June

June was a busy month. The monthly meeting was devoted solely to business, with no program presented. June is, however, the month of the History Expo in Tunbridge and CHS had an exhibit again this year. The focus was on the Jeffersonville School of Painting and included pictures lent for the occasion by well known artist Eric Tobin as well as locals who painted with the likes of Emile Gruppé and the Bryans. The exhibit was well received by everyone who stopped by.

July

Once again we had a float in the annual 4th of July parade with Natalie Deichmiller posing as a painter to carry on our History Expo theme. We had goodies for sale in front of the building and the museum itself was open for visitors, many of whom came through. The monthly meeting was held at Bill McKone's campground off of Route 108 South. Everyone brought food and drink and we had a fine picnic in a wonderful setting next to the Brewster River.

August

There was no August meeting. As in February, the weather was the reason, only this time it was too good to meet!

September

After a short business meeting, the members trooped off to the Masonic Hall on the top floor. There, CHS members and Masons Stub Wells and Peter Opstrup, along with others, discussed the history of the order and the meaning of the various symbols around the hall. No secrets, however, were revealed. This meeting satisfied the curiosity of many, who have wondered about this room in our building.

October

Once again, on the first weekend in October, we held our annual Old Farm Days at the Dodge Homestead on Route 108 South. The weather was wonderful and we had many visitors from the area as well as many from outside Vermont who were fascinated by our exhibits and happy to sample our homemade sweets. This year's event was a huge success. This year we also participated in the celebration of Sterling, a town that spanned the current towns of Cambridge, Stowe, Johnson and Morrisville. The short history of this town was celebrated with a mock town meeting. The October meeting hosted Peter Krusch talking about iron working in Vermont. Peter is a wonderful iron worker himself, and is extremely knowledgeable about the subject.

November

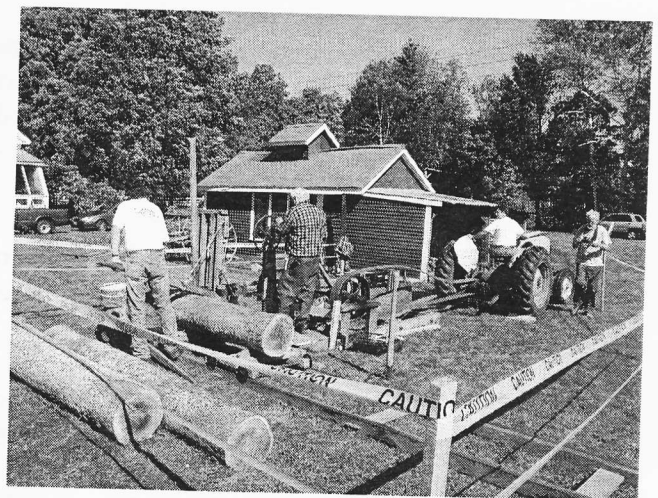
A potluck supper was held in November followed by a business meeting. Programs are not planned for months when we have a potluck, since people are way too full to concentrate.

December

Once again Roberta Marsh prepared a devilish, Christmas themed puzzle that we all worked at. This year's winners were Ken Tobin and Maureen Peterson. A Yankee Swap followed, and swap people did. A nutcracker changed hands several times, as did a few other gifts. At the end, everyone seemed pleased with what they had and admitted that this was a very enjoyable evening.



2005 ended happily. 2006 has started well. We look forward to seeing many of you at the meetings this year. Because of the high cost of fuel, we will not meet in 2006 until April. Please plan to attend and find out what lies in store for the rest of the year. Send in the membership renewal as soon as you can.



Boys having fun! Old Farm Days 2005

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The new year is here and it is time again to renew your membership in the Cambridge Historical Society. We've had a great year (*see inside*) with many interesting programs and wonderful events. This was accomplished through the physical and financial support of our many members and friends of the Society.

This newsletter and membership form is being sent to all members—lifetime and regular—plus other people whom we feel might be interested. If you are a lifetime member, you do not need to renew your membership. However, if you wish to make a donation, it would be much appreciated.

We encourage and welcome all of you to join us as we embark on an exciting new year.

—Diancy Boyden, *Membership Chairman*

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!