

CAMBRIDGE HARKENER

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF CAMBRIDGE, VERMONT

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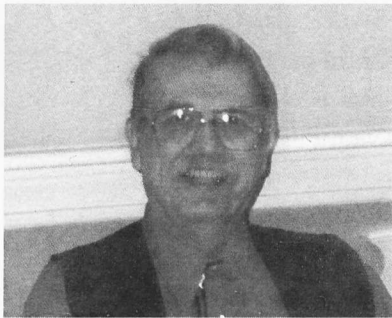
Winter 2011

Current Officers & Directors

President: Georgeana Little
Vice President: Rick Fletcher
Secretary: Joel Page
Treasurer: Peter Opstrup

Directors: Diancy Boyden, June Dodge,
 Barb Juell, Roberta Marsh, Peter Opstrup
 Joe Rogers

Advisory Board Member: Harold Putnam



GAYLORD JUELL

CHS President Gaylord Juell passed away last summer. Gaylord and his wife Barb were a unique team. They organized and oversaw many of our events for years. When Joel Page stepped aside as President last winter, Gaylord was gracious enough to take up the torch, with Barb at his side. He was a friend and inspiration, and will be greatly missed by all. Fortunately Barb continues to be active, so Gaylord's spirit is still very much present in the CHS.

OUR MISSION, OUR MEETINGS, AND OUR BUILDINGS

The Cambridge Historical Society (CHS) is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the appreciation and preservation of our local history. The CHS generally has monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Warner Lodge on School St. in Jeffersonville. The meetings are open to the public and usually involve a business meeting followed by a presentation which relates to local history.

The CHS owns two properties. The Warner Lodge was formerly a Masonic Lodge, and contains meeting space on the first floor, an historic fully-furnished Masonic meeting room on the second floor, and kitchen/dining space in the basement. The Sweet property is next to the library on Main St., and consists of a two story house, large lot, garage, and a barn that holds most of our antique farm equipment. The downstairs of the Sweet house is leased to Crystal Porter who runs the Mary Elizabeth

Center and Preschool. The Preschool incorporates historic themes into its curriculum, so the partnership is consistent with the CHS mission of providing an appreciation of community history to children and their parents. The modest lease income helps offset some of the cost of maintaining the property, which otherwise would be falling into disrepair. The CHS retains use of the upstairs, rear wing, most of the lot, and the two outbuildings.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS

The Cambridge Historical Society will be awarding \$600 to a Cambridge high school senior who writes the best essay on Cambridge History. All high school seniors who live in the town are eligible to participate. Students must write an essay on some aspect of the history of Cambridge which interests them. The essays will be judged on writing style and grasp of Cambridge history.

The student with the winning essay will

present his or her essay at the Cambridge Historical Society's monthly meeting on July 13th. The student may wish to expand on the essay for this presentation.

In addition to the award to a high school senior, the society also gave \$150 to the Cambridge Elementary School 3rd grade, the grade in which local history is taught, to be used to address some aspect of Cambridge history. The award was presented by Jan Sander, historical society member and Chairman of the Cambridge School Board, at the CES assembly on February 18th. The 3rd grade teachers, Mrs. Longley & Mrs. Cota, have chosen to use the money to transport the students to historic sites in Cambridge.

SWEET HOUSE DEVELOPMENTS



There were many new developments with the Sweet House in 2010. As mentioned above, Crystal Porter has leased a portion of the building as a preschool. Crystal and friends did an amazing job refurbishing the downstairs of the house, transforming it into a bright and welcoming space. Additional work included rewiring, painting inside and out, installation of a new furnace and some cellar insulation, reglazing the windows, and lead paint abatement. The Sweet House and Warner Lodge are important community resources that take substantial effort and money to maintain properly. Our collaboration with Crystal has resulted in improvements to the Sweet property which would not have been possible otherwise. An additional benefit is the availability of an excellent, much needed preschool, and development of historical appreciation by a new generation.

WARNER LODGE IMPROVEMENTS

Much work was also done to the Warner Lodge. The front porch was rebuilt, a hand-capped ramp was added, the front of the building and the entryway were repainted, and the main room was cleaned and reorganized. Kevin and Thea Whitcavitch landscaped the front of the building with a new tree and flower beds. A new furnace was installed. The result is a much more attractive, comfortable meeting space, and a building that, like the Sweet property, will continue to be a well-maintained and important community resource.



SOME PROJECTS I'D LIKE TO SEE

(by Joel Page)

- More frequent newsletters.
- Photo collection organized and digitally scanned.
- Photo collection available on CD and viewable online.
- Walking tour brochures for both villages.
- Century Home plaques.
- Old photos with interpretive text installed on village streets.
- Vintage Village Days with house tours for both villages.
- National Register information scanned, viewable online, and available on CD.
- Annual CHS calendar with historic photos.
- Mill sites inventory with map, photos and descriptions.
- Old barns inventory with map, photos and descriptions.
- Cider press, with regular seasonal public pressing at Sweet House.

If you are interested in undertaking, helping, or donating money or materials for any of these projects, please contact Joel Page at 644-2010.

OLD HOME AND FARM DAYS

The CHS sponsored Old Home and Farm Days on October 2 and 3 at the "Dodge Family Homestead". The weather cooperated, and the event was a well-attended success. There were antique vehicles and equipment on display, along with traditional craft demonstrations. Lots of homemade food and deserts were sold. Clark Dodge's antique tool collection was admired by many. The dates and location of the 2011 event will be announced at a later date.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ONLINE

The CHS has a foot in each century, thanks to several online features. We have a web site which, while not always current with respect to dates and events, is a useful and interesting resource. It contains contact information, a photo archive, extensive cemetery records, and some helpful links. The site was recently updated. Check it out at <http://history.cambridgevt.com>.

CHS member Laure LaForce has created a Facebook page for the CHS which has photos, comments, interesting information, and helpful links. This site also contains extracts from the c. 1880 journals of Carrie Gray Curtis. The journals were found in the Sweet House. Curtis was an early relative of Irma Sweet. Access the site at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cambridge-Historical-Society/71777251055>.

Cambridge Crossroads, which has a close association with CHS, has a Web site and calendar at www.cambridgecrossroads.net. This site also contains links to most Cambridge community organizations, including the Notch and Valley eNewsletter produced by CHS member Marc Schilling.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO 2010

The Vermont History Expo took place in Tunbridge on June 26 and 27, 2010. The CHS once again put together an exhibit, based on a theme of "Back To The Land Again". Roberta Marsh, Geana Little and others assembled an exhibit exploring farming in Cambridge, "then and now". Fifty years ago there were over 150 active dairy farms in town, now there are about seven. The group gathered photos and prepared a display which included a model dairy barn built by Gaylord Juell. The exhibit explores how agriculture in Cambridge has adapted over the generations to allow farming to remain a feasible way of life. The exhibit can now be seen on the main floor of the Warner Lodge.



OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2011

At the December 2010 annual meeting Geana Little was elected President, taking the reins from retiring President Kevin Whitcavitch, who had assumed the mantle when Gaylord Juell died. Geana is no stranger to the leadership role, having been Secretary for many years when her husband Ron was President. We are excited to have Geana back in the saddle. At the same time we are sad to see Kevin move on, he was a dynamic leader who really got things done. Many of last year's building projects were carried out under Kevin's direct supervision, and some he personally undertook. Kevin's energy and "git-r-done" approach will be greatly missed.

Cambridge Historical Society Schedule of Coming Events
2011

March 9th
Vermont's Irish Rebel
Bill McKone
Local Author

April 13th
History Education in Cambridge
Crystal Porter
Mary Elizabeth Preschool
Mrs. Longley & Mrs. Cota
CES 3rd Grade Teachers

May 11th
The Old Country Fiddler
Adam Boyce
a Vermont Humanities Council Program

June 8th
Planning meeting for the 4th of July

July 13th
The winner of our essay contest

August 10th
History of the Noyes House, Morrisville
Laure LaForce
Director, Noyes House

September 14th
Shipwrecks of Lake Champlain
Adam Kane
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
a Vermont Humanities Council Program

October 12th
A History of the Varnums
Jane Shaw
Visions of Vermont

November 9th
The Circus in Cambridge
Roberta Marsh

December 14th
Annual Meeting
Election of Officers & Christmas Party



Cambridge Historical Society
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Jeffersonville, VT 05464



It's a new year and again time to renew your membership in the CHS. To quote Charles Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." We lost our president over the summer. Gaylord will be sorely missed but his legacy will live on. He began many projects which were ably completed by Kevin Whitcavitch when he took over the presidency. We still have many projects in the pipeline. More than ever we need your support, physically and financially, as we strive to conserve, educate and appreciate our heritage.

This newsletter and membership form are 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.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we begin this exciting new year. We and you are the future of our CHS. Our thanks to each and every one of you for your support.

—Diancy Boyden, *Membership Chairman*