



NEWSLETTER

September 2006

SHS Calendar of Events:

SEPTEMBER

Program: The Trout Club

Tuesday, Sept. 19

7:30 PM at the Lake Mansfield Trout Club

Rotary Oktoberfest Parade: The Society will have a float

Saturday, Sept. 23

10:00 AM begins at the Events Field

OCTOBER

Program: Joint event with the Stowe Free Library "Meet the Authors"

Tuesday, Oct. 3

7:00 PM in the Community Room at the Library

NOVEMBER

Program: Squire Stackpole

Tuesday, November 14

7:00 PM in the Community Room at the Library

DECEMBER

Project: Festival of Trees & Lights

Dec. 5 – Jan. 1

The theme is "Silver Bells" If you have an old bell to display, let us know before Nov. 15th.

No meeting this month.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!! Consider giving a friend or family member a gift membership to the Society or perhaps one of our publications.

Read more about these programs elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Society Celebrates Its Golden Anniversary

Under threatening skies, a group of almost 60 members and non-members alike gathered on the lawn in front of the Helen Day Art Center and Library. A brief business meeting took place whereby the current directors were once again voted in without any further nominations or discussion. Then Barbara Baraw, President, gave some milestone accomplishments of the Society over the past 50 years – there were many! This was the perfect opportunity to recognize two early members of the Society. Both Marjorie Means and Ruth Gottlieb, long-time active SHS members were present in the audience and applause broke out for their exemplary service to the Society and the community.

Ethel Towel spoke about her recollections of having gone to the West Branch Schoolhouse, more recently known as the St. John's in the Mountains Church, and the Bloody Brook Schoolhouse, now restored and managed by the Town of Stowe and the Society, as well as "Old Yeller", now the Helen Day Art Center and Stowe Free Library. Then, Rusty DeWees, a.k.a. "The Logger", stepped up to give his more modern (70's, early 80's) recollections, drawing a number of nods of "oh, yes, I remember that!" from the crowd.

Certificates of recognition were given for 50 years of dedication to both Ruth and Marjorie; Eleanor Wright Beckley was not present. Dr. Edwin "Ned" Lang was present to receive a certificate of appreciation for his 25 years of leadership at the Society. In addition, it was Ruth Gottlieb's 99th birthday and a vase of flowers and a card were presented to her, which drew another round of applause.

Unfortunately, a talk about the importance of documenting our history by Dr. Lang was hurried along due to the overhead clouds. His message was clear, however, that the Society has done a great job but it is by no means completed, and he encouraged others to be involved, contributing stories and information that would otherwise be lost to time.

(continued on the next page – **Anniv.**)

Anniv.-

Everyone enjoyed cake (compliments of Hannaford's in Morrisville) and ice cream, (compliments of The Malt Shop). Paper goods and decorations were generously donated by Price Chopper in Morrisville. It wasn't much after the event ended, tables returned to the Library, that the skies opened up!

Thank you to all who came!

STILL WANTED!

High School Yearbooks

We are looking to fill in our collection of Stowe High School Yearbooks. In most cases, we have two for each year, however, in some cases, we have none. If you have your yearbook and have decided you no longer have any use for it, please consider giving it to the Historical Society.

We are missing:

1952 1953 1956 1960
1977 2002 2004

Scouting in Stowe

Once again the question of what to do with the so-called "Rotary Barn" has been in the news. This time, Bev and Sonny Davis had the foresight to go through the items stored there and they rescued the Boy Scout Troup 79 flag, a handbook and other items pertaining to the organization.

We are now looking to past leaders and scouts for more information about the days when scouting was an important organization for the youth of Stowe. When we feel we have gathered enough information and interesting pieces, we will put together a program that should interest many people! If you have anything to add to this collection of information and artifacts, please let us know! Call Bev, 253-7694.

Membership

Membership is rising in the Stowe Historical Society! As of Aug.15th we have 125 members. That is a good thing. For one, it shows us that you appreciate the efforts taken to preserve the history of Stowe. Secondly, it helps us pay for things such as this newsletter, archival storage supplies, and office supplies to get the job done.

Thank you for your continued support. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join, too.

The Society Gets an EMAIL Address

We do not have a phone line as yet, but we're working it! In the meantime, the phone number of record for the Society is the President, Barbara Baraw's number – 253-8428. You can also call any of the other directors.

Stepping into the 21st century, we have the use of an email address. Please take note of this and add us to your address book: **stowehistoric@pshift.com**

Until we get our own phone line, and thus our own internet connection, this will go to one of the director's home computer who will forward it to the appropriate person to answer.

We realize a need for a website and look to anyone who might be willing and able to set one up for us. Call Barbara, please!

From the President's Desk . . .

Happy Fall! Let me begin by thanking all of you who joined us at the Society's Annual Meeting and 50th anniversary party last month on the lawn of the Bloody Brook Schoolhouse. It was particularly gratifying to see so many folks who are living links to Stowe's past. Just imagine, the next annual meeting may be in the same neighborhood but in our new home -- the West Branch School, re-sited to this village location.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you more about our project to move the West Branch School to this new site to be used as the home of your Historical Society. The directors have presented a request to the Select Board to place this building on that site. As this is being written, Ernie Ruskey of Tektonika Studio Architects is creating several perspective drawings showing all three schools, the West Branch, the Bloody Brook, and the High School, on the same cultural campus. We are creating an overview plan of the estimated capital budget which includes such items as moving wires as the building is moved down the road, the cost of moving the building, the excavation and building of a foundation, new heating, cooling and humidity control systems, a new electrical system, a stair well and rest room facilities. This will be presented to the Select Board for consideration in September.

The next step would be the fund raising. I am very aware that there are many important causes to which one can donate. However, I think this is an opportunity that the Society must take. We are in dire need of more space for research, for storage of the growing collection and additional exhibit space. The public's show of support for this project will be an important factor to the Select Board, as well.

The impetus behind this project began when the town came to realize the poor condition of their vault, and how they had outgrown its capacity, as well as their working spaces within the Akeley Memorial Building. Being on the committee to review this situation, along with 14 other community members, I have spent a great deal of time over the past 4 months representing

both the Historical Society's interests and my own personal interests in the future of the building. Part of the discussions that ensued included the relocation of the Historical Society. Simultaneously, the opportunity to save and re-use the West Branch Schoolhouse (more recently known as the St. John's Church) presented itself. The timing for the Society was perfect, if not a bit urgent, but we now have the chance to have a new home, give the town employees more space and a new vault, as well as preserve the original mission of the Veteran's Memorial Room.

There have been three proposals recently voted down and the voice of the people has been heard. There is concern for preserving the integrity of the building, the proper use and accessibility of the Memorial Room, as well as recognizing the need for more office space and secure storage for important town documents. With this new proposal, it will be possible to add plaques for the Korean and Viet Nam veterans, a project the Historical Society directors have discussed numerous times.

With our plan in place, the Select Board has agreed to hear us at their September meeting. From that meeting, we hope to get assistance with the project, putting it onto the November ballot if need be.

I would appreciate your input – comments, ideas, willingness to help out. Please contact me, or leave a note in the Society's mailbox in the Administrative Office at the Memorial Building, or by email at stowehistoric@pshift.com.

On another note, we are planning a variety of programs for the fall of which you can read elsewhere in this newsletter. I encourage you to attend these so mark your calendars, please! If you have ideas for other programs, please let us know.

LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER!

Barbara Baraw, Pres.

Acquisitions – What Happens When We Get A Gift?

The Society receives gifts on a regular basis. In the world of museums, there is a rather serious procedure for accessioning an item. In the past, our procedure has been rather loose, and we are now in the process of fine-tuning a more appropriate and approved method for receiving gifts.

First, an item is brought in. We have a “temporary form” with a “temporary number” to complete which includes recording as much information about the provenance of the item as possible, as well as the relationship between the donor and the item. At this point, we still do not “own” the item.

At the next business meeting, directors consider and vote on accepting the item being donated. Does it add to our collection? Is it pertinent to Stowe and the Society’s mission? If it is a duplicate item, is it in better condition? Almost always, the item is something we’re excited to receive. The date of acceptance is noted.

The next step is another form: The Deed of Ownership. This legal document is completed, with two copies mailed to the donor. The donor signs them both and returns one copy to us. This date is also recorded, permanent numbers assigned to each object, and the information is entered into our museum software.

It can be a rather lengthy process, and demands a considerable amount of paperwork and stamps, but we’re willing and able to meet the challenge.

Some recent acquisitions include (there have been many):

1. Large framed photographs of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln from George Spear.
2. Two large framed hair wreaths, very intricately made, from Bob Stafford.
3. Teacher’s bell from the Bloody Brook Schoolhouse from Craig Burt, Jr. (from Zelta Norcross)
4. Collection of photos and papers of Brother Dutton from Virginia Chamberlain
5. Airplane Observer arm band and 50 identifying airplane cards from Ruth Gottlieb

SHS Display Case – Akeley Memorial Building

Did you know that approximately every six weeks, Sonny & Bev Davis set up a new display in the case located on the main floor of the Akeley Memorial Building? It is true!! You should make it a point to drop in to see it regularly, even when the Museum is not open. The current exhibit shows items used for preserving the summer’s bounty.

If you have an idea for an interesting display, we’d like to hear from you! Better yet, if you have a collection of interesting items that you’d like to share for 5 or 6 weeks, we’d be most happy to set it up. Consider things like hat pins, maple syrup cans, school related items, tools, dolls.....the list is limited only by your imagination! Contact Bev at 253-7694.

Museum Hours:

We are open on **Tuesday** and **Friday** mornings, 10:00am – 12:00, or by appointment.

Call 253-8428 or email stowehistoric@pshift.com

A Little More About Upcoming Programs

Everything we are planning is just that, still in the planning mode, however, this is sure to whet your appetite!

September brings us a meeting in a very special place – The Lake Mansfield Trout Club. They have recently undergone an extensive renovation and are ready to show it off along with the history of the club, lots of fun and interesting items gathered over the years, and of course, gorgeous scenery! That will take place on Tuesday, September 19th at 7:30pm.

Also in **September**, you will see your Historical Society in the Rotary's Oktoberfest parade on Saturday, the 23rd at 10:00am. If you'd like to help design, decorate or just ride on the float, let us know! The more the merrier! (We have a plan: think 50th Anniversary cake!)

October brings us together once again with the Stowe Free Library as a co-sponsor of the "Meet The Authors" program. This time Kevin Graffagnino, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society will be debuting his beautiful coffee table book which includes several pictures of Stowe's architecture. This will be held in the Community Room at the Library on Tuesday, October 3rd at 7:00pm.

Our **November** program has been moved up to the **second Tuesday** of the month, the 14th, when favorite moderator, David Stackpole, will share some very interesting stories about his family. Did you know that he is a descendant of the first couple to be married in Stowe? The location of this program is yet to be decided.

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We make an effort to publicize each of our programs in the Stowe Reporter and the Transcript, so please mark your calendars and watch the papers! All are welcome.



We'll see you at the Trout Club!

Happy Birthday Ruth & Marge

Ruth Gottlieb, early member and long-term Society Treasurer, community leader in service, turned 99 in August! And on December 24th, our friend **Marjorie Means** will be turning 90 years young! What gifts both have been to the Historical Society! Congratulations and thank you, Ruth and Marge, for a century of dedication to the Historical Society!

THE MOVING OF A CHURCH-ST. JOHN'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS

In order for St. John's-in-the-Mountains Episcopal Church to build a new church building to accommodate anticipated growth, it became necessary to either tear down the existing structure or give the building to an organization which could use a historic structure. The Stowe Historical Society committed to the relocation of the building for its own use and also to preserve a landmark.

The building was originally used as a schoolhouse, West Branch School, dating back well into the 19th century. It became the home of St. John's-in-the-Mountains circa 1954 and has enjoyed an enhanced position in the West Branch community to this date. At this writing, The Stowe Historical Society is undecided as to its future location and the empty building is temporarily resting in what will be the parking area for St. John's. In order to allow construction of the new edifice to begin, the historic old school/church had to be relocated. Rogers & Sons, Barre, VT was contracted for this purpose.

THE PREPARATION In order to prepare the building for the lift, four strategically located bases had to be created in what was the basement by stacking 6" x 6" x 5' wooden shoring beams on which the building would initially rest as the lift develops. Once the bases were at a height just short of making contact with the building's wooden integral beam foundation, a high pressure, 10,000 PSI system consisting of a hydraulic pump and four 30 ton, multiple inch stroke high pressure hydraulic cylinders was utilized to raise the structure slowly and gradually in order to insert additional shoring beams. Several layers of additional shoring were necessary to clear the foundation. The double acting cylinders were extended hydraulically. Manual shut-off valves at the pump were utilized to control the flow of hydraulic oil in order that the cylinders could extend in unison as closely as possible. The cylinders were then retracted lowering the building onto the shoring bases. When the building has been raised sufficiently to clear the foundation and provide space for and insertion of steel I-beams, the first stage of the operation is complete.

THE LATERAL MOVE Two steel I-beams front to rear and two placed at right angles are positioned beneath the building, positioned on the shoring bases. It is now necessary to move the structure laterally so that it is completely independent of the concrete block foundation. A system of rollers was installed on top of the lateral I-beams so the structure could be pulled laterally. This was accomplished using two sets of double acting high pressure cylinders, meaning they are extended and retracted under pressure, attached to the building and pulled from two points to a position which made the building accessible to other forms of transportation.

THE FINAL MOVE Two sets of "airplane wheels" were positioned beneath the rear of the building. Each set of "airplane wheels" consisted of four pneumatic tires supporting medium pressure cylinders whose purpose, when extended, is to support that portion of the building during the final move. The prime mover was an over-the-highway tractor with the fifth wheel of the tractor providing the anchor and pivot point at the front of the structure. When the movers were satisfied with the positioning and stability of the three support points, the tractor then backed the entire structure into its temporary resting place, moving very slowly and being very careful to ensure the necessary stability to prevent dropping the load. The "airplane wheels" will remain in place until the building is moved to its permanent location.

To this observer, Rogers & Sons executed the move in a thoroughly professional manner.

H.S. Morrow, Manufacturers' Representative,
Templeton, Kenly & Company
Manufacturer of Hydraulic and Mechanical Jacking Equipment
New England Representative, 1975-1997

Festival of Lights

Once again the Helen Day Art Center will have their Festival of Trees and Lights display with area businesses and organizations decorating trees. This year the theme is "Silver Bells" and in keeping with that theme, the Historical Society is setting up a display case of bells. We have collected several bells over the years – school bells, cow bells, hotel bells – and we know of other bells within the community we hope to borrow for the display.

Do you have an old bell with a story? Or maybe your bell was used for just an every-day thing, something never considered "very interesting." Well, we think even the most mundane bell, when put in context with other bells becomes interesting so we'd like to include yours with ours.

The display will be assembled during the week of Nov. 27th and be open to the public Dec. 5 – Jan. 1. Please contact us about your bell by Nov. 15th. 862-8428 (Barbara)

SAA and a Virtual Walking Tour of Stowe Village

Your Historical Society is a member of the Stowe Area Association! What does that mean to us? We work in concert with the SAA and receive the benefit of their advertising and promotion for the town, and therefore the Society.

The SAA recently hosted a group of travel writers from all over the country. As part of their introduction to Stowe, we presented them with a virtual walking tour of the Village. A slide show of buildings, both "then and now" gave the writers the sense of a resort community with a real town past.

Our gratitude goes to **Steve Chambers** for his help in making and presenting the show. It could not have been done so successfully without him!

The photo below shows the Memorial Building and what is now the SAA during the mid 30's.

~ Dues Reminder ~

Membership renewals were sent to all members in late June. If you have forgotten to renew, **it is not too late!** Please use the form on the back of this newsletter to let us know you still care and wish to support the important work of the volunteers of the Historical Society.

Thank you !



SHS Board

Barbara Baraw, Pres.	253-8428
Edward Rhodes, V-Pres.	253-6360
Edwin Lang, M.D., Treas.	253-9323
Beverly Davis, Sec.	253-7694

SHS Directors

Connie Bull	253-7211
Patricia Haslam	253-4776
Beverly Wood	253-4374
Wendy Parrish	888-9112
Sonny Davis	253-7694

STOWE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

___ \$10.00 Individual

___ \$20.00 Family/Business

___ \$100 LIFE /pp

\$_____ Additional Contribution

\$_____ West Branch Schoolhouse Fund

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$_____

Name(s)_____

Address_____

Town_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone #_____

Email_____

Please make your check payable to:

Stowe Historical Society

PO Box 730, Stowe, VT 05672

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Stowe Historical Society
P.O. Box 730
Stowe, VT 05672