



# NEWSLETTER

## THE MUNN FAMILY - Researching Family History by Linda Boardman



The Boardman family reunion will be celebrated for the 28<sup>th</sup> year at the Lake Mansfield Trout Club in Nebraska Valley, this June.

My father, I. Munn Boardman Jr. organized our reunion in 1985 shortly after his parents, Dorothy (McMahon) and I. Munn Boardman Sr. passed away. It was only fitting to have the first reunion in Stowe as their ancestors Josephus Munn, Patrick McMahon and Fred Boardman first settled in the area in the 1800s.

This past year, in preparation for the upcoming reunion, I began working with Chuck Dudley at the Historical Society to research the family history of my Stowe ancestors. As the family genealogist, I was interested in focusing less on the data and more on the idea of "legacy," and what impact this Stowe generation may have passed down to us today.

I was delighted to discover through research with Chuck Dudley that indeed a rich history has been left as a legacy to the Boardman family in Stowe, Vermont. The family legacy exemplifies the values of providing for family, hard work and service to community. These themes can be seen weaving through each generation of the Munn, Boardman and McMahon families.

When Josephus Munn first came to Stowe in 1822, he settled on a parcel of land, which is now part of the Trapp Family farm. He and his wife Lucretia had a large family and worked hard to farm the land. Throughout his life, up until his 87<sup>th</sup> year, Josephus was active in buying and selling land in a conservative and financially sound manner with the intent to provide a place for his family to settle. According to the Stowe map of 1878, most, if not all the Munn family lived in close proximity to one another along the Miller Brook, in Nebraska Valley. It was here, together with her parent's Ira and Ellen Munn, where my great-

*Cont. on page 7*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Meetings are the third **Friday** of each month at 12:00 noon at the SHS Museum, 90 School Street. The public is welcome!

**JUNE:** Charter of Stow Birthday Ice Cream Social, Sat. June 8th, 2:00-4:00 on the Green

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, June 21st

**JULY:** Saturday hours begin - 12:00-3:00

SHS participates in the Moscow AND Stowe Vibrancy July 4th parades. Join us!

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, July 19th

**AUGUST:** Annual Meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 6th., 7:00PM at the Gazebo: The presentation of Historic Plaques.

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Feb. 15th, at 12:00 pm

**SEPTEMBER:** *Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Sept. 20th

**OCTOBER:** Maple Sugaring - A Collaboration with OSHER Lifelong Learning, Oct. 16th, 1:30-3:00 at Town & Country Resort. \$5.00 fee.

*Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Oct. 18th

**NOVEMBER:** *Monthly Meeting:* Friday, Nov. 15th

**DECEMBER:** *Monthly Meeting:* No meeting this month.

## ANNUAL MEETING and the HISTORIC PLAQUE PROJECT

There are approximately 400 homes or structures in Stowe that were built before 1950. To recognize those buildings and the stewardship that it takes to maintain the historic quality of them, the Historical Society offered the owners of those properties the opportunity to purchase a plaque indicating the build date (or the circa build date when the research was inconclusive) of the building. These should not be confused with the National Registry of Historic Homes plaques.

This project, led by Society director Ruth Hamilton, has been well received with over 60 orders placed. This same endeavor has been successful in many towns in New England and beyond.

At our Annual Meeting on August 6th, at 7:00, at the Gazebo (in the Community Room in the event of rain) we will present the plaques to their proud owners. As usual, there will be a brief business meeting prior to the presentations.

Later this summer, please make it a point to notice the plaques mounted on the street side of properties as you drive or walk by and ponder the time in Stowe when that building was built.

The Society wishes to thank David Couch Sign Company for helping us with the project, "keeping it local."

### SUMMER HOURS

#### at the HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 2:00 - 5:00

Saturdays - 12:00 - 3:00 July, Aug., Sept.

[www.stowehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stowehistoricalsociety.org)

[info@stowehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@stowehistoricalsociety.org)

802-253-1518

## MAPLE SUGARING IN STOWE - A Collaborative program with OSHER



On Oct. 16, 2013, the Stowe Historical Society and the Lamoille Valley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) will offer a lecture on **"Maple Sugaring in Lamoille Valley"**. The lecture is from 1:30 through 3:00, and will be held at the Town and Country Inn and Conference Center on Mountain Road, in Stowe. The fee is \$5. and reservations are not needed. This includes the lecture followed by a coffee and maple sugar sweet/savory social. George Cook, who has worked for the UVM Extension Services at the Morrisville office since 1978, will talk about the history of maple sugaring here in our county. He is a maple sugar maker himself, and has developed and taught many maple programs and workshops throughout the state and region.

The Vermont Maple Sugarmakers' Association was founded in 1894 in Morrisville, and many of our local syrup businesses are listed as original charter members. Consequently the history and current maple syrup production in Lamoille County is long and interesting, with many county sugar makers on the leading edge of new technology and production techniques. Several sugar makers from the Stowe area will be at the lecture to join in the discussion, and will be showcasing some of their products and historic artifacts of the industry.

The OLLI will offer nine different lectures as part of the 2013 Fall Series starting Sept. 18th and continuing each Wednesday through Nov. 6th. The membership is just \$30. For further information, call Millie Marron at 802-253-9011.



Fourfold Legacy Services and Stowe Historical Society  
are partnering in  
*Stowe Speaks*, a community Oral History project.



*Preserving the story of our past  
from those who lived it ... right here in Stowe.*

[www.fourfoldlegacy.com](http://www.fourfoldlegacy.com)

[www.stowehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stowehistoricalsociety.org)

NEWS FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT - by Barbara Baraw

**WHERE IS STOW?  
WHO WAS BENNING WENTWORTH  
(1696-1770)  
AND WHY IS HE IMPORTANT?**

There is always a "back story". The Province of New Hampshire, between the Merrimack and Piscataqua rivers was granted, or given, to a Mr. Gorges and a Mr. Mason, neither of whom came to the colony. Several generations later, their heirs divided the patent (as the grant was called), which became approximately what's now Maine and New Hampshire. The umbrella of the Massachusetts Bay Colony came over it in 1641. After a brief period of independence, it became part of the Dominion of New England until 1689. Although William & Mary granted a provincial charter in 1691, it had a Lieutenant Governor who also governed Massachusetts. Land claims and changing appointments by the monarch made for uncertainty. Because, in 1741, King George II set boundaries and established the border between New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the last such Lieutenant Governor for the Dominion was Charles Wentworth, Benning's father. Today this area is equivalent to Massachusetts and Maine boundaries.

In 1741, Benning Wentworth was appointed the first Royal Governor of New Hampshire. Prior to this, Benning had been a merchant with his father and uncle, importing Spanish wine and exporting naval stores; falling into bankruptcy at one time. As part of his commission as governor, he was authorized to grant patents of unoccupied land. One author states George II set the western boundary 20 miles east of the Hudson River and parallel to it. In 1749, Wentworth began to grant townships of 6 miles square for 20 pounds sterling, usually to 62 "proprietors", or land speculators. Land was to be cleared, houses built by each settler, and (when fifty families were settled) two fairs a year held, and a market center created. Also, the first town meeting was to be held on the first Tuesday of March.

Conditions of the grant of Stow:

- \* "Each grantee must clear and cultivate 5 acres for each 50 acres in the grant (327 acres per grant)
- \* All pine trees fit for ships' masts be reserved for the Crown
- \* Near the center of township a town center be mapped out
- \* For ten years annual tax of one ear of Indian corn



GOVERNOR BENNING WENTWORTH.

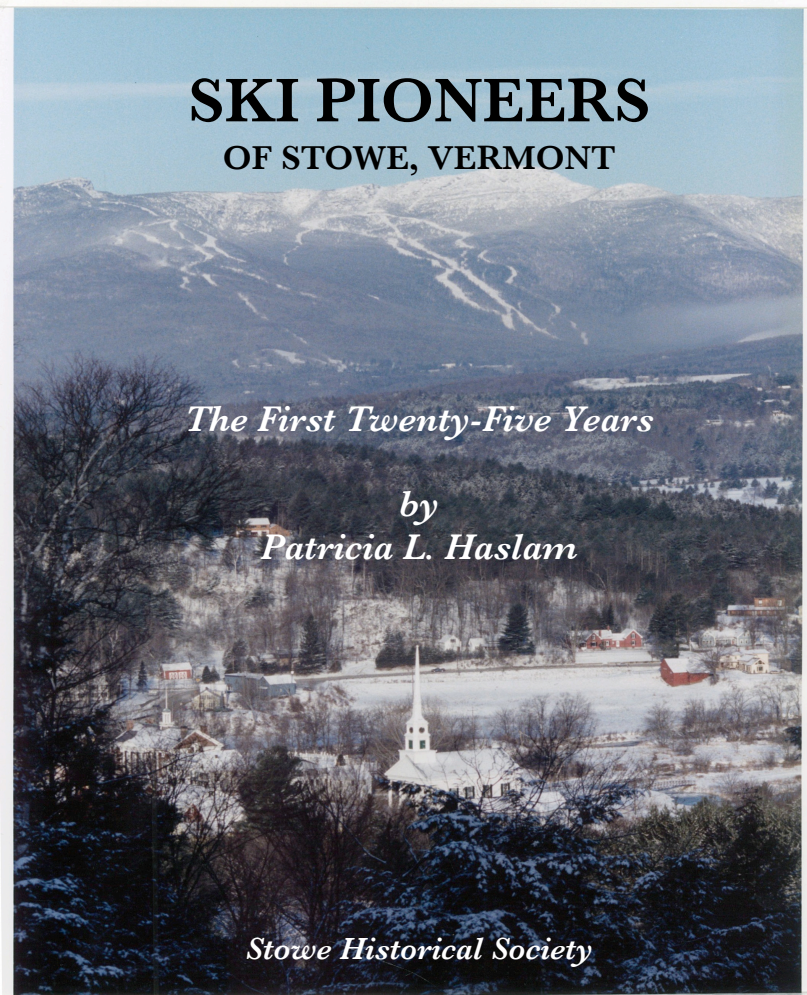
on 15 December beginning 15 December 1763

\* After 10 years one shilling for every hundred acres he owns and apportioned for lesser amounts of land to be paid to the Governor of this Province at Council Chamber in Portsmouth".

Usually, Governor Wentworth kept 500 acres for his own disposition and allotted grants of 327 acres each to the Church of England's Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Foreign Parts, the grammar school, first resident minister [and one].

The description of the boundaries is as follows:  
"Viz, beginning at the North Easterly corner of Mansfield from thence running southerly by said Mansfield for six miles to the northwesterly corner of Waterbury; from thence Easterly by said Waterbury North Line about six miles to the

*cont. on page 5*



**Stowe Historical Society  
presents a new book by  
Pat Haslam**

**SKI PIONEERS OF  
STOWE, VERMONT**

Pat’s research brings together the essence of early skiing in Stowe through photos and personal stories by those who were there in the formative years. The book includes:

- ★ The first twenty-five years of the development of the ski mountain as told by Sepp Ruschp in his memoirs
- ★ The development of the mountain as told through stories written by Charlie Lord and published in the Stowe Reporter.
- ★ Thirty-four mini biographies
- ★ Many photos throughout

*Preorder now for \$25 and help the SHS publish this book  
to preserve the early history of the resort.*

•••••

• Yes, I'd like to order \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *SKI PIONEERS of STOWE, VERMONT* •

• Name: \_\_\_\_\_ •

• Address: \_\_\_\_\_ •

• City, State & Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ •

• email: \_\_\_\_\_ •

• I've enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ . •

• *Thank you for supporting the efforts of The Stowe Historical Society.* •

• *You will be invited to the Pub Party to pick up your signed copy.* •

• *Send to: SHS PO Box 730, Stowe, VT 05672* •

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**Benning Wentworth, cont. from page 3**

North Easterly corner thereof from thence northerly a parallel line with the Easterly line of Mansfield six miles from thence Westerly about six miles to a corner of Mansfield where we began. And that the same be, and hereby is Incorporated into a Township by the name of Stow."

Governor Wentworth had a habit of naming townships for the rich and politically powerful, such as Rutland for John Manners, the 3rd Duke of Rutland; and likely Stow for Richard Temple, Baronet of Stowe Buckinghamshire, grandfather of the wife of George Grenville, member of the Privy Council and Admiralty.

The governor of New York complained to London that these grants were on New York territory. He appealed to King George III, grandson of George II, who found in favor of New York in 1764 and set the boundary as the Connecticut River. The New York governor ignored the Crown's stipulation not to disturb the settlers already on these lands. He issued a decree of repurchase. It is totally understandable that the "Green Mountain Boys" were ready to revolt. The settlers, who had purchased from the speculators, did not wish the overlordship of the New York governor, nor the King, and created Vermont as a Republic in 1777.

Thirty-one years after the charter was signed, the first two families settled Stow in April, 1794. Several of those who followed the first families were veterans of the War of Independence. Although Mansfield was chartered the same day as Stow, June 8, 1763, with similar conditions, it was six additional years before the first family settled in Mansfield.

Beginning June 8th, 2013, we will spend a year in celebration of the charter of the Township of Stow.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS  
BE SURE TO RENEW !**

**Officers & Directors**

The following slate of Officers and Directors was approved at the August 2012 Annual Meeting:

Barbara Baraw, President  
Wendy Parrish, V. President & Secretary  
Barbara Sorokin, Treasurer  
Pat Haslam, Director  
Sonny Davis, Director  
Jon Hanson, Director  
Karin Gottlieb, Director  
Tom & Rudi Hamilton, Director team  
Kermit Spaulding, Director  
Liz Kellogg, Director

**Contact the Society:**

**Email:** [info@stowehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@stowehistoricalsociety.org)

**Phone:** 802-253-1518

**Mail:** PO Box 730, Stowe VT 05672

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN JULY 4TH PARADES**

The Historical Society will be participating in **both** the *Moscow Parade* at 10:00 am AND the *Stowe Village Parade* organized by Stowe Vibrancy on **Thursday, July 4th**. The parade, recognizing Stowe's 250th Birthday, will begin on the Mountain Road at 12:30 and end in the parking lot of the Elementary School. We are looking for people to help with creating our float and also to ride on it in the parade. Children are welcome!

Please contact the Society if this sounds like a fun thing you want to do.

**Check out our website to see who has been interviewed for STOWE SPEAKS and see what they talked about! Click a name and a list of the track titles will come up in a new window.**

**THE HURRICANE OF 1938 - 75 Years Ago**

**STOWE**

The hurricane struck Stowe with full force Wednesday evening. Many trees were uprooted. The Main street through town was strewn with fallen trees. One large tree crashed through the roof of Miss Susan Bigelow's house on Maple Street, badly damaging the roof. Chimneys were blown down, several farmers report barn roofs blown off, and sugar orchards were ruined. At Four Winds farm, Mr. Fenwick reported 100 trees destroyed in the sugar place, most of them being snapped off rather than being uprooted and the poplar trees which lined entrance are all down. Mr. Fenwick said that about 95 per cent of the trees on the place were destroyed.

The shed roof at the Stebbin's market block was blown off and the roof at Neil Ellsworth's house was damaged. Telephone and electric light lines are down, many are still without lights or phone service.

Perhaps the most devastated place in town was at Riverbank Cemetery where many of the beautiful pines were either snapped off or uprooted.

Thursday afternoon three truck loads of men from the C. C. C. camp at Waterbury arrived in town and offered assistance and soon the main streets were cleared and Friday they returned and worked in the cemetery. There were about 100 men at work. The electrician and his men are at work on the main lines, and the telephone company is working on the trunk lines first and will repair the other lines as soon as possible.

The bridge at Howard Lang's was washed away but one has been built temporarily. At Walter Clark's the river changed its course and left a dry bridge. Two large elm trees were uprooted and fell on the Tomlinson house on Maple St. A. E. Doane and C. M. Pike lost many trees at their sugar places.

The village of Stowe and the Cemetery Association are very greatly appreciative of the services rendered by about 100 members of the C. C. C. from the Waterbury camp. The wreckage of fallen trees was quickly removed from the streets so that traffic could be resumed. The Riverbank Cemetery in three days was cleared of a perfect shambles of fallen trees. Without the C. C. C. men and their quick and cheerful help Stowe would have been in a sorry mess for many days.

The roof over the Moscow covered bridge was partly destroyed by the wind. Damage to the Luce Bros. farm in Stowe Hollow was estimated

**at about \$100. They lost 700 sugar trees and the roofs on the buildings were badly damaged.**

According to most reports, the Weather Bureau totally missed the forecast for this storm, thinking it would head out to sea before landfall. Instead, it traveled from Long Island to Northern Vermont at around 60 plus miles per hour, a mere 7 hours to ravage the state.



*The above article was published in the Stowe Journal, Sept. 29th, 1938.*

*The top right photo location is not identified, though a note on the back indicates that the photo was taken in November of 1939, a full year after the storm that took down so many trees. The bottom photo shows some of the damage on Maple Street. We have several postcards showing scenes of the damage on Maple Street -- come in and ask to see them!*

*In our Stowe Speaks interviews captured on CD, you can hear more about the hurricane of 1938 from Stewart Bouchard, Alice Dewey, Arden Magoon and Merton and Ora Pike. Come in to the museum where you can listen to these interviews and more.*



**THE MUNN FAMILY** *cont. from page 1*

grandmother Susie Munn was born and went to school. The family had a strong sense of loyalty and made many contributions to the town of Stowe. They also may have started what is now called the "Family Reunion".

In Walter Bigelow's 1934, History of Stowe Vermont, published by the Stowe Historical Society, he describes the Stowe tradition of "Old Home Week" in this way: "To Stowe belongs the distinction of being the town in Vermont that has most consistently and persistently observed Old Home Week which was established by the state legislature in the year 1900..." These yearly gatherings gave the spirit of enterprise and hospitality of Stowe people its greatest publicity and cemented more firmly the ties of love and loyalty in those who came to enjoy the reunions with the friends of their youth."

Mr. Bigelow continues with the sub chapter titled "Family Reunion": "Perhaps the suggestion of Old Home Week observance came from the annual or occasional reunions of several of the older families of Stowe held during the last decade of the nineteenth and first two decades of the twentieth century. So far as the writer knows the idea of annual family reunions originated with the descendants of Josephus and Lucretia (Parker) Munn. The first reunions were held at the homes of the youngest son and the living daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Munn. All the living children, many of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren coming

from Lamoille county towns and some from outside the state were in attendance. The family dishes were served, family traditions were rehearsed and the general exchange of greetings and visits preserved the family ties and engendered a spirit of loyalty to and love for the town and of the old family seat".

The impact of the life of Josephus Munn, along with his wife Lucretia, their values- hard work, providing for family and financial prudence-are all gifts to my generation and future generations to come. Just as our ancestor's gathered one hundred and thirty years ago, this legacy will renew itself again in June just a mile up the road from the home in which Susie Munn was born. June will bring over 100 Boardman family members together with the purpose of enjoying one another and another reunion - in the Nebraska Valley.

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
of the  
**STOWE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Tuesday, Aug. 6th, 7:00pm at the Gazebo  
(rain site: Library Community Room)  
*The Presentation of Historic Plaques*  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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**Do you have CURIOSITY, a few HOURS and a DESIRE to help?**

**Curatorial Assistants** - Work with artifacts, entering data, relocating items in storage. Archival assistants support projects using library resources including indexing, cataloguing, transcribing letters and diaries, and entering data. Do a little of everything or focus on one activity - your choice! Hours are flexible and training is provided.

**Exhibit Assistants** - Can work on single projects or the changing projects (usually one a year). Training is available and commitment need not be more than two hours a visit.

**Program Coordination** - Help plan a program (such as the Maple Sugaring program we've started to plan for April, 2013). This involves working with a team on publicity, gathering items and people, and general creative thinking to make an event that will be well attended.

**Newsletter** - Twice a year the Society sends out a newsletter. We think it might be time for a fresh look and need someone to put their creative talents to work! The program you use is up to you -- no need to learn something new.

**Website** - Our website is a simple one and it can stay that way. Or if you have skills and interest, you can make it snazzy!

**Post Card Distribution** - Our volunteer who manages our various post card retail accounts is a SNOWBIRD! While she gets warmed by the Florida sunshine, we need someone to contact our retail accounts to insure their SHS post card supplies are full for the season. This usually involves one or two visits per season.

Our most immediate needs are for  
**Curatorial Assistants** - Learn to record incoming artifacts  
**Clipping & Filing** the newspapers we have saved. This can be done at home.

Call or email the Society! When you volunteer, you make a difference in the community.



*Can you identify this photo?? It appears to be a logging camp but we don't know where it is and who the people are.  
The photographer is George W. Gale.*



Stowe Historical Society  
PO Box 730  
Stowe, VT 05672