



TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

N E W S L E T T E R

FALL 2001

PO Box 202 Townshend, VT 05353

VOLUME THREE • NUMBER ONE

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL SAT. OCTOBER 13TH

This year our table at the festival will feature home-baked goodies, Scott Bridge coffee mugs, and a new mug, honoring West Townshend resident Clarina Howard Nichols for her work for women's rights in New England and other states. Note cards featuring a painting of early Townshend will also be on sale.

If you can contribute food, please bring it to our table early in the day. We are in constant need of money and this is one more way that you can help.

THE MONARCHS' RETURN

On Thursday, October 18th, a slideshow on Monarch butterflies will be presented by Tom Chase at the Townshend Town Hall, 7:00 PM.

Chase has been studying and photographing Monarch butterflies for many years.

His photographs have been widely published and are in numerous museum collections around the world. We are pleased to present this remarkable program in collaboration with the Townshend Public Library. The program is suitable for all ages. Please mark your calendars.

TREASURY NOTES – DON'T LOSE INTEREST

Thanks to generous support from members and others in the community, the Townshend Historical Society has raised over \$7,000 in cash contributions, and we have sold \$1200 in merchandise this year. As a result of this show of support, we have received from foundations a total of \$15,000 with an additional amount of \$4,600 promised from the Vermont Council on Humanities.

We estimate that we will need \$20,000 more to reach our goal. Contributions are still welcomed. More help with grant applications is urgently needed, because our book committee is spending every possible moment on research and organization of materials. Please call Marge Holt if you can spend some time in the next few weeks on grant writing.

☞ N . E . W . S ☜

TAFT AND NICHOLS' HISTORIC MARKERS WILL BE INSTALLED THIS FALL

Historic markers honoring the Taft family and Clarina Howard Nichols will be installed and dedicated at a site in West Townshend this fall.

The time and place will be announced. Here are the inscriptions on the bronze memorial plaques:

Taft Homestead Site

In 1799, Aaron Taft settled on a 100-acre farm on Taft Hill. His grandson Alphonso, born here in 1810, served as Secretary of War and Attorney General under President Grant, and as Minister to Austria-Hungary and Russia. Alphonso's son, William Howard Taft (1857-1930) became 27th President of the United States and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. William's son, Robert A. Taft (1889-1953) was U.S. Senator from Ohio. Many other descendants became prominent in government service.

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Clarina Howard Nichols

Born in West Townshend in 1810, Clarina Howard became an early advocate of women's rights. After a divorce in 1843 she married George Nichols. As editor of the *Windham County Democrat* she strongly advocated women's property rights, child custody, temperance, and suffrage. In 1852 she became the first woman to address the Vermont Legislature, and lectured throughout New England and the Midwest. Nichols was a staunch abolitionist who seized the opportunity to move with her family to Kansas where her views on slavery and women's rights were widely accepted. During the Civil War, she was director of a home for orphaned black children in Washington, D.C. She died at her son's home in Pomo, California, in 1885.

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VERMONT HISTORY PROJECT WITH LELAND AND GRAY STUDENTS

This collaboration with faculty and students aims to stimulate student's interest in Vermont history by a number of means. It presents students an opportunity for publication in print media and on the school or historical society web sites. It encourages original research on history involving all the West River Valley towns. Students may present documentation in research papers, artwork, dramatic or musical compositions, oral histories and photography.

A two-day planning workshop was held prior to the opening of school and a follow-up is planned for early November. In the words of one teacher, "This is a project with exciting potential. It could grow over time into something of precious value."



Townshend
Historical
Society

PO Box 202
Townshend, VT 05353

THIRD-YEAR DUES ARE NEEDED NOW

Very few members have paid their third-year dues (fiscal year runs from June 30-July 1st) and this is our third year. We need dues to pay our ordinary expenses, postage, newsletters, copying etc. and we will not dip into our book money for this purpose. Please fill in the form herewith and mail to PO Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353. If you aren't sure whether you owe, please give Tiz Garfield a call at 365-4055.

TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES FORM

Name _____, Address _____

Phone _____, Email _____

Annual membership dues:

Individual \$5.00 _____ Family \$10.00 _____

Patron \$100.00 _____ Student \$2.00 _____

Checks payable to Townshend Historical Society. Mail to PO Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353
Please specify 3rd year dues (fiscal year July 1, 2001-June 30, 2002)