



TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

N E W S L E T T E R

FALL 2000

PO Box 202 Townshend, VT 05353

VOLUME TWO • NUMBER TWO

FALL MEETING FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st AT 2:00 P.M. LIBRARY, TOWNSHEND, VERMONT

We invite you to come and see what progress the book committee is making on our history of Townshend. We want you to bring your photographs, letters, programs and other interesting paper memorabilia. We will scan them into a computer (this is not harmful in any way to the originals). We will also print you a copy, for a small fee. Even the smallest photograph usually turns out a very clear copy.

These digital images will be catalogued for possible inclusion in the updated history. You will enjoy sharing your memories as well as your photos and letters with others at the meeting. You will take your pictures and letters home with you when you leave, so there is no danger of anything being lost.

We must have your help in gathering material for this history. Please come and bring your friends. It will be a wonderful afternoon. This may also be your last chance to sign the Charter Members Roster, which will be permanently bound for the historical record.

• WHY DOES THE STATE OF VERMONT WISH TO HONOR FORMER TOWNSHEND RESIDENT CLARINA HOWARD NICHOLS?

Born on January 25th, 1810 in West Townshend, Clarina Howard Nichols became a well-known national figure for her support of the rights of women to own and inherit property and to obtain the right to vote. In 1830, Clarina married Justin Carpenter, a Baptist minister. They had three children. In 1843, Clarina and Justin were divorced.

Nichols pursued a career as writer and editor of the Windham County Democrat, where she advocated women's rights of ownership and inheritance. She married George Nichols, published and printer of the Democrat. She was the first woman ever to address the Vermont State Legislature and spoke in support of a petition to give women the right to vote in district school meetings. The bill failed to pass in 1852, but in 1880 was again petitioned and won. (Note. This was a very early effort to win women's equal rights with men and the right to

PUMPKINS PLAY A PART IN TOWNSHEND'S HISTORY

This year's Pumpkin Festival, sponsored by the Townshend Business Association, is an opportunity to help raise funds for our history book. We need donations of cookies, brownies and small sandwiches to sell at our booth. Please bring your edible concoctions to us in the A.M. on October 14th.

If you can volunteer to help out at the booth for a couple of hours, call Tiz Garfield at 365-4055.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN....?

Tell us your Townshend stories, your funniest memories, your recollections of important events in our town. Members Virginia Chamberlin, Sarah Messenger, Cynthia Stephenson, Betty Cohn, Chris Angell, and Everett Childs, are beginning to tape interviews with Townshend residents and friends. We need to capture your memories of town events and personalities, not only for possible use in "the book", but for preservation as an oral record. If you would like to be part of this effort, either reminiscing or interviewing others, call Virginia Chamberlin.

NEWS

vote.)

Using the springboard of her editorials in the Windham County Democrat, Nichols became a much sought-after speaker and lobbyist. A Brattleboro historian recalled, "Mrs. Nichols and her daughter, in bloomers made of buff calico, walking the streets of Brattleboro to the amazement of the natives..."

At the time, women's clothing belonged solely to their husbands who had the right to sell or pawn it for money for any purpose, including drink.

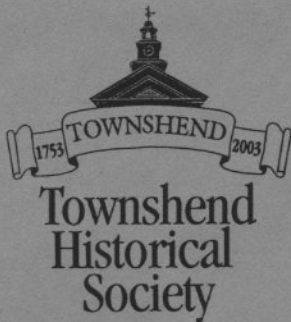
Nichols was asked to speak at women's rights and temperance conventions in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. She became a close friend of Susan B. Anthony. She moved from Vermont, with her husband and children, to the Territory of Kansas where through her efforts the women of Kansas were granted property rights, equal guardianship of children and the right to vote in school districts. In 1860, these rights were included in the State of Kansas Constitution. For three years during the Civil War, she

lived in Washington, D.C. and was in charge of the Home for Colored Orphans, set up by the United States government to care for children freed by the war. She did this without her husband who had died in 1855.

Nichols died in 1885, in Pome, California, where she lived with her son, Aurelius. She spent her last years influencing the California legislature. Her obituary said that Clarina Nichols "set a good precedent for all women in politics with her gentle but firm ways. She was blessed with an even, buoyant temperament and a keen sense of humor. She was able to seize the essential points of an argument and develop them clearly and incisively..."

The Vermont Historic Preservation department will give the town a memorial plaque honoring West Townshend resident Clarina Howard Nichols for her early and unceasing efforts for women's property rights and women's suffrage, in Vermont and in the nation.

(Sources: Those Intriguing Indomitable Vermont Women, published by the Vermont State Division of the American Association of University Women, pp. 22-23; and Vermont Life "Clarina Howard Nichols: Green Mountain Suffragette" by Madeleine M. Kunin, Winter 1973, pp. 14-17)



PO Box 202
Townshend, VT 05353

DUES, DUES, DUES, DUES ARE DUE.

The Townshend Historical Society began its second year on July 1, 2000 and members 2nd year dues are payable now. We don't want to use our book funds for postage, paper and all that kind of thing, and so we need your support in paying membership dues. Please fill out the coupon and mail to us at P.O. Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353, or bring your dues on Oct. 21st. Thank you.

Name _____, Address _____

Telephone _____, Email _____

Membership Individual \$5.00 _____ Family \$10.00 _____

Dues:

Patron \$100.00 _____ Student \$2.00 _____

Make checks payable to the Townshend Historical Society.

(Note. Any amount over the individual or family membership fee may be tax deductible)