



TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

N E W S L E T T E R

FALL 2004

PO Box 202 Townshend, VT 05353

VOLUME SIX • NUMBER ONE

Invitation

to a Special Showing

Townshend Painted Theater Curtains

Restored and Hanging in the

Townshend Town Hall and Opera House

Thursday, Oct. 14, 2004 at 7:00 P.M.

Presenter: Christine Hadsel

Director of the VT Painted Theater Curtains Project

No admission fee. ~ All are welcome.

A project to restore painted theatre curtains hanging in the Townshend Town Hall and Opera House has just been completed by The Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance of Woodstock, Vermont, under the direction of Christine Hadsel. The Townshend Town Hall was given to the town by Mrs. Henry F. Dutton and dedicated in June 1921. It replaced the town hall building which burned down in the fire of 1918.

William R. Stuart (1861-1935), a well-known Brattleboro artist noted for his stage scenery and scenic panels, painted five of the six curtains in the 1920s. Lee Lash painted the sixth curtain

At the special showing on October ¹⁴~~24~~, 2004, each curtain, 25 ft. long x 16 ft. high, will be lowered by hand, beginning with the curtain farthest backstage and continuing to the front. All curtains have new rigging. The various painted scenes show a city street with a trolley car, a locomotive, a meadow, a city park, a Western landscape, and a mountain brook.

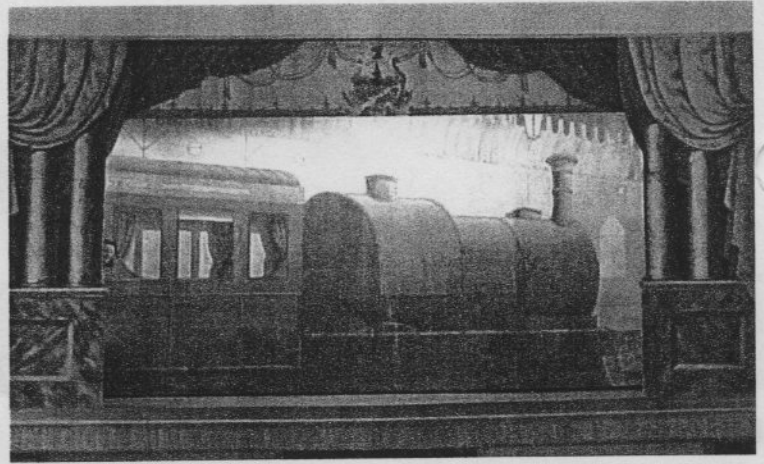
Project director, Chris Hadsel will give a short slide show of curtains in other Vermont towns and talk about the restoration process. She says, "The objective was to give the curtains a once-in-a-century clean and mend that will keep them around for present enjoyment and future pleasure and pride."

The Vermont Painted Theatre Curtains Project is supported by "Save America's Treasures" through a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Services, the Department of the Interior, and the Vermont State Legislature. Additional support has come from the people of Townshend, the Townshend 250th Anniversary Committee, the Vermont Council on the Arts, the Vermont Community Foundation, and the Windham Foundation.

(Cont'd on back)

Townshend Painted Theatre Curtains

We are grateful to the scores of individuals who assisted with every aspect of the project. We thank Liz Bell, Virginia Chamberlin, Heidi Clawson, Charlotte Clayton, Jim Crozier and crew, Cindy Davis, Nancy Eckhardt, Ken Hoffman, Bob Holden, Marge, Stan and Laurent Holt, Donna and William Johnson, Cindy Leszczak, Sarah Messenger, Rosemarie and Ona Lyman, Charles Marchant, Elaine Meyer, Mark Morse, Janice Onyon, Lois Phoenix, Jeff Russ, Ray Sorrentino, Carl and Eloise Steiner, Janet Stowell, and Lew Teich. We also thank the Townshend Church and the Masons of Blazing Star Lodge No. 23 for supplying work tables.



**Townshend
Historical
Society**

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NEWS

THS CALENDARS FOR 2005 ARE READY TO ORDER. We know that you will like them as much as last year's. Supply is limited. Buy a calendar and pay your dues as the same time. **Send check together with your annual dues to Townshend Historical Society, PO Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353.** CALENDAR \$10.00 - (\$2.00 more if you want us to mail it out of town). If you order now, calendars can be left in your name for pick up at the Townshend Library desk. Look for THS at the Pumpkin Festival Oct. 16th.

DUES FOR OUR SIXTH YEAR - Only a very few members have paid their 6th year dues, so you probably need this reminder. Our dues support the newsletter printing, postage, also programs and supplies. We welcome new members. Please join us. DUES: Individual \$5, Family \$10, Patron \$100.

Your name _____

Enclose for dues: \$ _____

Enclose for 2005 calendar: \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____