



TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

N E W S L E T T E R

Summer 2000

PO Box 202 Townshend, VT 05353

VOLUME Two • NUMBER Two

ATTENTION PLEASE: ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2000 7:30 P.M. TOWNSHEND TOWN HALL

The Townshend Historical Society begins its second year at the annual meeting on Thursday, July 20th. With 106 dues paying members in our first year, we have accomplished much.

Members are at work on an update of Townshend's history to be published as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Townshend's charter from King George 2nd, which falls in the year 2003. Virginia Chamberlin, Marcia DeWitt, Shirley Greenwood, Ruby Bristol, and Marie Fletcher are cataloging photographs and saving them in digital form. Other members are researching specific topics: Harmonyville - Phil Trevorrow; Ela Horse Farm - Betty Cohn; geological background - Cynthia Stephenson; fire department - Everett Childs; Leland and Gray and Townshend elementary school - Marge Holt; Early Electric Power - Ron Lyman.

For the Vermont Expo 2000 at the Tunbridge Worlds Fair Grounds, June 17-18, our focus was on Townshend in the Civil War years and five residents who left their homes to serve as Vermont Volunteers. Robert DuGrenier

contributed enormous time and effort to the visual aspects of our exhibit with posters of Harrison Chamberlin, Henry Dutton, Henry Ashley Scott, Marshall Harvey Twitchell, the Bellamy brothers, and Townshend veterans. Researchers were Tom Lyman, Marcia DeWitt, Virginia Chamberlin, Marge Holt, Sarah Messenger and Tiz Garfield.

The Townshend Public Library loaned Henry Scott artifacts; Virginia Chamberlin loaned many items, including a newspaper from the day of Lincoln's assassination, and a map of Civil War battlefields; and Ron Lyman loaned a frock coat worn by Sgt. Boyden of Townshend with a bullet hole in the back.

Much help is needed in providing local history, stories, anecdotes, and family genealogies for our updated history book. You can jot down notes, or we will come and talk with you. No writing ability is necessary. A writer will put it together in final form. Please offer your help. Speak to Marge Holt, Virginia Chamberlin, or Marcia DeWitt.

Come to the annual meeting and see the exhibition posters and what else we are doing.

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N . E . W . S

SUPPORT MAJOR FUNDRAISING GARDEN TOUR JULY 1st

Twelve gardens will be open for viewing from 9:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Rain date July 2nd. Tour tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at the Taft Hill Collection, Townshend Library, the Harmonyville Store, and the Newfane Greenhouse.

On the tour day, light refreshments will be served at the Townshend Library between 1:00-3:00 P.M.

The Charter Members Roster will be at the Library for signing and all members for our first year (July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000) should sign this record which will be bound for posterity. Townshend gardeners are hoping for sunny weather to bring their creations to peak beauty.

Townshend Garden Tour

(Loop #1 - Gardens 1 thru 5. Begins Rt.35 & Peaked Mt. Rd. by firehouse)

#1 - Ken and Martha Hoffman, Peaked Mt. Rd. (On left .2 mile Beautifully landscaped grounds surround this new house, with a wide variety of plantings. Turn left into driveway and park.

#2 - Robert and Delores Welber, 628 Peaked Mt. Rd. This modern house, circa 1970, is set back from road in forested area. Gardens include fruit trees, grape arbor, perennials and splendid view west towards Stratton Mt.

#3 - Carl and Judy Ferenbach, High Meadow Farm, Deer Valley Rd. Property is extensive and includes two barns, horse trails, orchards, and plantings near the house. Feel free to wander around outside.

#4 - Harold and Irene Wenker, Deer Valley Rd. Stonewalls and terraced perennial gardens create a dramatic effect on this site. The main circle garden is a sunken area with new and mature plantings.

#5 - Tiz Garfield, Deer Valley Rd. Main garden, started in July 1996, is situated in the backyard. Please enter through screened porch. Flowerbeds in side and front yard have all been revitalized. Garden provides much pleasure and much work.

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ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

Nominating committee will present a slate for election of three Trustee positions:

Trustee – 2 year term (2002) – Robert DuGrenier

Trustee – 1 year term (2001) – Marcia DeWitt

Trustee – 1 year term (2001) – Virginia Chamberlin

Officers remain the same – Tom Lyman, President

Frank McCarthy, Vice-President, Marge Holt, Secretary, Tiz Garfield, Treasurer

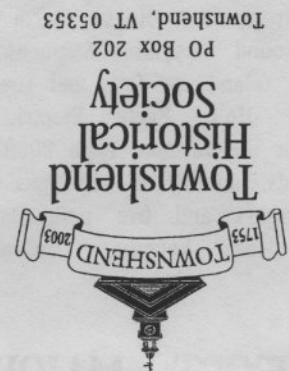
WEB SITE UP AND RUNNING

Access us online at <http://www.townshendvt.org>

We receive inquiries seeking genealogical information and wanting to find cemetery records. This is a work-in-process and help in putting information together is needed.

Mystery Question?????

What happened to the meteorite that fell in 1901, or thereabouts, on F. Pierce farm in Townshend? Where is it now? Please respond.



(Loop#2-Gardens 6-9. Begins at Common-intersection Rt.35 and Rt.30)

#6 – Jack and Alice Gausch, Rt. 30 – A 150 year-old large farmhouse is surrounded with flower and vegetable beds. Careful attention has been paid to plantings that block view of trucks and traffic. Enjoy the raised beds in the back-yard.

#7 – Bob and Hope Schreiner, Brookside Farm, 129 Robin Hill Rd., WestTownshend. Visitors will see a cottage garden, a rock garden, a daylily garden and a semi-shade garden. Bob and Hope also have llamas, sheep and chickens (if the fox hasn't eaten all the latter).

#8 – Robert and Katherine DuGrenier, Taft Hill Farm, Back Road to Windham, West Townshend. Aaron Taft originally farmed this historic property in 1799. There are wonderful open meadows and a spectacular view of the valley. DuGrenier's unique sculpture garden utilizes apple trees adorned with glass, metal and marble objects that grow and change over time.

#9 – Joan Elliot, Stephenson's Curve Rd. (off Rt. 30 towards West River) This property runs to the riverbank, with cottage gardens, vegetables and fruit trees. It is really hidden from view with enormous privacy for the inhabitants.

(Loop #3 – Gardens 10 thru 12. Begins at Townshend Common & Rt. 30)

#10 – Alene Evans, Old Plumb Farm, Plumb Rd. The gardens have evolved over the past 20 years and include stone walls and terraces and a small water garden.

#11 – Ed and Teddi Pease, School Marm Lane The house is situated right at the edge of Crane Mt. dropoff, with spectacular wide views of the valley. Gardens are carefully maintained and include a small water garden.

#12 – Ken and Ellie Lemire, Brookline Rd. House is nestled on side of hill. Enter the gardens through a silver lace laden arbor and be prepared to gasp at the perennials on terraces dug into the hillside. A hidden garden rewards the seeker.
* * * [Garden closed on rain date 7/2/2000] * *