



TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY^{INC.}

N E W S L E T T E R

FALL 2006

PO BOX 202, TOWNSHEND, VT 05353

VOLUME EIGHT * NUMBER ONE

POSTPONED ANNUAL MEETING PROMISES EXCELLENT PROGRAM SUNDAY OCTOBER 15TH AT 3:00 PM TOWNSHEND TOWN HALL

Did you know that Dr. Carlos Otis took up a rifle and joined the “Freemen” to protest construction of a massive dam that would put Townshend underwater, creating a lake covering 400 square miles?

Did you know that the group attracted 2000 members nationwide who paid a membership fee of \$25?

Did you know that the Federal government had the right to build flood control dams (with federal funds) without states’ approval?

Barb Barber and Jane Robinson will set up a display “No Dam Way” that they made for the Windham County Historical Society’s exhibit at Vermont Expo 2006. Photographs and articles tell the dramatic story of this conflict between local residents and the U.S. Government.

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The main feature of the afternoon will be the world premier showing of a new documentary film, *Wantastiquet: The West River Story*. Produced by Joe DeFelice for Riverbank Media, Inc., the film explores the Abenaki presence in the watershed, the West River railroad, and the major dams, built and unbuilt, along the river. It also documents natural history of bird migration, beavers, freshwater mussels, and fish species management. Because of length, only certain portions of the film will be shown. Riverbank Media Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Newfane, and their mission is to educate children and adults about the ecological and historical importance of rivers and their watersheds.

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### 2007 CALENDAR HAS NEW THEME “GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN”

For our new calendar we have selected photographs of people, places, and occupations that are no longer with us. The choices will sometimes surprise you. They provide a glimpse of the past that you will appreciate seeing for an entire year. The calendar price is still \$10.00. An order form on the back of this page will reserve your calendar. Because of printing cost increases this edition is limited in number.

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### OUR EIGHTH YEAR BEGAN ON JULY 1, 2006

With the new fiscal year comes the need to collect annual dues - \$5 for individuals, \$10 for families, \$100 for patrons. Dues fund the regular operation of THS and your continued membership is valued. Donations above the dues amount are deductible as permitted by law.

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

[ths@dugrenier.com](mailto:ths@dugrenier.com)

Last year we produced a program “Voices from the Past” based on letters and compositions written in the 1800s by Leland Seminary teachers and students. We launched a newly designed website. We mounted an exhibit for Vermont Expo in Tunbridge which illustrated the life story of Clarina Howard Nichols, one of Vermont’s “famous women in history.” In October, we expanded the exhibit to include Chapin Howard (Clarina’s father) and the founding of Leland Seminary in 1835. This display was seen at the Vermont Antique Dealers show in Manchester. We sold copies of a new biography of Clarina titled *Revolutionary Heart*, written by Diane Eickhoff. The book has won high praise from reviewers across the country.



The project to catalog contents of the Townshend Town Vault progresses. We have supplied archival sleeves and boxes wherever possible. The aim is to have the catalog available in print as well as on a CD. Certain items need not be kept in the vault, but other safe storage space must be made available before they can be moved. We expect to hear this month from our grant application to restore several valuable town documents.



**Townshend  
Historical  
Society**

PO Box 202  
Townshend, VT 05353

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ORDER 2007 CALENDARS –“Gone, but Not Forgotten” – Price \$10. each (\$2.00 more if mailed)  
Buy a calendar and pay your dues at the same time – one check to the Townshend Historical Society, PO Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353. If purchased locally, your calendar will be left in your name to pick up at the Townshend Library desk. Also, look for us at the Pumpkin Festival, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ **ORDER** \_\_\_\_\_ **CALENDARS @\$10.-** \_\_\_\_\_ plus mailing  
Address for mailing: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

**PAY DUES** in amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
( \$5 individual, \$10 family  
\$100 patron)

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

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