



TOWNSHEND HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

N E W S L E T T E R

SUMMER 2003

PO Box 202 Townshend, VT 05353

VOLUME FIVE • NUMBER TWO

ANNUAL MEETING

2:00 P.M. Sunday, July 20, 2003 - Townshend Town Hall

A brief business meeting to elect a secretary, treasurer and trustee for one year and give a couple of reports will be followed by a tour of Townshend cemeteries led by Charles Marchant. We hope for good weather, but if it's pouring rain Marchant will give his lively talk on cemeteries and cellar holes. Also, Castle Freeman, Jr. will be present to sign A Stitch in Time, so bring your copy or buy another.

A MOVING STORY

Everett W. Childs tells this story about a moving day in Townshend:

In the horse-drawn age of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, a fixture of Townshend village was the Haynes Sanders blacksmith shop, originally located near present-day Grace Cottage Hospital. After the fire of 1896, the owner decided to move his shop building to one of the lots on the south side of the Townshend Common left vacant by the fire. Childs, who owned and ran a hardware business in the same building from 1946 to 1976, recorded the story of how Haynes Sanders moved his blacksmith shop to the site in 1896. By that time the telephone had come to the village and the phone lines had to come down temporarily to make way for the shop to move down the street. Replying to Sanders' polite application, the telephone company refused to take down its lines. Sanders then informed the company of the date of the move. He further asserted that as the building moved, it being his property, his ownership of it "extended from Earth to Heaven." One way or another, the phone lines were coming down. On the appointed day, the company moved the lines.



North Street (Rt. 35) before 1896 showing what is now Heins Home; Haynes Sanders' shop building; a private house moved to site of Outdoor Adventures on Rt. 30; and the Fletcher house, later Grace Cottage Hospital.

IN NEWS

The Townshend 250th celebration week started with our book launching party and exhibit "A Walk through Townshend Village" at the town hall. Other highlights – the remarkable photographs of friends and neighbors by Karl Decker; a well-attended ecumenical church service on the Townshend Common followed by pot luck lunch and a superb concert by the 40th Army National Guard Band; cemetery and cellar-hole tours led by Charles Marchant; and following a day of local exhibits on the common – a delicious ham dinner served in the parish house culminating in a fireworks display at the Townshend Dam. For those who couldn't be with us, we missed you. It will be some time before so many people work so hard to celebrate such an important anniversary.

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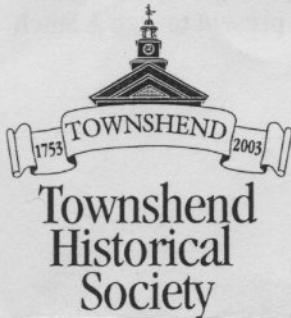
NEWS

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A *Stitch in Time: Townshend, Vermont, 1753-2003* has been well received. The book may be purchased at the Townshend Library, the Town Hall, Mary Meyer's The Black Bear Shop; the Taft Hill Collection. It may be ordered on our website www.townshendvt.org. We are looking for volunteers to help load stories, documents and photographs onto the website. Beginning in the fall, we will train you for the job. Please speak with any trustee about helping. The website will be a resource for our history far greater than can be told in the pages of one book.



Everett Childs on the porch of the hardware store, circa 1960s. The store was later owned by Joe Gilliland and Diana Lane.



PO Box 202
Townshend, VT 05353

TREASURER REMINDS YOU THAT ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues for our fifth year (July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004) are payable now. Dues fund our newsletter and a few other expenses, and we need to maintain a healthy membership list. Please pay up at the annual meeting or send a check to Townshend Historical Society, PO Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353.

DUES – SINGLE - \$5.00, FAMILY - \$10.00, ANNUAL PATRON - \$100.00

According to our records you (the addressee):