



Bley House News

Dorset Historical Society

Fall 2009

A Quarterly Newsletter

OFFICERS

Richard H. Hittle, President
Jean Kingston, Vice-
President
Albert Eckhardt, Treasurer
Ruth Stewart, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Cone
Kathie Wall Evans
Dick Freeman
Suzanne Kaiser
George Long
Kaye Manly
John McInerney
Terry Tyler
Susanne Washburn

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Pat Carmichael
Art Gilbert
Hank Westphalen

MUSEUM CURATOR

Susanne Rappaport

OFFICE MANAGER

Betsy Olson

Museum Summer Hours

(until October 16)

10 AM - 12 noon Weds.

& by appointment

Museum Winter Hours

10 AM - 12 noon Wed. - Fri.

10AM-2PM Saturday

802-867-0331

802-867-0412 FAX

info@dorsetvthistory.org

www.dorsetvthistory.org

The Curator's Notebook

Discovering Lorenzo Hatch, engraver and painter, 1856-1914

The Dorset Historical Society has many, relatively large, important collections including those relating to the history of marble, Fenton stoneware, regional painting and the stencil artistry of Jessica H. Bond. In the overall collection there are also a great number of smaller gems tucked away in the document and photograph files, the Archives Room and the general collection storage areas. I am still discovering these gems, often because of an unexpected series of events. It was one of these occurrences that began my interest in Lorenzo Hatch, his work and his relationship to Dorset.

John Doody from San Diego, California contacted me several months ago. In our first phone conversation he talked about Lorenzo Hatch and an article that had been written about him for *Yankee Magazine* in 1967. Much to my embarrassment I knew nothing about Lorenzo Hatch at the time. John offered to send me a few signed Hatch engravings and several other copies of his work. A friend had given these items to him. I agreed to accept his donation and the next day began my research on Hatch and what we had in the collection, which turned out to be very little.

Most readers know that Lorenzo Hatch was a prominent turn-of-the century engraver who lived part of his life in Dorset. He was also a painter and a well-known portrait he did of his mother is in the permanent collection of the Southern Vermont Arts Center. His unusual ability as an engraver was recognized when he was quite young, and at eighteen he became an apprentice bank-note engraver in Washington, D.C. He is best known for his image of Abraham Lincoln on the five-dollar bill.

In 1908, he went to live in China with his wife, Grace Harrison, and their son Harrison. There he worked in the new Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Peking (Beijing). He remained in China until his death, evidently from Bright's Disease, in 1914. His body was returned to Dorset accompanied by two Chinese officials, and he is buried in the Maple Hill Cemetery across from his Dorset home.



Train—Lorenzo Hatch Etching

Thanks to John Doody we now have two new signed Lorenzo Hatch engravings and more information about the history of his collection, which will still require research. I will finish this piece by quoting from a letter from John about how he began his relationship to the work of Lorenzo Hatch; gems that by chance ended up in the hands of a friend in California.

“In 1954 Myrtie and a friend were attending a sealed crates and package auction at a storage facility in Santa Monica (CA). Myrtie bid \$5.00 on a sealed trunk and won. When she got the trunk home and opened it, she found high-button shoes, old-fashioned clothing and an oil-skin package in the bottom of the trunk which

The Curator's Notebook (cont'd)

contained the works of Hatch and other engravers." John helped Myrtie sell several of the pieces over the years and what remains now of the Lorenzo Hatch engravings he is donating, as he finds them, to DHS.

New Exhibit and Upcoming Program

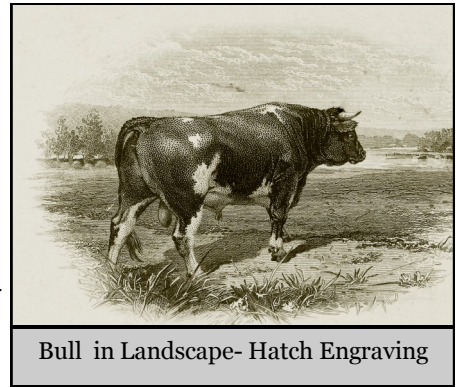
Celebrating One Hundred Years of the Stone Church in Dorset" will be a new exhibition at Bley House in the Venetian Red Gallery, opening to the public on Saturday, September 5th. This exhibit is being planned in conjunction with all the wonderful upcoming events celebrating the anniversary. The exhibit will focus on the transition from the second wooden church (1833-1907) to the stone church built on the same site after a fire that destroyed the wooden structure. It will include paintings, photographs, artifacts and documents that tell the story of the church and this transition.



Church Street Dorset (circa 1925), oil on canvas, Edwin B. Child

The centerpiece of the exhibit will be the recently cleaned painting of the stone church (circa 1925) by Edwin B. Child. On loan for the exhibition from the family of Anne Gilbert is a writing chair that belonged to Reverend Parsons S. Pratt, pastor from 1856-1896, and from the church a pewter communion set. The exhibit will be in the gallery through October.

And please join us on **Tuesday evening, September 22nd, at 7:30 p.m., at the Long Trail School** for a lecture that will be given by Arthur F. Goldberg, a retired physician who has had a long-standing interest in American ceramics. He is presently doing new research on the Fentons of Dorset but will speak about the vessels made by a slave named Dave, a potter and poet working in Edgefield, South Carolina from around 1829 to 1864. Dave's wood-fired glazes are considered equivalent in beauty to vessels made in China and Japan in Medieval times.



Bull in Landscape- Hatch Engraving

Thank you to Kaye Manly for the donation of the oak museum case re-built by Rick Wilkins. It is not only a beautiful large display case much needed at the museum, but the bottom section also serves as an excellent storage space. (see photo)

Susanne Rappaport, Curator

Halloween at Maple Hill Cemetery

Once again, on three dates around the Eve of All Hallowes, Linda McGinnis, Innkeeper of the Barrows House, is offering her Graveyard Walk/History Talk tour of Dorset's Maple Hill Cemetery. Right in the middle of town, next door to the Barrows House, you'll find the graves of Dorset's first settlers. There are distinctive period gravestone designs to be seen, given names worth discovering, and both happy and sad stories to be heard. The tour focuses on the town's earliest history.

Linda has always made this event a fundraiser for the Dorset Historical Society. Tour-goers are asked for a \$10 contribution to DHS. Each walk is limited to 12 attendees, who are requested to make reservations in advance (call **867-4455**). Walkers should dress appropriately for the weather (which may be getting nippier), and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Plan for an hour or so outdoors, so you might want to carry a snack and water. The daytime

tour on Sunday is recommended for older people who might have difficulty walking in the dark—best to avoid tree roots, tipped gravestones, irregular ground surfaces, etc. For the nighttime walks, be sure to bring a powerful flashlight, and, if you'd like, a camera. (Some people have gotten photos with remarkable red lights—not seen by the human eye.) *You* might be able to document a goblin.

These tours were originally inspired by the Tyler Resch book, *Dorset: The History of the Marble Mountain*. Linda's added incentive: keeping Mischief Night pranks away from the cemetery around Halloween, by introducing an adult presence.

Three Graveyard Walk/History Talk tours are scheduled this year: **at 9 p.m. on both Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31; and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 1.**



New Museum case donated by Kaye Manly as seen in the Jessica H. Bond Exhibit

J.K. ADAMS -- SIXTY-FOUR YEARS OF WOODWORKING

Most of us know J. K. Adams as an extraordinary store and the host of tantalizing foods from promotional cooking demonstrations. In truth, its roots lie with fish floats, lures and wooden toys. The Dorset Historical Society owns one of their "Speedy Racers."

In 1944, Josiah K. Adams opened a woodworking business in Dorset in the Jones Garage opposite Maple Hill Cemetery (formerly Dr Michl's office). The business moved to its present location, the South Dorset Ice House, on Route 30, south of Dorset Village, in 1945. After Malcolm E. Cooper, Sr. became a partner in 1951, the firm added production of its signature wooden platters, cutting boards, chopping blocks, drafting tables, surveyor tools, and Kiwi shoe groomer boxes. Fire destroyed the J.K. Adams store on Friday, April 13, 1962, but a year later the plant was back in operation.

On October 28, 2009, company president, Malcolm E. Cooper, Jr., will share his memories of growing up in Dorset and in the production rooms of the J.K. Adams business. We will learn about its history, its product line, its uniqueness and its place in the woodworking industry today. Cooper's free lecture will take place at 7:30 PM in the kiva at the Long Trail School, and will be followed by a brief business meeting of Dorset Historical Society members. One need not be a member to attend the lecture. All are welcome.

FAMILY QUARRY WALKS SUCCESSFUL

The four Family Quarry Walks, led by Art Gilbert and curator Susanne Rappaport, explored the Gettysburg, Folsom and Freedley quarries. DHS hopes to repeat these next summer.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Free Events...now through 2009

"Celebrating 100 Years of the Stone Church in Dorset" Sept. 5 to Oct. 31 (2nd floor exhibit at DHS)

"The Pottery of the Enslaved African-American Potter-Poet, Dave" Dr. Arthur Goldberg, spkr.
Tues. Sept. 22 7:30 p.m. Long Trail School

DHS Annual Meeting

"J.K. Adams Company" Malcolm Cooper, spkr.
Wed. Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Long Trail School

"Holiday Open House at Bley House Museum"
Sunday, Dec. 13, 1-4 p.m.

BARN CENSUS —Twenty-eight Dorset residents have signed up for the Vermont Barn Census and ten surveys have been conducted, continuing through October. Unusual findings have been a well and pump still in place in one barn, wooden cow stanchions, and an overall willingness to retain and preserve original floor boards, hardware, and architectural elements.



Art Gilbert with the Gettysburg quarry group

LECTURE ON FAMOUS SLAVE-POTTER DAVE

The Dorset Historical Society welcomes Dr. Arthur F. Goldberg on September 22, for his lecture on Dave, the heralded African-American potter of the 19th century. Dave worked in Edgefield, South Carolina for some 35 years beginning around 1829. His oversized vessels, some nearly 30 inches tall, were designed to hold 30 gallons. His wood-fired glazes are compared to medieval Asian work. Dave, most unusually -- in fact, illegally -- learned to read and write despite being a slave. His pottery carries his signature as well as poetic verses he composed and incised on his pots.

Dr. Goldberg, a retired physician, has been a collector of historic pottery for decades; a portion of his collection was shown in 1985 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He has lectured and published in the field and curated museum shows. His talk for DHS on Dave will cover the potter's biography, illustrations of his jugs with their distinctive shapes, marks, glazes, and inscriptions, and discussion of the social history of Dave's period and the development of the Southern alkaline-glaze stoneware tradition.

The DHS program is on **Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Kiva at Long Trail School. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

EXHIBIT OF PREHISTORIC TOOLS

At the August Ice Cream Social, Alan Watts of Arlington displayed more than 100 prehistoric tools and projectile points he has found in the Battenkill River Valley over a 40-year period. The exhibit included fluted Clovis and non-fluted Clovis spear and arrow points, adzes, pestles, stone drills, fish net weights and scrapers from the Paleolithic Era 10 to 12,000 years ago, the Archaic Era 4 to 9,000 years ago and the Woodland Era 3,000 years ago.



Alan Watts (l.) shows prehistoric tools at DHS Social event

MANCHESTER VT

PAID

US POSTAGE

PRSRRT STD

DORSET, VERMONT 05251

PO BOX 52

ROUTE 30 AT KENT HILL ROAD

DORSET HISTORICAL SOCIETY