

Bley House News

Dorset Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2016

A Seasonal Newsletter

OFFICERS

John Cave, President
Steven Davenport, Vice
President
Albert Eckhardt, Treasurer
Carol Cone, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Chip Ams
William Childs
Peter Davis
Art Gilbert
Judy Harwood
Alec Marshall
Barbara Melhado
Herman Raspé
Terry Tyler

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jon Mathewson

OFFICE MANAGER

Betsy Olson

MUSEUM HOURS

W-F 10 to 4, Sat .10 to 2

Or by appointment

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www.dorsetvthistory.org

Visit us on Facebook!

Message from the President

Every year we find more reasons to say “thank you” to our members for all they have done to support and expand the activities of their historical society. Jon Mathewson’s Curator’s Corner on the next page summarizes much of what happened in 2016, and forthcoming events are outlined on page 3.

Of particular note is the DHS’s expanded participation with local schools and other organizations in our community. We sincerely believe that bringing historical content in our many activities adds to participants’ enjoyment, and to its relevance in everyday community and family interactions.

Our membership has continued at record levels. The Dorset Historical Society now has 248 members, of which 19 are new in 2016. In addition, there were 880 new entries in our PastPerfect catalogue this year, bringing the total number of artifacts in the DHS collection to 7,703. To our delight, new items come to us every week, some from as far away as California. New members are always welcome, and we encourage your friends and neighbors to visit Bley House with you when you come.

New officers elected at the Annual Meeting on November 17 are Steven Davenport, vice president, and Carol Cone, secretary. Newly-appointed directors are William Childs and Alec Marshall. We welcome their enthusiasm for the Society and in Dorset history, and look forward to their guidance throughout the year.

Lastly, we acknowledge with gratitude the many contributions of retiring director Heidi Stokes and volunteers George and Linda Long. Their expertise, insight and energies over many years of association with DHS will be sorely missed.

John Cave



Newly elected Dorset Historical Society officers and directors (left to right): Al Eckhardt, Steve Davenport, Carol Cone, William Childs, John Cave, Jon Mathewson (curator), and Alec Marshall.

Dorset History GO! Is now available on the dorsetvthistory.org web site

Explore Dorset’s cemeteries, historic school sites, the Kent neighborhood historic district and the Dorset Trail with a hand-held device navigated by Google maps. Related images and historical text bring history to life. Easy and fun for the entire family.

Curator's Corner

This fall, the Dorset Historical Society has seen increased involvement with area schools. This follows several years of minimal involvement helping students on individualized research projects but little else.

We have led four hikes to the Gettysburg Quarry in the past six weeks. One hike included 40 students and ten teachers from the Long Trail School. One had about 20 teachers and students from the Stratton Mountain School. Two counted 90 students and teachers from the Dorset School. The students from all three schools were attentive and asked intelligent and pertinent questions along the way. For this curator, these, and really all our hikes, are great ways to get out of the archives into fresh air, and to see the landscape as the living museum it is.

Last spring, a group of seven Long Trail School students spent a day at Bley House Museum assisting with preparation of several exhibits. This fall, I represented the museum at an all-school assembly featuring several area non-profits that were letting themselves be known as places where students could fulfill their community service commitments. At an earlier assembly, I introduced the students to the mountains surrounding their school and the mountains' histories.

In addition, 80 middle school students in four groups of 20 from the Dorset School will do research resulting in eight finished projects, which will make a pop-up exhibit at Bley House. This is tentatively scheduled for early December, but the exact date has not yet been determined.

Educating the public about local history is the basic mission of the Dorset Historical Society. Many adults are interested because they know that lifelong learning is essential to a well-rounded existence. With school-age children, the purpose is to help young people catch up with what adults know and to keep on exploring.

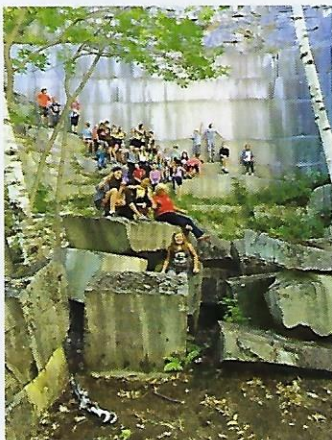
Jon Mathewson



Left: Dorset middle school students study Dorset's marble industry in the museum's marble gallery.



Right and below right: Dorset School students hike to the Gettysburg Quarry.



Left: Long Trail School students hike to the Gettysburg Quarry.



Mark Your Calendar for Forthcoming DHS Lectures and Special Events



Third Thursday Luncheon Lectures: Held at Bley House at 12 noon. Please bring a sandwich. Refreshments and dessert will be served. All lectures are free and open to the public.

Thursday, November 17: Dorset resident Sydney “Chip” Stokes on “The History of the Ekwonok Country Club in Manchester”

Thursday, December 15: Jon Mathewson, DHS curator, on the history of holiday traditions throughout the centuries, covering food, music, decorations, and toys.

Thursday, January 19: Michelle Pagan of East Dorset on “Textile Conservation”

Thursday, February 16: Steve Butz on “Shay’s Settlement (1787) Project in Sandgate”

Thursday, March 16: Randy Schmidt will present “Preparing Bird Feeders for Spring Migrating Birds”

Special Events:

Thursday, November 17: The Dorset Historical Society Annual Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Bley House Museum.

Saturday, December 3: Holiday Open House, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year’s exhibits in four galleries will include music, recipes, toys, and Christmas trees with ornaments. These from the museum’s collections and on loan to the DHS. The exhibit will span the centuries from the 1700s through the 1960s. Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Special exhibits planned for 2017 include: “The Art of Beatrice Jackson and David Humphreys” ; “The Dorset Village Historic District Part I” ; “Paintings and Images of the Dorset Village Historic District Part I” ; “Hunt Gilbert Photographs” and “Dorset Agriculture 1850-1900: Beyond Wheat, Sheep, and Dairy.”

Gettysburg Quarry Dedication



The newly repaired trail to the Gettysburg Quarry was dedicated with a hike open to the public in October. More than 100 people witnessed the dedication of the site by Rob Gaiotti, Dorset Town Manager. It was followed by a speech outlining the history of the quarry by Jon Mathewson, DHS Curator. Dorset Conservation Commission members received marble blocks at the dedication for their work on the restoration. They are (left to right): Art Gilbert, Chip Ams, Malcolm Cooper, Alan Calfee, and Kevin O’Toole.

Lacunae

Claude Dern wrote and published a mystery short story for every town in Rutland and Bennington counties in the 1990s. The DHS has only six of these booklets: Danby, Wallingford, Mount Tabor, Mount Holly, Tinmouth, and Middletown Springs, and one of his larger publications, "Flatlander's Guide," but no others published by Dern's imprint, Aurora Press. If you have any copies you can part with, DHS would love to preserve the writings of this Dorset author.

Farewell Gathering for George and Linda Long

George and Linda Long were honored for their myriad contributions to the Dorset Historical Society over many years at a reception at Bley House on September 15. They are moving to Pennsylvania and they will be sorely missed by their colleagues and friends. Linda worked tirelessly on cataloguing the larger collections in the DHS archives. George directed the implementation of a long-range plan for the Society and instigated and helped perpetuate the Curator Fund to sustain the curator's position for the Society. They were presented with a plate picturing the Bley House designed by Jano of Flower Brook Pottery in Dorset.



Welcome New Members

Brian Campion and Eric Hatch
James and Elizabeth Goodfellow
Emilie Hauser
Sewell and Kathryn Hodges
Gavin and Elizabeth Leckie
Christopher and Gretchen Lima

Thank You, Libby Sturges!

Longtime friend and benefactor of DHS, Libby Sturges, has donated a podium with microphone to the museum in memory of former DHS president, Patricia Rose Carmichael. This gift will enhance our programs and monthly lecture series. A picture of the podium is on page 1 with our new officers.

Ghosts and Goblins Come to Bley House in October



For the first time Bley House welcomed more than 200 trick-or-treaters Halloween night. They were hosted to treats and a tour of the Bley House Museum by president John Cave and director Heidi Stokes. A good time was had by all! DHS looks forward to Halloween next October and more children's visits in 2016 and 2017.