



Bley House News

Dorset Historical Society

Spring/Summer 2016

A Seasonal Newsletter

OFFICERS

John Cave, President
Heidi Stokes, Vice President
Albert Eckhardt, Treasurer
Barbara Melhado, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chip Ams
Steven Davenport
Kathie Wall Evans
Peter Davis
Art Gilbert
Judy Harwood
Herman Raspé
Terry Tyler

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Carol Cone
Bob Davidson
Rob Gaiotti
Suzanne Hittle
Andy Longacre
Alec Marshall
Sydney N. Stokes, Jr.
Susanne Washburn

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jon Mathewson

OFFICE MANAGER

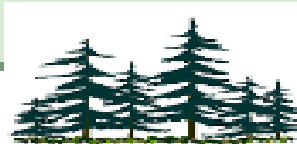
Betsy Olson

MUSEUM HOURS

W-F 10 to 4, Sat .10 to 2
Or by appointment
Corner of Kent Hill Rd. &
Rte. 30 in Dorset
(802) 867-0331
info@dorsetvthistory.org
www.dorsetvthistory.org



Quarry Hikes



As seen from the Curator's Corner

Curators spend most of their working lives in climate controlled environments, in archives, libraries and collection management areas, sometimes venturing forth to homes collecting donations. More often, though, curators are finding that history can be interpreted outside of museum walls. Dorset offers many outdoor research excursions.

This year, Art Gilbert and I are leading hikes to three of the more interesting quarries in Dorset. The most popular quarry is Norcross-West, which, right next to Route 30, is the most visible, and is great for swimming. In fact, some people express surprise when they first learn that there are other old quarries nearby. We do not lead hikes there because, well, there really is no need to. The Gettysburg Quarry, the destination of the first hike this year, rests several hundred feet above the swimming hole quarry on the Owls Head property which was recently purchased by the Town of Dorset. There is now, once again, right-of-way access to the quarry and renewed interest in that quarry and the four quarries in the immediate vicinity.



Gettysburg Quarry Hike, June 11

The second hike brings us to the Freedley Quarry, high on the mountain just south of Emerald Lake. This is the least strenuous of the three hikes and it is the most popular. The quarrymen dug a tunnel into the hillside, creating a cave with three entrances and a pool of water which often stays frozen well into June. The view from atop the marble dump is incred-

Curator's Corner, continued...

There are 30 old quarry sites in Dorset and each is unique. One favorite is the Lower Prince Quarry on the Owl's Head property. We will not be leading hikes there any time soon as there are no paths. Art Gilbert led me down the dump of another quarry and then along a narrow precipice to get there and the effort was certainly worth it. The sides have assumed multiple colors and the water is the aqua of a tropical bay.



Lower Prince Quarry

And then there is the Dorset Trail created in the 1920s by the Dorset Natural Science Club. I needed to hike much of it as field research for the current exhibit on the Trail. As it exists today, the Trails lead to most of the quarries in town, being the string connecting them like a necklace around the south and east side of Dorset peaks.

The landscape around us has been used and has changed in significant ways over the centuries and while excursions out of the climate controlled areas of curators can be fun, they are also essential in gathering data about Dorset's past and as reminders of Dorset's ever-changing landscape.

I encourage you to partake in our hikes and to see our newly-installed Dorset Trail exhibit at Bley House. Art Gilbert's book with maps entitled "Some Trails in Dorset" is available for purchase in the Bley House Museum.

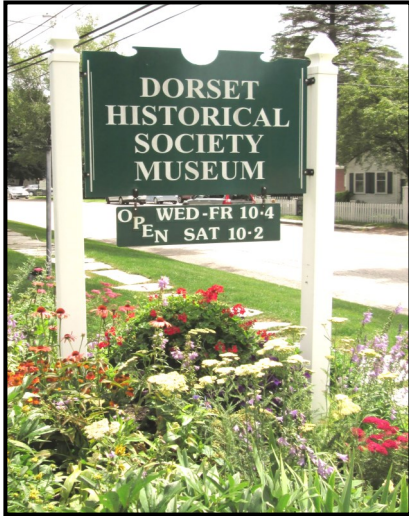
Lacunae

This time around we are searching for some items to help research Warren F. Broderick of Troy, New York. He is researching annual member exhibitions of the South Vermont Artists, Inc., and the Southern Vermont Art Center of Manchester. He needs copies of all their annual member exhibition and annual fall exhibition catalogs between 1922 and 1983. These are NOT the smaller format Festival of the Arts catalogs issued annually, but rather consist of single large sheets of stiff paper folded multiple times which list all items in each exhibition.

Currently he has not been able to locate catalogs for the same years. He needs copies of annual members exhibition catalogs for the years 1925, 1927, 1930, 1977, 1978 and 1980. He also needs copies of annual fall exhibition catalogs for the years 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1977, 1978, 1989, 1980 and 1982.

The goal of his research is to compile a complete listing of all paintings and sculpture exhibited by these artists at Manchester during this time period in the form of a research database available for public use at the Dorset Historical Society, Bennington Museum, Manchester Historical Society and the Internet. These catalogs represent one of the few extensive exhibition records of a major museum of twentieth century American art that have not previously been compiled for easy access in an interactive database.

Mark Your Calendar for Forthcoming DHS Lectures, Hikes, Walking Tours 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, July 21: Tour of Off-Site Storage. Many of the larger artifacts in the DHS collections are stored in a local barn. Join us for our second annual tour of these rarely seen carriages, sleighs and farm equipment.

Thursday, August 18: Art Gilbert presents “Dorset’s Marble Industry.”

Thursday, September 15: Sue Green will direct a walking tour of Dorset Green.

Thursday, October 20: John C. Pitcher will present “Nature Journaling on the Dorset Marsh.”

Quarry Hikes: Conducted by DHS board member and former president, Art Gilbert, and Jon Mathewson, Curator. Meet at Bley House at 9 AM and car pool to trail heads. Free and open to the public. Return to Bley House around noon.

Saturday, June 25: Freedley Quarry

Saturday, July 9: Folsom Quarry

Special Events:

Saturday, July 9: 1 PM to 3 PM. The DHS annual Ice Cream Social will offer free Wilcox ice cream on the Bley House lawn to all visitors in tandem with Dorset Library activities across the street. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, October 26: Dorset Historical Society Annual Meeting.

Sunday, December 4: Holiday Open House

History Expo 2016: H2O - The Power of Water in Vermont History



Heidi Stokes, Gail Rice and Judy Harwood man the Dorset and Manchester combined history booth describing the role of the Battenkill and Mettowee Rivers in Dorset and Manchester history. The exhibit was installed at Tunbridge Fair Grounds for two days, June 18 and 19.



Welcome New Members

Constance P. Beaty

Richard and Patricia Coss

G. Geoffrey and Loredana Cromarty

Scot W. Emerson

Joy and Rudy Favretti

David and Carol Kamenstein

William McDevitt

Alexander Marshall

Thomas and Bene Molloy

Errol and Anita Pomerance

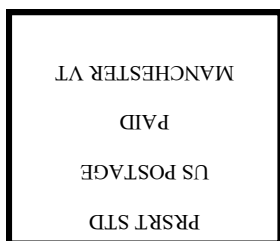
Linda R. Safran

Peter and Robin Seitz

Robert and Joann Somers

Susan and John Weiss

University of Vermont



Dorset Historical Society
P.O. Box 52
Dorset, Vermont 05251