



Bley House News

The Dorset Historical Society

Spring 2020

A Seasonal Newsletter

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MUSEUM HOURS

W-F 10 to 4, Sat. 10 to 2
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Curator's Corner: Seeing VT through "Technology"

Something new in Vermont museums starts this year, as the Vermont Curator's Group coordinates a series of exhibits based on the theme of "Technology." Thirty-six museums and galleries around the state have signed on to "2020 Vision: Seeing the World Through Technology," including, of course, the Dorset Historical Society.

The theme is rather broad, which means that each venue will have a very different take on the subject matter. The exhibit here, opening the first weekend in June, will be called "Powering Dorset," and will highlight the history of the different sources of power used in Dorset over the years. These include the placement of dams for water power, the advent of steam engines, rural electrification, the rise of the internal combustion engine, on through to nuclear and then solar power, with many other stops along the way.

Meanwhile, the Southern Vermont Arts Center will sponsor five 2020 Vision related exhibits, from May through November, beginning with "2020 Degrees: Glass and Technology, the Vermont Glass Guild's 10th Anniversary Exhibit," on display from May 9 to July 5. The Bennington Museum's contribution comes later in the year, with "Vermont Utopias: Imagining the Future," from November 27 to December 31.

The other 2020 Vision exhibits are all over the state, with clusters around Middlebury, Burlington, Montpelier, and the Upper Valley. There is a "Passport" Program to encourage visits to multiple venues, with prizes!

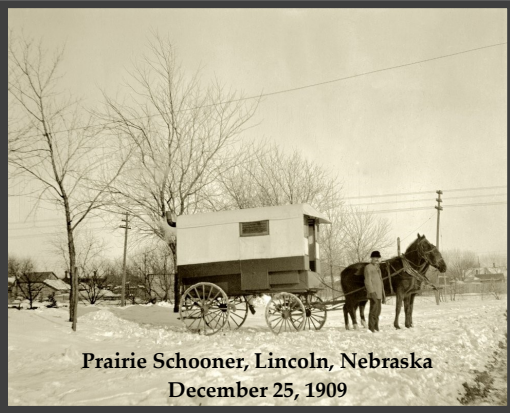
This is an exciting move forward for Vermont museums and galleries. There are cultural institutions in this state that one might never have heard of but for this initiative. For the day traveler, it gives focus to local institutions with interesting new exhibits. Most of all, this highlights how many active cultural institutions there are in Vermont. Check out the website at VermontCuratorsGroup.com.

Jon Mathewson

New Bley House Exhibits for 2020

Main Gallery: Powering Dorset →

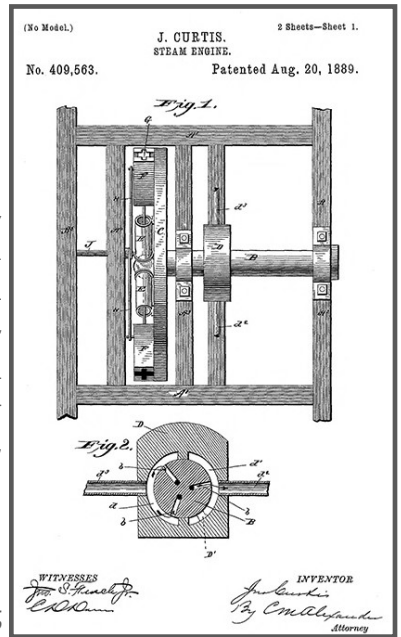
This exhibit explores the sources Dorseters used for power over the years, from mills, to wood, coal, oil, electricity, nuclear and solar. Highlighted will be the technologies needed and used over time, and why some forms of power generation were viewed better than others. Where were the mills? How was electricity made available throughout town? And so forth.



Prairie Schooner, Lincoln, Nebraska
December 25, 1909

← Stairs: Hunt Gilbert Photographs

The 10th installment in our digitizing negatives produced by Hunt Gilbert.



Upstairs Hallway: Woman's Suffrage in Dorset →

Women could vote in Vermont (and the United States) in 1920. Why had Vermont not embraced suffrage earlier? Who were the first women to register to vote in Dorset? This exhibit will give the context for women's right to vote, and will highlight, as much as possible, the women of Dorset who immediately accepted their new civic responsibility.



← Venetian Red Room: Meyer and Marsh

A retrospective of the Meyer and Marsh family of artists: Herbert Meyer & Anne Meyer, and Felicia Meyer Marsh & Reginald Marsh. This is our first retrospective on these Dorset artists since Barbara Melhado's excellent 1999 exhibit.



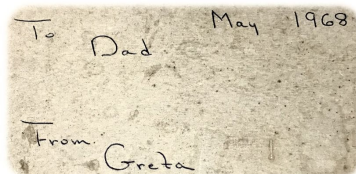
Theresa Sexton Barrows (1849-1924)
... among the 1st women voters!

Conference Room: New Acquisitions →

As usual, we will hang the most recently donated works of art in the library, along with interesting items from our collections.

A framed photo looking SW from upper Kirby Hollow Road

It is labeled on the back:



... So who is Greta? ... & who is "Dad"?



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming DHS Events in 2020

Third Thursday Lunchtime Lectures:

All speaking events are held at Bley House at 12 noon. Please bring a sandwich. Refreshments and dessert will be served.

March 19: Tim Bryant, "Farming and Changes I have seen"

April 16: Terry Tyler, "My Gun Collection."

May 21: Paul Searls, "The Repeopling of Vermont."

June 18: Linda Radkte, "From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists."

July 16: Nicole Valentine. "Everyday Magic Underfoot – A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity." With book signing.

Hikes and Stuff

June 7: New Exhibits Open House (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

June 20: Gettysburg Quarry Hike (Meet at the DHS at 9 a.m.)

June 27: Freedley Quarry Hike (Meet at the DHS at 9 a.m.)

July 11: Folsom Quarry Hike (Meet at the DHS at 9 a.m.)

July 11: Ice Cream Social with A History Expo of Local Historical Societies (1 – 3 p.m.)

~ All Events are free and open to the public. ~



Ted Hopkins describing the history of "Chiselville" VT ... from November 2019 (*see below!)

*** Dorset Historical Society on YouTube**

Last year, we began to live stream some of our Third Thursday Lunchtime Lectures on Facebook, and have made these videos available on our You Tube channel. To find them, simply go to Youtube.com, and then search for Dorset Historical Society. We currently have 8 videos for your viewing pleasure!

Welcome, New Members

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Gordon S. Calder, Jr. | Sue Overstreet |
| Noel Dydo | Andrew Pistor & Benjamin Bonte |
| Glenn & Sheryl Firestone | Sujatha Ramesh & Ramesh Raghavan |
| Neil Herrick | Nancy Rhodes |
| Nora G. Larsen | Mikel & Linda Rollyson |
| Joe & Caren McVicker | Erica Shott |
| Meg Mithoefer | Bill Wight |
| David & Susan Nichols | William Wise |

... & New Board Members



Nancy Ludlam & Erica Shott

Please become a member of the Dorset Historical Society and help support its activities and the preservation of Dorset's history!

We have been developing a database featuring information on all the plays and concerts held at the Dorset Playhouse over the years. As of now, everything up through 1950 can be searched via our website. We have many materials in our collections, but are looking for some more to move the project forward. We are looking for Programs and photographs for the Dorset Players from 1950 to 1980, the Caravan Players from 1970 to 1975, and the Dorset Theatre Festival from 1976 to 1980.

“Landscape” vs. “Genre” Paintings

Landscapes are paintings whose *principal* content is a scenic view; Genre paintings depict situations and scenes from everyday life. This distinction is often blurred, but conveniently illustrated in two similar watercolors by Dorset’s own Elsa Bley!



← In “Hollow Road” on the left, the main subjects are the road, trees and houses, and especially the captivating Vermont hills and fields, a scenic landscape.



In “Overlook Farm” on the right, the main subjects → are three farmers with their horses and equipment loading hay into a silo, the ever-present Vermont hills simply providing a backdrop for their work.

Surely these two different scenes painted by a local artist wonderfully represent our region of Vermont, but clearly as a landscape on the left and a genre painting on the right.

Bequests to the Dorset Historical Society

If you are considering making a bequest to the Dorset Historical Society in your will, here is the sample bequest language to use:

I GIVE, DEVISE AND BEQUEATH TO THE DORSET HISTORICAL SOCIETY (TIN 03-0262977), A SOCIETY EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF VERMONT AND LOCATED IN DORSET, IN SAID STATE, _____ DOLLARS (\$ _____) OR _____ PERCENT (____%) OF MY RESIDUARY ESTATE, WHICHEVER IS LESS, FOR ITS UNRESTRICTED USE.