



DORSET

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2024 | A Seasonal Newsletter



Then Norcross-West Quarry, 1910



Now Swimming Hole Quarry, 2024

PRESERVING & SHARING OUR LOCAL HISTORY

President's Perspective

Happy fall and foliage season in Dorset!

I am pleased to share with our membership and the Dorset community an update on the activities of the Dorset Historical Society (DHS). To begin, you will likely notice that DHS has undergone a rebranding initiative. Thank you to the Board of Directors, and particularly to Sallyan Pelletier, for spearheading this project. We have refreshed our mission statement and added a tagline as shown in this newsletter. Also, please note the new DHS logo of our beloved Bley House.

I would like to personally welcome our new board members – Rocco Maggiotto, Donn Hutchins, Kevin O'Toole, and Katie Wainwright. In addition, we are delighted to announce our new staff members – Cynthia Elliott as Office/Database Manager, plus CJ Sloane as Bookkeeper. Please see their bios and photos in this newsletter. I would like to acknowledge the service of our past board members

and thank them — Mary Stevenson, Nancy Ludlam, and Anne DeSchweinitz.

We have added a new feature to our newsletter — “Then and Now” Dorset photos. I hope you enjoy these interesting glimpses into the history of Dorset. This edition shows the Norcross-West Quarry from 1910 as a bustling marble quarry and a current photo of the popular swimming spot that many of us have enjoyed on a hot summer day.

It has been an active summer with hikes, social events, open houses, and Third Thursday Lectures. You may recognize yourselves or someone you know in the photos of the summer's events in this edition. Please see our upcoming fall and winter events. We look forward to seeing you!

Rache Simmons,
President



Curator's Corner

Historians across the country are gearing up for the 250th anniversaries of events surrounding the founding of the United States of America. While the America250 organization centers their efforts on the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, state and local organizations are commemorating local events. Here in Bennington County, we will organize events around the May, 1775 taking of Fort Ticonderoga and up to the Battle of Bennington in August, 1777 and the Battles of Saratoga a few weeks later.

Several acts of violence broke out in our region in 1775. The year began with the British Parliament declaring Massachusetts to be in a state of rebellion in February. The Westminster Massacre was on March 14, the Battles of Lexington and Concord were on April 18 and 19, and the Green Mountain Boys seized Fort Ticonderoga on May 10. In June, the Continental Army was formed on the 14th, and the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought three days later. The first of the four Dorset Conventions was held on July 27. On September 17, Ethan Allen led an unsuccessful invasion of Montreal, and the year ended with the British Parliament declaring the American colonies to be in rebellion.

All of these events are historically important. One, however, stands out. The massacres and battles and seizures were all violent acts of war, where angry or dutiful men tried to kill each



other. The first Dorset Convention (held barely a year after Dorset's first town meeting), however, did not involve killing people. That was when representatives from the New Hampshire Grant towns on the western side of the Green Mountains gathered at Cephas Kent's tavern (see below) on the Dorset West Road to discuss ways to solve their common problems. Delegates at these meetings debated the legal status of the Green Mountain Boys, as well as the status of their land ownership: were they under the rule of New Hampshire or New York? These deliberations set the stage for the system of self-rule that would keep the peace once the shooting ended. Shooting people was old news; farmers creating their own government to pass their own laws, was new.

Please join us as we are planning the upcoming commemorations.

Jon Mathewson,
Curator



Cephas Kent's Tavern labeled here as "Old House"

Upcoming Events

Third Thursday Lunchtime Lectures

Starting at Noon

Bring a small lunch if you wish

October 17: Wilson House History Program

November 21st: How Old is the Dorset
Field Club Anyway?

Bley House Social Events

October 11, 5:00 pm: Annual Meeting

October 31, 4:30 pm: Halloween Treats

December 7, 11:00 am: Holiday Open House

New Exhibits

The Doctors of Dorset, North Dorset History

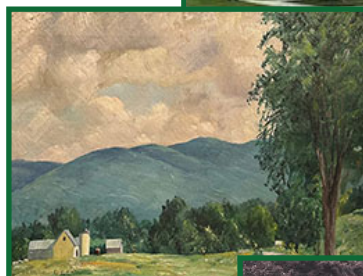
Claude Dern – Local Artist's Paintings

History of Dorset's Library

Walks/Hikes

October 6: East Dorset Historic Walk Meet
at The Wilson House at 2:00 pm

Wilson House



Hillside Farm VI
Claude Dern Exhibit

Octagon House
North Dorset
Exhibit



Past Events

Third Thursday Lunchtime Lectures

June 20: Socioeconomic Clues Found
in samplers

July 18: Fly Fishing With John Rano

August 15: Writing for the Dead, Phil Holland

September 8: East Dorset Now a Historic Village

September 19: East Dorset Historic Village,
who lived here and why?

Bley House Social Events

June 1: Exhibit Open House

June 13: Ice Cream Social

August 17: 250th Founding Anniversary
Gala Dinner

Hikes

June 15: Gettysburg Quarry Hike

June 29: Freedley Quarry Hike

July 13: Folsom Quarry Hike

Folsom Quarry
Hike



Ice Cream Social



250th Founding
Anniversary Gala Dinner

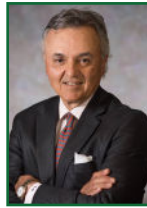


New Board and Staff

New Board Members:

Rocco Maggiotto, Treasurer

Rocco Maggiotto has spent his entire career of over 50 years in Financial Services. His career is divided between delivery and leadership roles with financial service institutions and professional services private and public companies.



Katie Wainwright

Katie spent her life coming to visit her grandparents in East Arlington. A graduate of Middlebury College, she spent 30 years in New York raising her children Jack and Lucy. She is now a full time resident of Dorset, works remotely as a recruiter, and is a docent at Hildene



New Staff Members:

Cynthia Elliott, Office/Database Manager

A Graduate of Boston University College of Fine Arts, Cynthia has a background in Technical Illustration, Graphic Design and Management. She has been the Database Collections Manager at DHS for more than 10 years.



Carol "CJ" Sloane, Bookkeeper

A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, CJ is a Bookkeeper. She has clients in Manchester and Dorset and is an avid gardner, painter, and tennis player.



Lacunae

From 1803 to 2009, various publishers put out an annual directory of Vermont office-holders and businesses. These books are invaluable in tracing local business history. In the 1800s, and through the 1920s, the book was known as "Walton's Vermont Register," and we have many of those in our library. In the 1930s, publication was resumed by the National Survey of Chester, Vermont, and became known as "The Vermont Year Book." From 2000 to 2009, it was published by Universal Map. We need most of the copies from the 1950s to 2009. Please keep an eye out for these.

Board of Directors

Rache Simmons, *President*
Megan Thörn, *Vice President*
Rocco Maggiotto, *Treasurer*
Erica Shott, *Secretary*
Nan Bambara
Katharine Dickenson
Donn Hutchins
Kevin O'Toole
Sallyan Pelletier
Katie Wainwright

Curator

Jon Mathewson
curator@dorsetvthistory.org

Office/Database Manager & Newsletter

Cynthia Elliott
office_manager@dorsetvthistory.org

Bookkeeper

Carol "CJ" Sloane
bookkeeper@dorsetvthistory.org

The Dorset Historical Society preserves and shares local history with residents and visitors through our collections, events, and community education.



Museum Hours

Wednesday – Friday: 10am – 4pm
Please call for Saturday hours or by appointment
Corner of Kent Hill Rd. & Route 30 in Dorset

Contact Information

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