



# Bley House News

## The Dorset Historical Society

### OFFICERS

John Rodenburg, President  
Megan Thörn,  
Vice President  
Bill Childs, Treasurer  
Erica Shott, Secretary

### DIRECTORS

Nan Bambara  
Carol Cone  
Katharine Dickenson  
Marilyn Kinney  
Andy Longacre  
Nancy Ludlam  
Alec Marshall  
Mary Stevenson  
Susanne Washburn

### DIRECTORS EMERITI

Richard Hittle  
Terry Tyler

### MUSEUM CURATOR

Jon Mathewson

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Hughes

### COLLECTIONS

DATABASE MANAGER  
Cynthia Elliot

### MUSEUM HOURS

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

♦ OPEN @last! ♦

or by Appointment

Corner of Kent Hill Rd. &  
Route 30 in Dorset  
(802) 867-0331

E-mail:

info@dorsetvthistory.org

Web site:

www.dorsetvthistory.org

Visit us on Facebook!

### Summer 2021

### A Seasonal Newsletter

### Curator's Corner: An Artist's Legacy

Once upon a time, from 1946 to 1957, West Rutland's downtown place to watch movies was the Joy Theater. In the mid-1990s, Glenn Campbell bought the building, and poured a concrete slab to flatten the angled floor. Where the floor was deepest, he created pits for receiving poured molten metal. It is here that Campbell Plaster and Iron turns small clay sculptures into towering statues for zoos and museums across the country). Right now, Glenn is casting huge whales' tails to be installed in Provincetown, Massachusetts.



Meanwhile, Dorset artist Arthur Jones was losing his eyesight toward the end of his life, and thus stopped painting and made a plasticine sculpture of his cat Toby. This was Arthur's last finished work of art, and it was donated to the Dorset Historical Society. Plasticine is not a very stable compound, so I knew we had to bake or cast it in order to preserve the piece. I soon found out that plasticine and kilns do not get

along, so I called Glenn to see about casting the cat. He made a silicone mold, filled it with bronze, and finally added a chocolate patina, guaranteeing that Arthur's last work can be admired for generations to come.

This brings us to a commercial message. Because the mold has been made, we can, if people are interested, create a limited edition of this sculpture carrying Arthur's distinctive signature. No more than twenty-five will be made, and sold for a yet-to-be-determined price. If you are at all interested, please let us know.

*Jon Mathewson*



## DHS Activities -IN- the Museum...

The Bley House summer exhibits are OPEN to the public!



The Main Gallery displays short biographies of the two hundred Dorset women who voted as soon as the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was passed in 1920;

The staircase to the second floor has the latest batch of prints from the Hunt Gilbert negatives in our collection;



The second floor hallway displays images of Cecilia deNottbeck and her Dorset estate;

& the Venetian Red Room features a retrospective of the life and works of artist Arthur Jones.



## ... and BEYOND!

- The Dorset Historical Society and Town of Dorset have collaborated on a series of interpretive signs placed along the paths on Cecilia deNottbeck's former estate leading to the Pinnacle Tower.
- On June 23, Curator Jon Mathewson led Dorset Outdoor Recreation Director Rachel Batz (in the turquoise jersey) and her crew of summer trail builders on a tour of the Owl's Head quarries to orient them to the area and let them know what to be on the lookout for.
- We have also worked with the Vermont Historical Society to include a small Dorset history section in the Local & Lively exhibit at their Montpelier museum.





## Upcoming Historical Society Events

Saturday, July 10: 9 am—Folsom Quarry Hike. Meet at the Dorset Historical Society

Saturday, July 10: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Ice Cream Social

Thursday, July 15: Noon—Third Thursday Lunchtime Lecture:

Don Trachte, A Tale of Two Paintings (by Norman Rockwell?)

Saturday, July 24: 9:00 am—Mad Tom Notch Hike: meeting spot TBD

Thursday, August 19: Noon—Third Thursday Lunchtime Lecture:

Billy Brownlee, Changes to H.N. Williams

Thursday, September 16: Noon—Third Thursday Lunchtime Lecture:

Nicole Valentine, All About "A Time Traveler's Theory of Relativity"

Thursday, October 21: Noon—Third Thursday Lunchtime Lecture:

Judy Harwood and Michele Pagan: Then and Now: Additions and Alterations to Dorset's Architecture Over Time

## Who ARE these Folks? ... (revisited)



ca. 1915

In our prior issue, we challenged readers to identify members of Dorset's Shakespeare Reading Club from this early photo. Hooray to Peter Salmon who identified (L-R) Laura Wade, Ruth Andrews, Ruth's mother?, Grace Dunbar Harwood, Josephine "Gogi" Atkinson, Clifford Atkinson, ??, Charles Harwood, John Lockwood & ??, and he gets extra credit for recognizing the location, looking North from the (now) 9th green of the Dorset Field Club, with the Atkinson house across Route 30 on the far right.

Those maple trees along the highway have surely grown a lot in the last century!



2021

## Welcome, New DHS Members!

Lynne Worth

Jaana Pirinen

David & Susan Nichols

Scott & Eliz Wilson

Stephanie Breed

Amy MacDonald

Lee & Susan Romano

Molly Gates

Bill Wright

Joe & Caren McVicker

Steven & Robin Tuch

Jeff & Dana Holding

Mikel & Linda Rollyson

Many years from now, people will have forgotten the Covid-19 epidemic, unless we save artifacts and memories while they are still fresh. So, to that end, we are collecting artifacts (masks, signs) and written memories of the past 15 months. These will be kept in our permanent collection, but may also become part of an exhibit we hope to open on Labor Day weekend. Thanks!

*Jon Mathewson*

### A Look Back at Marble Quarrying in Vermont



DHS recently received a series of photos from the 1930's showing marble being removed from Danby's underground Imperial Quarry and shipped off to processing mills.



Marble blocks are drawn from deep inside Dorset mountain on a railcar, then hoisted up to ground level by a derrick.



The blocks get transferred onto counter-balanced cars of an "inclined railway" that descend 1100+ vertical feet to a waiting train depot.

*Editor's note: within this newsletter, there are images of a dog, 2 cats, 3 horses & a cow — Can you find them all?*