



DORSET

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2025 | A Seasonal Newsletter



Then

Wilson House c. 1900



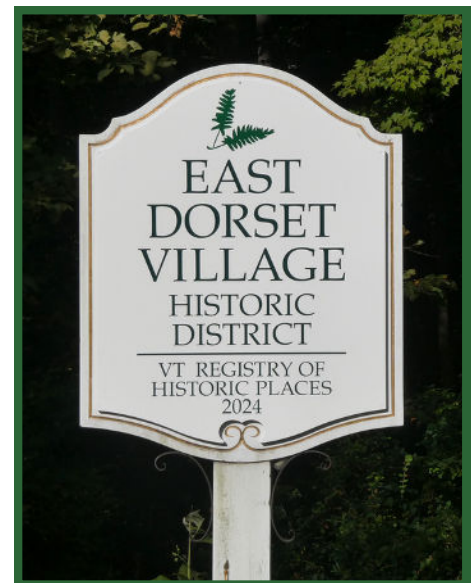
Now

Wilson House c. 2000s

Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Our Local History

East Dorset Village Historic District

The project to discover, collect and collate a written record of the historical significance of East Dorset Village began in 2017, by Michele Pagan and Ruth Stewart. The Village's importance and history were acknowledged on July 18, 2024, when the East Dorset Village Historic District (EDVHD) was listed in the Vermont State Register of Historic Places. A copy of the 194 page document which includes profiles of 40 properties in the Village is housed at DHS and is also available online at the Vermont State Register of Historic Places.



Contributed by Ruth Stewart

Curator's Corner

Dorset Historical Society Appoints New Director and Museum Curator

The Dorset Historical Society is pleased to welcome Jess Hunsicker as its new Director and Museum Curator. With a distinguished academic background and a passion for historical preservation, Hunsicker is set to lead the society into an exciting new chapter.



As Director and Curator, Hunsicker manages DHS's day-to-day operations and further the development of historical research and artifact preservation for the town of Dorset. She also creates new exhibits, education, and community engagement for all ages.

Hunsicker holds a Master of Library and Information Science from Syracuse University and received Cum laude with Highest Distinction and Honors in research in History from the University of Rochester. Along with pursuing a Master of Business Administration, her deep passion for historical knowledge and unique blend of expertise in archival information systems will help further advance the organization's mission.

"We are thrilled to welcome Jess to this pivotal role," said Rache Simmons, Board President. "Her enthusiasm, strong communication skills, and wealth of knowledge will be invaluable in advancing our mission. We feel incredibly fortunate to have her on board and look forward to a dynamic year ahead."

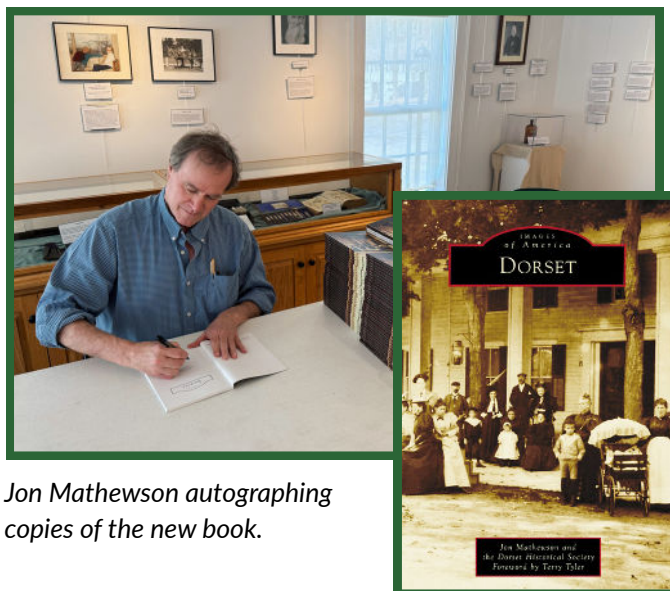
Hunsicker officially assumed the role in March. Jess is excited to embrace and engage the Dorset community and looks forward to meeting everyone this spring. "Dorset is host to an incredibly rich and varied history," said Jess, "it's an honor to be entrusted with stewarding and interpreting that history for the community of Dorset and beyond."

Images of America: Dorset New History Book Available Now

Dorset, an Arcadia Publishing Images of America book, is available starting on April 22nd!

From 1768 on, people settled in several parts of Dorset, creating 14 school districts and six distinct villages. Join us in Dorset as we examine the histories of these villages through photographs from the 1850s to 1960. Discover the industry and recreation of North Dorset, the marble mills of East Dorset, the quarries of South Dorset, and the businesses of Dorset Village, as well as the people who have called Dorset home: Alcoholics Anonymous cofounder Bill Wilson, authors Elizabeth Prentiss and Zephine Humphrey, quarry and orchard entrepreneur Ernest West, and many others.

This book is available for purchase from Dorset Historical Society. The Dorset Historical Society has been actively preserving and presenting local history since 1963.



Jon Mathewson autographing copies of the new book.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To Our Past Board Members, Curator Emeritus, and Treasured Volunteers

I want to take a moment to extend our deepest gratitude to those who have played an essential role in the success of the Dorset Historical Society.

To our past board member Erica Shott, your support has played a critical role in shaping the direction of DHS. Your dedication to preserving and sharing our history has left a lasting legacy.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Jon Mathewson, Curator Emeritus, for his exceptional work in curating and managing our collections. Your expertise and passion have greatly enriched our exhibitions and educational programs.

Finally, to all of our volunteers (Linda French, Art and Pam Gilbert, Andy Longacre, Nancy Ludlam, Ruth Stewart, Sue Washburn, and others), thank you for generously giving your time, skills, and energy. Your contributions have been invaluable in ensuring the continued growth and vibrancy of our organization.

All of us at DHS are profoundly grateful for the support and dedication of each of you, and we look forward to building upon the foundation you have helped establish. Thank you for your continued commitment to preserving our shared history!

Sincerely,
Jess Hunsicker
Director/Curator

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Upcoming Events

May - September at Various Venues - East Dorset Schoolgirl Textile Sampler Driving Tour

May 4th at 3pm at the Dorset Historical Society - 250th Anniversary Expedition to Ticonderoga

May 8th at 6pm at the Dorset Village Library - Author Talk: Jon Mathewson on "Dorset" History Book

May 24th from 10am-2pm at the Dorset Historical Society - Open House: Welcoming our New Director

May 30th at 1pm at the Smokey House Center - Reading the Forested Landscape: An Interpretive Walk with Tom Wessels

June 21st at 9am at JK Adams - Hike Dorset's Longest Day 5K walk or run

July 12th from 1-3pm at the Dorset Historical Society - Ice Cream Social

July 22nd from 5:30-7pm at the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert - Architectural Gems: Historic Buildings of Dorset and East Rupert

August 2nd from 10am-2pm at the Dorset Historical Society - Architectural Gems: Historic House Tour in Dorset and East Rupert

We will be adding more events to our calendar this season! Check our website for the most up-to-date, full calendar.

Event Recap

A group of students from the Long Trail School visited the Dorset Historical Society Bley House Museum in April! They toured the museum, the archive, and learned how to handle some of the rare cookbooks we have in our collection.



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



Museum Hours

Wednesday - Friday: 10am-4pm
Please visit our website for Saturday hours,
or call for an appointment
34 Kent Hill Road, Dorset, VT

Contact Information

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