



# DORSET

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Fall 2025 | A Seasonal Newsletter*



**Then**      *Workers at West Orchard, c. 1910*



**Now**      *Apple Trees near West Orchard, 2025*

## President's Invitation

### Join us as we Grow Together, Rooted in Dorset's History

Like the apple trees that have filled Dorset's orchards for generations, the Dorset Historical Society grows stronger each year through the care and support of our community. With your help, our branches can reach even further. Every gift we receive helps us expand our programs, preserve our collections, and share with more people the story of Dorset.

Please consider making a gift this season. Donations of \$100-\$249 will be recognized with a personalized apple decal on the new Orchard Donor Wall at the Bley House. Contributions of \$250-\$499 will be honored with a bushel of apples, and gifts of \$500 or more with a full barrel. Together, we can keep our roots strong, our branches reaching higher, and our history flourishing for generations to come. Visit our website today to learn more about how you can give.



With gratitude,  
Rache Simmons, *President*

# Curator's Corner

---

## New Acquisitions to the Collection

This year, the Dorset Historical Society has welcomed several remarkable additions to our collection, each one a unique thread in the fabric of our town's history.

Most recently we've added a delightful piece from the 1930s: a hooked rug crafted by an unnamed artist in Dorset<sup>1</sup>. Full of character, it reflects the creativity and skill that have always flourished in our community.

Two more artworks by local artists have also joined the collection: Dorset Painter Anne Meyer's vibrant painting "The Mettowee"<sup>2</sup>, circa 1910s, and a theorem done by Abigail Simonds Barrows in 1840<sup>3</sup>. The theorem may be the earliest known created in Dorset. Fittingly, it depicts flowers arranged in a marble vase.

Another charming addition is a painted birdhouse<sup>4</sup> by Suzanne Hittle, depicting The Dorset Playhouse. One side shows the entrance with a placard announcing the Dorset Players' 2013-2014 season. This piece joins her series of birdhouses portraying beloved Dorset architectural landmarks, each one a whimsical celebration of our town's built heritage.

From JK Adams we've acquired a vintage lumber moisture meter, a reminder of Dorset's long connection to woodworking.

Also now in our collection is a print of a William Dean Fausett painting "Derby View", painted in 1939 depicting the Mettawee Valley. This painting was so beloved by President Dwight Eisenhower that it hung in the White House study for his entire eight-year term.

We're excited that these remarkable new items have been added to our collection, each offering a fresh glimpse into Dorset's history. To learn more about each new piece in our collection, visit us in-person at the Bley House in Dorset Village or our Online Collections Database at [dorsetvthistory.org](http://dorsetvthistory.org).



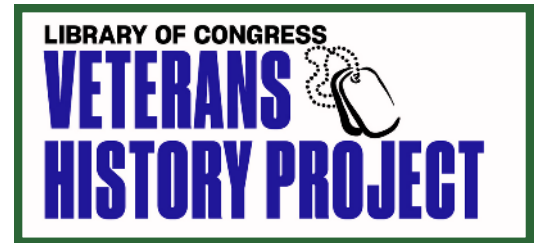


# Curator's Corner

---

## Preserving Vermont's Veterans' Voices

The Dorset Historical Society is proud to support a new oral history initiative led by local historian Charles Maxwell Fish, a Dorset native and Tulane graduate. Partnering with the Veterans History Project, a national program run by the Library of Congress, Charles is recording and preserving the voices of Vermont's veterans to ensure their stories are accessible to future generations.



Drawing on the Veterans History Project framework, Charles aims to capture a wide range of experiences and perspectives. Beyond individual accounts, he hopes to uncover the larger themes that define service, community, and identity, illuminating not only what it means to be an American but also what it means to be a Vermonter.

Charles, the eighth generation of the Fish family in Vermont, recently returned home to Dorset. A historian with a deep interest in military history, he is also an avid outdoorsman, Eagle Scout, and naturalist. **If you or someone you know has a veteran's story to share, or would like to contribute a general oral history about life in Dorset, please contact us at [info@dorsetvthistory.org](mailto:info@dorsetvthistory.org).** As Charles notes, "hearing veterans in their own words makes their service and sacrifice more real and tangible. With the 250th anniversary of the United States approaching, I hope their voices inspire reflection on our country and our democracy."

## Board of Directors

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

## We Need Your Helping Hands, Volunteer Today!

Looking to get involved? Have a few extra hours per week or month to help on a project or with an event? We'd love to talk with you! If you'd like to volunteer, email us at [info@dorsetvthistory.org](mailto:info@dorsetvthistory.org) to get connected.

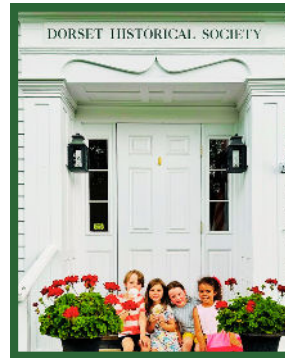
— Jess Hunsicker, Director/Curator

# A Busy and Joyful Summer! Event Recap

It's been a season full of energy, connection, and community spirit. We began with the 250th Expedition to Ticonderoga, welcoming Green Mountain Boy reenactors including Ethan Allen himself, followed by an open house introducing our new Director/Curator, Jess Hunsicker.

Our book talks for *Images of America: Dorset* at the Dorset Village Library and Northshire Bookstore drew eager audiences, and we served free Wilcox ice cream at our annual Ice Cream Social. We added fresh air to the mix with History Hikes to the Pinnacle Tower and Gettysburg Quarry. We partnered with Green Mountain Academy of Lifelong Learning on the Architectural Gems talk and the Historic Homes of Dorset & Rupert Tour.

Hundreds of visitors walked through our doors this summer, and we are deeply grateful for the support! Please join us for the fall season and an exciting year of events planned in 2026. Visit [dorsetvthistory.org/support-us](https://dorsetvthistory.org/support-us). We can't wait to welcome you to the DHS!



*Ice Cream Social image courtesy of Discover Dorset VT.*

## Upcoming Events

October 3rd at 5:30pm at the Dorset Historical Society - Annual Meeting

October 31st from 4:30-6pm at the Dorset Historical Society - Halloween Trick-Or-Treating!

*We're planning exciting events for Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend and the Tractor Parade, visit our website for the most up-to-date calendar!*

*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  
Saturdays by appointment  
34 Kent Hill Road, Dorset, VT

### Contact Information

(802) 867-0331  
[info@dorsetvthistory.org](mailto:info@dorsetvthistory.org)  
[dorsetvthistory.org](https://dorsetvthistory.org)