



Bley House News

2026 Annual Newsletter

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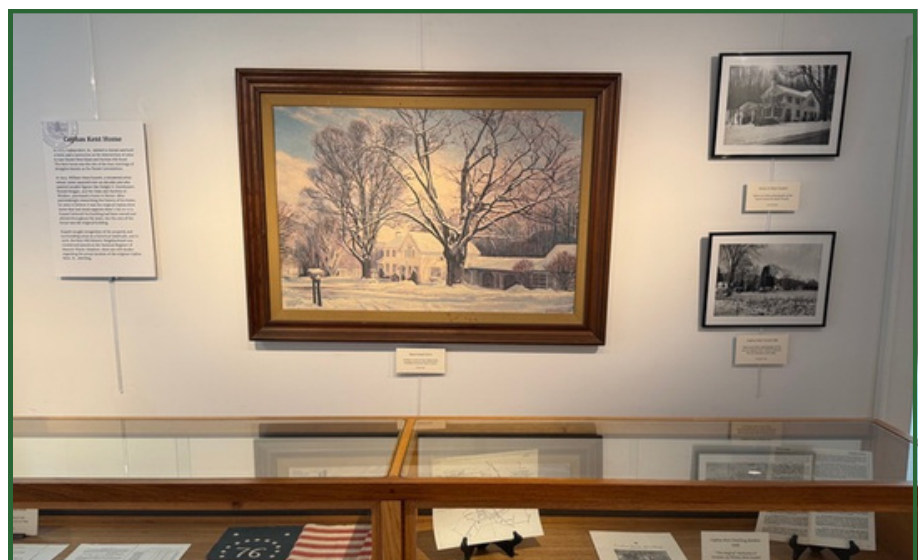
President's Message

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary and look ahead to Vermont's, it is the perfect time to reflect not only on Dorset's role in these historic events, but also the importance of preserving our own history. Our current exhibit highlights the 1775 and 1776 Dorset Conventions held at the Cephas Kent Tavern and their significance in the founding of Vermont. A big achievement for a small town. We hope you will come by and see the exhibit and many other interesting artifacts.

Your generous support enables the Historical Society to continue to preserve and share these stories, artifacts, and photographs that connect us to our past. Together, we can ensure Dorset's history continues to inspire future generations. Please consider making a donation.

With gratitude,

Megan Thörn



Current Exhibit

The Ice Cream Social

26 Years and Still Going Strong

Each July, the Historical Society stocks up on gallons of ice cream, borrows an extra freezer, and recruits an enthusiastic team of board members to scoop hundreds of free cones and bowls for Dorset residents, and even a few four-legged visitors. While perfecting our scooping technique on the Society's lawn this past July, several guests asked how long this beloved tradition had been around, so we did what any historical society would do: we started digging. The answer? The very first Ice Cream Social was held in 2000, making this the 26th year of one of Dorset's sweetest summer traditions!



Bley House Updates

We're continuing to invest in the care of our historic building. This year, we upgraded our 20-year-old security system, made improvements to the fire alarm system, and added ductwork in the basement to help address moisture issues. Exterior carpentry repairs are also planned for later this year as part of our ongoing efforts to preserve the Society's home.



DHS In The Community



Trick or Treating



Holiday Open House



Ice Cream Social



Third Thursday Lecture



History Hike



4th of July on the Green

Terry Tyler Still At Work

Terry Tyler is truly a cornerstone of the Historical Society. As one of the founding members in 1963, he has devoted more than six decades to preserving our history. He has served as both a board member and President. He has compiled numerous books documenting our community's past, from the marble industry to the relocation and restoration of Bley House. Over the years, he has donated his time and expertise, along with hundreds of photographs, documents, and artifacts. Terry recently celebrated his 95th birthday, and his enthusiasm for local history is as strong as ever. He still spends time at the Historical Society and is currently conducting research for his latest book. The Society owes Terry a tremendous debt of gratitude for his lifelong dedication and contributions to preserving Dorset's past.



Terry Tyler

Our Staff

Kelsey Halligan, Director of Operations

Please join us in welcoming Kelsey Halligan to the Historical Society team. Kelsey brings a passion for organizational excellence and community engagement and will help support the Society's ongoing work to preserve, share, and celebrate our town's history.



Cynthia Elliott, Office Manager

Cynthia is an invaluable member of DHS. She has been working with DHS for over 14 years-first as a volunteer and docent, and now as Office Manager. She helps to catalog new acquisitions, assist in genealogy searches and keep us running smoothly!



In Memoriam: Art Gilbert

This past year, we lost a great man. Art Gilbert, 96, made the Society what it is today, serving as a board member, contributor, and curator. He helped assemble the Bley House Museum and spent two years helping to research and create the permanent Marble exhibit. He also led countless hikes along Dorset's trails, regaling all with interesting geological facts about the area.

Art worked tirelessly to conserve the lands surrounding the Gettysburg Quarry and preserve public access to Owls Head and Gilbert Lookout. His efforts led to the conservation of 200 acres in 2016. That summer, members of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps built "Art's Bench," the marble bench overlooking the quarry. His service to the Historical Society and the town of Dorset are immeasurable and he is greatly missed.



Terry Tyler and Art Gilbert at DHS.

From the Archives

Kevin's Corner: by Kevin O'Toole

Here is a photo of poet T.S. Eliot and Emily Hale, his long-time muse, in front of the Barrows House (I think) in 1946.

He kept up a romantic correspondence with her for decades and visited her when she appeared in a play at the Dorset Playhouse. He stayed at Betsy Johnson's house (then McWayne) on Route 30.

When Eliot's wife, who had been institutionalized, died and, much to Emily Hale's surprise, he married another woman....and that ended that.

*T.S. Eliot and Emily Hale in front of
Barrows House, 1946.*



Upcoming Events

September 17th, 12-1pm, Bley House
Third Thursday Lecture Series
Diana McLain Smith, author of
*Remaking The Space Between Us: Our
Shared History*

October 10th, 11-3pm, at the Green
Fall Fest with Discover Dorset
Hayrides and fun Fall festivities

October 15th, 12-1pm, Bley House
Third Thursday Lecture Series
William Badger, Marble Incline Railways

October 31st, 5-7pm, Bley House
Halloween Trick-Or-Treating

December 5th, 11-1pm, Bley House
Holiday Open House
Taste a selection of sweet treats and
view our newest exhibit on the
Dorset Conventions.

We're planning more exciting events, visit our website for the most up-to-date calendar!

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Bley House

The Inn at Manchester
The Inns of Dorset

Marble

Express Copy
GSK Climate Control
H.N. Williams Store
JK Adams
Kevin O'Toole
The Vermont Country Store

Fern

Dorset Union Store
In Stitches Fine Needlepoint
Petal on Main
Rising Sun Maintenance



Looking to get involved?

Whether you have a few hours per month to volunteer at an event or help with a project, we'd love to hear from you. Every contribution helps.



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

Museum Hours

Wednesday - Friday
10am - 4pm
34 Kent Hill Road
Dorset, VT. 05251

Contact Information

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