

Bethel Historical Society
Minutes of the meeting on July 9th, 2007

Members present: Janet & George Burnham, Louise & Loraine Putnam, Helen Miller, Don Brown, Don Hyde, Frances & Bill Johansen, Heidi & Nick Nikolaidis

The meeting was called to order by Nick Nikolaidis at 7:05PM.

The Secretary's report was accepted as presented.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

At the end of June we had \$3,791.34 in the checking account. The members voted to put \$2,000 of this money into a CD. This is in addition to the other CD we already have.

OLD BUSINESS:

Don Hyde reported on the History Expo 2007. He said the crowd was smaller this year than in other years. He also said that he was a bit disappointed with Mason Lawrence's job on the picture. The picture itself was great but the wrong size.

All the parts are now stored at the Town Hall.

Don Brown and Don Hyde said that there were lots of good compliments. No negative comments or complaints this year, as there have been in some years, such as the ones with the quarry and the tannery exhibits.

Don & Don will still be working to put the finishing touches on the "Hummingbird".

Don Hyde was wondering what next year's theme is, but this has not been released yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Most recent donations:

Thank you letters need to be sent for the following donations.

Two postcards from Nancy Eddy, South Royalton

Old Buttons, which were dug up at an old farm on Rindge Hill, by Peg Brainard

Photos from the collection of Mim Herwig, which included some Bethel '27 Flood pictures, 2 pics from the East Bethel School

Bound copies of Bethel Courier from 1941 & 1945

Nick wanted to know if we should donate \$100 to the steeple fund of the United Church, since our museum is housed in the upstairs portion of the building and it is one of the oldest buildings in town.

Don Hyde made a motion to increase that amount to \$200, it was seconded by Heidi Nikolaidis. The motion passed unanimously.

Janet Burnham reported that our member Becky Farmer recently fell on the sidewalk downtown and broke both wrists. A Get-well card was passed around to be signed.

A framed picture was passed around showing the Civil War Regiment Co H, 6th VT Reg. which included Henry Davenport, Geneva Gaiko's Grandfather. There was also an article from Vermont Living which was written about that Regiment.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Nick was wondering how everyone felt about scheduling special meetings one year ahead. Nick suggested having Mike Thuston, Author/Editor of *The Book of Days*, for our Annual Meeting in January.

The Book of Days by Mike Thurston, has been added to our library

He also suggested some other meetings:

Bethel Cemeteries walk, September – TBA, Rose will coordinate

Bethel Mills Power Plant – in the Fall – TBA

Flats Walk – October with Bill Johansen

Postcard and History Presentation – John Lutz- November

Christmases Past - December

Scott Putney, Bethel Memories, February 2008

Main Street Revisited – March 2008

April, Proposed joint meeting with Rochester, Stockbridge/Gaysville Historical Societies May 24th, 2008, 2nd Annual Bethel Postcard and History Fair at WHS

Nick asked for other suggestions for special meetings.

Janet reported on the interesting Mock Trial she attended at the Chelsea Court House.

The trial, conviction and suicide of Rebecca Peake has already been memorialized in an award-winning play, "Self Evidence," by Maura Campbell, formerly of Randolph. It was the focus of a historical reënactment put on by the Vermont Judicial Historical Society and masterminded by Montpelier Atty. Paul Gillies, who founded the Society.

Janet suggested that the lawyer who presided at the trial would be an interesting speaker.

Bill Johansen reported on some of his findings about the flats and where the walk will take us in October. He will have a map and brief write-up about the area. Bill has been going through the old bound copies of newspapers in Tunbridge and says that he is finding a lot of information.

Don Hyde mentioned that the boarding house used by the granite workers was originally the button factory moved from Gaysville.

Bill and Frances will go on a tour of Northern Italy at the end of September, sponsored by UVM. The trip will concentrate on the history of the granite workers.

Nick received an email from someone in Barre who is looking for information about

Frank Bradbury, classical banjo player who lived Dec 12, 1896- Dec 9, 1981

Nick asked if anyone wanted to participate in finding info about him. Don Brown thinks he knew Frank. He will try to find out more. Nick will also speak with Bob Dean.

Our next meeting will be held at 7PM, on August 6th, 2007.

Respectfully submitted by Heidi Nikolaidis

For Rose Leonard, Secretary