

# HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HARTFORD - QUECHEE - WEST HARTFORD - WHITE RIVER JUNCTION - WILDER

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Society Newsletter

May/June 1990

## JOHN MOODY TO SPEAK ON ABENAKI HISTORY

The May meeting will be held Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford Church of Christ, Route 14, Hartford Village. John Moody of Sharon will speak on "Western Abenaki History, with focus on the White River Valley". Mr. Moody has a BA from Dartmouth College in Native American Studies and Anthropology. He has devoted 12 years of study and work to the Western Abenaki peoples of Vermont and the Northeast. He has permission from the Abenaki of Vermont to speak about their history.

## MARCH 14TH

March 14th, instead of a meeting of our own, we went to Woodstock to attend the Vermont Bicentennial Secession Debate between John Dooley and Frank Bryan on the meaning of membership in the Union vs. the benefits or perils of resurrecting the Republic of Vermont. The Hartford Historical Society was well represented in the audience. It was a memorable evening and I'm sure you read in the papers where we voted to secede.

## BOOKCASE AND OLD TOWN REPORTS

We have a nice new bookcase in the office, a convenient place for the reference material in our collection. We have Hartford town reports from 1916 to 1990, but we are missing:

before 1916, 1918-1920, 1922, 1925, 1928, 1933

We also have the complete Vermont Historical Society magazines from 1968-1988 as well as 1930 - 1941 with some missing. Come in and see them!

## EXHIBITS

As part of the changing exhibits in the display case in the Municipal Building foyer, we are now displaying Vermont Historical Society materials and clothing items from our own collection.

## THERON BOYD HOUSE

We received this letter from the Vermont Land Trust:

Dear Hartford Historical Society: "In recognition of your major commitment to our fund-raising efforts for this project, we would like you to have a signed original print of Theron Boyd with a glimpse of his house in the background.

"Your generosity allowed the Vermont Land Trust to complete one of its most complex projects with a surplus. One half of that surplus will be donated in Theron's name to causes he cared about, such as assisting the elderly and the care of animals. The other half will be devoted to a revolving land fund." Signed: Didi Fitzhugh, Development Director

## FROM "TIME AND CHANGE IN VERMONT; A HUMAN GEOGRAPHY"

by Harold a Weeks, 1986 The Globe Pequot Press, Chester, CT 06412 (\$11.95)

"Before a southern New England tide of settlement engulfed Vermont after 1760, Indian, French, and even Dutch groups were present. Yet on today's landscape, the imprint of these earlier cultures is hidden and elusive. Indian sites have been discovered, most commonly in the northern Champlain Valley, and a growing body of evidence suggests that Vermont was not solely an Algonquin and Iroquois hunting ground, or a territory to get across quickly for greener pastures elsewhere. Indians did live permanently in the state, although their density was low. They undoubtedly grew in the fertile intervals or coos of the upper Connecticut and elsewhere. Aside from numerous place names, however, nothing today reflects the Indian stage except possibly the ancient oak and hickory forests of the Champlain Valley, which may have been created by widespread Indian burning of the natural vegetation.

"The first Paleo-Indian culture in the region that was to become Vermont probably dates from about 8500 B.C., when the environment was still glacial. Caribou were hunted, and as the climate gradually warmed with the melting of ice, the base of the Indian culture moved northward. These people may have been followed by an Archaic culture about 5000 B.C., again nomadic people whose livelihood was based on hunting, gathering wild plants, and fishing. The first plant cultivation probably occurred between 1300 and 1000 B.C., as the Woodland culture evolved from the Archaic. It is these people who left behind most sites, telling something of this occupancy stage.

"The Woodland peoples apparently divided into tribal groups, bonded by common language, and established territories in which they maintained hunting privileges. In Vermont, the Connecticut Valley and the Champlain Valley became core areas, with the land between these a disputed ground. Algonquins dominated the eastern region and much of New England. The Mohegans, Pequots, and Narragansetts were members of the Algonquin family. In Vermont, smaller Algonquin groups were the Abenakis along the Connecticut River and Coaticooks a little farther north . . . . Differentiation among these Algonquin groups was probably more geographic than cultural, and in any case very small numbers were involved in A.D. 1600.

"On the other side of the state were the Iroquois, represented in Vermont by the Mohawks. It was the Iroquois whom Champlain encountered in 1609 on his venture to the lake that now bears his name. In the ensuing French and Indian wars, the Iroquois (Six Nations) allied themselves with the English partly as a result of unfortunate incidents with Champlain and other Frenchmen. Their bitter foes, the Algonquins, allied themselves, as would be expected, with the French."

#### LOOKING BACK

Did you know that White River Junction had a telegraph company in 1868 and a telephone company in 1894?

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The Gates Opera House is 100 years old this year. We have been asked to participate in their celebration in July. More to come!

#### RECENT GIFTS

Fred Bradley, White River Junction: various miscellaneous items from his collection.

Jonathan Schechtman, Quechee: coasters from Dewey's Mills' store, photograph of Sherburn Bryant (builder of the first railroad station in White River Junction), and an advertising flyer of Cascadnac Grange, 1940.

John Cone, Hanover: typewriter and duplicator from Dewey's Mill

Bicentennial Memorabilia:

The Town of Hartford has turned over to us their files relating to three bicentennial events:

1761-1961	Town of Hartford
1776-1976	Declaration of Independence
1777-1977	Vermont Constitution and Vermont's establishment as a republic

After cataloging this material, we plan to have a "bicentennial" display in our showcase in the Municipal Building.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9 - John Moody

September 12 - "Take Notice: An Evening with 18th Century Americans"

November 14 - Professor Jere Daniell - "Hartford's Five Villages in the History of the Upper Valley"

Date to be announced: Cemetery-picnic in June of July

#### HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office Hours: Room 110, Municipal Building, White River Junction,  
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