



Putney HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUTNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2000

Membership Report

The response to our last newsletter was great! We now have 138 current members including 19 "Sustaining" (\$25), 3 "Benefactor" (\$50), and 2 "Patron" (\$100). Your mailing label should tell you if your membership is current. A "2000" means paid through the fiscal year July 31, 2000.

1999 - 2000 Board Members: Ruth Barton, Sharon Bice, Milly Ellis, Robert Goodell, Judy Morton, Sue Mulcahy, Lyssa Papazian, Fern Tavalin, Mary Lou Treat, and Jacquie Walker.
Officers: Laurel Ellis, President; Robert Hindmarsh, Vice President; Laura Heller, Secretary; Barbara Taylor, Treasurer; Museum Curators: Laura Heller and Elaine Dixon.

PROJECT 2000

A PUTNEY VETERANS' MEMORIAL

A committee is now forming to look into the possibility of constructing a permanent marker to commemorate Putney's citizens who have fought in wars.

Please call Ruth Barton (463-1407) or Doug Ellis (387-4489) if you'd like to help.

OLD TOWN FARM

We have had an inquiry about the old **Town Farm** once located off (you guessed it!) Town Farm Road. Do you have a photograph of any buildings or any knowledge to share? If you have any information please call us at the Town Hall (387-5862) Wednesdays (2 - 4 p.m.) or 387-4489 anytime.

Golden Rule Gift

In 1996, 199 years after it was chartered, the membership of the Golden Rule Lodge merged with the Masonic organization in Brattleboro and sold the building they had occupied since it was built in 1862/63*. From furnishings left behind, we were given the long credenza now in the front hallway of the Town Hall. Recently, as a result of a decision made by former members of the Putney group (among them now deceased members Ted Glabach and John Hawkins) a gift was made to Putney Historical Society of the Golden Rule's carefully-preserved original charter and membership book dating back to 1797. Also donated were the special Masonic door knockers which were probably installed when the building was constructed.

Care will be taken by our curators to keep these artifacts in their present excellent condition, and to display them for current and future interested persons.

** Vol. 13 p394 of Putney Land Records contains a deed dated December 1, 1862 from Laura [Houghton] Keyes to John D. Wheat for the Golden Rule Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. This was for an approximately 4- square rod piece of land at a price of \$200. Vol. 13 p508 (November 14, 1863) refers to the same piece of land "on which stands the Masonic Hall."*

Putney Central Receives Photo CD

In November, 1999, Putney Central School's fourth grade received their copy of the collection of photos on CD that were selected by the Historical Societies of Windham County (about 20 photos from each society) and digitally scanned by PhotoArk of Woodstock. Putney Historical Society has also received a copy. Our sincere thanks to Vermont Yankee for funding this project.

OLD NEWS

Excerpts from Mark Ward's "Report of Superintendent" for the year 1899:

The schools for the year have been fairly successful, with the exception of two terms, one in No. 1 and one in No. 2. [Refers to school districts.]

The summer term in No. 1 was under the charge of Miss Edna D. Thompson. Miss Thompson was well educated, with some experience in the school room, but lacked that quick decision and willingness to take responsibility necessary for a successful teacher. She went elsewhere for the fall term. The fall term...was placed in charge of Miss Agnes C. Gleason. Miss Gleason was well grounded in the various branches taught in our common schools, but like the man who failed as a wood chopper because it took him all the time to pile up, it took her so much time to attend to what she had told the scholars to do or not to do at certain times, there was little time for the proper work of the hour. Consent was given that she might teach near home for the winter term, which she did. Miss Margaret L. Sheridan took charge of the winter term with the determination to have her own way. The boys the first or second day held a caucus, at the north end of the school house. They did not tempt fate; they perhaps had heard of Early in the Valley. [What does that mean?]

...Miss Lucy L. Sanderson directed the young ideas in the summer term in District No. 8. Miss Sanderson was a worker in the school room. No one became drowsy when she taught, but alas, she has gone the way of most of earth, gone and got married. Miss Lillian A. Harris kept the dust out of the chair in this district during the fall term and went south for the winter, but not for her health. [Sorry, but Miss Harris' reasons for going south remain a mystery.]

...I deem it wise to make mention of a subject, perhaps not strictly connected with this report, but its importance must be my excuse. The opinion is quite general that immodest if not immoral and lewd conversation prevails to an alarming extent between the boys and girls of school age, and in some cases things beyond mention have taken place. Should this continue and increase as it has done, the words modesty and purity will have no place in the language. It matters not how the change has come about, the aid of parents, teachers, ministers and every source from which help can come, is necessary to save the purity of the rising generation. The idea seems to prevail quite largely that the law has been changed so that teachers are not allowed to use corporal punishment, but such is not the case; no

change whatever has been made, and the present managers of our schools are in favor of that moral suasion that is readily backed up by the old Puritan discipline.

Also from the Town Report for 1899:

"Grand List:

Real Estate	\$3,457.50
Personal Property	1,182.97
282 polls	<u>564.00</u>
	\$5,204.47

The Tax rate is 155 cents, made up of 25 cents highway, 40 cents school, and 90 cents town."

"Inventory of Town Property

Town hall and furnishings,	\$6000
Horse sheds,	300
Tool building,	100
Tramp house,	150
Wood shed,	40
Scraper, tools, roller, etc.,	200
Murphy place	450
Bridge plank on hand	20
Paint on hand	<u>8</u>
	\$7268

School Property as appraised February 22, 1900
#1 \$1000, #2 \$800, #3 600, #4 \$150; #5 \$350; #6 \$300;
#7 \$1000; #8 \$400; #9 \$400" (Total \$5000) Grand
Total \$12, 728.

From the Putney Town Report for 1909:

Changes to the Inventory of Town Property included an increase of \$1850 for the "Town hall and furnishings", \$75 for the "Tool building", \$75 for the "tramp house", and \$100 for the "scraper, tools, roller, etc." The "Murphy place" was replaced by a hearse of the same value and they must have used up the planks and paint. Schoolhouses # 1, 2, and 4 were replaced by the "new schoolhouse" which was appraised at \$9,500. Grand Total was \$21,890.

H. G. Everleth was paid \$123.55 for the care of 353 tramps at 35 cents each.

From the School Report:

"Most of the teachers have been systematic in instruction, but there is still need of closer attention to school hours and a regular program, which will give character to the work and confidence to the children.

(continued on page 3)

CAN YOU HELP?

We have many old photos that need to be identified. There are old handwritten documents that need to be transcribed and many other ways we could use your help. Do you have an item or inquiry (new or old) for our newsletter? Would you be willing to share some memories of life in Putney for our history?

Please take a moment to join or renew your membership in the Putney Historical Society

Putney Historical Society Membership Form

Please PRINT name and address:

Name _____ Date: _____

Address _____
 Individual \$5.00 Sustaining \$25.00 Patron \$100.00
 Family \$10.00 Benefactor \$50.00

Additional donations beyond membership are appreciated. Any amount over the membership fee is tax deductible, as are gifts.

Yes, I will volunteer. Please phone me at: _____

Make checks payable to: *Treasurer, Putney Historical Society*. Mail to: Putney Historical Society, C/o Putney Town Hall, P. O. Box 233, Putney, VT 05346, or leave at the Town Hall

(continued from page 2)

"Most of the teachers have been a part of our school system for years; their experience is invaluable to us. Subjected to the most unkind criticisms, they go on day after day without an encouraging word or notice; they are called upon to deal with lawlessness that in *any* public building would deserve the severest censure from the authorities."

"The pupils who have been present every half day for the year without a tardy, absent or dismissal mark, are:

Roger M. Aiken Minnie Lucia
Herbert O. Wood Hazel Loomis"

Laborers working under Road Commissioner, P. A. Fuller, were paid 12 ½ cents to 17 ½ cents per hour. Mr. Fuller himself received 20 cents per hour and working with his team [of horses], 45 cents. He billed the town \$25 for building 37 rods (about 611 feet) of stone wall. J. J. Fuller was paid \$1.50 for 25 loads of gravel at 6 cents.

SAVING THE PINE TREES

From Putney's 1948 Town Report (page 34): "Between July 26 and August 4, 1948, the Town of Putney used 528 man hours at a cost of \$197.60 to the Town and \$275.08 from Federal and State funds to eradicate 7556 currant and gooseberry bushes from 2095 acres. 597 pine trees were thus protected from the white pine blister rust." (That's an average of 89 ½ cents per hour!) From the 1949 Town Report (page 14): "The work continued into 1949 with 6 men working 520 hours between April 29 and July 19 to eradicate 10935 currant and gooseberry bushes from 2384 acres at a cost of \$195.60 to the Town and \$271.68 from Federal and State funds. Mr. Frank H. Rose, District Leader, Vermont Forest Service and U. S. Department of Agriculture stated: 'With the control work done this year no further eradication work is contemplated for a number of years.'"

BOXHOLDER
PUTNEY, VT 05346

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 17
Putney, VT

Putney Historical Society
C/O Putney Town Hall
P. O. Box 233
Putney, VT 05346

REASONS WHY WOMEN SHOULD NOT VOTE

"In reading our Vermont exchanges, and in conversing with opposers of woman's suffrage, we find the following reasons most commonly urged why women should not vote:

1. The women have not asked the men to allow them to vote.
2. They do not want to vote.
3. It is not right to impose duties on woman that they do not ask for nor want.
4. They would not vote if they could.
5. If the right to vote were granted to women, only the bad would vote, the good would not.
6. If women voted it would make discord in families.
7. It would make no difference in the result if they did vote for the women would vote as their husbands do.
8. It would be a burden to poor men to pay their own and their wives' taxes, as also to the poor widow and the working-girl who have all they can do to support themselves without the additional burden of tax-paying.
9. It would be inconvenient for women to go to the polls especially in stormy weather and bad travelling, and would interfere with the care of their babies.
10. If the women went to town meetings the men would have to stay at home, do the cooking, and take care of the children.

11. The men behave so badly at the polls that it is not a fit place for women.

12. If the women were to go to town meetings and mingle with the men, they would be unsexed and demoralized.

13. It is unnecessary that women should vote.

14. Eve misbehaved in the garden of Eden six thousand years ago, was too familiar with the serpent, therefore the women of Vermont should eschew the ballot in the year of our Lord 1870.

15. St. Paul eighteen centuries ago wrote to Timothy, saying: "I suffer not a woman to teach, but to be in silence;" and to the Corinthians, "Let your women keep silence in the churches, and if they will learn anything let them ask their husbands at home." Therefore the women of Vermont, in this year of grace 1870, should not think of such a thing as going to town meeting and voting with the men.

16. It is a reform against nature, a departure from woman's sphere.

17. Those who advocate the cause are sometimes found in low company.

The above is a concise summary of the chief arguments against woman's suffrage, as they have come to our notice. Let them be closely scrutinized and carefully weighed by all the intelligent and thinking men and women in Vermont."

(From the *Vermont Phoenix* April 8, 1870)