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August 2020 Newsletter

WE ARE OPEN ON SATURDAYS, AT OUR USUAL TIME, 1 - 4 PM

To comply with State requirements, masks will be required; we must maintain social distancing, and we can only have a total of 10 people in the building at one time.

We still have no idea what the future will bring, so here are our current plans:

There is no yard sale this year. There is no way we can collect, mark, and sell items and still maintain social distancing for our staff and the public.

There are **no additional programs** scheduled for this year and there **will not be an Annual Meeting** in October. The board has voted to operate for the next year under the results of the 2019 vote.

But there will be a **2021 Historic Calendar!** It is in the works and we hope to have it ready by September 1st. All of the pictures are from the Bernie Lashua Collection. Due to hardships associated with the coronavirus we have decided to sell the calendars for **half price this year**--\$5 each plus \$2 if you want it mailed. For mailed calendars make check payable to SAHS and mail to above address. They will be available at Bibens, Cota & Cota, Images, Tina's Hallmark, Woodbury's and at the Society. They make great Christmas gifts for people away so be sure to get yours early.

The FindAGrave Workshop

The **"FindAGrave" Workshop** presented by Scott Andrew Bartley, professional genealogist, was very informative. Drew demonstrated how to clean a stone with D/2 (see handout); then using an ordinary full-length mirror (\$7 at Wal-Mart) how to angle the sun's reflection so it made the writing "pop" right out. He has been suggesting for several years that the Society get involved in photographing local grave stones and uploading them onto the **FREE** www.findagrave.com website. We returned to the Society and on the computer he showed us the website and explained how it worked. Included is the handout from the program.



Started with the stone half cleaned. .



. . . part way through the cleaning. . .



. . . more to do, but it is quite readable.

At the Society:

The Society was very pleased to be offered a newer computer and very large monitor since we are currently running XP and feel it is only a matter of time before it gives up. The "new" computer is a Windows 8 upgraded to Windows 10. Right now it is at Ken's Computer having the personal information moved to an external hard drive for the donator.

The Bernie Lashua negatives are coming along. So far there are nine storage boxes with just A to Z photos of people. Other categories will include aerial views, schools, churches, town government, the machine shops, social clubs, kids clubs, local businesses, homes and farms, to name a few. Once they are boxed, the next job will be to inventory them on a spreadsheet. At this point we are not going to digitize the whole collection because some events, like a wedding, could have a dozen or more negatives. If requested we will be able to scan them and make a digitized image for a small fee.

We will be removing the Ira Marshall display and replace it with a J & L comparator display. In another cabinet we are planning a Springfield inventions display which will include a Vermont Research Corporation memory drum given to us by Rich Stover, Dick Stover's son, and some other Springfield inventions. We are also discussing changes for the two large cabinets in the front room.

Finally our toys are coming back from the Cheshire Historical Society in Keene. Hope you visited their display early on before it was shut down because of COVID-19. It is pretty amazing all the toys that were once produced in the Connecticut River Valley.

We have had a lot of calls for genealogy information. It is very interesting to do the research because we learn new things about Springfield people we did not know. Newspapers are very helpful. If you live in Vermont and would like to look for information in Vermont newspapers, this is a FREE website available from the State of Vermont: visit MyVermont.gov.

1. After creating your account, ↓ you will need to add your personal profile and contact information on the right side of the page. → This is how you verify you are a Vermont resident.

The screenshot shows the 'myVermont.gov Accounts' page. It has a green header with the site name. Below the header, there are two main sections: 'Sign-in to your myVermont.gov Account' and 'Create a myVermont.gov Account'. The sign-in section includes fields for 'Email:' and 'Password:', a 'Stay signed in' checkbox, and a 'Sign In' button. The create account section includes a 'Create Account' button and a list of benefits: 'Personalize and Enhance your Experience', 'Vermont.gov has more to offer when you create an account.', 'Create a customized Vermont.gov Homepage', 'Easily track information that interests you', and 'Carry information across participating Vermont Government Services'. At the bottom, there is a link for 'Can't access your account?' and a footer with social media links and a note about Vermont State Webmaster access.

The screenshot shows the 'myProfile' section of the website. It has a green header with the title 'myProfile'. Below the header, it says 'Personal Profile: Entered' and 'Contact Profile: Entered'. It then states 'The more information you provide, the more benefit you will see from using your account.' and provides two links: 'Edit my Personal Profile »' and 'Edit my Contact Information »'. There are also icons for account management at the top right.

2. Once you have complete this ↑, you will see in the center of the page ↓ a section called "Featured Item."

3. In that section you will see a link to newspapers.com. Note that you will also have access to Vermont vital records, a very useful tool when doing research.

Click through to Newspapers.com to begin searching for Vermont newspaper titles. →

The screenshot shows the 'myVermont.gov Accounts' page with the 'Featured Item' section highlighted. The section title is 'Featured Item'. The text below it says 'Courtesy of the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration and its partners, Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com, Vermonters have free access to Vermont records and Vermont historical newspapers when accessing the following Vermont Only links through the MyVermont.gov portal.' It lists two links: 'Ancestry.com (Vermont Records Only)' and 'Newspapers.com (Vermont Newspapers Only)'. At the bottom, there is a note: 'Please note that Ancestry.com requires users to open a Free Account to access Vermont records through this link. After creating a Free Account, it is recommended that users first log into their Ancestry.com Free Account and then go through the MyVermont.gov portal to access the above Vermont Records Only link.'

Another Bit of History: Milk, Part 2, by Sandy Bishop, (revised, 12/4/17)

My father, Harold, took over the farm in 1933, after completing the two-year agricultural program in dairy husbandry at the University of Massachusetts Stockbridge School. In 1934 he married Katherine Parsons, the California girl having graduated from the Nevada City High School, sent East by her parents to get Horticultural training. Katherine, Kay, my mother, spent a year at Dean Academy to get her French upgraded to allow entry to Mass State University (now, the University of Massachusetts). During her second year at Mass State she met my father, Harold, and after spending a year back in California – “to think it over, and have it checked out by Aunt Fanny,”-- they got married. Together they ran the family farm.

My father died of cancer in 1945, and in 1946 my mother married his brother, Frank, just returned from WWII having been wounded, receiving both the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, while serving in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. Together they ran the farm until the early 1960's when my brothers, Ken and Vic, and I were completing college. In the 1950's, they purchased the "Old Colonial Barn," adjacent Colonial pasture land and Maple Dell pasture. One brother, Ken, took over running the farm, doubling the capacity with a new milking parlor and pen barn at the Sunny Ledge property, milking 200 cows, in the new barn and the Corn Barn and Old Colonial parlors as well. Ken purchased several acres of adjacent Estey cropland.

Frank told Ken he could continue to milk the cows, but he and my mother decided to convert a 25-acre pine lot across town [Perkinsville] purchased by his father, Sanford, in the 1920's in exchange for two cows, to a campground, and to "milk the tourists." They ran the successful "Crown Point Campground" until their deaths in the 1990's. Unfortunately, due to increasing economic conditions, Ken was forced to end the milk production by 1985, but continued to grow crops for other farmers until his death in 2006. However, in the late 1980's, Ken sold the Sunny Ledge barn, milking parlor and adjacent land to a young couple whom, as of this writing in 2017, I believe are still milking cows.

During the 1940's post WWII years, work horses on the farm were gradually being replaced by tractors and other motorized equipment. There had been two teams of work horses and all the required harnesses, but by the late 1940's, only one team was left. I clearly remember the end. One winter day, about 1946-7, I was in the Corn Barn watching my step-father, Frank, milking the cows, when the hired man, Ralph Coolidge, who had been hauling logs out of the woodlot with the



1940's tractor plowing field

team, came into the barn and sadly announced that old Dan had dropped dead up in the woods. I remember my dad dropping his head, and exclaiming, "Well, I guess that's the end of horses on this farm." We boys, my two younger brothers and I, made good use of that left-over harness material when a mule arrived one day, but that is another story. An army surplus jeep became the "get around" vehicle on the farm, and served as driving instruction for young teenage boys.

From time immemorial, going back to Roman and even early Egyptian times, cows were housed in stanchions in a barn and milked by hand. During my growing up years, our farm housed 90 milking cows in stanchion stalls; sixty in one barn, the old "Main barn" and the attached new "West barn", and thirty in the "Corn Barn." Cows were milked for 305 days after calving, then "dry" for 2-3 months until next calving, leaving about 70 to be milked two times a day, 365 days a year. In the early 1900's, grandfather did a great deal of cow trading, and by 1916, milked 30-45 cows every day.

Although not clear, cows were probably milked by hand around 1900, but apparently an early electric generator ran the vacuum line for the milking machines and later with electricity from the power company.

Quotes from S. M. Bishop journal:

January 6, 1917: I cleaned up the milking machine tubes in the morning.

Jan 31, 1917: Did chores in a.m. I went up to North Springfield to see some cattle, bought two cows and two steers.

Feb 1, 1920: 30 below this morning.

Feb 2, 1917: Has been a cold and windy day. I went up to C. L Stearns and brought home three new cows.

Feb 5, 1919: The men drew two loads of hay from the Park. I sold 23 cows for \$2,000.00. (Note: Adjusted inflation rate from 1915 to 2015 is about 10-12 times)

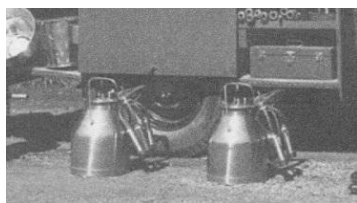
March 18, 1918: I taped the sugar lot. Sap run was pretty good. Mr. Underhill commenced work. Milking 41 cows and getting about 18 jugs of milk.



Sandy and the boys learning to drive.

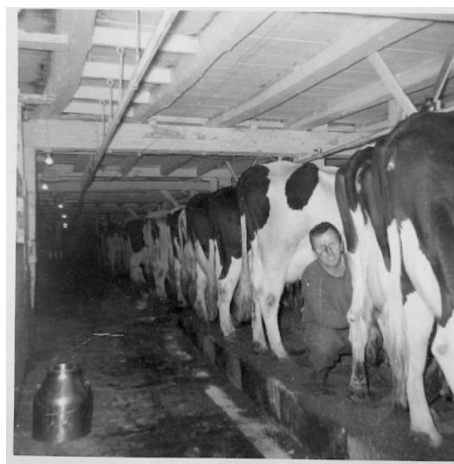
Every day after morning milking, the cows were let out for exercise, in the winter just to the barnyard, but in the rest of the year, to a nearby pasture. Coming back in, each cow went directly to its own stanchion and was locked in with a sliding wood mechanism around the neck. Feed and water were available as soon as they came in. One man, working alone with two milking machines, could milk 30 cows in a two-hour period. Thus, three men were required to milk the 70-75 milking cows of the 90-cow herd, men who were extremely reliable and could be counted on to show up each day at 4:30 in the morning and 3:00 in the afternoon.

DeLaval Milking Machine



With the advent of electricity, which came to Vermont by the 1920's, milking machines were introduced. The most common in our area, being the DeLaval machines used in our barns which sat on the floor and the Surge machines which hung on a strap over the cow's back. A vacuum line

ran down the line of stanchions; the machines were connected to this line which provided the suction for the four teat cups attached to the cow's udder. Squatting down by each cow, the milker washed the teats thoroughly and massaged the udder to stimulate the flow of milk before attaching the teat cups. It was a young man's job, requiring good legs. Dairy cows become quite docile animals, but one had to be cautious of the first calf heifer who might give a vigorous kick with her hind leg, and also for switching tails which tended to go right in the face of the milker. After about five minutes while the next cow was being prepared, the teat cups were removed after massaging the udder to get the last of the milk out, and the milk poured from the tank into a strainer on a 40-quart milk can in the walkway behind the cows.



Frank milking in stanchion barn

After all cows are milked, the full 40-quart cans, weighing nearly 100 pounds each, must be cooperatively carried to the milk-house cooler. Refrigerated tanks with 40-degree water sunk at floor level are used to cool the milk. Considering the 12,000 pound per year herd average in the 1940-50 era, for the 305-day milk cycle, each cow averaged 40 pounds of milk per day, resulting in 70 cows X 40 pounds = 2,800 pounds of milk daily, or about 28 cans per day. Each day a truck from the local dairy would back up to the milk-house and load the 28 cans onto the truck, delivering 28 clean cans to be filled the next day.



Prior to the advent of electricity, the milk was cooled with ice. From Grandfather Sanford's daily journal during the second decade of the 20th century, during the cold Vermont winter months, ice blocks were cut from the 12-18-inch thick ice on local ponds with an ice saw and stored with sawdust from local sawmills in an ice-house located on the side of a north facing wall.

*Quotes from S. M. Bishop journal: Jan 2, 1920: We cut ice. Got in about 80 cakes. Leonard drew a load of sawdust.
Jan 5, 1920: Leonard drew two loads of sawdust for the ice.
Jan 28, 1919: Cutting and drawing ice in a wagon; Ice is about 1 ft. thick.
Jan 29, 1919: Finished the ice today, have got in 168 cakes.*

Final Part 3 in next newsletter.

If you received this newsletter by email and you would rather have a printed copy, please let us know at sahs@vermontel.net

New Member* or Donation Form

***If you are currently a member, you will receive a renewal reminder in the mail.**

We are working hard to expand and protect Springfield's history, please help us.
Checks should be made payable to SAHS and can be mailed to the address below:

SPRINGFIELD ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 336, North Springfield, VT 05150

() Individual, \$20 () Family, \$35 () Advocate, \$50 () Sponsor, \$100 () Benefactor, \$250

Amount enclosed for a Donation or New Membership: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

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(Your email will only be used for our communication to you; it will not be shared.)