

# GL VER HISTORY

*Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past  
1783-2000*

Vol. 9, No. 2

Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Summer 2000

## President's Report

### 1. History happens!

In just the few years since 1991 when we visited and mapped all the cellar holes in Glover, many of them have been obliterated by new homes, logging and farming. Now those old home sites are just history.

### 2. Publications:

In addition to the *1850 Census of Glover*, we now have published all the prior censuses in one book with a merged index to all five years (1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840). The price is \$20 as is the *1850 Census*. Other publications available are the *Glover Town History* - \$20, *Union House* booklet - \$6, *Cephas Clark Genealogy* - \$20. Order from Martha P. Alexander, Treasurer, Glover Historical Society, 1225 Perron Hill, Glover, VT 05839.

A comprehensive *Runaway Pond* book is being finalized and will contain all the early accounts of the event from the first notices, letters, etc. to the Centennial celebration, addresses, etc. and the Harry Phillips poem.

We're still "plugging along" with the *Glover Cemetery Inscriptions*.

3. Also of note, the carriage shed (next to the Municipal Building) has been torn down to make way for a new fire station.

### 4. Recent acquisitions:

We just received a box from Richard Brown of Sykesville, Maryland, containing materials from his late mother-in-law's (Myrtle Montminy) home, previously the home of Chet Phillips, the taxidermist. From an account book of 1939, Chet bought from Henry Atherton ° pound of cottage cheese for five cents about every five days.

A 1928 photo, "Teachers and Students, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio," is also included. Who went there?

**Inside - Glover Pioneer Day Camp 2000 and Memories of Glover, the remarkable letters of the Rev. Benjamin Brunning!!!**

## Warning

The annual meeting of the Glover Historical Society, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, July 12th, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the Glover Municipal Building.

The principal agenda item at the meeting will be the election of four directors to replace four present directors whose terms of office will expire as of the date of the 2000 annual meeting. (Directors with expiring terms are Wayne Alexander, Charles Barrows, Bob Clark and Randy Williams.) The Nominating Committee has nominated the following to serve as directors for a three-year term ending in 2003: Wayne Alexander, Jean Borland, Bob Clark and Randy Williams. All four have agreed to serve if elected. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the meeting.

Also on the agenda will be a review of planned activities and publication projects for the 2000 season and beyond.

All members are urged to attend. If you are unable to attend in person, please consider voting by proxy by designating another Society member to vote and act on your behalf. Proxies (in writing) should be mailed to the Glover Historical Society, Inc., Municipal Building, 51 Bean Hill, Glover, VT 05839 to arrive at least one day prior to the meeting date.

### *Did you know that*

**160 members of the Glover Historical Society receive this newsletter?**

**117 are paid up for this year and beyond?**

**43 haven't paid their dues yet?**

**If you're one of the 43, please send your dues to:**

**Martha Alexander, Treasurer,**

**1225 Perron Hill, Glover, VT 05839**



# Glover Pioneer Day Camp 2000

The Glover Public Library will sponsor its fourth annual Glover Pioneer Day Camp this summer from June 26-30. The program is open to all Glover kids going into first through eighth grades, as well as summer residents. There is a \$25 per camper fee.

The camp will be held in West Glover, with mornings spent at the West Glover Church, then a hike and picnic each day along a different route to the old Parker Settlement. Each afternoon at the Parker Settlement we will divide the campers into three interest groups to study different skills of the early settlers. One group will learn about weaving, planting a weaver's garden, with flax and dye plants. They will work on various types of looms, help construct a simple outdoor loom, and weave a basket.

Another group will dig clay and make bricks, in the primitive style that Timothy Lyman may have used at his brick kiln at the Parker Settlement in the early 1800s. The bricks will have to dry until fall, when campers will build a simple kiln in collaboration with the school to finish the process. But they will be able to make slab tiles to fire during the camp week.

The third group will search for the original section of the Hinman Road that went from the settlement towards Bob and Gisele Clark's house on Bean Hill Road. (The current skiddoo trail is not the original road.) They will use compasses, both hand held and high tech, learn about old surveying techniques,

and begin to train their eyes to read the past in the landscape of the present.

Besides working with their focus groups, campers will play games, hike, build forts and hear stories. They will learn how to research history and write journals. We will have guest speakers, demonstrations, and we are hoping to have a pair of oxen in residence.

Community members are invited to our party at the end of the session on Friday afternoon, June 30, from noon to 3 p.m. We will have a cookout, music, games, and presentations of our projects. There will also be folks there demonstrating old time skills, like spinning and basket making, and anything else we can talk them into.

Anyone interested is also welcome to join us for any of the morning presentations at the church, as well as the mid-day hikes and afternoon sessions. We would particularly like to invite long-time residents who would like to talk to the children about what life was like in the "old days" to come share their oral history. We plan to borrow a good tape recorder from the Old Stone House and conduct some oral history interviews. The children would like to hear about the days before TVs and computers, when kids flew down snowy hills on travis sleds or strapped barrel staves on their feet to ski. Any volunteers?

We are also looking for people who would like to demonstrate traditional skills at our party on Friday afternoon.

Following is a schedule of events for the week, which may be of interest.

## *At the West Glover Church in the mornings:*

- Monday at 9:30: Darlene Young will present a program on how to be a historical detective, finding sources for historical research.
- Tuesday at 9:30: Natalie Kinsey-Warnock will talk about her inspiration and sources for the historical children's novels that she writes. She will lead the children in a creative writing exercise.
- Wednesday at 9:30: Betsy Day and Gail Sangree will tell the stories of Ralph Parker, who established the Parker Settlement, and Timothy Hinman, who built the road from Greensboro to Derby that opened up this part of Vermont to settlement.

## *At the Parker Settlement in the afternoons:*

- Between 1:00 and 2:00 Monday through Thursday, brick making, weaving, and road mapping. The exact schedule for the hikes is still being planned. The hikes will depart from the West Glover Church at 11:30 each day, and will include routes past the cemetery, downhill through the woods from Borland Road, and up Lone Tree Hill.

For more information or to register a Glover child, call Peggy Day Gibson at 525-3034.

## MEMORIES OF GLOVER

### Letters of the Rev. Benjamin Brunning

Benjamin Brunning was born in England in 1827, and emigrated with his family to Sherbrooke, Canada in 1836. His father died less than a year after, and the family of 15 was poor, but still enjoyed, writes Brunning, "more happiness than the majority of people."



On Christmas Day in 1841, Benjamin left Hatley, Canada to come to Glover, Vermont in order to apprentice himself to Orin French, "who at that time had the reputation of being the best shoemaker in Orleans county. At any rate he always took first prize at the county fair for 'men's stogy boots' and 'women's calfskin shoes.'"

In 1844, Benjamin Brunning married Sophia E. Norton, and left Glover for South Walden, and then returned to Canada. By the time the Brunnings came back to Glover again in 1852, he was a public lecturer on the subject of phrenology. He bought the farm owned by his father-in-law, remaining in Glover this time until 1857, when he sold the same farm to Amos Cook.

Brunning's revealing letters about Glover in the 1840s and 1850s were written to the *The Orleans County Monitor* in 1907 when he was nearly 86. They will soon be made available in their entirety by the Glover Historical Society. Here is a quick sampling!

#### Letter No. 2 - February 4, 1907

(About Runaway Pond) To give some idea of the force of the water: There lay nearly a quarter of a mile above the present village a huge granite boulder. This big boulder was forced down into where the village is now, and its size can be judged by the fact that after it was finally split up it formed the underpinning to the Universalist church, also the old brick-store, and furnished a doorstep to David Bean's house and Jack Drew's house.

Previous to the escape of that pond, where Glover village now is was a low cedar swamp, but it was admirably filled up with sand and gravel, and was made to become one of the driest and prettiest little villages in northern Vermont....

#### Letter No. 3 - February 11, 1907

In relation to the politics of Glover in those younger days of mine, there was a peculiarity that was rather unusual in that the political stripe was alternated for 13 consecutive years, first a Whig, then a democrat, until the republicans started in 1856....

There was one incident at town meeting and fall elections that has passed away, but then was of exciting interest, and that was a regular ring wrestle, and the keen contests were heartily enjoyed by old and young. Sumner Blodgett was rather boss at "square hold," while Lucius Elkins was ready for all comers at "side hold."

The majority at the fall elections varied from three to seven votes, some of these could be bought for a song and often turned the election. I remember one man who was naturally a Whig, but had voted the democratic ticket the year before. He was pricing a shovel in a store, and the merchant said, "How are you going to vote today?" "Well, I think democratic." The merchant said, "If you will vote Whig you may carry that shovel home and it won't be charged against you (\$1.50)"; and the man voted Whig. There were others "just as easy."

#### Letter No. 5 - February 25, 1907

Speaking about the carding machine and fulling mill brings to mind the fact that most people spun and wove their own clothing. Many girls used to go out to work doing housework and spinning. In those days hired girls were thought as much of as anybody and were as one of the family.... Nearly every family had their loom and did their own weaving of fulled cloth for men, gown cloth for women, blankets, coverlets, and flannels.

Fireplaces were more common than stoves, baking was done largely in brick ovens that were set in front of the fire in the fireplaces in which biscuits, bread, pies and meats were baked. I have seen turkeys and geese roasted by being hung before the fireplace on a string and turned around back and forth by twisting the string.



# Glover Day

On July 29, 2000, the Glover Ambulance Squad is sponsoring its fifth annual Glover Day celebration. The day begins at 9 a.m. with the Citizens' Advocacy Barn Sale and the Tour de Glover Bike Race which starts at the green in front of the firehouse, circles through West Glover, and ends at the Lake Parker Country Store. The next event, the "Run, Chamberlin, Run" race begins at 10 at the Runaway Pond Park. The finish line is at the green in Glover Village. A kids' race runs simultaneously, beginning at Westlook Cemetery. Other events during the day include our town-wide bake sale, Bread and Puppet's show, "Runaway Pond," performances by local musicians, lunch by the Glover Fire Department, kids' games, displays by local businesses and organizations, including the Glover Historical Society, and, of course, our popular 50/50 Great Glover Duck Race with over 50 ducks in the race. Don't forget to buy your tickets. The Glover Community Church auction follows the morning activities at 1 p.m.

In the evening, the Glover Fire Department is sponsoring a street dance. On Sunday afternoon, the Dixieland Jazz Band will play at Lake Parker, first circling the lake on a boat and later, lakeside, in a concert open to the public.

It promises to be a fun day as always—one of the favorite events of the summer. Watch for posters and press releases for details.

## In Memoriam

**Rachel (Buck) Vincent**, wife of Harold Vincent and daughter of Dr. Percis Buck. Died this past winter in Florida.

**Sisto Lombardi**, husband of Director Rita (Gaboriault) Lombardi. Passed away recently.

## Glover History

An occasional publication of the  
Glover Historical Society, Inc.  
Municipal Building, Glover, VT 05839  
President ..... Wayne Alexander  
Vice President ..... Bob Clark  
Secretary ..... Ulo Sinberg  
Treasurer ..... Martha Alexander

### Additional Board Members

Charles Barrows, Gisele Clark, Betsy Day,  
Peggy Day Gibson, Harriet King,  
Rita Lombardi, Elaine Magalis,  
Randy Williams