



## WEST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### This Old Town

*Music, Storytelling and Community Picnic, Sunday, September 18*



#### **Mary Fenn sharing the past with the present.**

The West Windsor Historical Society and the Mary Blood Library are now collaborating to develop a series of Storytelling events entitled "This Old Town." The kick-off event, Sunday, September 18, opened at 4pm with lively and entertaining music by Eric Boedtker and Johnny "O". Mary Fenn followed with lovely anecdotes and stories that led to her love of history. Edson Pierce concluded the

storytelling event relating amusing stories that delighted the crowd. Afterward we concluded our event with a savory feast prepared by everyone as a potluck meal.

On Sunday, November 6, the second in the series of "This Old Town" featured *Stories of the Flood*. Adam Boyce and Ron Neronsky entertained with fiddling and guitar playing. Light refreshments were

#### Calendar of Events

***This Old Town  
Music & Storytelling***  
Sunday, April 1st  
Mary Blood Library

***Spring Auction***  
Sunday, April 29  
Story Memorial  
2 PM

***Bowers Bridge  
Dedication***  
Spring, TBA

***Vermont History Expo***  
Tunbridge, June 16, 17

***Bean Supper***  
Saturday, July 7  
4:30-6:30 pm

***Art Show***  
Story Memorial  
September 28-30

### WWHS Spring Auction

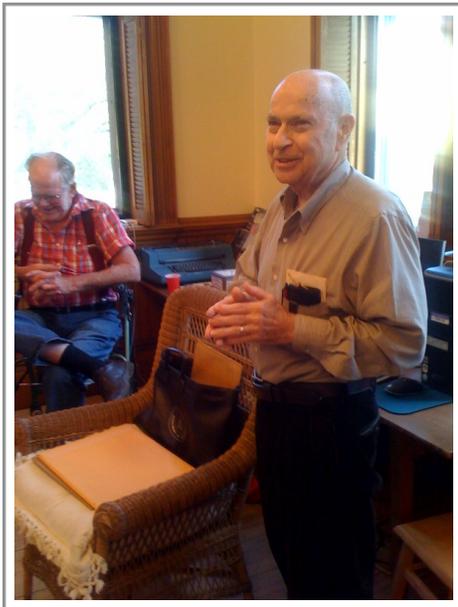
On Sunday, April 22, commencing at 2:00 PM at the Town Hall in Brownsville, Auctioneer Mark Isenberg will auction off approximately 100

donated items. The minimum bid per item is expected to be \$20 so one can expect some nice quality items. One item is a brand-new picnic table ready for your backyard. Another is an extremely rare "unopened picture puzzle" of the red barn

beyond the Best covered bridge at the historic Churchill farm on Churchill Road. A number of items, such as gift certificates, for the auction are anticipated from numerous local businesses.

Contact Tom Kenyon should you have items you would like to

**This Old Town Storytelling Series...Continued from page 1**



**Edson Pierce**

served and Tom Kenyon led a discussion on the recent events leading up to the flooding as a result of hurricane/tropical storm Irene. What went well and what did not. Arthur Steinberg provided additional information regarding the local fundraising that is being conducted to help provide disaster relief to our local residents and businesses. If you would like to make a contribution please send a check to the West Windsor Disaster Relief Fund. Any donations

Our next event, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 1st will feature fun-loving tom-foolery of

the past and present.

Come enjoy stories and laughter and even share a few of your own! Go to our town website to confirm the date and time. We hope to see you there! ✍ JK Bodnar



**Chase Gravelle & Maggie Mello**

**Spring Auction...**

*Continued page 1*

donate to this much-needed fundraiser for the Historical Society. Because of space consideration at the town hall for donated items for the auction, arrangements can be made for items to be picked up a week or two prior to the auction.



**Two 15" Ceramic Delft Plates Sleigh and Carriage**

start time. ✍ Tom Kenyon can be reached at 484-3370 and [tomkenyon@myfairpoint.net](mailto:tomkenyon@myfairpoint.net).

A special bake sale is also scheduled for your pleasure during the auction. Note the hall will be opening at 1:00 PM for dropping off baked goods and for those that would like to browse the auction items prior to the

**Design Challenge**



The West Windsor Historical Society has extended the deadline for taking Euro decal design submissions. Euro stickers should be created in two-color format either by hand or on the computer. The finished size when printed will be 4"x 6" oval labels and will be screen printed in two

color with removable adhesive on the back.

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2011. Please email digital files of the stickers to Jennifer Bodnar at [jkbodnar@comcast.net](mailto:jkbodnar@comcast.net) or mailed to WWHS, Euro Sticker Contest, P.O. Box 12, Brownsville, VT 05037. Please provide your contact information: Name, address, telephone number, and email.

We will announce the winner in the following issue!

**VERMONT JOURNAL -- A Couple Light-hearted Entries**

*April 1, 1865*  
**TO THE LADIES OF VERMONT**  
 A member of the old Vermont Brigade who is without correspondents, to relieve the monotony of camp life, wishes to correspond with some young lady from Vermont who is not engaged.  
 Object: Matrimony, fun, etc.  
 Address: JAMES SHELDON  
 6th. Vermont Volunteers  
 Washington

*August 5, 1865*  
**Joke:** At a medical examination, a young aspirant for a doctor's diploma was asked, "When does mortification ensue?"  
 Think of the amazement his questioner must have felt when he gave the following answer: "When you propose to a lovely girl and are refused."

UPDATE: HURRICANE IRENE



Hurricane Irene left its indelible mark on Vermont, August 28, 2011. Many towns suffered catastrophic damages as well as a few fatalities. In Brownsville, we were somewhat more fortunate, however we did suffer distinct losses and damages. Friends and

historical landmark, Bowers Bridge is currently being rebuilt by Stephen Bodley a resident and timber frame builder in Brownsville. I visited with Stephen last week to learn more about the process. Some of the historical attributes of the Bowers Covered Bridge are its two long laminated cords, attached to them are two laminated arches forming a tied arch bridge.

neighbors helped where needed, while the road crew, town employees, and volunteers went to work to tackle the most immediate needs. A number of roads had sections that simply disappeared, including Harrington, Banister, and the Brook Roads. In fact, Brook Road still remains a non-through road heading to Windsor. Harrington and the other roads affected have been miraculously repaired.



**Stephen Bodley**

Bodley has been hard at work for over two months recreating and improving upon its structural design in order to help it serve its purpose in the new century with heavier more frequent loads. He has handbuilt approximately 170 pieces that will be assembled and raised onto the original deck platform shortly on its previous location.

Bowers Bridge, originally built in 1884, is a historical landmark. It is one of the two smallest tied arch bridges in Vermont. Bowers Bridge has a 44' span, while its engineered sibling, the Best bridge, (33' span), was built in 1889 and sits 3/4 mile upstream. Tropical storm Irene pummelled the area swelling the brook causing Bowers Bridge to travel downstream to rest perched on the bank of the Biebel property. As a

The south side of the abutment completely washed out, while the north side was undamaged. As a result, steel sheets have been driven down in to the stream bed and additional foundation work is currently being completed.

The strength of the wood is in the lateral grain, not apparently in the weight of the wood as 2/3 of the weight of this wet fresh timber will evaporate over time. He worked especially hard at maintaining its original integrity while also adding some characteristic embellishments, like flared girts and hand-drawn oak pegs revealed by 2".

*JK Bodnar*



**Socket Chisels**



**Old Vermont Frameworks**



**Knee Braces**

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**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

<b>Student</b> (Age 17 or under)... \$5	<b>Patron:</b>
<b>Senior</b> (Age 65 or older)..... \$5	• Individual..... \$100
<b>Regular:</b>	• Family ..... \$200
• Individual..... \$10	<b>Life Member</b>
• Couple..... \$15	• Individual ..... \$250
• Family..... \$20	• Family..... \$400
<b>Sustaining:</b>	Photographs By:
• Individual.....\$25	<i>Jennifer Knight Bodnar</i>
• Family..... \$50	

*Happy 100th Birthday to Eleanor Hannah!*

**Spring Newsletter**

**Sponsors**

**Dennis & Nancy Brown**

*In memory of Kneeland & Shirley Brown*

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*Thank you to and for Tom Kenyon*

**Gaydell Collier**

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**Victoria and Michael Harlow**

**Arthur & Frances Hyde**

**Sally Lather**

*In memory of Frank Lather and in appreciation of Jane Stillson for her efforts in preserving Frank's photography capturing the uniqueness of West Windsor and its people.*

**Vic & Cordelia McCuaig**

**Ruth & Edward Perkins**

**Marylou Randal**

✍ Thank you for all the generous donations which contribute to the printing of this newsletter. If you have sent in a donation, but do not see your name above, it will be applied to future printings. We acknowledge sponsorship chronologically and appreciate your donations and continued support. If you would like to make a donation to the printing of this newsletter, please send a check to: WWHS, PO Box 12, Brownsville, VT 05037. Memo: Newsletter

**West Windsor Historical Society**

P.O. Box 12, Brownsville, VT 05037

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED