



Historical Society of Clarendon, VT

A YUUUGE THANK YOU!

It was a long wait, but with the help of many dedicated citizens the historical society of Clarendon is up and running! We couldn't have done it without the enthusiastic help all the people who have attended meetings, joined as a member, and donated their time, money, or artifacts. You have not only our gratitude, but the thanks of past and future generations of Clarendon citizens, whose history will be preserved. Thank you!

Our annual meeting took place in May, with enough of a turn out for a voting quorum, and officers were elected. We are fortunate to have enough interested members to fill many positions, but there is still plenty of work to be done, so if you have an interest in being an officer, by all means step forward! Our regular meetings take place the third Wednesday of every month at 6pm at the Town Hall. We hope to see you there, and just to, um, sweeten the pot, rumor has it that chocolate and goodies often appear. But you didn't hear it from me.

HOME, SWEET HOME

Currently the search for a home for the society continues. We wish to thank the Clarendon Board of Selectmen for graciously allowing us to use the Town Hall as not only a meeting place, but as a storage space for some recently donated artifacts.



A home for the society would not only provide a place for meeting and storage, but in the long term it would provide a place to display objects in exhibits for the viewing and education of the public. The Rutland Historical Society has a lovely building, located on Center Street in Rutland, if you haven't seen it, stop by! For the time being we happily content ourselves with our webpage, www.clarendonvthistory.com, and you can also like us on Facebook!

PROJECTS

We are working on the following projects.

Oral Histories: The most important part of Clarendon's history is not artifacts, or photographs, it's her people. Many historical societies interview those whom have lived a great deal of time in the town, and we would like

to do the same. We have developed a template of interview questions, and our goal is to get these histories on video, or at least an audio recording. These are entirely voluntary, and

we promise will be painless! If you or somebody you know would be a candidate for an oral history, please contact us!

Native Populations: It's easy for an American historical society to forget that there was history here before there was America, but the fact is there was, and it was ancient and diverse. We have a member who is interested in the native peoples of this region, and is trying to piece together the story of the inhabitants, and what the area



possibly looked like. The inhabitants would have been the Mahican and Abenaki people, “the People of the Dawn”, although the Iroquois would have also been



familiar with the area. It was thought for many years Vermont was only a summer fishing, hunting, and farming ground for the natives, but recent studies have shown that there were settlements in Vermont. We are excited to learn more about our first inhabitants!

Although not specific to Vermont populations, the book Women of the Dawn, by Bunny McBride is one that I would highly recommend. Fun Fact: many words that we use derive from native languages, such as moose, canoe, Bomoseen, and Winooski.

DID YOU KNOW...WELCOME TO MASSACHUSETTS!

Many know that Vermont was a “disputed” state, to put it mildly, and before we officially became a state on March 4th, 1791, we were alternately claimed by New York and New Hampshire. But, before the illustrious Benning Wentworth was granted the land grant for the Town of Clarendon, we were part of a larger, Dutch land grant called the Lydius grant, sanctioned by the



MASSACHUSETTS governor, which identified this area as Durham, not Clarendon! So our first name was Durham! GASP! Try to restrain your natural indignation. Before long, all was put right, and we would become Clarendon, Vermont.

Interestingly enough the first male, white child born to our town was named Durham! If you would like to know more, further information can be found on our website,

including a copy of our second land grant, which names us as Clarendon. (Sighs of relief welcome.)

THAT’S ALL FOLKS!

- Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 20th at 6 pm at the Clarendon Town Hall, we hope to see you there!
- We want to hear from you! Contact us at:

Historical Society of Clarendon, VT
P.O. Box 30, Clarendon VT 05759

(802)282-6431

We can also be contacted through the contact tab at our website, www.clarendonvthistory.org.

*Map of Clarendon used with permission from Middlebury College.