



Bennington Historical Society News

Next Program: "From Village Nook to the Paradise: Bennington's Eateries"

October 21, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Adam Pareski Education Center of the Bennington

From Village Nook to the Paradise

Ted Bird will take us on a trip back to the restaurants of Bennington's past. Take a journey down memory lane and revisit many of the place to eat in Bennington. With his usual flair, Ted, using his vast photo collection, takes us from place to place, adding bits of information about each stop.

About Ted Bird

Born in Arlington and raised in Bennington, Ted Bird's roots are deep here in County. His parents operated the local movie theater in the 1930s and 40s.



After attending the University of Vermont, Ted returned to Bennington to work at the former Noveck's Store on Main Street where he had started as a part-time high school employee in 1955. He went on to purchase the store with his business partner, Cy Schultz in 1962. Being an entrepreneurial spirit, in 1967 he opened his own shop, Bird's Inc., selling photography supplies, audio. In 1979 he closed up shop and headed out to other opportunities in New Hampshire, New York, and Maryland—operating various businesses from

selling hot dogs to antiques and picture framing. In 2003 he returned home to Arlington and joined the Commercial Division of Hoisington Realty. Ted is a past president of the Bennington Historical Society.

President Calvin Coolidge Returned to Bennington

On September 21, Coolidge re-enactor Tracy Messer delivered Coolidge's famous "Vermont is the State I Love" address at the Bennington Railroad Station



in front of the caboose. A crowd of more than fifty people attended the event.

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Martha Hamlen's *Book of Remembrances*

When Martha Hamlen left Cleveland in the 1850's, her friends presented her with a "floral book" of remembrances in which they wrote personal poems and thoughts to her.



Martha married Charles Dewey's great grandfather Charles E. Dewey in 1855, but friends continued to write in her book. We've lost the personal touch of sincere thoughts written for our close friends and relatives, but here are samples from her book:

"To Martha

*"Take! Oh take! The gift I bring
Not, the blushing rose of spring
Not a gem from India's cave,
"Not a wreath to deck thy brow,
Not a ring, to bind thy vow,
Brighter! Is the gift I bring,
Friendships! Purest offering."*

Cleveland Feb. 10th 1850

Charles A. Everett

"Dear Martha,

*"How consoling is the tranquility
of retirement to call to mind an
absent friend, this alone makes us
taste again in solitude the pleasure we
once enjoyed in their society.
With impeachable emotions of gratitude for
Your kindness tender in return my most
Fervent prayer for your prosperity and Happiness,
through every change and vicissitude
Of this life, May providence crown every effort
And undertaking of yours, and happiness
Attend your path and never suffer a wave of
Trouble to disturb your peaceful breast is the
Sincere wish of your friend, Bill Jones."*

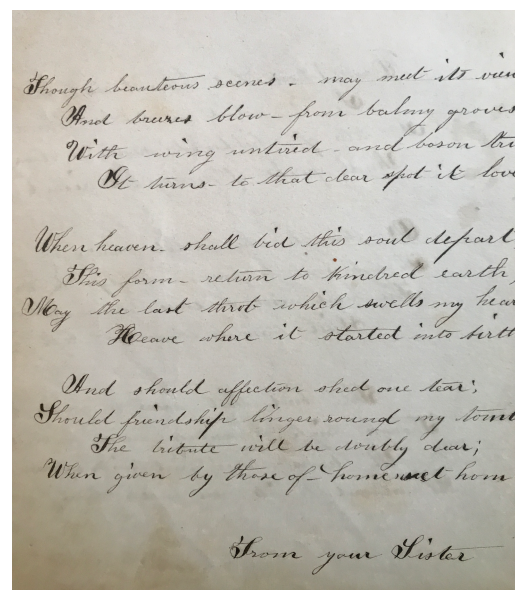
*"Paint lines, on brittle glass and clear, A diamond
pen may trace with care,*

But what the subtlest hand writes here,

Is graven on the owner's heart."

Sept. 17, 1855

Emily Everett



Above: Handwriting sample from *Book of Remembrances*

View the Past Presentations of the Bennington Historical Society on Video

Did you know you can view presentations going all the way back to 2012? Thanks to Jackie Marro, who has videotaped these presentations and put them online, we can learn whether Ethan Allen was a hero or a traitor, hear the memories of a Mill Girl, or hear about the Mickie Kane murder. Or download a driving tour of historical sites. Old photos, old documents, and much more! Just go to: <https://benningtonhistory.org/> and enjoy yourself. Below are some teasers and trailers from past talks:

Memories of a Mill Girl

<https://benningtonhistory.org/archived-presentations/archived-presentations-2013/memories-of-a-mill-girl/>

Anne Bugbee tells the story of Mary Palmer a young girl who arrived in America in 1859 and began working in a cotton mill in North Bennington as a spooler. In 1906 she wrote "Reflections of a Mill Worker" describing her experiences. At this Historical Society Meeting at the Bennington Museum Anne also talked about the fire and explosion in 1874 at the Bradford Mill which killed many women who were working there.

How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State

<https://benningtonhistory.org/archived-presentations/archived-presentations-2013/memories-of-a-mill-girl/>

Tony Marro, one of the authors of the book on former governor Philip Hoff, *How Red Turned Blue in the Green Mountain State*, talks about Hoff and Marro's personal experiences with him. Hoff was the first democratic governor to be elected in Vermont in 109 years. Elected in 1962, he modernized the state politically and was a catalyst for turning a staunch Republican stronghold into one of the bluest states in the union.

Orphan Trains

<https://benningtonhistory.org/archived-presentations/archived-presentations-2013/orphan-trains/>

Dr. Daniel Bean, then Director of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences, tells the story of orphans from New York City who were put on trains from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s and transported across the country in hopes of finding homes for them. These trains made their way through Vermont. Dr. Bean's father was one of the orphans who found a home in Vermont.

BHS Sponsors Bennington History Day Contest

by Don Miller

The Bennington Historical Society (BHS) will again hold a writing contest for high school students.

The BHS will sponsor the submission of the top 3 papers into the Vermont History Day Contest which will be held on April 6, 2019. Winning papers at Vermont Day are eligible to participate in the National History Day contest in Columbia, Maryland in June.

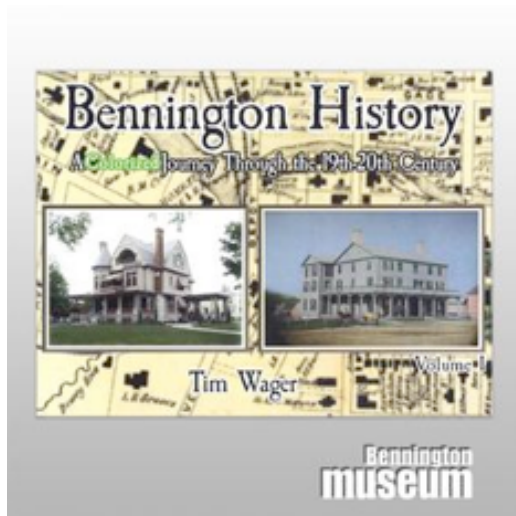
Papers should be submitted to BHS by February 21, 2019. The papers will be judged by local historians, authors, and educators. The judging criteria will be same as used at the Vermont and the National History Days. Students who enter their paper in the Vermont Day Contest are expected to make a brief presentation of their papers to a panel of judges, In Burlington on April 6.

This year's papers should be written on the theme of "Triumph and Tragedy." Examples of topics on the theme are available on the National History Day website.

Any questions can be addressed to Don Miller at donmiller46@comcast.net

Tim Wager's *Bennington Before There Was Dirt*

Tim Wager has created two new books with old photos of Bennington colorized, the first now on sale in the Bennington Museum gift shop.



Tim explains his project in the preface: "This is my new venture, the Art of colorizing historical Black & White images of my home town, Bennington, Vermont. This art died out shortly after WWII and is seeing a comeback thanks to the numerous computer software programs coming on to the market today."

He describes the process he used to create the images, noting that images have been cropped from original black and white glass plate negatives, a process that shows details which otherwise would otherwise be lost in the background. Next, he applies color palettes from the era.

The colorizing process started in Europe and spread to Japan, where photographers often collaborated with artists. When the process spread to the United States, photography studios "often hired young single women as colorists."

According to Wager, the best selling hand colorized photographer of all time, was Wallace Nutting, a New England minister who took his hobby and turned it into a full

time business that spanned nearly 40 years with colorized Images seeing their golden years from 1900 to 1940."

On the backcover of the book, Wager explains the From there, it's place headphones on head,"

Volume II of Bennington History will be available November 9 in the Museum's gift shop. The remainder of the series will be available at a later date in limited editions. Profits will be donated to the Bennington Museum.

Upcoming Meetings

October 21 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm: "From Village Nook to the Paradise: Bennington's Eateries." Ada Paresky Education Center of the Bennington Museum.

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November 18 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm: The Colgate Family of Bennington." Ada Paresky Education Center of the Bennington Museum.

Cindy Butler has spent the last few years researching the J.C. Colgate Family and the time they spent in Bennington. James C. Colgate owned about 3,000 acres in Old Bennington which was called Fillmore Farm. Here he raised a variety of farm animals including milk cows and his prize winning horned Dorset Sheep. Cindy will talk about the contributions the family made to the town and the Village of Old Bennington.

Introduction to the Research Library of the Bennington Museum

by Jane Radocchia

A grandfather tells his grandson about his family's participation in the Battle of Bennington. Or does he tell two grandsons?

This is the questions which one of our patrons, a many times great-granddaughter, brought to the Research Library.

Genealogical records and 19th Century newspaper articles were included.

Census and birth records in the Library helped sort out that the two grandsons were named 'John' but had different middle names. One lived on the family farm with his grandfather. The younger one moved to the farm when his own father unexpectedly died.

Newspaper articles, including an obituary, helped trace one of the John's life through several successful careers and three towns. A map from the late 1860's placed the farm of the other at the intersection of two roads, one of which no longer exists as more than a trail through the woods, visible and passable only in early spring or late fall. The Library could report that it is very likely that both grandsons heard the stories.

What questions can the library help you answer? Librarian Tyler Resch is available to give you guidance.

Bennington Historical Society Board Members

Officers: Bill Morgan, President; Anne Bugbee, Vice-President; Charles Dewey, Secretary; Joe Hall, Treasurer

Members: Beverley Petrelis, Ted Bird, Jackie Marro, Jane Radocchia, Don Miller, Scott Maguire, Ray Rodrigues

Do you have an item you'd like to share through our newsletter--an historical anecdote, something from your family history, an historical artifact, a question for someone else to answer, a remembrance from Bennington's past? If so, send it to Ray Rodrigues at raymond_rodrigues@msn.com

Do you have an email address? If you've received this in the mail and would prefer to have it sent by email, please send your email address to raymond_rodrigues@msn.com