



Bennington Historical Society News

Next Program: "Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison"

Presenter: Tyler Resch

Time: Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 pm

Location: Ada Paresky Education Center of Bennington Museum

Our next presentation features a talk about Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, 1805-1879, author of the emotional anti-slavery journal *The Liberator*. Garrison learned the printer's trade in Bennington, where he edited and published a weekly newspaper in 1828 and 1829.

Tyler Resch, the Bennington Museum's librarian, will talk about Garrison's life and his weekly *Journal of the Times* on Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m. As a long-term editor himself, Tyler Resch is uniquely qualified to help us understand one of the most famous people ever to live in Bennington.

In 1829, Benjamin Lundy, editor of *The Genius of Emancipation* in Baltimore, recruited Garrison to help him edit that publication. Garrison became convinced that only complete emancipation of slaves should be the goal. He wrote a column called "The Black List," which documented the whippings, murders, and other atrocities against those who had been captured and sold into slavery. After being sued for libel, Garrison was sentenced to six months in prison, as well as being fined and ordered to pay court costs.

Arthur Tappan, another abolitionist, paid the fine and court costs so Garrison could be released from jail. At that point, he left



Garrison, circa 1870

Baltimore and returned to New England to publish his abolitionist newspaper, *The Liberator*. The American Anti-Slavery Society began in 1833, and shortly thereafter about 120 Vermonters formed their own Anti-Slavery Society.

(For sample readings from Garrison's newspaper, go to Newspapers.com: <https://www.newspapers.com/> and enter *Journal of the Times* in the search box.)

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Past Presentations of the Bennington Historical Society

The videos listed below were taken by Bennington Historical Society member Jackie Marro. Click on the links to view the videos.

Monument Avenue

Tony Marro narrates this first in a series of programs on the streets of Bennington, VT, by the Bennington Historical Society. This is one of the oldest streets in the state of Vermont and was originally called Main Street. After the Bennington Battle Monument was completed in 1889, the name of the street was changed to Monument Avenue. This street is lined with magnificent colonial homes, the Old First Church, and its cemetery.

Burgess Road

Burgess Road is one of a series of documentaries on "Bennington Street by Street" done by the Bennington Historical Society. Beverly Petrelis, a resident of Burgess Road, gives the early history of the road with videos of others talking about their experiences living on the street. Hear residents talking about cockfighting! Cattle drives! Recreation. The Bypass. Wildlife. And, of course, the people.

Whose House This Is I Do Not Know

Bob Tegart talks about tracing the history of houses, learning from the architectural features of houses, making inferences from existing documents such as tax records and wills, identifying past occupants through census data and obituaries, and having so many unanswered questions that arise as each piece of evidence is uncovered. He encourages people interested in house history not to overlook anything, whether from magazines discovered tucked in a corner or the evidence revealed in the soil around the house.

Union Street

Tony Marrow begins by describing Union Street: a mix of small homes—typical workers' homes, ornate homes, and The Pottery. The video begins by considering structural features such as porches and closets as relatively recent additions to homes. John Austin, Mary Molica, and David and Marion Lewis Wilson talk about the histories of their homes. Finally, Mary Molica and Beverly Petrellis discuss available resources for learning about old homes.

The Ethan Allen Highway (Rte. 7) from Pownal to Manchester

Ted Bird's presentation to the Bennington Historical Society traces the development and changes along old Route 7 in southern Vermont, also known as the Ethan Allen Highway. Ted, a local historian, photographer and collector of old post cards, compared images from the past with what is there now, noting that there were a lot of individual guest cabins that predate the current motels, as well as a great many gas stations and small restaurants.

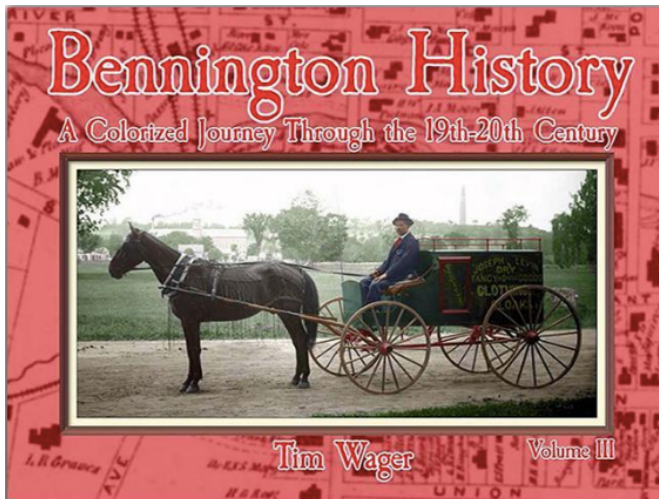
Upcoming Meetings

Next Program: David Redding—2 p.m., June 16, 2019

Was David Redding really a British spy? Or was he falsely accused and executed? What role did Ethan Allen play in Redding's trial and execution? Bill Morgan, President of the Bennington Historical Society, will help you understand these questions at the June meeting of the Society, 2 p.m. June 16.

Tim Wager's Colorizing Process

At the Historical Society's April meeting, Callie Raspuzzi, the Bennington Museum's Collections Manager, discussed the process Tim Wager used to introduce color onto old photographs of Bennington. She revealed that she has worked with him for fifteen years, but has never met him in person. (See her talk at [Jackie Marro's Vimeo site.](#))



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Raspuzzi began by giving her audience a brief history of people colorizing photos, from hand-tinted daguerreotypes to hand-colored postcards. She noted three of the best-known people who colored black and white photos: Wallace Nutting and Neal and Susanne Rappaport.

Raspuzzi noted that Wager's choices of colors were not necessarily accurate, but she pointed out that colored postcard colors were not necessarily accurate as well. To illustrate, she compared posters, postcards, and other items in the museum collection. She demonstrated one of the most obvious differences in colors between Wager's choices and the reality by showing photos of Victorian dresses in the Museum's collection. She provided a link to the Museum's [catalogue of photos](#), emphasizing that the images on the website did not have as much resolution as the original photo.

Wager has now produced three books of old photos from Bennington which are for sale in the Museum's bookshop.

Old First Church Lecture Series

Each lecture will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm and is open to the public.

May 15: New Lights versus Old Lights – Religion in early Bennington. Speaker: Don Miller

June 19: Church, State and Community in Early Bennington and the New Hampshire Grants. Speaker: Kenneth A. Clarke, Pastor

July 17: Battle of Bennington and Its Impact on Old Bennington. Speaker: Robert Hoar

August 21: Cemetery Tour. Leaders: Charles Dewey and Vicky Printz

September 18: Settlement of Bennington – Walking Tour of Old Bennington. Leader: Bob Tegart

Bennington Museum – July 21 at 2:00 pm

Three authors who have written extensively about the communes and counter-culture movement of the 1960s will read from their work and engage in a discussion with audience members about their experiences and their writing. Books by each author will be available for purchase in the Museum Store before, during and after the event.

Tom Fels, who has written about his experiences on communes in *Farm Friends, Buying the Farm*

Yvonne Daley, author of *Going Up the Country: When Hippies, Dreamers, Freaks, and Radicals Moved to Vermont*

Verandah Porche is a poet who has written about the Packer's Corners commune and is a contributor to *Home Comfort: Stories and Scenes of Life on Total Loss Farm*

Bennington Battle Monument—Selected Events

June 14: Flag Day – The Stars and Stripes and More

Celebrate our nation's most enduring symbol with flag presentations and activities for children and adults.

Time: 2:00 AM to 4:00 PM

July 4: Reading and Celebration of the Declaration of Independence

Historic Games and Colonial fun leading up to the reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Time: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

July 5: Friday: Historic Walk

Join this guided walk between the Monument and The Old First Church.

Time: 7 PM (Starts at the Monument)

August 16 Friday: Bennington Battle Day

All state historic sites are free.

There will be a commemorative ceremony at the Battle Field at 7:00 PM

August 17 and 18: The weekend anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Bennington

There will be an encampment of revolutionary war re-enactors at the Monument

Bennington Historical Society Board Members

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

Members: Beverley Petrelis, Ted Bird, Jackie Marro, Jane Radocchia, Bob Tegart, 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