



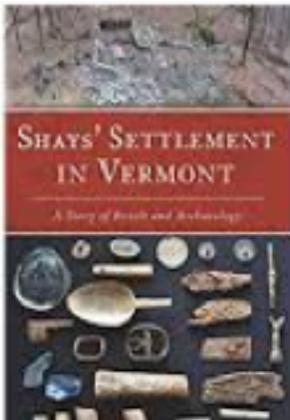
Bennington Historical Society News

Next Program: “Shays’ Settlement in Vermont: A Story of Revolt and Archaeology”

**November 17, 2:00 p.m.
Ada Paresky Education Center**

Shays’ Settlement in Vermont

On Sunday, November 17 at 2:00 pm, Bennington Historical Society presents Stephen Butz speaking about his discovery and exploration of Shays’ Settlement in Vermont. After fleeing the 1787 uprising in Massachusetts, led by Daniel Shays, many settled in the wilderness of Sandgate, Vermont. Rediscovered in 1997, the site of this



settlement has been studied since 2013. Stephen Butz, a teacher from New York, has been leading students in exploring the site.

In his review of Butz’s book in the Spring 2018 edition of the *Walloomsack Review*, Ray Rodrigues wrote: “Butz sets out to

discover what happened to those who could not pay their taxes, who rebelled against Massachusetts, and who created an historical mystery by escaping into Vermont. “

Butz’s tale reads very much like an adventure story or, as he calls it, a “quest,” interweaving the history of the rebellion with the eventual discovery and uncovering of the Shaysite settlement .

Butz describes the discoveries of various building sites, indicates that GPS sightings were made for each of them, provides a portion of a geological survey map showing the locations of the buildings, and discusses what he has learned from the artifacts uncovered. He discovers what he believes to be a mill and its spillway. He also uncovers a very large home foundation that may have been where Shays and his family lived.

The research that Butz conducted and his discoveries about Shays’ settlement in Vermont fill in an important gap in Vermont’s history.



Stephen Butz is an educator, writer, archaeologist and environmental scientist lives along the Vermont-New York border. He teaches at Cambridge Central High School, runs the Shays’ Settlement archaeology field

school, and works on various research projects.

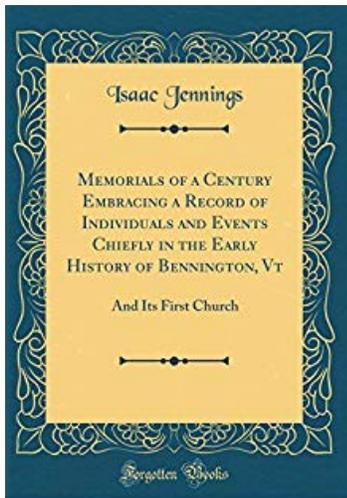
In this Issue

“Shays’ Settlement in Vermont”	1
“On Reprinting Books”	2
Past Presentations of BHS on Video	2
“Two Strong Vermont Women”	3
Past Program: “Bears and Wind Turbines” . . .	4

On Reprinting Books

The Bennington Historical Society Board has been discussing whether to reprint certain books that have been out of print and would like to know whether newsletter readers would like to have reprints available to them.

One such book is Isaac Jennings' *History of Bennington and its First Church*, published in 1869. An online copy of the book may be found at:



<http://bit.ly/IsaacJennings>

Individual chapters include the first meeting house, the first church, the disagreement with New York over who controls Vermont,

the Battle of Bennington, and the lives of many early settlers.

Another possible book for us to reprint is Abby Hemenway's *Vermont Historical Magazine, The Local History of Bennington, 1860-1883*, published in 1887. Its contents include a military and census history of Bennington by Hiland Hall, with brief biographies, a chapter on the Battle of Bennington, and a long poem on Vermont.

Or perhaps you'd be interested in Lewis Cass Aldrich's 1889 *History of Bennington County, Vermont*, with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. Its contents include Bennington's early discovery, the town during the French and Indian War, and Bennington's press, judiciary, and medical profession, as well as brief histories of the towns around Bennington.

Which of these books or another particular book about Bennington's history should the Historical Society consider reprinting? If you have a preference, please send an email to Ray Rodrigues at raymond_rodrigues@msn.com

View Videos of Previous Bennington Historical Society Talks

History...Where it Happened - Park McCullough House 08.01.16
<http://bit.ly/McCullHouse>

Dick Smith interviews Mary Feidner, who takes us through the history of the Park McCullough House in North Bennington. Learn about John McCullough, Lizzie Park, Hiland Hall, and even Hall Park McCullough. If you wonder what a porte cochere is, they'll show you.

Bennington Trolleys
<http://bit.ly/trolleybenn>

There were three trolley systems in Bennington, Vt. The oldest was the Bennington & Woodford Electric Railway System, which started in 1894. The second system started in 1895, and the third in 1903. Joe Hall, local historian, presents a program on the Bennington Trolleys to the Bennington Historical Society on Feb.21, 2016.

Edward Hamlin Everett
<http://bit.ly/everettbhs>

Tyler Resch discusses Everett, who made his fortune in bottle manufacturing and oil. The building and grounds of his Bennington estate became Southern Vermont College, which recently closed. His orchard of 70,000 trees was once the largest one-man owned orchard in America. His company, The American Bottle Company, merged with Corning to become Owens Corning. Prior to the 1929 stock market crash, Everett's estimated wealth was between \$40-50 million.

Tim Wager's Colorized Photos of Bennington
<http://bit.ly/wagerpix>

Callie Raspuzzi discusses Wager's colorization process, compares it to other colored photos and prints, and takes us through views of Bennington that we otherwise would not have seen.

Two Strong Vermont Women by Anne Bugbee

To call **Clarina Howard Nichols** a suffragette is a misnomer because the term and all implied by the word did not exist in 1852 Vermont. Clarina was, however, a strong voice for the women's movement. She was a journalist, public speaker, and advocate for temperance, abolition, and women's rights.



Born in Townsend, Vermont, she first married a Baptist minister who was so abusive that the court granted her a divorce and the right to keep her children. In the 19th century the law

prevented women from suing for divorce or retaining custody of their children. Her second marriage was to George Nichols, a newspaper publisher in Brattleboro.

Nichols was several years her senior, and when he became an invalid, she took over as editor of the paper, *The Democrat*. Clarina Nichols helped organize the first of many petitions submitted to the Vermont Legislature to give women the right to vote in school meetings. When the petition finally came to a vote, it was defeated by a fairly narrow margin. In 1847 she wrote a series of editorials on married women's property rights. These led to the passage by the Vermont Legislature providing for such rights. Thanks to Nichols' effort, a Vermont woman was no longer required by law to turn over all her possessions, including her body, to her husband. He could no longer commit her to a mental institution or require her to have an abortion without her consent.

When George Nichols died in 1855, Clarina relocated her family to Kansas. This was the time of "Bloody Kansas," and she saw the

opportunity to influence change. She lobbied the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention, and because of her efforts, the final Kansas State Constitution granted women equal rights to education, custody of their children and the right to vote in local school matters. She died in California in 1885 where she moved to be with her family.

Fourteen years after Clarina Nichols died, **Consuelo N. Bailey** was born in Fairfield, Vermont. After graduating from UVM, she enrolled in Boston University School of Laws where she earned her law degree. Returning to Vermont, she was one of the few women lawyers in the State. In 1926 she was the first woman admitted to



practice law in front of the Vermont Supreme Court. A quietly determined woman, Bailey opened doors for Vermont

women. At the age of 25 she was elected state attorney of Chittenden County and in 1930 to the Vermont Senate. In 1934 she was elected vice chair of the State GOP and the next year Republican National Committeewoman. In her third term as an elected member of the Vermont House of Representatives, she was elected Speaker of the House, the first

continued on p. 4

continued from p. 3

of only three women to hold that position so far. In 1955 she was elected Lieutenant Governor. She was the first female to hold that position in US History. She served until 1957. She retired from politics in 1957 to take care of her husband who suffered from Parkinson. She died in Burlington in 1976.

Some Women's Suffrage Dates

Nov. 3: Idaho votes for women's right to vote, 1896.

Nov. 5: Kansas rejects the vote for women's right to vote, 1867.

Nov. 7: Colorado passes women's suffrage, 1893.

Nov. 18: Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting for President, 1872.

Dec. 7: Universal suffrage amendment introduced in Senate, 1868.

Dec. 10: Wyoming passes women's suffrage, 1869.

Feb. 8: Vermont passes women's suffrage, 1921. (Ratified nationally in August, 1920.)

Past Program: "Bears and Wind Turbines"

At our October 21 meeting, Jacquelyn Comeau shared Fish and Wildlife Department's preliminary research about the effect of wind turbines on a Searsburg ridge and whether they had an impact on the bear population and their movements. Individual bears have travelled west from Searsburg into Bennington and Pownal and south into Massachusetts.

To study bear movement, the researchers use several approaches: they tranquilize bears and put tracking collars on them; they collect data from hunters; and they also use trail cameras.

They have learned that bears love beechnuts. In fact, beechnuts are at their peak every other year, and female bears give birth every other year, so there appears to be a correlation. Thus, concern for beechnut groves is a major issue. How the noise of turbines may affect bear movements is not yet clear.

The study has been going on since Fall 2011, just before the turbines were erected. The windmills began operation in 2016, and the study plans to end in 2021. This Fall is the first time there has been no construction on the ridge.

Bennington Historical Society

A volunteer-operated program of the Bennington Museum

Officers: Don Miller, President; Bob Tegart, President-Elect; Bill Morgan, Immediate Past President; Charles Dewey, Secretary.

Committee Members: Anne Bugbee, Beverley Petrelis, Joe Hall, Ted Bird, Jackie Marro, Scott Maguire, Ray Rodrigues.

Newsletter Editor: Ray Rodrigues

*Thank you for your donation to Bennington Museum in support of
Historical Society programs.*