

THE SCRIBBLER II

DECEMBER 2007

VOL 2, ISSUE 1

How can you be sure that people were here 11,000 years ago? Do you know anything about an heirloom bean that may have come from Cavendish? What happened to the Congressional Medal of Honor that was awarded to Spafford in the Civil War? Can you tell me where my great grandfather is buried? These are just a few of the questions the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) has received this year.

From 11,000 years ago to 2017 has been the time span covered by CHS in 2007. Not only did volunteers assist with the archeological dig at Jackson Gore, but we had two presentations in September on findings from the 11,000 year old Paleo Indian site. At the same time we explored our pre history, CHS collaborated with Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA) in forming the Cavendish Economic Roundtable-see article below. CHS revived Old Home Day, with many of the area businesses, artists and organizations having booths on the Cavendish Green. Collaborating with LPC-TV, CHS is videotaping oral histories and plans to do more in the coming year, so that we can appropriately preserve our history for future generations.

To assist with the number of genealogy inquiries we receive, CHS now has a handout "Researching Cavendish Families." In addition, the Cavendish Library has been given copies of a number of CHS materials, as well as the

handout, to assist visitors and patrons who wish to do research. CHS will soon be adding volume four to Linda Welch's "Families of Cavendish" series, which features the families of Atherton, Bemis, Heald, Graves, Ordway, Putnam, and Weston.

At the annual meeting, a new slate of officers were elected and Life Time Achievement awards were given to Paul and Barbara Kingsbury and Craig and Pat Rankin. Among the many conversations and discussions that took place during the evening, were some very important points raised regarding the need for historical societies to take the leadership in preserving the old buildings in their town. See more on this topic below.

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season? Take home Cavendish. If you are interested in a Christmas delivery date, be sure to have your orders to us prior to December 15.



CHS wishes you a joyous and happy holiday season and the best of New Years.

Cavendish Historical Society Board

Dan Churchill
Will Hunter
Tim Jefferson
Gloria Levin
Seymour Levin
Bruce McEnany

**Mark your calendar for Saturday,
July 5, 2008 Old Home Day.**

Carmine's Corner

For many years, Carmine Guica has been researching and compiling various aspects of Cavendish history and genealogy. He has kindly given CHS several of his collections of writings. As a regular feature of the Scribbler II, we will include some of his research findings. If you have a particular topic you are interested in, please contact CHS.

For the past two years, Carmine has led a Cavendish cemetery tour. Below is one entry from his book on Cavendish Cemeteries.



Jotham Wheelock, a lone grave in a good size cemetery, is walled in on all four sides. It is half way between the Sanders place and the original Deacon

Jonathan Wheelock on the right as you head for the Stearns Farm House. His is the only known grave in the Cemetery. Jotham was born in Shrewsbury, Mass Aug. 26, 1763. He was a Sergeant in the Regulars. He married Relief Harris 11 Nov. 1802. He was said to have been stricken with a disease or head injury. Before he died, he requested that a heavy plank, filled with long spikes, be placed just above his coffin. On June 7, 1822, he was pensioned as follows, "Jotham Wheelock, an insane person of Cavendish is unable to care himself. Ebenezer Wheelock, a brother of Whiting, VT, appointed as his Guardian." His wife Relief left him and moved to German Flats, NY with their

son Benjamin, born in Cavendish 3 Sept. 1809

We asked Carmine about the "Pest" Cemetery, where Jotham Wheelock is buried. Pest houses and cemeteries were places used for those with communicable disease. He writes, *...There were some that died with the dreaded diseases of Small Pox, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria and are buried in unmarked graves on their farms and in the Revolution Cemetery and also in the Cemetery where Jotham Wheelock is buried. In those days when any one died of those diseases they buried them as soon as possible. There are stories of children of with those diseases who were left out and some one would take them away. They took care of each other the best they could to the end. This also is the answer to some of the Head Stones that were found in the woods.*

Cavendish Economic Roundtable

A collaborative effort of the CHS and CCCA, the Cavendish Economic Roundtable (CER) has developed an overall goal and mission statement. The purpose is "to develop strategies that will improve the economic outlook, strengthen the family-friendly nature, and enhance the educational and cultural opportunities in Cavendish, with the mission is "to collaborate with businesses, organizations and citizens to promote the long-term wellbeing of Cavendish."

As short-term goals or strategies, the attendees have been discussing ways to market the town in order to increase full-time residents and businesses. Strengths of the geographic area and of the town itself were addressed, including

proximity to ski mountains and quality educational opportunities. It was pointed out that Cavendish really does sit in an excellent commuting position for the Route 91 corridor.

Part of the marketing effort for the town would include increased community and cultural events as well as outreach to relocation services and realtors, and establishing a much needed town website. Other communities in central Vermont are holding similar meetings and discussions, and central planning exists at the county and state level to help local neighborhoods address these issues.

Recently, the President of Springfield Redevelopment Corporation (SRDC) came to a meeting to discuss what they are doing in other parts of the Okemo Valley and how CER and (SRDC) could collaborate. As CHS's Cavendish Business Directory shows that the leading employer in Cavendish is home based business, SRDC has asked what type of workshops/training is most needed and what would be of the greatest interest to this group. If you have suggestions, or want more information about the activities of CER, please call 802-226-7807 or e-mail margoc@tds.net

All meetings are open to the public and residents, as well as businesses serving the area are encouraged to attend.



Why Preserve Old Buildings

Historic buildings cannot be replaced. While money is always a factor, the buildings often demonstrate

techniques and skills, which are no longer being practiced.

Historic buildings have character and scale that are unique to the time period they were built. Buildings that predate the car, such as the Cavendish Museum and the Stone Church, often have details that were meant to catch the eye of the person walking by.

These buildings have a history. We continually hear from museum visitors about how they, their parents or grandparents were married here. Others describe the cranky wood stove that was used to keep the building warm enough for town meeting or a basketball game. More than one local girl received her first kiss in the shadows of the building after a dance.

Preservation is about keeping what is intact and building on that foundation.

Since historical societies have a responsibility to past, current and future generations to accurately record and preserve a town's history, preservation should be part of its responsibility. Therefore, in the coming year, CHS's Building Committee will begin to discuss preservation of the Museum Building as well as the Stone Church.

To learn more about historical building preservation, go to the National Trust for Historic Preservation website <http://www.nationaltrust.org/>



Old Maps of Vermont On-line

Using tools as simple as long chains to measure out towns

and lots, surveyors divided Vermont into 251 towns and then each town into lots. The Vermont State Archives is using digital technology to make copies of the maps accessible over the Internet so landowners, lawyers, surveyors and historians can use them to analyze colonial-era roads, boundary lines and titles. Some of these records may be based on surveys and maps done 200 years ago. The maps being scanning

aren't the originals drawn in the 1700s. Instead, they're copies — sometimes copies of copies, in fact — since most of the originals remain in town clerks' offices. The archives office is continuing to add maps that the state holds, and it could reach out and start scanning the original maps held at town offices. To access the site, go to Vermont State Archives: <http://vermont-archives.org/>

BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you have not joined the Cavendish Historical Society, or need to renew your membership, please consider doing so by completing the form below and sending a check, payable to CHS, to CHS, PO Box 472, Cavendish, VT 05142. All contributions are tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Level

Individual Member \$10 Senior Member 65+ \$5 Sustaining Member \$500
 Household Member \$15 Contributing Member \$250

I would be interested in serving as a volunteer

I would be interested in serving on the following committee(s):

Program Planning Fundraising Building
(Museum)
 Archives Budget