

Starksboro Historical Society Annual Report, 2009

The Starksboro Historical Society (SHS) had a memorable and productive year full of events, cheer, and activities involving all of Starksboro's generations.

The SHS participated in the Henry Sheldon Museum "Town Treasures: The Local History Exhibit" in March and April, joining other regional historical societies in representing the history of their towns. "Champlain: The Lake Between," a documentary film by Caro Thompson, a Quadracentennial project, was shown March 20 at the Village Meeting House to a big crowd, with a discussion by reenactors from the film (Michael and Deborah Blakeslee and Brian Anderson of Starksboro, and Wes Red Hawk Dikeman) dressed in period garb, and music performed by Lausanne LaBombard Allen. On May 15 Karl Crannell presented about General John Stark, drawing a crowd from both in and out of town to an informative lecture. Starksboro was represented by Kevin Hanson at the Sheldon Museum's Veteran's Day Civil War-themed community event on November 8, telling the story of his relative Joel Carpenter, a veteran of the war. The SHS co-presented a lecture with the Jerusalem Schoolhouse with author Mike Winslow speaking on his book 'Lake Champlain, A Natural History' on October 14. The SHS also joined the Breadloaf Section of the Green Mountain Club with Cecilia Elwert to hike through the historic Hillsboro section of Starksboro on October 25.

The SHS presented displays at the Henry Sheldon Museum, and the Starksboro Art & Soul events in November, including the Hoedown at Sentinel Farms (Cota Barn) and Harvest Dinner at Robinson School. New materials were created, including a vibrant display of the work of children participating in Ruth Beecher's and Linda Barnard's storytelling project; a poster for the Starksboro Cemetery Project; and examples of Lake Champlain Basin Program Wayside Exhibits created for the L.S. Gordon Store roadside turnout.

On November 6, SHS member and webmaster Kevin Hanson received an Award of Excellence for Society Operation at the 56th Annual League of Local Historical Societies Meeting at the St. Albans Historical Society Museum. Kevin was recognized for the website he created for the SHS. Heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to him!

The Society received several donations through the year of artifacts relating to Starksboro's history, some sent from far away by thoughtful people or historical societies who recognized our potential interest. They included funeral books, genealogies, land deeds and postmaster records. Activities and learning continue in relation to preserving the collection that has been gathered.

SHS Members also responded to several inquiries about Starksboro ancestors, with letters arriving from as far as Oregon; to a request from the Town of Charlotte for information about the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, built in 1812 in Starksboro and moved to Charlotte over the snow in the winter of 1858; and to the Vermont Philatelist, seeking information about Starksboro's post offices.

The Starksboro Historical Society thanks its volunteers, members, partners, and the Town of Starksboro for a wonderful year and welcomes anyone with an interest in Starksboro's history to join us! Find information at starksborohistoricalsociety.org.

The 2009 SHS Officers: President: James Lockridge (second term); Vice President: Robert Stokes (second term); Treasurer: Sarah Adams (third term); Secretary: Ruth Beecher (third term) Corresponding Secretary: Cynthia Kling (third term) Trustee: Emma Lou Craig (second term); Trustee: Linda Barnard (second term).