

Starksboro Historical Society  
Annual Meeting  
Starksboro Town Offices  
January 29, 2009

Members present: Jim Lockridge, Robert Stokes, Sarah Adams, Emma Lou Craig, Cynthia Kling, Linda Barnard, Ruth Beecher

The meeting began at 7:10PM with SHS President Jim Lockridge presiding.

1. **VMGA (Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance) Membership Renewal/Building Accomplished Museums Update**: Jim mentioned that SHS representatives have been to 2 VMGA workshops so far: Assessing and Planning for Museum Collections on August 26, 2008, and Basic Registrations Techniques on October 7, 2008. We haven't been informed about any upcoming workshops yet, or status of our internship. Jim will inquire about both issues. Motion passed to pay the \$50 annual fee to VMGA.
2. **Henry Sheldon Museum Town Treasures: The Local History Exhibit**: all Addison County historical societies are participating in this exhibit at the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury this spring. The exhibit runs from March 3 to April 15. We decided to put up the Starksboro Schoolhouses exhibit that Emma Lou set up for SHS in the Starksboro Public Library 2 years ago. Ruth said she would also gather photographs and student work that her class created at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse also 2 years ago. Ruth and Sarah offered to set up the exhibit at the Sheldon Museum on February 24, Starksboro's turn to mount our exhibit in the Cerf Gallery's middle window. We will have a 48 inch wall panel and table space. February 27 is also available for any finishing touches on our exhibit. Ruth offered to let Susan Peden, Sheldon's coordinator of this exhibit, know of our Schoolhouse theme.
3. **President's suggestions for 2009**: Jim mentioned the need for more **business meetings**, which all present agreed were needed. This came about because last year's model of having a series of programs AS our meetings didn't allow us the time to cover necessary business. Therefore, we will meet every other month in addition to any programs we host. We moved to **amend the bylaws** of our **meeting date and time** to allow more flexibility (currently the bylaws state "Regular meetings of the Members shall be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month, starting in January, at 7:00PM unless otherwise announced."). Our amendment shall read "Regular meetings of the Members shall be held at an amenable time to be set at each organizational meeting." Emma Lou will email the bylaws to Ruth for amending. **OUR NEXT MEETING WAS SET FOR Monday, March 30 at 7PM at the Starksboro Town Offices.** Again, we will set subsequent meetings at each meeting.

**Create a Planning Committee for ongoing programs:** after discussion, Sarah, Linda, Emma Lou and Jim offered to be on this subcommittee. We discussed several options for programs, to be discussed in agenda item #6.

**Establish SHS Office:** SHS has space available to use upstairs at the Starksboro Town Offices. Discussion ensued about having the VMGA intern help create a SHS office. Emma Lou will be working on archives with her new laptop.

**'Living' Starksboro History Document (Wikipedia?):** Jim mentioned creating a written history of Starksboro that the whole community could edit and add to, which is what Wikipedia.org is set up to do (it's a community-authored encyclopedia).

4. **Election of 2009 Officers:** After discussion, the present slate of officers was voted in for another term. Here is the slate:
  - President: Jim Lockridge (second term)
  - Vice President: Robert Stokes (second term)
  - Treasurer: Sarah Adams (second term)
  - Secretary: Ruth Beecher (third term)
  - Corresponding Secretary: Cynthia Kling (second term)
  - Trustee: Emma Lou Craig (second term)
  - Trustee: Linda Barnard (second term)
  
5. **Reports from President, Treasurer, Secretary:** **President** (see agenda items #1,2,3). Furthermore, Jim created a wonderful report on SHS activities to include in the Starksboro Town Report. **Treasurer:** Sarah Adams reported that we received \$235 in membership dues, and spent \$633 in expenses (\$140 for programs, \$50 to VMGA, \$25 to Baptist Church, \$118 for storage boxes, stamps and frames, and \$300 for VMGA workshops. Sarah will send Ruth an updated membership list with names, addresses and emails, and Ruth will send this updated list to Officers and Trustees. Cynthia will submit to the Starksboro Gazette's February issue a blurb about upcoming SHS programs as well as a plea for SHS members to renew their memberships and new members to join us, as funds are sorely needed. **Secretary:** Ruth Beecher recapped the 2008 programs, which were also our meetings: **March**, in conjunction with Jerusalem Schoolhouse Lecture Series, we held a gathering of Starksboro Sugarmakers who told many stories while sharing a potluck dinner; **April 18**, we hosted Kitchen Tunks and Parlor Songs, a Vermont Humanities Council sponsored event; **June 11**, again in conjunction with Jerusalem Schoolhouse Lecture Series, we heard more stories of Starksboro farming with Carroll Stokes; **Sept. 7**, we hosted a picnic potluck with Hank Bissell of Lewis Creek Farm and toured the L.S. Gordon Store site as well as the site of an old ironworks at Lewis Creek Farm; **Sept 26**, in conjunction with the Starksboro Public Library, we hosted Starksboro's very own political scientist and author, Professor Frank Bryan for a Presidential Greatness program; **Nov. 21**, we hosted Sprightly Steps: Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition, another Vermont Humanities Council sponsored event.

6. **2009 Program Ideas** (to be pursued in more detail by newly formed Planning Subcommittee):

As suggested by Elsa Gilbertson, we would like to host the showing of Caro Thompson's 1 hour film, **Champlain: The Lake Between**. This would coordinate with the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samuel de Champlain. **March 20** is a good time for all members present at this meeting – the planning subcommittee will check with Elsa. Ruth has access to an LCD projector, small speakers, as well as a laptop to show the film. The Starksboro Village Meeting House was suggested as a venue. We thought having a potluck dinner at the Baptist Church before would be a great way to get folks out; music was also suggested. Linda offered to see if the church was available; any takers on the music?

Also suggested by Elsa, we would like to host speaker **Kurt Crannell**, who wrote a book about John Stark, for whom Starksboro is named. With reenactors from the Revolutionary War period and another speaker about the Crown Point Road, **Jim Rowe**, this program was suggested for **May 15** (or another date in May depending on their availability).

Cynthia will host her annual **Brown Hill History Day** on Brown Hill Road in Starksboro in the summer months. Talk ensued about connecting with cemetery and/or cellar hole walks.

Perhaps other **walks to cemetery and cellar holes around town** with Larry and Rodney Orvis will occur.

In conjunction with Jerusalem Schoolhouse Lecture Series, we will co-host author **Mike Winslow's** program, **What Samuel de Champlain Saw** on **October 14**.

Please send further suggestions for programs to Sarah Adams. Also, Cynthia Kling mentioned that she will be doing a program for the Bristol Historical Society on her 2 great-grandmothers with show 'n' tell. Perhaps she will do a program for SHS!

7. **Other Business**: Jim received a **design grant** to cover the cost of 2 signs from the Lake Champlain Wayside Exhibit, a Lake Champlain Basin Program project. The signs will be displayed at the pull-off by the old L.S. Gordon Store and will have photos and information about the green Mountain Cold Spring Creamery, and the Lewis Creek Valley "The Fish-Weir River". Jim showed a sample sign from another site – these signs are designed to be informative as well as long-lasting and very attractive.

Jim also mentioned an idea for a **fundraiser**: door markers with dates of building construction and the SHS name on them.

8. **Next meeting**: Monday, March 30, 7PM at the Starksboro Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Beecher