

Mill Museum Gallery Talks

Given in tandem with the Winooski Library and Winooski Historical Society

DATE: Wednesday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Champlain Mill – Second Level

SPEAKERS: Deborah and Nicholas Clifford\
The Great Vermont Flood of 1927 and its aftermath

Many stories – dramatic, courageous, tragic, sometimes even humorous – come from the disaster that struck Vermont in November 1927. Yet to understand what kind of a place the state was in those days, and what role it played in America as a whole, one must look not only at the flood, but more particularly at the rebuilding that followed.

We will look at the flood and the damage it caused, both in the state as a whole and in the region around Winooski in particular. We will look at the provision of emergency relief in the flood's aftermath, particularly at the ways in which undamaged towns helped their less fortunate neighbors, and we will look at the process of recovery, the role of state government, and of institutions beyond Vermont.

Nicholas Clifford taught Asian history at Middlebury from 1966 until 1993, and has written several books on early twentieth-century China. This is his first entry into American history.

Deborah Clifford has written three biographies of 19th century Vermont women. Her most recent is “The Passion of Abby Hemenway: Memory, Spirit, and the Making of History,” published by the Vermont Historical Society back in 2001. She is currently at work on a book of brief biographies of twelve Vermont women born before 1920, to be published next year by the Globe/Pequot Press.

