



**OFFICERS**

Rita Martel  
President

Mary Ellen Fitzgerald  
Vice President

Jean DeVarney  
Secretary

Leslie Turner  
Treasurer

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to the public.

Annual Dues are:  
\$4 (Individual)  
\$5 (Family)  
\$3 (student or 65+)

See reverse for application

**MUSEUM HOURS**

Tuesday  
10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Wednesday  
3 p.m.-7 p.m.

Thursday & Friday  
10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday  
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Closed Sunday, Monday & major holidays

**MUSEUM PHONE**

802.655.6424



We are always looking for active members to assist us in working at the museum. Your History is very important to the community, and how we preserve it. Future generations will cherish and appreciate what we can preserve for them now. Your input is vital to this project.

# Winooski Historical Society

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2010



Many times, over the past year, we have received requests for information on former residents, from people simply interested in the older relatives or by those getting started in genealogy into their family. Most recently we were contacted by a gentleman from St. Louis, Missouri who was seeking info on his great-great grandparents. He gave us their name and said they lived in Winooski in the 1850s, and thought they had both died here in the 1890's. Through our records and through information given to us over the years we were able to reunite him with his great-great grandparents, and we were even able to provide him with a photo of the actual burial location of his great-great grandparents. This is a great feeling to be able to help someone like this in their search.

In the spirit of helping people like this to connect to their roots here in Winooski, we at the Society are calling upon you, our fellow members and citizens, asking if you would be willing to contribute old identified photos of their family members and also any genealogy info on them. Those of you who have done genealogy research into your family tree and are willing to share your proud heritage with the Society so that in the future, we may help possibly your unknown relative insight into the ancestry and even establish a relationship with you. Questions asked usually range from where they lived in Winooski to where they worked, how many other family member were there, what was the city like where they lived, and where they might be buried? This is the type of info we are seeking.

We plan to devote a section at the Society to just this type of info to assist people in their search and already have a few family histories from the O'Brien's, Fitzgerald's, Piche's, Blondin's, Chastenay's, Brownells, and Brunelles to name a few. We would like to add your family to this list. To contribute any information, please contact Rita Martel at 655-1846 or Al Blondin at [alalfie@comcast.net](mailto:alalfie@comcast.net) or you may call the Society at 655-6424, and leave a message.

*Winter Newsletter*

## Mystery Photo



Here's another great "mystery photo" from our archives. We've provided two views from different years of the building's history. Look familiar? Ring any bells? If you have any information about the building, please contact Leslie Turner at 655.7250 or e-mail [jturnerii@yahoo.com](mailto:jturnerii@yahoo.com).

## Winooski Historical Society

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues \$4 (individual), \$5 (family), or \$3 (student and 65+) are payable to:

**Winooski Historical Society  
c/o Leslie Turner  
119 Bellevue St.  
Winooski, VT 05404**

Please note: Any question regarding your membership call Leslie (802.655.7250)

# Upcoming Events:

## February 14, 2010

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Robert Picher will review the history of former Winooski mayors (1922-1950). The presentation will be at 1:00 at the Winooski Historical Society Museum on the second level of the Champlain Mill, next door to the Winooski Library.

## March 14, 2010

Gail Dion will review her grandfather, Armand Rathe as Winooski mayor. Participants, along with Gail, will review the mayors from 1950 to date.

A **brunch/meeting** was held at the Winooski Senior Center on Sunday, January 10th. The \$5.00 monthly brunch is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella and the St. John the Baptist Society. After a short meeting to elect society officers, Jim Weston reviewed some amusing and interesting articles from our local publication, *The Winooski Eagle*, in the 1970s.

A **suggestion** box has been installed at the Museum on the post above the round table. We hope comments, questions or suggestions will be submitted to benefit the museum.

Fall Newsletter

## Mystery Photo Solved!



To all of you who said the old school house on Spring Street, I say congratulations. The old schoolhouse was first built in 1864 and by 1890 the need was such that another addition to rival the size of the original school was added to the present school. This can be reflected in the picture above. The need for higher education was on the move in Winooski and we were on the edge of our first graduation exercise.

In 1890 the honors went to Mace H. Wells and Ann S. Welch to be the first two students to graduate from Winooski High School. In the early years of education it was rare to see a male student go on to further education, but in 1892 Winooski High School saw its first male student to graduate in that of Richard Wheeler. It was 1905 before Winooski was to see its second male student graduate and that was William Shanley.

The last class to graduate from this school on Spring Street was in 1912 and the last graduates were Joseph Allard, Thomas Fitzgerald and Elsie Fiske. The graduation exercise was held at the Corporation Hall on June 8, 1912 and while the graduation was in progress the old schoolhouse on Spring Street was already separated in two sections again and well on its way in the middle of Spring Street to its new site across the street from the old location. The schoolhouse was purchased by Mr. Charles Lord and to be used as apartment housing. Today if you look across the street from the Spring Garden housing you will see both sections of the old schoolhouse still in use today.

~Al Blondin



It's been decided that the Winooski Historical Society will continue to use the Stone House as it's logo.



Do you have any old Winooski photos (buildings, street scenes, portraits) that you'd like to donate or share (we can scan a copy) with the Historical Society? Contact Leslie Turner at 802.655.7250 for assistance.



Winooski Historical Society  
Champlain Mill  
20 Winooski Falls Way  
Suite 42  
Winooski, VT 05404