

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Aug. 20th, 12:30 pm, So.
Duxbury Church property

- Our "Let's Make a Deal" lawn sale and bake sale will be in September. See next page for details.

Our next DHS meeting will be our annual picnic on Sunday, August 20th, at 12:30 pm, at the South Duxbury Church property. Rain or shine! Since it will be potluck, please bring a hot dish, salad, or a dessert to share. Please bring your own lawn chair, if possible. Beverages and paper products will be provided. There is a port-o-let on site for your convenience. Everyone is welcome! We hope to see you at the picnic!

Spring Plant Sale Update

The DHS worked with Claussen's Greenhouse to offer bedding plants, hanging flower baskets, herbs, and perennials for our spring plant sale. This fundraiser was a success, bringing in \$601 for the society. We would like to thank Claussen's Greenhouse, everyone who purchased plants in support of our society, and the folks who organized the fundraiser. As you can see below, the Sunshine Hall provided a safe place for the plants to wait for their owners.



Shawn Perry photos.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

Members: Eulie Costello, Lori Morse, Bonnie Morse, Mark Morse

- We updated the family files with new and/or updated facts, news articles, etc.
- Catalogued donations from Waterbury Historical Society, the Morse family, Don Welch.
- Mark provided research assistance to a descendant of the Montgomery family.
- Mark provided research assistance to a descendant of the Dow family.

Donated Artifacts/Documents/Ephemera

- Duxbury Town Reports – Morse family.
- Samuel Cook Turner letters 1859-1889 – Don Welch.
- Waterbury High School Yearbooks & 100 Year History of WHS – Waterbury Historical Society.

Monetary Donations Including the Annual Appeal as of 7-11-23

Janet & Ralph Ainsworth	Marge & Ed Gormel	Audrey & Alan Quackenbush
Phyllis & Bill Berry	Breta & Steve Grace	Ben Smith
Janet Bisbee	Camille & Richard Grace	Connie Smith
Dale Christie	Harold Grout	Jill Smith
Rachel & Arthur Cubit	Stephanie Koonz	Mary & Ken Spencer
Jenny & Scott Davidson	Barb & Mo Lavanway	Laura & Greg Titus
Dwight Day	Brian Lindner	Kelly Welch
Linda Devlin	Alison & Christian Magnani	Mary & Donald Welch
Willie Docto & Greg Trulson	Bonnie & Mark Morse	Shari & George Welch
Amy Douglas	Carol Perry	Mary Whitcomb
Steve Dow	Myra Perry	Hazel Winter
Jessica Engels	Cecile & Don Phillips	Judy & John Woodruff



"Let's Make a Deal" Lawn Sale and Bake Sale!

When: Saturday, September 9th, 8 am-3 pm – NO EARLY BIRDS

Where: South Duxbury Church property



Items to donate can be dropped off at the Sunshine Hall on September 6th, 4 pm-7:30 pm with rain date TBA, if necessary. Additional hours/drop offs can be arranged by contacting Shawnee Perry (244-6496). We'll accept donations on the day of the sale, of course, but we'd love them earlier so we can get organized!

NO: large furniture, televisions, clothing, large bedding items, ski boots, large appliances, or encyclopedias, please. We cannot accept cribs, car seats or bicycle helmets per State regulations regarding resale of these items.

YES: household items, games, kitchen linens, toys, collectables, jewelry, sporting equipment, books...and more!!

People have been extraordinarily generous over the years and we appreciate donations of lawn sale items and bake sale goodies very much. We hope to see you there!

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

If you've driven by our property this summer it has probably looked pretty much the same. Yes, the Sunshine Hall still desperately needs a coat of paint, but behind the scene plans have been developing.

Our plans got a big boost on April 10. Our application for a portion of Duxbury's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money had been before the Duxbury Selectboard for a while, but that was the date it was on the agenda for a vote. Money to support our electrical upgrade was unanimously approved! We wished all the members could have heard the kind things said about our Society, particularly pertaining to the Society's help for the town following the flooding from hurricane Irene in 2011. We thank the Town for this support and look forward to having the new transformer and electrical panel for the church installed by the end of the summer.

A few days after that the committee members and some helpers got together on an amazingly warm April day to clean out the interiors of both of our buildings. A few interesting old records were found, but mostly there was a lot of debris to be cleared. Our focus was on getting ready for the pre-Memorial Day service to be held on May 20. The preparation was well worth it as this remembrance ceremony and reopening of the church turned out exceptionally well. The pictures will surely speak to the success of the event.

Plans for the bigger projects to come keep inching along. On May 5 we met with the town zoning commissioner to see what permits we will need. Fortunately, it looks like the service providers like septic excavators or well diggers will do most of the work for those permits. Grenier Engineering of Waterbury who provided discounted services for our survey will be evaluating our possibilities for septic service. We shall need to get our own permit for the accessibility ramp once we figure that out.

We were delighted that the Sunshine Hall could be used for the first time this May to receive the plants for the annual flower fundraiser. It worked out really well and we hope to have this once again be an annual event.

Our committee meeting on June 2 was very important because we were introduced to Joe Greene of Joseph Architects of Waterbury. He and his company have worked on designing many - generally larger - projects in our area and beyond. We definitely need professional advice on turning the Sunshine Hall into a useful and attractive space. He is just getting started, but we are very much looking forward to seeing his approach to the building and working with his team to make it happen.

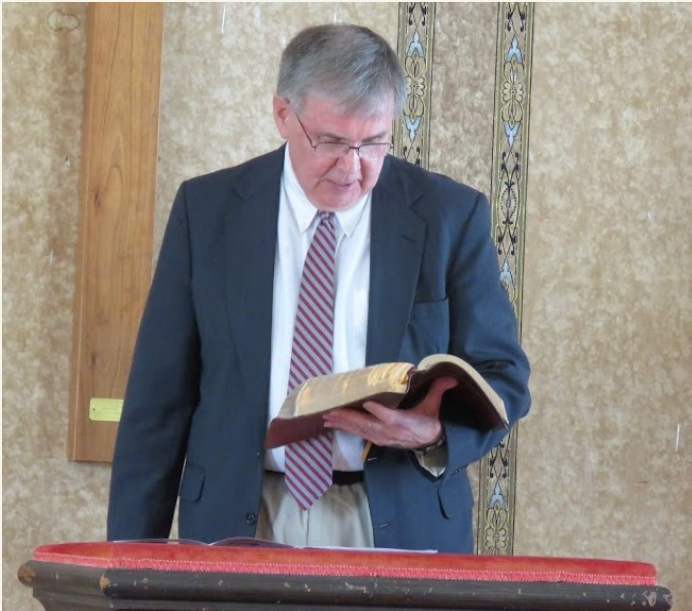
We were amazed to hear at that meeting that Joe wishes to volunteer his services. It is so generous, but it is also typical of the kind responses we have gotten from almost everyone when we approach them about this project. From Town officials to statewide organizations to service providers to potential donors...there has usually been innate interest and support. You members have gotten us to this point.

We Need Your Help! Please consider making a donation by mail or online at duxburyvt.com. This is a major, multi-year project to restore the church and Sunshine Hall. A donation in any amount is greatly appreciated.

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

On May 20, 2023, the DHS held a pre-Memorial Day service at the South Duxbury church. The event started in the church where Skip Flanders and Pastor Sam Newton each provided their own address to the guests. Ken Spencer played two hymns on the pump organ and the closing hymn was played by Willie Docto on the violin. After the service, guests walked across the road to the Veterans Monument in the South Duxbury cemetery for the decoration of the monument. Mark Morse addressed the guests followed by the laying of the wreath by Christian Magnani of the Duxbury Historical Society, Denise Gabaree of the Moretown Historical Society, assisted by the American Legion Harry N. Cutting Post #49 of Waterbury. Closing prayer was provided by Pastor Marie MacDougall of the Moretown Methodist Church.

We wish to thank everyone who made this event possible and thank all the people who attended. Thank you to the American Legion Harry N. Cutting Post #49 of Waterbury for their presence and assistance at the event. Lastly, thank you to all Veterans for their service to our country.



Pastor Sam Newton of the Wesley United Methodist Church in Waterbury.



Willie Docto playing "Ashokan Farewell."

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Skip Flanders presented the following opening message at the pre-Memorial Day service at the South Duxbury Church:

I want to share a few words about the history of the church and building that come from an August 18, 1957 sermon at the rededication of the church by Rev Leslie T. Pennington. This sermon was given at the rededication of the meeting house of the First Union Society of Duxbury. They had just finished restoring the steeple and re-shingled part of the roof.

I will read a phrase from Rev Pennington's 1957 Sermon: "Our Meeting House is again on the way toward becoming the adequate spiritual symbol, the place of worship for persons of all denominations, and religious center of this community, as it was intended to be by those who built it just 102 years ago." That was in 1957, it is now 168 years since that original opening as the residents of Duxbury and Moretown again gather in this Church to begin a life anew in the community.

The Rev Pennington was a pastor in Chicago and purchased the Andrews place in Dowsville in 1936 as a summer home. Rev Pennington spent summers in Vermont and during the summer he supplied local church pulpits both as a guest minister and as a supply minister while the local minister was on vacation. One of his daughters was married in this church. Rev Pennington was born in 1900 in Illinois and died in 1975. We are lucky that Rev Pennington typed up his 5 page single-spaced sermon and very lucky that it has survived 66 years and is available to us today. It has some valuable information.

Rev Pennington quotes in his sermon from poet T. S. Elliot that he became what he is today, not by rejecting his past, but by assimilating it into his living present. This is true of the community of our common life. More than we realize, we are what we are as a community because of our history. And our highest fulfillment as a community comes by gathering the experiences and wisdom of history into our living present. It is this which gives us poise, perspective and a sense of the worth and direction of our life, both as persons and a community. In knowing our own history we discover what we really are.

With these words of Rev. Pennington I believe he was prophesizing the future of the South Duxbury Church and



Shawn Perry photo.

Skip Flanders giving the opening remarks at the service.

the community to come. A prophesy was realized 66 years later when the Duxbury Historical Society acquired the church and is working to preserve the very building he was speaking from and the history of the community.

I think his words give this day a special meaning in not only the history of this building but in the history of the community that gives us a challenge going forward. Rev Pennington goes on to mention the friends from Moretown happily united with them this morning. He asked them to think of the histories of Moretown and Duxbury together, for their histories are interwoven, and they belong together as parts of one community. Historically the same persons and families have shared in the shaping of the life of both of them. Rev Pennington goes on to honor Samuel Cook Turner who led the building of the church in 1855.

Samuel Cook Turner lived on Turner Hill and was married to Almira Munson. They had 10 children so there are many descendants

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

living in the area today. Rev Pennington spoke of the events in the life of Samuel Cook Turner in 1855, such as, in February his wife Almira died, in the summer he built the church and in the autumn he helped make up the deficiency of those members who had defaulted on their pledges for building of the church.

Samuel died in 1877 and is buried in the old cemetery behind the former Delong house among members of his family, neighbors and other founders of the church. In 1957 they had Arnold and Alan Turner, descendants of Samuel, place a wreath on his grave. Cecil Percy who repaired the steeple in 1957 is a descendant of Samuel Cook Turner.

At the 1957 rededication Alice Delong searched for descendants of the founders of the church and had them sit together in the church for the dedication. I am descended from Samuel's oldest brother Lyman Cook Turner. It was noted in the 1957 rededication that the wood the pews you are sitting on was made of select butternut wood from the forest around the church.

For me, one striking fact about the founders of the church is how they shared the church for worship. In 1854, 25 subscribers representing five different denominations decided to build a church and apportioned the Sundays saving one Sunday for all denominations. The denominations were Congregationalist, Protestant Methodist, Episcopal Methodist, Baptist and Universalist and later the Adventists.

As I began the work on this short history of the South Duxbury Church, I wondered how they came to ask a Pastor from a Unitarian Church in Chicago who only lived here in the summer to give the sermon for the rededication of the Church. After reading about the ministry of Rev Pennington and the kind of person he was, it is very obvious why they invited him to give the sermon on the rededication. His obituary reported that he was very loyal to the affairs of the little South Duxbury Church and to Old Home Day activities.

I would like to share some words from his eulogy that give us insight into the kind of person and minister that Rev Pennington was. His love for beauty as well as his genius for friendship have been aptly set forth in the paragraph from his Eulogy: *How privileged we have been who have enjoyed the friendship of Leslie Talbot Pennington - during many a long and happy years, and shared with him a rich and varied life, from which he drew perpetual delight and an ever increasing wisdom. Leslie was gifted with an interest in every aspect of life. He loves his farm in Moretown, and the green hills of Vermont. His retirement years were spent working in his garden among the flowers he loved, and watching the birds crowd his feeders. Leslie lived in covenant not only with God and men but also with nature.*

Another quality about Rev Pennington was that he wanted to make his sermons sing. I don't know the Andrews place very well where Rev Pennington summered, but as I remember there were lots of flowers around it, maybe nurtured by Rev Pennington. From all the comments on his life it is very obvious that he loved and cared for this little South Duxbury Church and it is fitting that they asked him to do the rededication Sermon.

I am going to close with a prayer of Rev Pennington that maybe he wrote on the hill in Duxbury: **"We lift our eyes to the everlasting hills of light; We drink from the everlasting springs of life; We know once more the freshness of the morning; We find you in the life and motion of our souls." Amen**



Shawn Perry photo.

PRE-MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE



Pastor Marie MacDougall of the Moretown Methodist Church.



Shawn Perry photos.

D U X B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y , I N C .
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**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - AUG. 20TH
SO. DUXBURY CHURCH PROPERTY- 12:30 PM**

D U X B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L
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