

# Under the Hump

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- The May DHS business meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20th, 10 am, South Duxbury Church.
- The Pre-Memorial Day Veterans Service will be held on Saturday, May 20th, 11 am, South Duxbury Church.
- The Spring Plant Sale is underway! See next page for details.

Below is an email that was sent to the membership on April 8, 2023:

Dear members:

It is with great regret that we announce that Don Welch has resigned as our president. He has been so important to the existence and success of our organization that it is difficult to imagine going forward without him. We certainly hope that he can be involved as much as possible in the days ahead.

One of the main reasons for this email is to address the need for a replacement. Our vice president Christian Magnani will be filling in for the time being, but it is not a role he can continue indefinitely. Could you recommend a candidate...or consider it a role for yourself? Be assured that it would not be expected that the new president would need to fill all of the various functions that Donnie has filled over the years. We welcome your input.

We also would like to announce a different time and place for the May membership meeting. We are excited to be opening the South Duxbury church to the public for the first time in many years. On May 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM we shall have a pre-Memorial Day service at the church. After the short service in the church we'll go across the street for a short ceremony at the cemetery. We thought it makes sense to have the May meeting at 10:00 AM before this service. There will be no Tuesday evening meeting this May. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend this unique event!

Regards,  
Your Officers and Trustees

Next DHS Meeting and Pre-Memorial Day Veterans Service—Saturday, May 20th

*There will be a different time and place for our May DHS meeting this year...*

The Duxbury Historical Society's May business meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20th, 10 am, at the South Duxbury Church.

At 11 am the Duxbury Historical Society will hold a Pre-Memorial Day Veterans Service at the South Duxbury Church with opening and welcome by Skip Flanders followed by a brief history of the Church. Ken Spencer will play "America The Beautiful" and "God Bless America" on the pump organ. This will be followed by a memorial service by Pastor Sam Newton of the Wesley United Methodist Church in Waterbury. At the close of the church service, we will move to the South Duxbury Cemetery across Route 100 for a presentation at the Veterans Memorial monument led by Pastor Marie McDougall of the Moretown Methodist Church. Mark Morse will follow with remarks and then the decorating of the Veterans Memorial by members of Harry Cutting Post #59. Please join us for this opening service in the new home of the Duxbury Historical Society.

Refreshments will be available. There is a port-o-let on site for your convenience.

**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.
- We still have several donations yet to be catalogued.
- Mark provided research assistance to a descendant of the Leavitt/Clifford family living in Colorado. The Leavitt/Clifford property was located on Crossett Hill and was occupied during the early 1840's.
- Steve Grace added and updated information in the family files related to the Grace and Healy families.

**Donated Artifacts/Documents/Ephemera**

- No new items to report.

**Monetary Donations**

- Susan Hoyt - for building restoration/maintenance.
- Preservation Trust of Vermont / Robert Sincerbeaux Fund Grant - for assessment of buildings.

**Spring Plant Sale!**

The Duxbury Historical Society will once again work with Claussen's Greenhouse to offer beautiful bedding plants, herbs, hanging flower baskets, and perennials this year. We can accept orders/sell through May 10<sup>th</sup> with order pick-up at our new South Duxbury Church location before Memorial Day weekend (date TBA). Please consider placing your spring flower orders through us! Tell your friends and neighbors!

Details will be available on the DHS website or by calling coordinators Shawnee Perry (802-244-6496) and Mame McKee (802-793-7182). Happy Spring!

### VETERANS MONUMENT

Society members Mark and Bonnie Morse recently cleaned the Veterans Monument in the South Duxbury cemetery. Below are the before and after photos of their hard work. Join us on May 20th and see it in person!

Before



After



Alison Magnani photos.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

We are so glad that the change of seasons will allow us to open the church to the public in May. The committee continues to meet regularly. The winter months have provided good progress in a couple of areas and fitful progress in others. We have been focused on getting the church building ready for ongoing use. We hope to soon be able to turn our attention more to the many needs of the Sunshine Hall.

The age of the property along with its past use have meant that basic infrastructure needs to be evaluated and documented. For example a real survey had never been done. Even though it was winter, this was commissioned and accomplished in February at Society expense (at a special rate by Grenier Engineering of Waterbury). If you are interested in the result, it is available on the society website by pressing the "Property Documents" button. The survey will be crucial for many of the planned improvements.

In the last newsletter update we highlighted the Preservation Trust of Vermont (PTV) support for a buildings condition report. Here is another item that can be checked off the list. We are fortunate that Adam King, an expert in timber frame buildings, lives nearby in Northfield. On February 27 he inspected the property and issued his report about a month later. There was a sigh of relief from us that he did not find any major structural issues with either building. The spire and roof of the church in particular are in pretty good shape. Adam took the picture of the bell which you can see in this newsletter. There are some brickwork foundation issues on the church that need to be addressed along with other considerations such as aging windows and shutters. Failing paint is an obvious shortcoming of the Sunshine Hall. Please read the report yourself for the details. Once again, it is filed under "Property Documents" on the website. We thank PTV for covering half of the cost of this report.

We anticipate that the electrical upgrade will be done in three stages. The first stage will be upgrading the transformer to serve both buildings and adding a new panel and 240V outlets to the church. With this upgrade the function of the wood stove can be replaced with portable electric heaters. Our goal is to disturb the look of the church as little as possible while enabling its use in cool weather. The second and third stages consist of replacing the 1950's era wiring in the Church and Sunshine Hall respectively. We have received an estimate of approximately \$15,000 for all facets of the first stage. We have not yet gotten estimates for the second and third stages of this project. This electrical work is the focus of the American Rescue Plan Act money that we are requesting through the Duxbury Select-board.

Attention also has been paid to the need for wheelchair access. This part of the project has proven to be much more difficult than anticipated.

We look forward to hearing your opinions about the property.



Shawn Perry photo.

Bill Morse, Mark Morse, and Adam King.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT



Shawn Perry photo.



Shawn Perry photo.

Skip Flanders and Adam King inside the church.



Shawn Perry photo.

Skip Flanders, Adam King, and Bill Morse examining the outside of the church.



Shawn Perry photo.

SOUTH DUXBURY CHURCH BELL



Have you ever wondered what the South Duxbury Church bell looks like up close?



Photos by Adam King

P O T P O U R R I

Vermont Homespun ~ As broadcast by "Old Squier" WDEV ~ Copyright Lloyd Squier

Fishing Season

My spouse says all men lose their reason  
As they approach the fishin' season,  
For there was lots of time last Fall  
That tackle box to overhaul,  
Repair the poles, reverse the lines,  
She's sure I've been just wastin' time—  
There's no real need for all this haste  
Since I let winter go to waste.  
To all this I don't pay much heed,  
Just get out all the stuff I need  
And where it's quiet, in the barn,  
I just enjoy myself—by darn.  
I'll sort the sinkers—size the hooks  
And give the fly box some extra looks,  
And while I make extensive plans  
I'll just clean out a few worm cans.  
I'm sure I should be "makin' hay"  
For it's almost the First of May.  
There's one thing rather puzzles me,  
My spouse I very seldom see  
While out there workin' at the shelf—  
I'm pretty much all by myself,  
But after I get things all ready  
She'll start in fishin', pretty steady.  
Oh sure! She'll find the fishin' holes  
Now I have fixed up all the poles  
And make plans, far into the night,  
Where we should go, when it's daylight.  
Now we have friends close by us here  
Who fish the bogs in Belvidere,  
But we recall a good spot, still,  
That's on the way to Collinsville,  
We hear the alders are so high  
There's just no chance to cast a fly.  
The road's long gone to Ryan's Brook,  
Still, we might hike and take a look  
Of one spot we are truly fond—  
That water known as Hartwell's Pond!  
So, childhood footsteps we retrace—  
It matters little to what place  
We choose to go to wet a line  
For, after all, it's fishin' time!

Now, half the fun of trips like this  
Is later, when we reminisce—  
To most it matters not at all  
If the catch be large, or if it's small—  
It's just that the occasion lends  
Some extra time with special friends.  
Some folks we know are really wise—  
They've learned that they must early rise  
And be out of that country brook  
With pole in hand, and baited hook,  
But there are those who disagree  
So early there they ought to be—  
They'll not go out just half awake  
To claim an annual fishing stake!  
They right soon learn to take our word  
About that famous early bird—  
Late comers find no room to stand  
By that brook on our neighbor's land.  
Quite often we'll pack up a lunch  
That we can use, perhaps, as brunch  
For we might get real far away  
And just decide to stay all day.  
I'll not forget my spouse's look—  
That day she threw at me the book  
While I was feeling bright and gay  
Just 'cause it was the First of May—  
We'd reached our favorite fishin' hole  
And I'd forgot to bring her pole!  
That nice warm day got really hot  
Because 'twas hers that I forgot—  
The storm did, finally, subside,  
For after all, she'd had the ride,  
And next time she might get some trout  
That she could really boast about.  
I'm glad we're nearly up to May—  
I'll be all set for that First Day—  
If there's a lesson in that verse  
"That fishin' makes a man no worse  
But, truly, makes of him a man"—  
I'll just work at it all I can.

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 - MAY 20TH  
SOUTH DUXBURY CHURCH - 10 AM**

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