



ESSEX COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ESSEX TOWN-EST.1763 ESSEX JCT.-EST1892 ESSEX COMM. HISTORICAL SOCIETY-EST.1991

CONTENTS

President's Message	1
Teachout Bros., Inc. in 1966	2
Twin Maples, Operated by Eileen Wescott.....	3
Joslyn House in Essex Junction..	5
Brief Update on the 1805 School House Project.....	6
Chittenden County Historical Society History Mystery: Essex Riddle Solved!	6
Upcoming Events	7
ECHO Board of Directors	7
Short Stuff.....	8
The Collection Corner	8
ECHO Membership Form	9
Calendar of Events.....	10



The ECHO

The Newsletter of the
Essex Community Historical Society
Essex and Essex Junction, Vermont
Published twice a year, spring and fall.

Fall 2009

Edited by Richard and Lucille Allen

Layout by Sue Storey

Essex Community Historical Society
P.O.Box 8388

Essex, Vermont 05451

Internet address: www.essex.org

E-mail address:

essexcommunityhistoricalsociety@myfairpoint.net

President's Message

The museum opened on June 7th this spring with a focus on the refurbishing of the 1805 school house. Hubie Norton has donated countless hours working on this project. A plaque and picture were hung in the museum honoring Ron Clapp for his dedication in preserving the history of Essex.

Barb Chapin and Ann Gray attended the Block Party representing the Essex Community History Society, teaming with the Civil War Committee.

The historical society participated in the Buffalo Soldiers Reunion – Fort Ethan Allen Living History Day. The town had an engineer come in to look at the water tower and it was ruled that it is not safe and requires extensive repairs. So we were unable to open the tower for people to climb to the top, but were able to allow people to walk into the bottom landing to see the water tank and learn a little more about the use of the water tower. Board member, Will Parkinson was honored by the members of the Buffalo Soldiers Reunion committee for his dedication in making the Ethan Allen Living History Day a huge success.

Sherry Norton has been continuing to work on cataloguing our collection, and Polly McEwing has put in many hours entering data about our collection into the computer.

Thank you also to Richard and Lucille Allen for their continued production of the ECHO.

The first printing of the Ron Clapp Trading Cards is complete. These cards will be used in educating school children about Essex history. Twenty different cards are in a set showing Essex in years past.

The annual meeting was held this year with talk about one room school houses, transportation, favorite teachers and how meals were prepared by the students and teachers.

Thank you to Bobbi Mudgett-Russell for her 16 years of service on the board, and her husband, Clint Russell for his work on photographing the cemeteries and century homes in Essex Junction.

Welcome to new board members Tim Jerman and John Marsh.

Eva Clough, President

Teachout Bros., Inc. in 1966

Teachouts have two locations, as everybody knows perfectly well; Harry is on Railroad Avenue with the plumbing and heating end of the business, and Tracy is down at the hardware and appliance store's new location 12 Park Street.

The two brothers, who are only 15 months apart in age, went into business together on Dec. 5, 1923, when they bought a hardware store in a wing of Lincoln Hall from Rollin Parker.

They started in a small way; they got Albert Keith, a plumber who worked for Parker, to work for them because the public trusted and wanted him; and their business grew fast.

Both boys were born on the old Teachout farm, where the big IBM plant is now situated. Their dad died when they were young, and the family moved off the farm.

Harry completed school in Essex, went with his brother to Bryant Stratton Business College in Manchester, N.H., and then went into the butter, eggs and poultry business for the Smith Wright farm in Williston.

When the manager at Smith Wright died, the business was closed down, and it was shortly after that the Teachout Bros. business in Essex started its long career.

Harry is very proud of the fact that thirty-seven years ago the plumbing-heating business set up one red truck to make calls in the area; now they have a fleet of eleven trucks, and 15 installation and repairmen. In addition there are ten more men working in the appliance division.

"We train our own men," says Harry proudly, "and they do a good job. We did the plumbing and heating in many of the schools in this area; and we heard the inspectors who looked over our work at the blood center in Burlington said it was the nicest looking job they'd seen in the country."

Tracy Teachout, with the same calm, unhurried manner as his brother despite his presence in the big, ever-busy hardware and appliance store, says that since the company moved to its new location business has increased.

Last spring Teachout's moved from the Lincoln Hall wing where they had been for 42 years, in order to make room for expanding municipal offices.

They moved into what had been the old A&P store on Park Street, where they have a great deal more street-floor space, and where their wares, from nuts and bolts to freezers, and stoves can remain on display.

Tracy says that after he completed business college, he

PAGE 4-A/THE SUBURBAN LIST/DECEMBER 12, 1974



Fred Ward and the staff at Teachout's wish everyone the best for the holidays.

Teachout's has the best of Christmas gifts for the whole family. Visit us and see the complete range of **ZENITH** televisions and radios for the family to enjoy all year long.

TEACHOUT BROS., Inc.

12 Park St., Essex Junction 878-5364



An ad for Teachout Brothers in The Suburban List, December 12, 1974.

returned to Essex and got a job at the grain and feed company of W.B. Johnson (where Checkerboard is now located). He continued to work there for a time even after he and Harry bought the hardware store from Parker, but as the hardware business flourished, he gave up the other job.

"Our business isn't really divided," Tracy explained when we asked about the store on one hand and the heating and plumbing business on the other. "We both handle anything when we need to, but over the years my brother has ended up doing most of the estimating for plumbing and heating work, and I do more here in the store. But we get plenty of folks in here for plumbing supplies, too."

Tracy Teachout is married, and he and his wife have one daughter, Barbara, who lives out in Elkhart, Illinois.

Their business is one of the two or three oldest in the village of Essex Junction-but also one of the most up-to-date.

**TEACHOUT
BROTHERS**

—O—

**Plumbing
Heating
Petro NoKul Oil Burners
Hot Point Appliances**

—O—

**Essex Junction
Vermont**

Ad from Panorama, January 1951.

Suburban List, October 6, 1966 pages 6 and 8.



The Twin Maples tourist home on Route 15 in Essex Center. "...Twin Maples, on Rt. 15 has been a summer vacation home for countless numbers of people looking for a quiet spot in New England. Many times through the years (Eileen) had a 'full house' and has met interesting people from far and wide." The Suburban List, December 30, 1965, page 12.

Twin Maples, Operated by Eileen Wescott

By Laurie (Sole) Jordan

*Based on interviews with former workers
Nancy (Nichols) Bartlett, Pauline (Sole) Bennett,
and Wilma (Sole) Benoit*

Eileen Wescott was well known in the Essex community. She cooked the delicious oatmeal rolls for the Methodist Church suppers. She also prepared three meals a day for her Twin Maples summer tourists. The business operated until the mid-1960s on Center Road (Route 15) in Essex Center.

Most people arrived from New Jersey and New York. "One New Jersey family came every summer for ten to twelve years," remembers Nancy (Nichols) Bartlett. "Most came in on the train." A doctor with children spent the typical two or three weeks at Twin Maples, and took the taxi. There was always a constant mix of guests around the table at suppertime, who ate along with the help and/or the owners. Joe Godette owned a town store and was a bachelor who lived with the Wescotts for quite a while. There could be six people plus Joe at one time staying at Twin Maples. "It was one big family," said Nancy.

The brochure advertised:

TWIN MAPLES

THIS IS A HOMELIKE PLACE on the outskirts of a small village, 9 miles from Burlington and on direct road to Mt. Mansfield, Newport and Montreal. Bus service several times daily. The house has a large screened porch. Comfortable rooms, electric lights and bath. Garage. Jersey milk, fresh eggs and home cooking. Waffles and Vermont maple syrup a specialty.

RATES

Overnight Tourists—Lodging, Supper and Breakfast, \$2.00
Boarders by the Week—\$2.00 per Day, \$12.00 per Week

Route 15 • 4th Ward Surface Road • Telephone 17-22

MR. & MRS. W. G. WESCOTT, ESSEX, VERMONT

There was a beautiful view of Mt. Mansfield from the backyard. Nancy added, "People loved the front porch. It had a hammock swing."

Nancy lived on a farm next door to Twin Maples on Route 15, where Price Chopper is now. Nancy recalls working at Twin Maples serving meals and cleaning. She worked there until graduating from high school in 1954. There was "nothing modern," explained Nancy. "(It) even (had) an old stove."

Nancy washed Eileen's silverware separately. She had to be careful with the very nice glassware. Eileen only had Nancy do that. Eileen was very particular about linens. The washing was done with a ringer and tub and the linens were as white as snow. The clothes were hung outdoors. There

Continued on the next page.

was also a special way that beds had to be made. Others interviewed told of a kitchen pantry for dishes and the "tons of silver." There was a nice parlor.

The Sole girls, Pauline and Wilma, like Nancy, worked at Twin Maples when they were about twelve years old. They were paid \$1.25 a day for vacuuming, dusting, and cleaning rooms. The helpers also served the meals.

Eileen's husband, Walter, was always around and he liked sitting in the chair in the corner of a room. He was also remembered as a handy man. The church chicken pot pie suppers with Eileen's oatmeal rolls (see recipe), along with the Wescott's Twin Maples, were the most immediate memories of any Essex native that I interviewed.

Twin Maples is gone. The vacant lot is between the Essex Discount Beverage and a yellow raised ranch on Center Road. The original maple trees in front of the Wescott's house are gone.

Thank you for this opportunity to reminisce and learn about an important part of Essex History.

Laurie (Sole) Jordan who lived in Essex all but one year of my life, Secretary for Essex Community Historical Society, (without which I would not have started such an adventure.)



L. to r. Unknown, Walter and Eileen Westcott. Eileen Wescott was Doug Wescott's great grandmother. Photo courtesy Doug Wescott (www.wescotts.org).

Mrs. Walter Wescott's Recipe for Oatmeal Rolls

- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. uncooked oatmeal
- 3 c. boiling water
- 1 tablespoon butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon soda
- 1 package active yeast, dissolved in $\frac{1}{2}$ c. lukewarm water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. sugar
- 6 tablespoons molasses
- flour to knead
- 1 teaspoon salt

■ Pour boiling water over the oatmeal and stir well, cool and add above ingredients, add flour, knead until it does not stick to hands or bread board, takes quite a lot of flour and kneading. Put in bowl and let rise. Knead and add more flour.

■ Let rise again (double in bulk). Knead again and shape into rolls, parker-house or any desired shape. Let rise again and bake in 350 degree oven about 30 minutes or until brown. A very moist and tasty roll.

■ Taken from Heavenly Offerings:
Favorite Recipes From Your Friends At Essex United Methodist Church

Joslyn House in Essex Junction

Compiled by Richard Allen



The Joslyn House was also known as the Central House. "Walter B. Johnson bought the Central House circa 1891 and changed the name to Johnson's Hotel. He ran the Hotel in conjunction with his railroad restaurant business (a café in the station) in Essex Junction. The Hotel, located on the corner of Central and Railroad Streets, burned down in 1912. Mr. Johnson also ran a livery stable, and in his last 12 years, was a car salesman." (From Essex and Essex Junction, page 65).

Grand Social Dance
AT THE
Joslyn House, Essex Junction,
FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 6, 1885.
Yourself and Lady are respectfully invited.
Committee of Invitation.
GEO. WHITTEN, I. E. PERKINS, GEO. TAFT, T. H. ROLEAU.
Floor Manager, J. H. VEILE.
Music--Howard Opera House Orchestra--3 pieces.
DANCING FROM 8 P. M. UNTIL 2 A. M.
HALL TICKETS, 75 CENTS. TEAMS, 25 CTS.

This invitation to a dance at the Joslyn House was discovered in the Smith Wright papers. Wright was a prominent Williston business man who was most successful with poultry cold storage facilities in North Williston and on Governor Chittenden Road.

CENTRAL HOUSE,
Essex Junction, Vt.,
E. O. JOSLYN, Prop'r.
This House, under the new management, offers Superior Inducements to the Traveling Public. Rooms high, light and airy, and will be found first-class in every respect.
Rare Inducements offered to Summer Boarders.
Pleasant Drives, Beautiful Scenery and Fine Fishing within easy access.
LIVERY STABLE
First-Class Livery connected with the House.

Illustration taken from Hamilton Child, page 310.
"The Central House, a fine hotel located at Essex Jct., was opened by the present proprietor, Edward O. Joslyn, May 1, 1882, a gentleman of large experience as a hotel keeper. This location offers superior inducements to summer boarders, on account of the many pleasant drives, being only ten miles from Mt. Mansfield, and the excellent opportunities for gunning, trout fishing, etc." Hamilton Child Gazetteer and Business Directory of Chittenden County, Vermont for 1882-1883, page 195.

Brief Update on the 1805 School House Project

By Hubie Norton



By working on Saturday mornings for most of the summer we have been able to make steady progress on the restoration. With paint and paint supplies donated by local merchants, we had a “paint-a-ram-a” to prime both sides of the clapboards that we purchased from the old clapboard mill in Granville. We installed them with a 2½ inch reveal. It was a relatively slow process, but we managed to cover two sides completely and expect the third side to be done before winter.

Two sides have received one topcoat of paint and we will give all three sides a second topcoat before winter. In that Vermont tradition, we will leave the side away from the road for last and feel certain that our neighbors on that side will not complain. The south door has been installed using hardware hammered out by a local blacksmith. There is still plenty to do and we look optimistically to next summer when we can tackle the roof.

Chittenden County Historical Society History Mystery: Essex Riddle Solved!

The ECHS took part in a Chittenden County Quadricentennial “History Mystery” that was organized with the Chittenden County Historical Society. Laurie Jordan represented Essex during planning, helped with creating the Essex riddle, and distributed brochures. The group of people from the county’s eighteen towns/communities compiled a brochure with riddled clues to search in each town for an answer during the month of August. On September 27th at Battery Park’s Burlington Police Department location, complete and correct brochures were in a drawing for each town’s prize. The Essex prize was a tee shirt with the train station ECHS logo, scenic postcards donated by the Artistic Alliance (Betsy Melvin), and chef hats given by the Essex Culinary Institute. Richard Allen and his daughter Jill helped Laurie to write the Essex riddle:

The four generation family claimed its fame
When they stamped their products with their name;
Founded in 1867 near the brook’s clay bank and train,
What’s the tall lone survivor seen from the Village’s Main?

_ R _ _ _ _ _ C _ _ K _ _ _ _ H _ _ _ _

Laurie shared how much fun a group of seniors had with the “clever clues”. The CCHS organizers agreed that the History Mystery search brochure would be a good idea to spread to the Chittenden County schools for their own town history projects. Three persons’ names in Essex were drawn for prizes.

The Chittenden County History Mystery received an Achievement Award in the category of Educational Outreach at the League of Local Historical Societies meeting sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society in St. Albans on November 6. “The project was very creative, engaging, well thought out and executed,” wrote Lisa Evans of the VHS in an e-mail.



ANSWER: DRURY BRICK KILN CHIMNEY



A scene from the Fort Ethan Allen Living History Day, August 1, 2009. Historical society board member Will Parkinson was honored for his hard work in making the day a success.

Upcoming Events

Friday December 4, 2009

Sing-a-long and tree lighting ceremony at the town common in Essex Center. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at the Essex Elementary School and proceed to the common for 6:30 p.m. Refreshments afterwards, at the school.

Board of directors meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, except December.

The meetings are open to the public, so feel free to come. They meet at the museum. Call any board member for up to date information on the next meeting.

Essex Community Historical Society Board of Directors 2009-2010 (denotes year of term expiration)

Eva Clough, President (11)
42 Bringham Hill Road
879-0849

Laurie Jordan, Secretary (10)
259 River Road
879-6467

Barb Chapin (11)
129 Chapin Road
879-1145

John Duby (11)
62 Learned Drive
Westford, VT 05494
879-1841

John Marsh (12)
35 South Summit Street
878-5238

Katherine Reynolds (11)
88 Park Street
878-2193

Sherry Norton, Vice President (10)
9 Maplelawn Drive
879-7334

Ann Gray, Treasurer (11)
28 Rosewood Lane
878-4088

Kathy Dodge (10)
PO Box 8264
Essex, VT 05451
878-4272

Tim Jerman (12)
41 South Hill Drive
878-2972

Polly McEwing (12)
5 Doubleday Lane
879-6862

William Parkinson (12)
P.O. Box 40
Hinesburg, VT 05461
482-3113



All addresses are Essex Junction, VT 05452, except where noted.

Short Stuff

Please take a close look at your **address label**. The expiration date of your membership is noted. Three stars denote a life membership. You can use the form in this newsletter to update your membership.

Your editors are always looking for **interesting information and photographs** on Essex and Essex Junction history for our newsletter. We can scan original photographs and return them to the owners. Look through your old photographs. We welcome your contributions. Material can be mailed to the Essex Community Historical Society at P.O. Box 8388, Essex, Vermont 05451. Or contact Richard and Lucille Allen at 878-3853.

Wish list. Digital camera, dress forms, Essex High School yearbooks, town reports.

Copies of the *Essex and Essex Junction* by Richard and Lucille Allen can be purchased at Five Corners Antiques, 11 Maple Street, Essex Junction. Buying your books here also benefits the historical society. Thank you to David and Nancy Booth at Five Corners Antiques. You can also purchase books from any board member.

Consider giving a **membership to the historical society as a gift**. Use the enclosed form to do so.

The first Thursday of each month, except during the winter, is a **work session** at the museum, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The historical society is a member of the **Vermont Museum & Gallery Alliance**. As a member of the Essex Community Historical Society one can get a 10% discount on admission at participating museums borrowing and using our membership card. One can pick up the card at the Harriet Powell Museum.

The Collection Corner

New Donations/acquisitions. The following items were either donated or acquired:

- Donation of projects compiled, researched and developed by Clint Russell, Jr.:
- Yearly notebooks, covering 2002-2008, of obituaries of persons from Essex or with an Essex connection.
- Essex Junction, VT: Historical Structures, 2 volumes.
- Essex Junction, Vermont: Historical Structures Part 2. Present Structures where Former Historic Structures Once Existed.
- Portfolios: Unity Church of Vermont, Allen's Sugar House, Maplehurst Florists, Center for Technology, Essex Rescue-addition 2008, 11 Old Stage Road, AJ's Kitchen, Lincoln Inn, Muncy's Diner.
- DVDs: ECHS open house 2008-dedication of plaque in memory of Alicia Shanks, Railroad and Five Corners, Fort Ethan Allen Water Tower, Open House 2007, Annual Meeting-Judy Dow, History Expo 2007, Past Perfect 3.5, History Expo 2004.
- Money: 1787 Vermont Brittana VF20/F12, paper money from Windham County Bank \$5, Bank of Burlington \$2. Bank of Windsor \$5.
- Ground tamper, given to Clint and Barb Russell by the village Masonic Temple. It was used in the digging of that building.
- Nancy Yeates' (26 Grove Street) history of Essex in the late 30s and early 40s.
- Donation to the Ron Clapp Memorial Fund, by the Essex Elementary School staff.
- Donation to the Essex Community Historical Society library, by Robert Wood.
- Donation of a photo of Alice and Carmi Ryan's anniversary, by Betsy Melvin.
- Photograph, 22"x18" of a farm on Weed Road, possibly the Burns farm c. 1880s, by Jean Lambert.

Thank you to these people.

Essex Community Historical Society

P.O. Box 8388

Essex, Vermont 05451

Membership Form

Please consider becoming a member or renewing your membership at this time.

Or you can pass this on to someone who would like to become a member.

**Your dues will help us add to our collection of Essex memorabilia, maintain the museum,
publish the ECHO, and sponsor historical programs.**

_____ New member

_____ Renewal of membership

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

____ Individual membership \$10.00

____ Family membership \$15.00

____ Senior membership (60 and over) \$5.00

____ Lifetime: individual, married, civil union \$100.00

**Make checks payable to the
Essex Community Historical Society.**

Thank You.

ECHO, Fall 2009



Calendar of Events

(See inside for more details)

Friday, December 4, 2009

6:30 p.m.

**Sing-a-long and
tree lighting ceremony.**

