

LYNDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 85
Lyndon Center, VT 05850

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

During the past year the Lyndon Historical Society continued its function of making the residents of Lyndon and friends ever more aware of the history of the Town and the people who contributed to that history. This task was performed through its meetings and its newsletter, *Lyndon Legacy*, which continued under the able editorship of Bonnie Paris Ott. The Society also continued to collect documents, artifacts, and other materials pertaining to the history of the Town of Lyndon, since the Society's founding in 1975. The Society also continues to support the activities of the Shores Museum and the District 6 Schoolhouse, which are available for educational purposes and for visitors, by appointment. Volunteer docents are needed to conduct tours of both buildings, and additional volunteers are needed to assist in organizing numerous documents in the museum.

In 2016 all meetings were held at the historic Town House in Lyndon Center at 7:00 p.m. On January 19, Dr. Alfred Toborg filled in for the scheduled speaker, who was unable to attend, and gave a presentation on "The Sanborns of Lyndonville," Benjamin and his son Isaac W., two of the founders of the village and significant figures in its history in the late nineteenth century. Isaac was town clerk for forty-four years. The talk was based on two articles the speaker had written for *Lyndon Legacy*, buttressed by additional research. At the April 19 meeting three local experts on sugar making, Robert Easterbrook, Douglas Solinski, and Tony LaPlant, regaled the audience with their knowledge of the history and the process of making maple syrup, from the collecting of the sap to the final product. June 21 marked the annual meeting of the Society. The current officers were reelected: Linda Toborg, President; Eric Paris, Vice-President; Alfred Toborg, Secretary; Pat Jauch, Treasurer. John Findlay was reelected to a three year term as director, and Ronald Guy was elected to fill a vacancy, his term to expire in 2018. The other director is Sheila Fors, whose term expires in 2017. Our guest speakers were David and Beth Kanell. David has a Facebook page related to local history, especially of Lyndon, through postcards, pictures, and newspaper articles. He discussed his research on Albert Stern, the Stern Block, which burned in the fire in Lyndonville in 1924, and the history of the Stern Family. The speaker for the October meeting was Allen Hodgdon of Guildhall, who spoke on "Researching Lambert Packard." Hodgdon has been working on a biography for forty-three years, utilizing assorted sources in his research. Packard was a noted architect, responsible for numerous homes in St. Johnsbury and buildings in Lyndonville and throughout the Northeast. In Lyndon they included many of those around Bandstand Park, the Village Hall or Music Hall, which burned in 1954, and was on the current site of the Lyndonville post office, the former Sanborn Hall on the Lyndon Institute campus, and the building which houses Riverside School. Hodgdon plans to have the biography published in the near future. Thirty-three members and guests attended this presentation.

Among gifts received by the Society in 1916 was an original copy of *The Sketch of Lyndon*, an 1842 history of the town written by Rev. Jonathan Greenleaf, donated by Dan Brodien of St. Johnsbury, who also gave the Society other documents, including birth and death records from School District No. 1 for the year 1866, original land deeds 1841, 1847, 1862, and 1866, and a Gilman genealogy. *The Sketch of Lyndon* is being reprinted in installments in *Lyndon Legacy*. The personal journals and diaries of Clayton (Kit) Hoffman were donated by his grandson, Stephen Hall of Penacook, N.H. Hazel Russell's granddaughter, Susan, donated the ledgers and business records of Russell's Drug Store. Chris Hunter donated some miscellaneous booklets and papers.

Bonnie Paris Ott welcomes contributions to the *Lyndon Legacy*. You may also submit material and gifts to the president, Linda Toborg (626-5483), or any of the officers. New members are invited to join the Lyndon Historical Society. Annual dues are only \$5.00, which includes a subscription to *Lyndon Legacy*. Through the courtesy of A. Richard Boera the Society's website is dickboera.com/historic.htm.

Respectively submitted,
Alfred Toborg, Ph.D.
Secretary