The Barnard Bulletin

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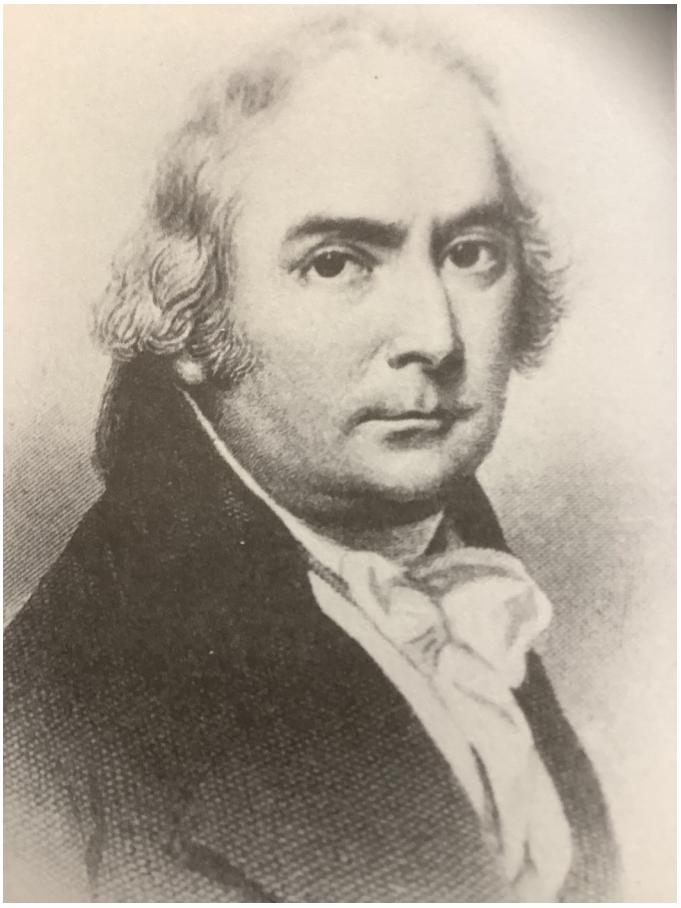
A VERMONT WRITER

BY MARGARET EDWARDS

This column is an offering of The Danforth Library in Barnard and a chance to introduce Vermont writers who deserve wider renown.

Ira Allen **1751 – 1814**



An engraving of Ira Allen in maturity, 1810

By all accounts, including his own, Ira Allen led a life of energy and purpose. He has been hailed by historians as one of the principal founders of the state of Vermont, and he is honored as the man who donated fifty acres of land—with a stunning view of Lake Champlain, backed by the long file of Adirondack mountains—where the earliest buildings of the University of Vermont are situated. Typical of Ira's haphazard fortunes, he had found himself unable to pay his initial pledge of 4,000 pounds to establish a university, and so he gave the land instead. This pattern of boom and bust forecasts his fate: to die penniless in Philadelphia at age sixty-two, on the run from creditors.

Ira Allen was, first and foremost, a passionate land speculator. His early life, from eighteen years of age, was taken up with exploring and surveying, acquiring parcels of land, swapping those parcels, and defending his claims, along with the claims of his brothers and friends. The entire early history of Vermont, especially as it is set forth in Ira Allen's 1798 *History of the State of Vermont,* seems to be an elaborate tangle of treacherous struggles between landowners, speculators, conniving politicians, British agents and military men.

Allen's writings were copious, and his memory was sharp. His *History* holds a wealth of description of the "New Hampshire Grants"—as early settlers called the land bounded by the Connecticut River to the east and by Lake Champlain to the west. He has the real estate agent's gift for publicity when he sets down the virtues of his state:

> *Vermont contains almost every thing within itself that can contribute to the immediate wants, convenience, and even luxury of man. This State abounds with different kinds of iron ore…together with lead and copper ore, …lime-stone and marble, different sorts of clay for bricks…species of useful timber, amongst which is the sugar maple; good hops and grapes grow spontaneously in the uncultivated intervals…*

He waxes eloquent about all the fruits and crops easily cultivated in the soil, and then he shades the truth to announce "the Climate of Vermont is friendly to population and longevity. The air is salubrious…" Perhaps his conscience made him add, "…notwithstanding it partakes of heat and cold in high degrees."

Ira Allen was the youngest of six sons born to Joseph and Mary Baker Allen in a part of Connecticut near what is now Litchfield. Their eldest son, Ethan Allen, eclipsed all the others, including Ira, in terms of fame and fortune. Ethan was the military genius who, with his Green Mountain Boys and his heroic bravado, captured Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point from the British in one of the most famous victories of the American Revolution.

Ever since, brother Ethan has received the far greater share of attention. Ira's biographer D. P. Thompson felt compelled to begin his book by lamenting how "strangely overlooked" his subject had been. And Ira himself, during his lifetime, seemed to anticipate his legacy would be shortchanged. Perhaps to strike out against being overlooked, he took up writing his *Autobiography.* This is a fascinating book almost lost to history and without copyright. Its text is available only online thanks to Google.

In its first paragraph, the *Autobiography* alludes to an earlier draft—"In June, 1796, in Paris, I began the History of my life, giving an account of my parents, the death of my father on the 19th of April, 1756,…with an account of my brothers and sisters." This account no longer exists. What remains is what the author announces he's beginning to write on March 25, 1799, while in prison for debt in Paris.

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The statue of Ira Allen on the campus of the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont.

Ira Allen's *Autobiography* is far more compelling to read than his *History* or the detailed account he gave of his ill-fated shipload of French armaments which were seized by the British when they confiscated the *Olive Branch.* Only fifty-nine pages, his memoir is an on-rushing narrative, a vaguely chronological stringing together of anecdotes that serve to illustrate Ira's fortitude and luck. Hardly any other text from the eighteenth century written by an American has such a brash and quasi-comical voice. The author seems determined to impress us with his industriousness and perseverance, yet he keeps getting sidetracked from his purpose by his own glee at his adventurous escapades.

Ira begins by telling us how, at eighteen years old, in September of 1769, he set out to assist his brothers Heman and Levi in the purchase of 350 hogs, which they then drove through the wilderness near Salisbury, Connecticut, to Hatfield Equivalent. There was no road, not even "a line of marked trees," and the hogs fattened themselves on beechnuts.

Here is a vision of American woods dense far beyond the modern experience and fruitful enough to provide beechnuts for 350 hogs. Then the group is hindered by a "tremendous" rainstorm that turns quickly to ice:

> *The severity of the storm benumbed both man and beast to that degree that we made slow progress in our march. For convenience, we divided our drove into three divisions. Abner Owen assisted me with the first. It being necessary for us to make a small stop for the rest, Owen was so benumbed and fatigued that he sat down to rest and instantly went to sleep, when I was obliged to give him several strokes with a stick to provoke him to exertion. Soon after this, we came to a bridle road, marked trees, &c., from East Hoosac to said Hatfield Equivalent. Five miles from Mr. Macintire's, we left our drove and made the best of our way to his house. When we had gained about half the distance, Edward Akins gave out and was put upon the horse beside my brother. A little before dark, we found the house of Mr. Macintire, although we had little more than a line of marked trees to follow, from which another line branched off. After a great part of the company had passed the line leading to the house, the direct line was discovered. After arriving there, Mr. Akins, who had for some time been held on the horse, was carried into the house and some warm milk and supper was given him.*

Akins is revived, his "sense and strength" returning. And Ira uses the occasion to make an observation: "This shows the effect of cold and fatigue on the human frame without [its] being in the least frozen. In case any person in such circumstances has not firmness of mind enough to keep in exercise to assist decaying nature, if they sit down to rest, they will fall into sleep from which, without assistance, they will never awaken."

Ira explains that if they hadn't found the right path to Macintire's house, they would have had to spend the night in the wilderness, and because they were too wet and cold to make a fire, they therefore "must have perished." He characterizes the frontier throughout the *Autobiography* as a very unforgiving place where mishaps abound and trouble usually comes with no warning.

Ira seems to enjoy extracting lessons from whatever transpires. Eagerly he imparts lore and gives advice. "It is to be remembered that hogs are strange animals," he tells us. "If not attended to they will, in a few days, get wild…But by being seen once in a few days, and salted like cattle, they may be kept tame, and will grow and fatten as fast on beechnuts as on any food that can be given them."

Unwilling to quit himself just yet of his host family, Ira describes them more fully, and we learn that Mr. and Mrs. Macintire are from Scotland, with two daughters in their early twenties:

> *The old lady and daughters used to amuse me by telling many frightful stories respecting ghosts, apparitions, &c., appearing to people in Scotland, amongst which were… an old woman appearing without a head. One evening I challenged the old woman without a head, and all the ghosts, to meet me at any time and place they chose. This exceedingly alarmed my honest landlady and daughters, and they all seemed exceedingly anxious for my safety, for being so presumptuous as to make such a challenge, not doubting but that I should meet with difficulty the first time I was belated in the woods.*

Sure enough, the evening of the next day finds Ira looking for stray hogs in the woods. As he returns to the

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McIntire house, he finds the footpath in spite of the darkness. When he is about a mile from the house, "To my no small surprise, at about eight rods distance, I discovered the perfect appearance of a woman in the path, without any head." The vision is very startling:

> *Her shoulders, waist, arms akimbo, her hands on her hips, woman's clothes and feet below were in perfect shape before me, which I viewed with astonishment. I reasoned to myself is this appearance ficticious or real. If the God of nature authorizes apparitions, there is no flying from them. What injury can they possibly do me? I have promised faithfully not to flinch at any such appearance. I will see it out.*

Trembling, Ira advanced with a long stick raised for a blow. He finally comes within thirty yards when he discovers what has frightened him. "The facts were that a tree had been broken by the winds, leaving a stump, which the woodcocks had pecked the bark off in that shape so long ago that the wood had become whitish, and the bark of the other part had just fallen off. The darkness of the night had prevented my seeing the dark contour, while the reflection off the snow had shown the other part of the stump." Had he seen the whole stump, his eyes wouldn't have tricked him.

Ira draws an interesting conclusion: "…had I been frightened and run away, I might, like others, have believed in such appearances." And he gives some advice: "Parents ought never to frighten children, or suffer it to be done by others, by such stories. It causes a certain intimidation, when in the dark, that is hard to get the better of when come to years of discretion."

Eventually the hogs make it to the predetermined destination and are sold for a profit. This triumph, however, is almost an afterthought. The journey is the meat of a story; the tidy profit is a sweet dessert.

Ira Allen reveals himself as someone who has learned to enjoy a tease by playing the fool. He goes into an inn to ask for dinner, but lets the landlady conclude from his rough dress and his youth that he'll be too shy to demand good service from her. She gives him only a tiny glass of rum and some bread crusts. Then he reveals he is a property owner with money, and her attitude swiftly changes.

The author tells an elaborate story of his receiving a shake-down from another innkeeper, Mr. Todds in East Hoosac. This man decides to impress a fine on young Ira for his having traveled on the Sabbath. Ira points out that he had not traveled on the Sabbath but had stopped at the inn overnight in order to cease traveling on the Sabbath. Even so, Mr. Todds wants more money. And he is paid. Ira does not get the best of this man, and—all these years later, as he is writing about the encounter—he is still resentful.

There are hunting stories. Readers learn that Ira is a crack shot. There are moments of taking a dare. When Ira is challenged to spend three days eating nothing but bear meat, he does. There are moments when only luck saves Ira's life—such as the time he is caught in the casing of a giant mill wheel, and only by making a prodigious leap at exactly the right moment does he manage to free himself.

An intriguing part of the whole narrative is its occasional description of medical remedies. To a modern sensibility, they seem primitive and ineffectual, if not outright harmful.

But Ira is often cured. His near-blindness caused by his contracting a case of measles is an example.

> *My eyes were so weak that I cold not study on the Surveyor's art, nor read, nor could I bear the reflection of the sun on the snow. I consulted Doctor Port, who advised me to put a green Silk over my eyes, and recommended for a short time to keep from the day light, or any bright light. In compliance, I shut myself in a small room and brought to the window shutters so close that I could scarcely perceive when it was day. At night, when the candles were out and the fires raked up leaving only a few coals, I used to walk the other rooms, and sometimes out of doors. In this way I continued for seven days and found great advantage to my eyes. I kept from the light most of the time, omitting to read or to look steadily at any thing for near a month, and then I set out for Hubbarton, wearing a green silk over my eyes.*

Throughout the rest of his narrative, Ira never mentions trouble with his eyes again. In equally inventive ways, he supposedly cures himself of ague and fever and boils.

Characteristic of Ira Allen's style, which is uniformly forthright and conversational, is his ease in breaking off a story to address the reader in a familiar way and impart some practical knowledge. This sort of digression is typical: "It may be useful to some body to hear remark that about three miles from Bolton old corner nearly North East by a small brook that a man can conveniently step across, is a ledge of stone forming Westerly about five feet in height, that are excellent rub stones for the use of [sharpening] scythes. By spitting on them they turn greenish, much like the Quinebog rubstones in Connecticut." And he adds, "On the land lotted for Mansfield, near the S. E. corner of Underhill, are good millstones."

A particularly compelling part of the *Autobiography* is an extended anecdote in which younger brother Ira compares himself to his deeply admired eldest brother. One need only compare the two statues of Ethan and Ira (pictured in this article) to understand the rivalry. The dashing elder brother, ever popular and handsome in military garb, strikes a dramatic pose in marble. He is very different from the pensive, well-dressed gentleman in bronze, who gazes calmly down and looks contemplative. When Ethan and Ira go overland together to survey possible acreage for purchase, Ethan—always the more

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fit and athletic—makes a point of walking too fast for his younger brother to keep up. But Ira manages to follow along with such dogged persistence that he never loses the trail his brother makes, and always he shows up in camp at evening. Ira observes that although he is not the faster of the two, he knows he is the hardier.

The Stephenson marble statue of Ethan Allen

Another trait that Ira Allen possesses, well illustrated in the course of this memoir, is his cool demeanor when confronting danger. This *sang froid* makes Ira very much akin to his more famous brother. In 1773, when Ira decides to make himself better acquainted with Lake Champlain because he's heard of its "valuable small islands," he rigs up a sail on a canoe and sets off despite having little experience of sailing. He takes with him a man who knows even less of sailing than he does. Their explorations are just beginning when a mighty gale begins to blow.

Ira heads for the land. "Having the presence of mind carefully to view the breakers along the shore, I observed a place a little to the North, where the surf appeared less confused. To keep up the courage as much as possible of the man with me, I told him there was good landing and ordered a trifling alteration in the sails, managing the steerage with my paddle."

Ira can't navigate easily. The wind and waves make capsizing very likely if any move to steer is too decisive. So the intrepid Green Mountain Boy inches them along "with the best economy possible" until he can finally aim them "full sail" onto the shore in exactly the place he'd spotted. The moment they land, waves break over the beached canoe, wetting all their provisions. They have to spend the next day getting dry. And does this dissuade Ira from his mission? Not at all.

The *Autobiography* ends much as it begins, in an upbeat mood and with a determination to document fully each victory and vicissitude. Ira Allen sums up exactly what he thinks he's been doing all this while and affirms his account in this way: "By such exertions as the proceeding, I gained the knowledge of the quality of lands in the towns contiguous to the Onion River and Lake Champlain, to purchase in the best terms, lay roads, and introduce settlements." (The Onion River was later renamed the Winooski River. Winooski is the Abenaki word for "onion.")

In 1789, at age thirty-eight, Ira Allen married Jerusha Enos, whose parents were the original proprietors of the village that came to be known as Irasburg, Vermont (named for Ira). Before Ira took off for Europe, where he spent eight years embroiled in a damaging lawsuit, he transferred the title of the Irasburg property to his wife, thus keeping it out of the hands of creditors, and he also managed to father a son, his namesake, who became his sole heir.

The obverse of the 1927 Vermont Sesquicentennial half-dollar, designed by Charles Keck, depicts Ira Allen above the words "Founder of Vermont."

The Danforth Library of Barnard, Vermont, currently does not hold any books by Ira Allen—an oversight that it hopes to rectify.

CHARLES B. DANFORTH LIBRARY NEWS

The Vermont Community Broadband Board asked that we share their public survey to help them collect feedback from Vermonters about their experience with home internet. The board's goal is to eliminate barriers that keep Vermonters from using the internet by ensuring that every Vermont household and business has reliable, affordable, high-speed internet available to them. The survey takes just a couple minutes to complete and can be accessed here.

And, a reminder about two online resources available at no charge to library patrons: Universal Class and Learning Express. Follow the links below to view the hundreds of classes offered. If you decide that you would like to register for a class, contact us by phone or email

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and we will provide a link to create your own personal account. If you need to become a library patron we can register you for that too.

For Universal Class:
https://www.universalclass.com/vermontstate.

Classes in business, accounting, computer training, alternative medicine, law, personal development, real estate, test prep, parenting, psychology, mathematics, finance, office skills, and MORE!

For Learning Express:
https://www.learningexpresshub.com/.

Classes in job and academic resources like college entrance practice exams and AP tests, and Spanish language resources.

Charles B. Danforth Library,
P.O. Box 204, Barnard, VT 05031
6208 VT Route 12

Phone: 802-234-9408

Email: charlesdanforthlibrary@gmail.com

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/charlesdanforthlibrary/.

Hours: Mon, Wed, & Thurs: 3-5 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - Noon.

Wi-Fi available

Trustees: Berna Donlon, Margaret Edwards, Judy Maynes, Susan McNulty, and Kassie Tibbott.

FLOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Barnard Helping Hands - Barnard Helping Hands is here to help those in our community who have been impacted by the flood and could use some extra help. Please call Linda Beaumariange (802-234-5624, Mary Blanton (802 -234-5541) or Patty Hasson (802-457-3886) if you are in need of assistance.

The Hub - Financial, housing, transportation, shelter, prescriptions, medical and other needs.

Four Ways to Contact The HUB:

1. Online: Complete an Application at: https://tinyurl.com/mr3u5jaa

2. Phone: 802-457-7214

3. Email: apply@thehubneighbors.org

4. Pick up an Application: Outside the Ottauquechee Health Foundation office at Simmons House at 30 Pleasant Street, Woodstock.

The HUB is a Project of Woodstock Community Trust, a non profit 501c3 organization.

Woodstock Food Shelf - Food assistance and VeggieVanGo

802-457-1185, http://woodstockfoodshelf.org/

VEGGIEVANGO-Free food diatribution - everyone welcome!-Rescheduled to Friday, July 28th, 10:00AM. At the Woodstock Union HS/MS Parking located near the Union Arena Entrance

Vermont and US Government - Water testing, damage reimbursement, Residential and Business assistance.

GENERAL

Dial 911 to report a life-threatening situation or other emergency.

Sign up for VTALERT to get real-time alerts and notices for your health and safety at https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert

For general help, resources, or support - call 211, text your zip code to 211, or visit their website at https://vermont211.org/

UPDATES ON CONDITIONS:

Find local road closures at https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1ejgW8lle0ooje7ME9nc9uvTQ3eGvAlA&hl=en_US&usp=sharing and state roads at https://newengland511.org/

Find current flood warnings from the National Weather Service at https://www.weather.gov/btv/

CLEANING UP AFTER A FLOOD:

How to Safely Pump Out Basements at https://anr.vermont.gov/content/how-safely-pump-out-basements

Flooded Homes Cleanup Guidance from EPA at https://www.epa.gov/flooded-homes

FEMA GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS:

FEMA's Individuals and Households Program provides financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs. Learn more at https://www.fema.gov/assistance/individual/program and https://www.fema.gov/fact-sheet/starting-your-recovery-after-flood

Be sure to document damage to buildings, equipment, and infrastructure caused by the storms and flooding. Take pictures and videos, write down timelines and notes while it is fresh in your memory, and save receipts.

After the Major Disaster Declaration has been approved, you can apply for FEMA assistance online at https://www.disasterassistance.gov/ or by calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS:

3SquaresVT households that lost food due to a "Household Misfortune" (such as a flood, fire, or power outages of more than 4 hours) may qualify for replacement benefits of the value of lost food. The household must report the loss within ten days of the misfortune.

Need to speak to someone? Text: "Home" to 741741 to connect with someone at the crisis text line or call Northeast Kingdom Human Services, 24 hours a day at (802) 334-6744

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Learn about common legal and benefits issues after a disaster like flooding from VT Legal Aid at https://vtlawhelp.org/common-legal-and-benefits-issues-after-disaster-flooding.

RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES:

VSBDC Disaster Recovery Guide for Businesses contains all the steps small business owners need to take, and all the information one would need to gather post-disaster at https://www.vtsbdc.org/disaster-recovery/

VBSR Flood Recovery Guide for Businesses details opportunities for businesses to both receive support and provide support at https://vbsr.org/news-item/vbsr-flood-recovery-guide-for-businesses/

Vermont Secretary of State's Office. The office is temporarily located at the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration offices at 1078 US Route 2 in Middlesex.

To report damage or find additional resources. Call 211 or visit Vermont 211. It is very important that all impacts are reported on this page because this is data that FEMA determine what resources our state receives.

The website remains available for almost all business filing needs: Vermont Secretary of State - Business Services Division. The staff is available by phone at (802) 828-2386 or toll-free at (888) 647-4582 or by e-mail at SOS.CorporationsSupport@vermont.gov.

SUPPORT FOR FARMERS:

2023 Flooding Disaster Response and Recovery Resources website at https://agriculture.vermont.gov/flood

CAE's Vermont Farm Fund has 0% interest emergency loans up to $10k at https://hardwickagriculture.org/farmers-food-businesses/vermont-farm-fund

NOFA Vermont's Farmer Emergency Fund is available to assist Vermont certified organic and NOFA-VT member commercial farmers. Farmers may request up to $2,500 in grants that do not need to be repaid at https://www.nofavt.org/farmer-emergency-fund

MORE INFO:

https://ptvermont.org/vermont-flood-guide-preparation-response-recovery/

https://floodready.vermont.gov/

THANK YOU BARNARD

As a long time resident of Barnard I have seen allot of extreme weather conditions. Given that Barnard has now seen two major flood events in under twelve years, I am thankful that Barnard is a community of people that take such events in there stride, pitch in to help fellow residents and assist in the recovery.

I would like to thank all those that chipped in with manual labor and the use of equipment to assist in the recovery. A shoutout also goes to those that helped with transportation and thought to check in on neighbors. The willingness of Barnard residents to step up to the plate in the face of such disasters is wonderful.

Barnard is one of those communities that puts the backbone into "Vermont Strong". Thanks again to everyone, professional and volunteer alike, who kept the Town safe and functioning

Richard Lancaster

RICHARD GOMBAR & ELIZABETH RICKETSON ART EXHIBIT

Artistree is thrilled to welcome local artists Elizabeth Ricketson and Richard Gombar to our gallery for a special exhibit! Though Elizabeth and Richard have different painting styles, both painters create pieces that evoke emotion and capture the viewer's attention. This is a colorful and moving exhibit highlighting the beauty, wonder, and power of nature in its many forms.

Exhibit Dates: July 21 - August 19, 2023.

JOIN US FRIDAY, JULY 21st from 5:30-7:30pm for the OPENING RECEPTION. Cash bar and light refreshments.

LEARN MORE: https://artistreevt.org/two-painters

Artistree Community Arts Center & Gallery

2095 Pomfret Road/PO Box 158

South Pomfret, VT 05067

802.457.3500 ext. 111

Support Artistree!

https://artistreecommunityartscenter-bloom.kindful.com/

www.artistreevt.org

HELP REBUILD PRECISION MOTORWORKS ON THE NORTH ROAD

Although Precision Motorworks is not a Barnard business, those that drive the North Road know that Richard Striker and his family have been running this local automotive repair shop for decades .

Precesion motorworks burned down earlier this month and a crowdfunding page has been set up to help the family rebuild. Please consider contributing to the rebuilding of this local resource.

GLAD RAGS FALL SALE DONATIONS

The donation dates for the Fall sales have been set! The remaining donation collection dates for our Fall sales are:

July 22nd, and August 5th & 19th.

From 10AM to 1PM at the Simmons House in Woodstock, VT. The Fall sales are Friday - Sunday, September 22-24, 2023.

For more information visit https://www.gladrags.org or https://www.facebook.com/groups/145529065206.

AT BILLINGS FARM

Register Now For Summer Camps

Enjoy farm camp for the young ones on July 17–21 and August 14–18, 9AM–12:30PM. Ages 6-8 (Entering grades 1-3). Listen to fun stories about farming, nature, and animals then meet our calves, sheep, and goats and learn the basics of caring for each animal through hands-on activities.
https://billingsfarm.org/billings-bookworms/

There are a few spots left in Junior Farmer Camp (ages 7 -11) on June 26-30 and Farm Discovery Camp (ages 11-14) for Aug 7-11.
https://billingsfarm.org/camps-at-the-farm/

Colorful Quilts At Billings Farm

"The best things in life are quilted," and you won't want to miss all the beautiful quilts on display in our 37th Annual Quilt Exhibition, open daily 10AM-5PM through July 23rd.

See the variety of quilts made by Windsor County quilters, "The Beatles" themed challenge quilts from the Heart of the Land Quilters Guild, and historic quilts from our collection. Test your eagle eyes in the scavenger hunt, try hand quilting and piecing and make your own paper quilt square. Vote for your favorites to win the Peoples Choice Award!

Love Quilts? Become a Quilt Hall volunteer!
https://billingsfarm.org/quilt-exhibition/

Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock, VT
info@billingsfarm.org

THANK YOU FROM THE BARNARD FIRE DEPARTMENT

To our generous community and to all those who helped make Barnard Fire and Rescue's annual summer fundraiser a big success ~ Thank you! Many, many donors and volunteer hours contributed to the success of this event. We gratefully acknowledge the following organizations for their continued support and generosity: Barnard General Store, Bethel Mills, CV Oil Co., Tozier's restaurant, and Sweet Tymes Sugaring.

From Fire Chief Scott Mills and all members of Barnard Fire and Rescue, wishing everyone a happy and safe summer!

THANKS FROM THE SILVER LAKE PROGRESSIVE CLUB

The Silver Lake Progressive Club of Barnard says to everyone who aided its annual BAKE SALE at the Barnard Fire Department's BBQ on July 1st

" THANK YOU! "

Proceeds will aid the Progressive Club's Scholarship Fund and will help keep up the town's gardens.

- The Silver Lake Progressive Club

ANOTHER UN-NAMED STORM, ANOTHER FLOOD

On July 10, 20923, the Northeast, and Vermont in particular, again received enough rain to cause very significant flooding. As was the case twelve years ago when Irene hit, Barnard's roads were damaged and a few had to be closed as they were impassable. Pictures of the road damage caused by the flooding can be found at http://www.barnardspirit.com/past-issues. Click on the issues 24 and 25 of the Barnard Spirit to see some of the damage done by the flood waters.

The Town managed to get most of the roads open within three days after the start of the storm. Although some roads remain single lane, they all are passable and as the roads dry out repairs will be completed. Complete repair and grading will be done once the roads are safe and damage recorded.

Please drive with caution, as some non-local people do not realize that the roads are in poor shape ,and are driving a bit carelessly. There are still areas where the roads have no shoulders and elevated caution is advised.

LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHES A BOOK ON GROWING UP

Ann Aikens of Bethel has published a darkly comical advice book, A Young Woman's Guide to Life: A Cautionary Tale. It addresses serious (and not-so serious) issues with humor and candor. While intended for women 18-30 years of age, people of all ages and genders seem to enjoy this book. You can read a review of the book on Amazon. The book is also available at the Yankee Bookshop, Royal Towne Gifts, and other area bookstores (some of which were recently flooded).

You are invited to a short, painless reading—and discussion—at the Kimball Public Library in Randolph on Monday, July 24, from 6-7 pm. Come and go as you please. Books will be available for sale at the reading, or bring your own copy for signing/inscribing. Ann is happy to do other readings/signings/book clubs anywhere, even online. Contact Ann at author@annaikens.com.

Her Aikens (Scottish) forebears were among the initial settlers of Barnard in 1770. They served as blacksmiths, postmasters, and barbers. The Aiken Stand (on the Royalton Turnpike) also factors in to their story.

Ann's parents, Alice and Cliff, landed in the New York City area. They brought their 3 children to Barnard on summer vacations, at the family homestead next to the State Park and to Cliff's Aunt Mildred Aikens' home in Bethel (Mildred Aikens was the art teacher in Bethel for decades).

After 9/11, Ann moved to Randolph, telecommuting to Kansas City for work. During rocky flights to KC, Ann began a book of advice for her nieces, as a guide for growing up. This year, her nieces became old enough for Ann to publish her thoughts.

A SHORT ANIMATED FILM ABOUT THE BARNARD PANTHER

Alexander Crowell and the Barnard Panther, 1881

Many Vermonters have heard the story of the Barnard Panther. For one youngster who grew up in Chester Vermont and was a Grand Nephew of Floyd VanAlstyne of East Barnard, the story has become a bit of an obsession. Having heard stories and reading the usual accounts of the incident has decided to tell the story in his own way.

Travis VanAlstyne at Silver Lake

As a child Travis VanAlstyne, now living in South Burlington, became interested in making short animated films, having seen Ralph Bakshi's rotoscope work of the 1970s and 80s, the hand drawn and digitally assembled films from the Disney Renaissance period (1980s - 1990s), and the animated works of Don Bluth (1980s – 1990s). Travis was accepted into the BFA program in animation at the Savannah College of Art and Design and graduated in 2003.After receiving his degree, Travis started making his opwn films.

Recently he turned his attention to the story of the Barnard Panther and decided to make an animatred short of this event. Travis is currently in the inital stages of production and is hoping to get some help to move the project along. He has already researched the story archives, and gathered a number of images', that he will use in the production of the film.

His crowd funding site is https://igg.me/at/catamount and he would appreciate any financial asstandce he can get. When the film is done Travis intends to have a showing in Barnard.

THE BULLETIN AND THE SPIRIT

Two Publications Serving Barnard

The Town of Barnard now has two established digital media publications. This document , The Barnard Bulletin, is the monthly publication that was started over thirty years ago with the intent to inform Barnard residents of important events and issues. Conceived by Virginai Lancaster to allow residents and officials to post relevant information about, and for, the Town. In particular, Warnings and other legal notices, letters of opinion and longer stories of interest.

The Barnard Spirit is a complementary publication and is focused on those short stories about the goings on about the Town. Pictures and short descriptions are what George Keller is looking for. The Spirit is published as often as is necessary and George is now in the process moving all twenty six previous editions of the Spirit to an archive page on the web.

Neither the Bulletin or the Spirit exist in a vacuum and both are one-man shows. Both publications need the support of the public, so if you have short stories and lots of pictures, send them to the Spirit. Longer letters, in depth stories, public notices and letters to the Editor are what the Bulletin needs.

Contact the Bulletin at Info@BarnardBulletin.info and the Spirit at georgekeller@co-oppublications.com. Keep the spirit of Barnard alive and thriving. Thank you, Richard Lancaster, owner, The Barnard Bulletin.

BARNARTS EVENTS SCHEDULE

BarnArts 12th Annual
Summer Youth Theater: Newsies

Performance Weekend: Aug 4-6.

Performance Location: Barnard Town Hall.

More information at:

https://barnarts.org/mainstage/newsies/.

Barnard Street Dance - Aug 26, Barnard Town Hall

Haunted Village Theater - Oct 21, Barnard Village and Barnard Town Hall

Holiday Cabaret - Dec 9 Wassail Weekend

Winter Carols - Dec 15
First Universalist Church of Barnard

BarnArts Center for the Arts info@barnarts.org
PO Box 41 802-234-1645
Barnard, VT 05031 www.barnarts.org

ANTIQUE TRACTOR DAY

Billings Farm's Antique Tractor Day on Sunday, August sixth. There will be a Tractor Parade and a Slow Race. This is a display of farm equipment that was made before 1980.

BARNARD ENERGY COMMITTEE

Home Energy Upgrade

The Energy Committee has held two events in Barnard this year. The kicked off event for the Home Energy Upgrade campaign was on March 1. A second event was held at the Library in June. If you missed either event, you can read the handout on the energy page of the town website. Click here to view the PDF.

The first step is to schedule a home energy audit. An audit report will give you a roadmap of changes that will make your home more energy efficient.

You can use any auditor who is on the Efficiency Excellence Network; full details are in the handout. The Barnard Bonus offers a $500 rebate to any resident on this cost.

Earthshare, an auditor with whom we've had a good experience, is scheduling audits through the summer and all.

We anticipate that Efficiency Vermont's incentives will go up in mid-summer. In addition, the Barnard Bonus offers up to $2,000 to middle income residents when you make upgrades recommended in the audit report. All of these funds are available on a first-come, first-serve funds.

Now is a great time to act. You can pick up a print copy of the handout at the Town Clerk's office (open Monday and Tuesday) or contact us and we'll mail one to you: BarnardBonus@icloud.com.

Barnard Energy Committee

FEAST & FIELD MUSIC SERIES

2023 Season Calendar

July 20: Nomfusi South African Afro-soul
July 27: Tommy Crawford & Friends kids/singer-songwriter
August 3: Bandits on the Run pop/folk
August 10: Miss Tess honky tonk/blues
August 17: Fabiola Méndez folkloric/Latin/jazz
August 24: Pointe Noir Cajun Band Cajun
August 31: Billy Wylder rock/world
Sept. 7: Spencer Lewis and the New Old Vermonters folk
September 14: TBA
September 21: Jenni & the Jazz Junketeers jazz/swing/soul
September 28: DJ dance Party

Feast and Field is located at 1525 Royalton Turnpike, Barnard, VT.

More information at https://barnarts.org/mainstage/music-on-the-farm/

SILVER LAKE SYRUPS

for your favorite Maple Creemee

Hello friends and neighbors. Silver Lake Syrups at 5613 Stage Road in Barnard is open most Saturdays and Sundays from noon - 6pm. Stop in for a Maple Creemee, stock up on Maple Syrup, homemade jams, VT raw honey, and so much more!

Payments accepted: CC – Venmo – Cash – ApplePay. There is WiFi available in the sugarhouse.

Eric and Sonja Withington (802) 234-1647

LOCAL CRYPTOGRAM

A cryptogram is a code in which one letter is substituted for another. For example, the word "Church" could be written BWMSBW. The letter B would be the letter C and would be so throughout the entire message. In this message G = U. The solution is found by trial and error. The CRYPTOGRAM answer is on the last page.

"V C W T O G S S W A M I W T O, P O W W

C M V J R O N P N S R N G A W O, R T B

J W R A P N V P E E Z W O C M A N; Z G N

R J N W A N C W C W R N O M J F G E X

R T B R G D G O N, P R S

A W K M T K P E W B, E P H W M T W V C M

C R O C R B C P O O V P T D, N M N C W

K M M E M J R G N G S T."

- A R E I C V R E B M W S W A O M

THE PLANNING COMMISSION meets on the Monday prior to the first Wednesday of every month at 7 PM in the Town Office.

BARNARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION meets the second Monday of the month, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

BEES MEETINGS are held at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the library at the school.

DANFORTH LIBRARY HOURS: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Saturdays 10:00 am to Noon. ECFiber Wi-Fi. Contact us: phone: 802-234-9408. Email: charlesdanforthlibrary@gmail.com.

SELECTBOARD meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Town offices at 7:00pm.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, selectboard@barnardvt.us, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, zoning@barnardvt.us, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

TOWN CLERK office hours are Monday and Tuesday, 8:00am—3:30pm. Public access is restricted. Call 234-9211 for an appointment.

THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Barnard Town Hall as necessary.

THE BARNARD ENERGY COMMITTEE meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm at the Town Hall

BARNARD GENERAL STORE, Monday-Saturday: 7am-7pm, Sundays: 8am-6pm.
https://www.facebook.com/barnardgeneralstore

BARNARD LISTSERV: to subscribe please send an email to: barnard-subscribe@lists.vitalcommunities.org

RECYCLING Click here for Hours and Regulations

THE BARNARD INN is running a "Feeding Neighbors & Sustaining Community" campaign. Purchase an e-Gift Card and in turn the chefs will feed neighbors. Whole chicken dinners (serves 4-6) and individual sized meals to help feed Vermonters in need. Thank you and please stay safe. E-Gift Cards are available at www.barnardinn.com.

ECFIBER Governing Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm via. Zoom. Contact the clerk of the District. secretary@ecfiber.net, for meeting information or visit https://www.ecfiber.net/virtual-meetings/

HISTORICAL SOCIETY Programs to be announced. Questions? Email: historicalbarnard1761@gmail.com

DELECTABLE MOUNTAIN QUILTERS (DMQ) meet the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Bethel Library from 1-3pm. Contact: Mary Croft 802-763-7074

EAST BARNARD ROAD CLOSURE

UPDATE - JUNE 19, 2023

Unfortunately, weather, equipment breakdowns and project complexities have conspired to extend the project. Final drainage and finishing of the road surface is in progress. Presently, the project is estimated to be completed by July 22. Due to the flooding there will likely be minor traffic delays in the next week during the repair of the new culvert.

Previously the Town took temporary steps to stabilize the bank beside the road. However, the steps taken did not result in long term stabilization of the bank. Late in 2022 Barnard funded an engineering study resulting in a stabilization design that would hold up for the long term. The Selectbard reviewed bids for the project and the contract was awarded to Avery Excavation Incorporated.

MT TOM FARMER`S MARKET IS OPEN

The Mt. Tom Farmers Market is open Saturdays at Saskadena Six ski area in South Pomfret, VT. Vendors will be offering a wide variety of locally produced products. The hours of operation are 10:00 am to 1:00 pm through October 14.

If you are interested in joining Mt. Farmers Market, contact Neil Lamson, foxxfarm22@gmail, or landline: 802.763.2070. The Daily fee is only $10 and the season fee is $40.

Neil Lamson
Fox Crossing Farm
(802) 763-2070
foxxfarm22@gmail.com

SILVER LAKE STATE PARK IS OPEN

The team at Silver Lake State Park reminds you to make your camping reservations early. If you're thinking of coming to visit later in the summer, book your site now. We're filling up quick! As always, season passes are available online or at the gate. Vermont residents who are either veterans or aged 62+ (or both) are eligible for the Green Mountain Pass for $2. This will get you lifetime free day use entry to any Vermont State Park. See the Barnard Town Clerk for details. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Matt Livingston
Assistant Park Manager
Silver Lake State Park
Barnard, VT

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

"When summer opens, I see how fast it matures, and fear it will be short; but after the heats of July and August, I am reconciled, like one who has had his swing, to the cool of autumn."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson