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The ECHO

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

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Edited by Richard
and Lucille Allen

Layout by Sue Storey

Essex Community Historical Society
3 Browns River Road
Essex Jct., Vermont 05452
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www.essex.org/esxhs/esxhsfindex.htm

Photographic History of Essex and Essex Junction Goes to Press

From the back cover of our
upcoming book *Essex and
Essex Junction*:

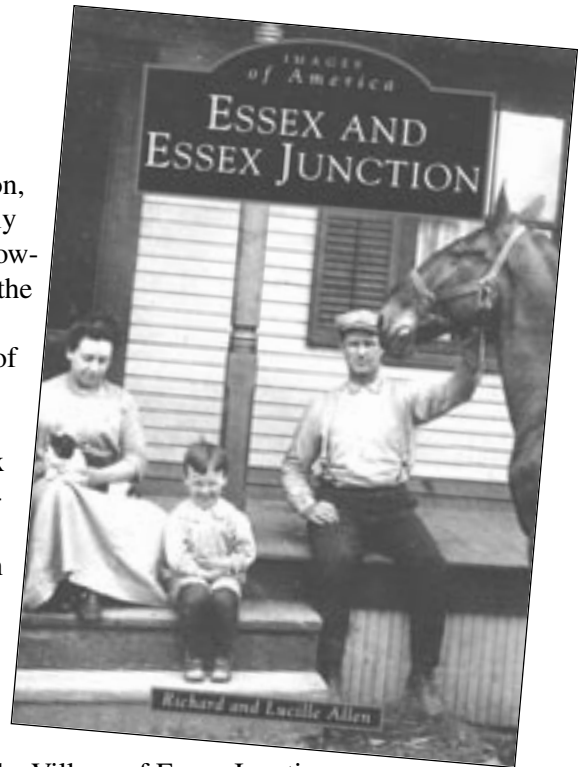
In Essex and Essex Junction, readers will learn that early settlers tapped the waterpower at Hubbel's Falls and tilled the fertile land of Essex town in western Vermont. The advent of the railroad brought prosperity in the mid-1800s and a name change for the village of Essex Junction. Fort Ethan Allen further boosted the area's prominence and increased activity in the town. When IBM came to Essex, the area experienced the rapid growth and resulting challenges similar to that felt throughout much of Vermont.

Today the town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction are vibrant communities with fascinating histories.

Richard and Lucille Allen, thirty-year residents of Essex, are active members of the Essex Community Historical Society and co-editors of the society's newsletter. Richard has authored and co-authored several books on area history and state geography. *Essex and Essex Junction* updates the history of the town and is sure to interest residents and visitors alike.

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.

Please see inside for order form.



Stanton's Icehouse

By Jerry Fox and Jean Ballantyne

As with many historical tales, the story of Stanton's Icehouse has its roots in a strange place. In 1906 the Winooski Valley Power Company, in response to Burlington's growing electric power needs, was planning to build what is now the Green Mountain Power Company dam between Essex and Williston. In preparation for the dam's construction the Winooski Valley's agent, Morris W. Stroud, bought the necessary land and water privileges around Hubbel's Falls. This included Samuel Brownell's lower dam, the associated electric power plant and his sawmill, Hunter & Shiland's upper dam and their fire blighted paper mill site, and also William B. Johnson's grist mill and creamery.

However, not all of that land was actually required for the dam.

In 1907 Stroud sold Alfred E. Read, an Essex provisions dealer, the right to build an icehouse near Johnson's creamery and to harvest ice from the river behind the dam. The site was at the edge of the dam containment area to the east of Park Street.¹

It is not clear whether Read built a new building or used Johnson's old creamery. In any case, on March 12, 1919 he sold the icehouse to Archibald F. Parsons.² Two and a half years later, in 1921, Parsons sold it to Thomas Stanton of Shelburne. The deed gives us a sneak peek into the icehouse business.

Along with the icehouse Stanton acquired "about one hundred twenty feet of ice skids, one ice delivery platform, one hoist frame with carriage, seven pairs of ice tongs, twenty-five pike poles, two floor levelers, three sets of grapples, one perforated shovel, one scoop



On the side of the truck the sign reads: Stanton's Pure Natural Ice, Accept No Substitute, PHONE 215-R ESSEX JCT., VT

Thought to be a 1931 or 1932 Ford. Individuals not identified.

Photo courtesy of Michael Stanton.

shovel, two hand saws, one tamping bar; one break out bar, one splitting off bar, one chisel, one ice cant hook, one ice shaver, one saw-dust basket, one pitch fork, one whiffle tree, one horse scraper, two ice plows, one ice marker, one hand ice marker, one 30 ft. extension ladder, three sets of ice scales, 1/3 dozen ice picks, two ice brooms, one heavy express wagon with extra pole and shafts, one light express wagon, one heavy farm wagon with extra shafts, two heavy single harnesses without collars, five bows for wagon top, two canvas wagon covers, one set of side boards for heavy wagon, one half barrel of tar for roof, one tar brush, all ropes, blocks, blocking and lumber in and about the ice house.”³

Within a year of the purchase Stanton added a modern ice bin on the northwest end of the original building. At some point between 1922 and 1928 he enlarged the ice bin and abandoned the old icehouse. Stanton's two oldest surviving children, whose memories date from the 1940s, recall the original icehouse as unused and neglected.⁴

In order to be closer to his business Stanton bought

the house at what is now 7 River Street, Essex Junction in August of 1924. We can't be sure, but it appears that Stanton's wife, Kathrynne, and their daughter, Mary Zita, moved to the Junction at this time.⁵ Unfortunately, during the winter of 1927, Kathrynne died of pneumonia following surgery at the Fanny Allen Hospital. Only 42 years old, sad.⁶

Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s the icehouse was Stanton's primary source of income. In addition to local residential ice boxes, he supplied ice to the Central Vermont Railroad, to a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Underhill, and to a nearby creamery.⁷

Nineteen thirty-five (1935) brought major changes to Stanton's life. On March 4 he married Genevieve Neill of Carthage, Mississippi. With Genevieve he had four additional children - Sylvia, Michael, Larry and Barbara - all of whom are still alive.⁸

During the same year, in need of additional income, Stanton opened a dry cleaning plant and laundry in an unused building on his property. He left the dry clean-

ing and laundry business in 1943, selling the equipment, but not the building, to an Essex Junction tailor, Joseph Palguta.⁹

With this sale the icehouse again became Stanton's source of income until he closed it in 1946 or 1947. The Essex Junction Fire Department burned the icehouse as a training exercise in 1952 or 1953.¹⁰

In 1947 Stanton moved the cleaning plant building to what is now 62 Park Street and opened a grocery. Illness forced Stanton to sell the grocery on July 1, 1952.¹¹ After Stanton died on July 19, 1955, Genevieve continued to live at 7 River Street until she sold both the house and the icehouse lot to Stanley and Betty Spaulding on October 2, 1962. Spaulding opened an auto body shop in Stanton's old garage.¹²

Under the current owner this is the site of Shep's Small Engine Repair.

Oh yes - the remnants of the icehouse foundation? They are under the Mill Street entrance to IBM.

1. For a description of the industries at Hubbel's Falls prior to the current dam see Frank Bent, *The History of the Town of Essex*, (Essex, VT: Town of Essex, 1963), pg. 48-49; Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 32, pg. 43-46. (May 29, 1907) For Read's occupation, 1900 Census, manuscript schedule population, Essex, Vermont.

2. Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 31, pg. 356. (March 12, 1919).

3. Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 34, pg. 221. (October 19, 1921).

4. Sanborn Map Company, *Essex*, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1922), map 6 and 1928, map 7; Michael Stanton, personal interview with the author, (Burlington, VT: November 23, 2003); Sylvia Stanton Weinhausen, telephone interview with the author, (Essex, VT: December 16, 2003).

5. Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 35, pg. 347. (August 13, 1924) Kathrynne's name was added to the icehouse deed Nov 4, 1922. Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 34, pg. 509 - 510.

6. Essex Town Death Records, Vol. 10, pg. 116. (January 4, 1927); Michael Stanton, e-mail to the author, (Milton: March 11, 2004).

7. *City Directory of the Cities of Burlington and Winooski and the Village of Essex Junction*, (Springfield, MA: H. A. Manning, 1935), hereafter cited as *Village Directory*. Stanton is listed as only an ice dealer.

8. Essex Town Marriage Records, Vol. 11, pg. 56, (January 4, 1935); Essex Town Birth Records. Michael Stanton informed author that Mary Zita died August 8, 2001 at age 86. E-mail to the author, (Milton: March 11, 2004).

9. *Village Directory*, 1934-1946 says Stanton is running a laundry in addition to the icehouse until 1943. Stanton's obituary, *Burlington Free Press*, July 20, 1955, pg. 2, col. 1 mentions the cleaning plant. According to the *Village Directory* Palguta is running the cleaning plant and laundry at 7 River Street in May 1944, and in May 1946 the facility is at Palguta's shop Railroad Avenue. Also, Michael Stanton, e-mail to the author, (Milton, VT: March 11, 2004); Michael Stanton, personal interview with the author, (Burlington, VT: November 23, 2003); Sylvia Stanton Weinhausen, telephone interview with the author, (Essex, VT: December 16, 2003).

10. *Village Directory*, 1948, If the ice business continued beyond January 1948, the *Directory* authors did not think it worthy of mention; Sylvia Stanton Weinhausen, telephone interview with the author, (Essex, VT: December 16, 2003); *Village Directory*, August 1952, page 732 lists the icehouse as vacant, but the issue for January 1954, page 752 does not list the building.

11. Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 45, pg. 361 (November 13, 1944) and Vol. 51, pg. 478 (June 11, 1952). Michael Stanton, personal interview with the author, (Burlington, VT: November 23, 2003). When sold in 1952, the majority of the store property became the entrance to Silver Bow Terrace and the store became what many of us remember as the Park Street Store, now known as Abair's Quality Car Care.

12. Essex Town Death Records, Vol. 16, pg. 210; Stanton's obituary, *Burlington Free Press*, July 20, 1955, pg. 2, col. 1. Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 66, pg. 454-455 and 455-456. Genevieve's name was added to the deeds for both 7 River Street and the icehouse in 1948. See Essex Town Land Records, Vol. 48, pg. 290-291. (August 16, 1948).

Exuberant Essex Junction: What Was the Village Like in 1951?

By Richard Allen

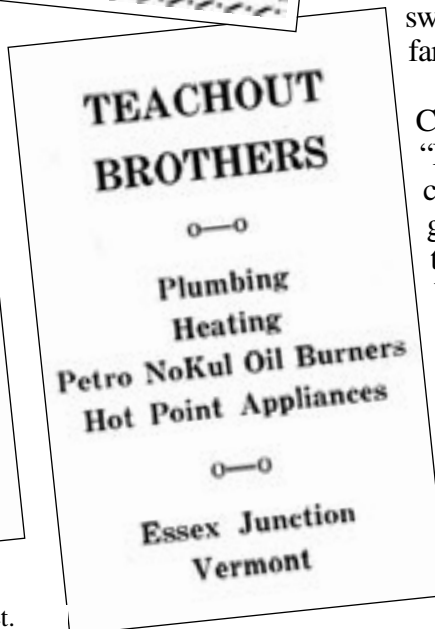
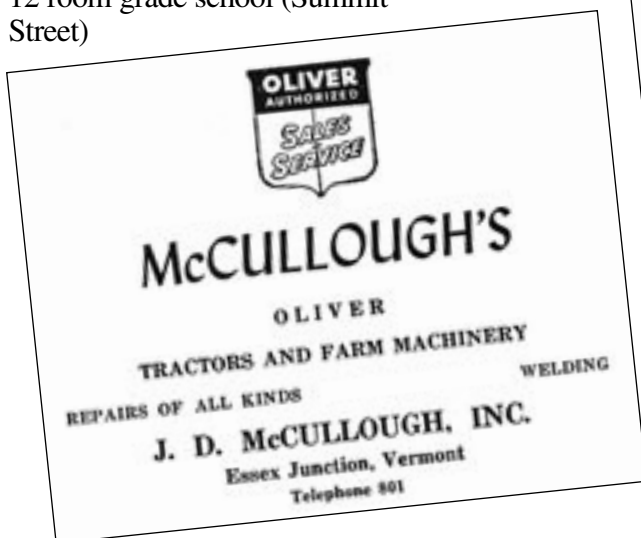
In January 1951 a tourist booklet distributed to hotel and resort guests in northern Vermont profiled Essex Junction and its many attractions. On the cover we find a photo of reservoir number 2 in the Saxon Hill Forest. "It is one of the sights that should be seen in the town, and interested parties can always obtain the keys to the gates."

Real Estate broker Richard Hayden's ad states "2701 people can't be wrong! Essex Junction is a good place to live...fine schools...sanitary sewage...perfect water."

The State Forestry Reservation off Pearl Street "covers 30 acres of land and employs as many as 70 men in the spring growing season."

Several industries were mentioned: Roscoe Printing House, makers of calendars; and the Northland Glove and Mitten Company, manufacturer "of ski mittens and all leather work gloves..."

The High School (now Fleming School) was about to get an auditorium, and an architect's drawing of a new 12 room grade school (Summit Street)



had been released.

The Indian relic collection of Dr. David Marvin was housed in the Essex Trust Company building. "Since the opening of the exhibit on November 24, a steady stream of visitors has come to admire and to learn...the seven cases of exhibits are filled with incredibly delicate and beautiful pieces of Indian art."

"The 1950 census revealed that Essex Junction is the fastest growing community in the state..."

The location in the fertile farming area and access to the railroads "has turned the town into a farm machinery and grain center, and no less than 6 large grain companies and 4 farm machinery stores are located in the town." The farmers were also served by the Vermont State Farm Bureau Cooperative Association that sent trucks out to pick up farm products, mostly eggs and potatoes, and then sold them wholesale around the state. The sweet corn canning plant served farmers within a 20 mile radius.

Writer Katherine Crocker entitled her piece "Exuberant Essex Junction" and closed with, "In spite of the growing number of these industries and projects, along with its busy shopping center, (which we repeat is a good one) the town still retains that magic atmosphere of quiet never found in a metropolis."

Note: Thank you to William P. Hall for sharing the *Panorama* booklet with us.

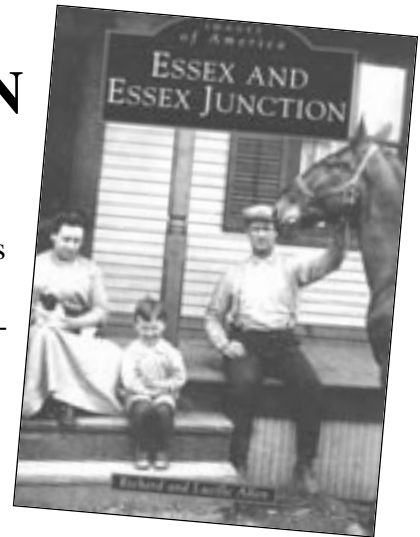
All ads are from the *Panorama* January 1951 booklet.

ESSEX AND ESSEX JUNCTION

by Richard and Lucille Allen

This photographic history of Essex and Essex Junction, in the "Images of America" series published by Arcadia Publishing, has gone to the publisher for production. Richard and Lucille, members of the historical society, with the support of the society, have worked on this book this past year. By purchasing the book through the historical society, you will support the work of the society in collecting, sharing and displaying Essex history.

Thank you for your order.



Pre-order your book(s) by July 1, 2004. Delivery will be in the Fall of 2004.

Check how you want to receive the book:

- Mail the book to me
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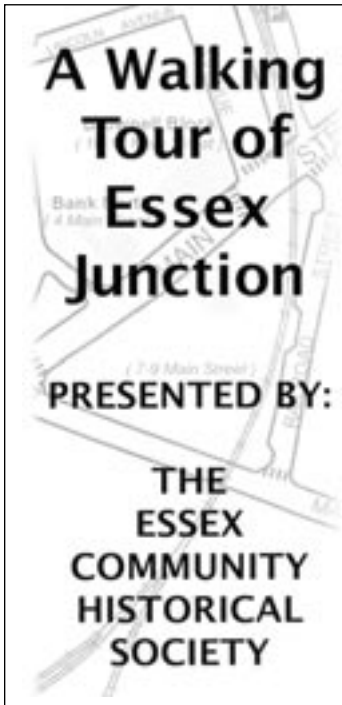
Phone Number: _____

**Mail Orders to: Essex Community Historical Society
3 Browns River Road
Essex Junction, Vermont 05452**

Current Projects of the Essex Community Historical Society

WALKING TOUR BROCHURES

Look for the revised Essex Junction Walking Tour



at our table at the Third Annual Essex Junction Block Party. The Block Party will be held on Railroad Street on Saturday, July 17, 2004 from 3-7 pm. Know that this is just a sampling of the historic buildings that are around and about the Five Corners area of the Junction. The committee who put the tour together chose the buildings included in the pamphlet because of their proximity, available historic information, as well as their architectural value. There are several more buildings

that may be of interest to you. Some research materials can be found at the Brownell and Essex Free Libraries if you want to find out about other buildings that are not on the tour.

The Century Homes committee has also put together a separate walking tour of Essex Center. The format is similar to the Village tour in that we chose buildings that were easily accessible for walking purposes. You can look for that tour brochure soon at the Harriet Farnsworth Powell Historical Museum, area libraries and the Town and Village offices.

Thank you to board members Sherry Norton and Polly McEwing for chairing this committee. Thanks to the following people who are helping out with this project: Helen Vile, Tom Tailer, Lydia Wisloski, and Hubie Norton.

CENTURY HOME PROJECT

The Century Home committee has reviewed The

Town of Essex/Town Plan 1996/update, to reflect year 2000. This is a listing of the Town of Essex outside the Village Historical Structures and Sites. We have identified all but a few of the buildings on the list and have noted the buildings that are no longer standing. The committee plans to take pictures of all of the structures that are listed, place them in a binder with any related information, and have the binder available for viewing at the Harriet Farnsworth Powell Historical Museum. We will encourage any other information on other structures to be added to the binder. We would also welcome those people, who have documented information, who would like to have their properties added to the list to contact us through the Essex Community Historical Society. Members working on this project are Polly McEwing, Sherry Norton and Lucille Allen.

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.

We are now **charging for any research** that we do for people who request such assistance. For simple research we suggest a donation of \$10 to the historical society. If the research requires more time, is more detailed, and within our capacity, we will charge \$25 per hour.

The **board of directors meets** at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month, except December. The meetings are open to the public, so feel free to come. We meet at the museum, except during the winter. Call any board member for up to date information on the next meeting.

Essex Community Historical Society

3 Browns River Road
Essex Jct., Vermont 05452

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.....\$5.00
- Family membership\$10.00
- Senior membership (60 and over)..... \$3.00
- Student membership (full time) \$3.00
- Individual-lifetime\$100.00

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

ECHO, Spring 2004

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tag sale, Saturday June 5, 2004 in front of the museum in Essex Center, 9:00 am to 1 pm.

Please consider donating your "valuable" items to our tag sale. We need things in good condition: Furniture, dishes, household items, toys, etc. Please no clothes, books, mattresses, or plants. Call any board member to arrange a pick up of your items.

Items can be dropped off at the museum on Thursday, June 3 from 6:30-7:30 pm.

This is a big fund raiser for us. Please help us out.

Water tower open, Saturday, June 19, 2004. Located on the Fort Ethan Allen grounds, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

To coincide with the tower opening, board member Will Parkinson will have the Pump House building at the Fort, open to the public. On display inside will be items from his collection of Fort Ethan Allen memorabilia:

McAllister photos, prize ribbons, coins, menus, programs, and postcards. Also, Doug Slaybaugh will lead a walking tour of the Fort, starting at 11:00. Meet at the water tower for this. Please watch for further information in the *Essex Reporter* on this Essex Community Historical Society sponsored event. This is a great way to get a bird's eye view of the surrounding area. This event is weather dependent. Thank you to Doug and Will for helping out with this event.

Vermont History Expo, Saturday and Sunday, June 26 & 27, 2004 at Tunbridge Fairgrounds, 10 am-5 pm.

Our display will showcase Fort Ethan Allen. We will be using items from the museum collection along with items from board member Will Parkinson's extensive collection of Fort Ethan Allen memorabilia. The Vermont History Expo is the yearly showcase for Vermont history. Highlights are the displays by many of the local Vermont historical societies, the living history encampments, entertainers, crafts and demonstrations, the parade, and presentations on various subjects. There will be a Prominent Vermonters Box Lunch Auction. Also available for the public to take advantage of is the Genealogy Resource Center. For further information call 802-479-8500, or go to the website www.vermonthistory.org.

The Harriet Farnsworth Powell Historical Museum is open on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm starting June 6-September 26. Other visit times can be arranged by calling Clinton Russell at 878-5887. The museum is located in Essex Center at the corner of Rt. 128 (Browns River Rd.) and Route 15 in the White School building. If you would like to help out at the museum, please call any board member.

The 13th Annual Essex Community Historical Society meeting, Tuesday October 5, 2004 at the Kolvoord Community Room, Brownell Library, Essex Junction, at 7:00 pm. Richard and Lucille Allen will present a program about the research for their book, Essex and Essex Junction, and share some historic photographs.

Essex Community Historical Society Board of Directors • 2003-2004

(denotes year of term expiration)

Clinton Russell, Jr., President (06)
58 Main Street
878-5887

Tobe Zalinger (04)
6 Browns River Road
879-1249

Sherry Norton (04)
9 Maplelawn Drive
879-7334

Lucille Allen, Secretary (05)
3 Oakwood Lane
878-3853

Ann Gray (05), Vice President
28 Rosewood Lane
878-4088

Polly McEwing (06)
5 Doubleday Lane
879-6862

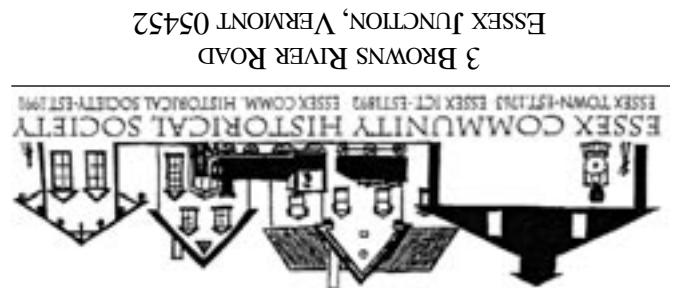
Barbara Mudgett-Russell, Jr. (04)
58 Main Street
878-5887

Eva Clough, Treasurer (05)
42 Brigham Hill Road
879-0849

William Parkinson (06)
P.O. Box 40
Hinesburg 05461
482-3113

Katherine Reynolds (05)
88 Park Street
878-2193

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



Calendar of Events

(See inside for more details)

June 5, 2004, Saturday.

Tag sale in front of the museum in Essex Center, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

June 6-September 26, 2004. Sundays only.

The Harriet Farnsworth Powell Historical Museum, open 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

June 19, 2004, Saturday.

Water tower open, at the Fort Ethan Allen grounds, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

June 26 & 27, 2004, Saturday and Sunday.

Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge fairgrounds, 10 am to 5 pm.

October 5, 2004, Tuesday.

The 13th Annual Essex Community Historical Society meeting,
at the Kolvoord Community Room, Brownell Library, Essex Junction, 7:00 pm.