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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.

Spring 2003
 Edited by Richard
 and Lucille Allen

Layout by Sue Storey

Essex Community Historical Society
 3 Browns River Road
 Essex Jct., Vermont 05452
 Internet address:
www.essex.org/esxhs/esxhsindex.htm

**Historical Society to Support
 A Photographic History of Essex;
 We Need Your Help**

With the backing of the Essex Community Historical Society, Richard and Lucille Allen have teamed up with Arcadia Publishing of Portsmouth, New Hampshire to author a photographic volume on Essex history. We are tapping the historical society’s collection of historic photographs and ephemera for this project. At the same time, we are seeking photographs from the public, Essex residents and non-residents, that would illustrate many aspects of Essex history.

We would like to cover all facets of Essex history: schools, churches, businesses, industries, buildings, recreation, celebrations, transportation, public agencies, prominent citizens, family life, every day activities, etc. Besides photographs, we are interested in old business cards, advertisements, announcements, and such.

The photographs and documents will be scanned by Arcadia Publishing and returned to the historical society or the owner. Arcadia Publishing can handle photographs in any format: prints, negatives, 35 mm slides, etc. The originals produce the best results, but copies of photographs will also be considered. The owners must sign a release giving us permission to reproduce the photographs.

We are seeking photographs from 1860 to 1980.

Besides the historic photographs, we want to provide accurate and detailed captions. We are especially interested in photographs with as much background information as possible: who, where, when, why, etc.

Not all photographs submitted will be reproduced in the book. Such factors as quality, relevancy to the themes of the book, and the amount and accuracy of the information accompanying the photographs, will all play a part in the final decisions.

Arcadia is America’s leading publisher of local and regional history books. Since 1993, when the *Images of America* series began, Arcadia has produced hundreds of titles from all parts of the United States. Other Vermont towns that have worked with Arcadia are Bennington, Brattleboro, Middlebury, Morristown, Norwich, and St. Johnsbury. The book will be available for purchase in area bookstores in 2004.

**Please call Richard or Lucille Allen at 878-3853
 to let us know how you would like to get involved. Thank you.**

School Memories by Horace Jones

From an interview with Lucille Allen on September 30, 2002

Mr. Jones lived in Essex during the 1920s and 1930s. His family moved from Swanton and bought a farm from Guy Nichols on Brigham Hill Road.

Horace Jones attended school in the White School, now the Harriet Powell Museum. The first and second grade met in one of the rooms, and the third and fourth grade met in the room that faces the Common. Mrs. Rogers was the first and second grade teacher and Mrs. Pratt was the third and fourth grade teacher. Mr. Jones recalled that... "When I was in the third and fourth grade, if anyone misbehaved and used some foul language... Mrs. Pratt would take them into the washroom and wash out their mouth with soap and water."

"... We brought our lunch to school in our little metal lunch box. I remember, I probably shouldn't say this... one of the boys used to bring his lunch to school, and what he had was bread, and he had lard in between... We were quite fortunate, because we had peanut butter. My dad used to buy peanut butter by the 25 or 30 pound bucket. (He) used to buy everything for the winter because we'd get snowed in. We didn't need a thing. My mother would make her own bread, her own cakes, and everything."

Mr. Jones recalled getting to school was sometimes an adventure in itself. "We used to travel by what they called a barge, during the summertime, which consisted of a team of horses... the driver sat up front like a stagecoach. We had, probably... twelve students... sit in the barge and we used to travel about five miles to school, which took, it seemed like, ... over an hour... They used to pick us up early in the morning, and we'd usually get home, possibly, in the wintertime, it would be dark by the time we got home."

"It was Mr. Flynn that had the, I don't know if he had a contract or just a verbal agreement with the town at the time, but he used to bring us to school. In the



Mrs. Alice Rogers (top row, far left) and her first and second graders outside of the White Schoolhouse in Essex Center, 1927. Horace Jones is in the top row, fourth from the left. Can you imagine teaching 37 first and second graders in one room?

spring of the year, when the roads were bad, we used to have to walk from Mr. Flynn's home up to Brigham Hill... it would be so muddy that when they would take us to school they would have to sometimes cut a fence and go out through the meadow or... a pasture to get through these mud holes. Actually, a horse would get mired right in there and he couldn't get out because the mud would be so deep. He (Mr. Flynn) used to take us, sometimes, in an old touring car. He chewed tobacco. We were sitting in the back and when he would spit, some of the tobacco would come back at us... In the wintertime we went with double sleds. (He) put straw on the ... rack, and we would sit on the rack and go with a team of horses to get to school." Johnny

Snide, Mr. Flynn's hired man who lived in a tenant house next to Mr. Flynn, took the children in with the sleds.

"At the end of the year, when we would have our picnic, we would all take a lunch and we'd go down by the river (Alder Brook), go down back behind where the telephone office was (on the Common, next to the present Public Works office) and where the Whittens lived. There was a little road that went down through there. And that's where we would have our school picnic..."

"Later in school, at the end of the year, we would go down to Ethan Allen Park (in Burlington) for our celebration... We use to go up in the tower."

The Memorial Hall was used by the school. "Memorial Hall, as you went in, on the right, the first room used to be the library. And of course, we had all of our school activities. They used to play basketball and we had our school plays at the Memorial Hall at that time."

Thank you to Mr. Jones for sharing his memories with us.

An Essex, Vermont Annotated Bibliography

In 1992, Penelope Pillsbury of the Brownell Library put together a "selective bibliography... (to) give Essex citizens and local history scholars around the state an idea of the sources on Essex history presently owned by Essex Free Library, Brownell Library, and the Essex Junction Educational Center Library." The Friends of the Brownell Library printed the bibliography for the Essex Junction Centennial, 1892-1992.

Here are some of the more prominent selections from the bibliography. A full copy may be obtained for \$3.00 from the Brownell Library in Essex Junction, Vermont 05452.

Bent, Frank R. The History of the Town of Essex. (Essex, VT: Essex Publishing Co., 1963). The only single volume history of Essex. It contains two fold out maps and several sections of black and white photographs. Written for the bicentennial of the town charter. Appendices include: Charter, Chittenden County charter dates, populations from 1783, post-masters of Town and Village, Bibliography, no index. Available at Brownell (BRL), Essex Free (EFL), and High School (EJHS) libraries.

Butler, Lucius C. The Memorial Record of Essex, Vermont: Published by Vote of the Town (Burlington: R.S. Styles, 1866). A record written of Essex Veterans role in Civil War. Lists honorable wounded, deserters, the dead, the prisoners of war, battles in which Essex men fought and the town's reaction and contributions to the war. Lists deaths and those killed in battle. Included in Vol. 1 pp. 778-791 of Abby Maria Hemenway's The Vermont Historical Gazetteer. BRL

Carlisle, Lillian Baker, ed. Look Around Essex and Williston, Vermont (Burlington, Vt. Chittenden County Historical Society, 1973) publication number 4, p. 127-153. One of a series of booklets by the historical society. Essex text by Frank Bent, Ethan Newton and Natalie McLure. A photo collection of the historic buildings in chronological order with descriptive essays on each. BRL, EFL, EJHS

Child, Ellen Persis Williams. Essex Junction, It's Beginning and Growth-An Interesting Historical Narration. (Read to Ladies Fortnightly Club ca. February 19, 1915) unpublished manuscript. 14 page informal history of the Village. Settlement history, early industry, railroad history, schools and family stories. Includes two funny poems on street repair, the other a roast of husbands of the Fortnightly Ladies,

men of some note in Essex history. BRL

Martin, Allen. The History of Essex Junction, 1763-1942. Essex Junction, Vt. 1942. 18 pages. Unpublished manuscript. History contains a map of Village Center and one of the entire village with important landmarks numbered to correspond with the text. BRL

Powell, Harriet Farnsworth. Yesterday in Essex. Essex Junction, Vt.: Essex Publishing Co., 1985 (?). A picture collection of Essex Center and Essex Jct. from 1890's to 1930's with captions. Includes chapters on Education, Fun and Frolic. Copy of Beers Atlas of Chittenden County map of Essex. BRL, EFL, EJHS

Stocker, Fred. "Essex Town Today—Bart Would Never Recognize It," The Vermont Sunday News, March 2, 1969, p. 6. Full page devoted to Essex history, especially early settler, Dubartis "Barty" Willard. Photos. BRL

Whitcomb, Lois. "Some Essex Anecdotes," Suburban List, February 4, 1965 (?), p. 3-A. Entertaining stories of early settlers, taverns and gambling. BRL

Historical Research Sources at the Town Clerk's Office

By Cheryl Moomey, Essex Town Clerk

We have birth and death records dating back to about 1788, and marriage records start around 1820 and continue up to the present.

Our offices are open to the public for searches Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If someone needs a specific copy of a license and knows the date, they can send a letter with a check for \$7 for a certified copy. If the date is not known and requires a search through old records (that are not alphabetical), we usually refer them to a local historical association that specifically does historical research.

There are no fees for vault access, however, there are fees for copies: \$2 for a regular copy, \$7 for certified copies.

The Roscoe Printing House

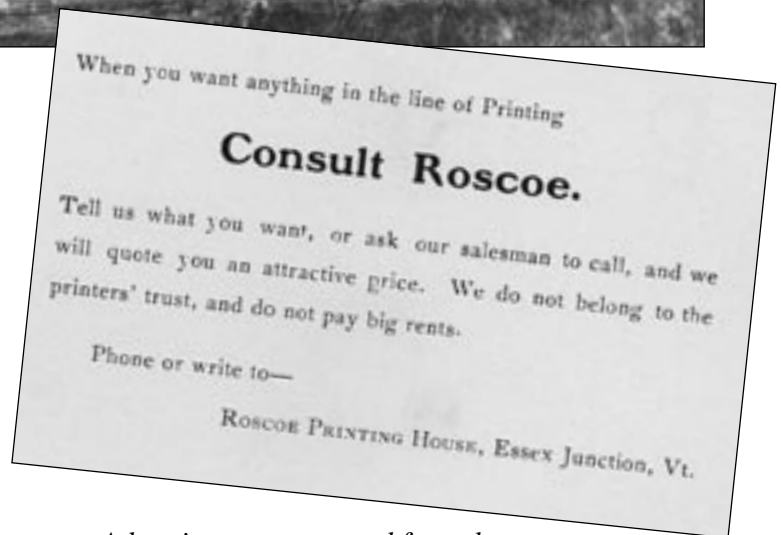


The Roscoe Printing House on Roscoe Court in Essex Junction, Vermont.

At the age of 17, Lincoln H. Roscoe traveled to Battle Creek, Michigan to learn how to set type by hand. He returned to Vermont and established the Roscoe Printing House, originally located in Jericho. The company moved to Essex Junction in 1904. The building was on Roscoe Court, near the railroad tracks. It has been torn down. Roscoe Printing produced calendars, annual reports, business advertisements, and ruled paper, among other things.

In 1982, Lincoln's son Lester, age 77, was still using the "hot type" printing press with lead melted down to form raised letters that were inked and applied directly to paper, according to a Burlington Free Press article.

Mr. Philip Bullis of Deltona, Florida, in response to our stating it was a brick building, corrected us with this story. At age 17 and newly graduated from the EJHS, Mr. Bullis was hired by Lester Roscoe during the summer of 1959 to paint the exterior of the building. The building was a frame structure covered with embossed metal siding which appeared to look like bricks. Mr. Bullis had to repair the rusted through spots



Advertisement post card from the Essex Community Historical Society collection.

with metal that came from an addition to the original structure. He was paid \$300 to paint the building and \$25 to paint the sign that read ROSCOE PRINTING HOUSE. To reach the uppermost part of the building, Mr. Bullis used a 40 foot extension ladder borrowed from Mert Nolan, a house painter who lived nearby.

The Essex Community Historical Society has an extensive display on the Roscoe Printing House in the Harriet Powell Museum. We would love to hear from anyone else with memories of this Essex Junction business.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

**We are always looking for more hands to help.
Please consider volunteering to assist us in any of the following areas.**

- | COMMITTEE | CONTACT |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance. Includes fund-raising, financial projections, budget preparations. | Eva Clough 879-0849 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership. Planing membership drives, maintaining current list..... | Tobe Zalinger 879-1249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings and Grounds. Care and upkeep. | Dave Clough 879-0849 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collections. Involves collecting, c ataloguing, cleaning, repairing, protecting, storing, creating exhibits | Kay Helfrich 878-4417 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Operations. Includes selecting and training volunteers for the museum. | Ron Clapp 879-0619 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs. Includes setting up programs, and the publicity for them. | Clint Russell 878-5887 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications (ECHO, book project) | Lucille and Richard Allen 878-3853 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research. Includes genealogy, taking oral histories, and overseeing historical research in regards to the town and village. | Ann Gray 878-4088 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archival. Involves responding to inquiries about Essex. | Richard Allen 878-3853 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating. Proposes slate of officers. | Barb Mudgett-Russell 878-5887 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> VT. History Expo. Our yearly display at this event. | Clint Russell 878-5887 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Century Home Project | Sherry Norton 879-7334
Polly McEwing 879-6862 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School House Project..... | Dave Clough 879-0849 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tag Sales..... | Clint and Barb Russell 878-5887 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sing-a-long | Ron Clapp 879-0619 |

**You may call the contact person for the area(s) that you are interested in, or you may fill in your name, address and phone number in the spaces below, and mail this form to:
Essex Community Historical Society
Essex Junction, VT. 05452**

Your Name _____
Address _____ _____ _____
Phone number _____

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 2003

SHORT STUFF

Walking Tour Brochures Available Soon

The Century Homes/Historical Structures Committee of the Essex Community Historical Society has been working on walking tours of Essex Center and Essex Junction. Members of the committee: Polly McEwing, Tom Tailer, Helen Vile, Lydia Wisloski, Hubie and Sherry Norton have selected and written up descriptions of historical structures in these areas. A visual map will accompany the descriptions. Our goal is to have the brochures ready by late June and available at the Harriet Powell Museum, the Brownell Library, and the Essex Free Library.

This hopefully is the forerunner of the next phase, which will encourage area residents, specifically current owners of historical structures, to identify and document the history of historical buildings in our town and village.

We are **missing past issues** of the ECHO and would like to complete our collection. If anyone has the Fall 1991, Fall 1993, or Spring 1995 issues, please contact Eva Clough at 879-0849.

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 in the process of dropping names and addresses from our list of people who have an "exp" after their name.

Historical Society to Showcase Veteran's Memorial Park at the Vermont History Expo

Come to the Vermont History Expo, June 21-22, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Tunbridge, VT Fairgrounds. This is the yearly showcase for Vermont history, whether depicted by the many local historical societies in their displays, or by Civil War reenactors, dancers, musicians, craftpeople, interpreters, and storytellers. For further information call 802-479-8500.

Our society's display this year will feature the Veteran's Memorial Park in Essex Junction. This park will have monuments that honor local veterans of all wars, from the Revolutionary War through Vietnam War. There will be nine flags, a fountain, and an eternal flame as well. Construction began in the fall of 2002 and continues this spring.

Only half of the money needed for the park's completion has been raised. With the support of the Essex Junction VFW Post #6689, the Lions Club of Essex Junction is still seeking donations. If you wish to contribute, please send your donation to:

Essex Junction Lions Club
Veterans Park Fundraising Committee
P.O. Box 8315
Essex, VT 05451
Make checks out to "Lions Charities of Vermont"

Essex Community Historical Society Board of Directors • 2002-2003

(denotes year of term expiration)

Clinton Russell, Jr., President (03)
58 Main Street
878-5887

Katherine Reynolds (05)
88 Park Street
878-2193

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

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

Polly McEwing (03)
5 Doubleday Lane
879-6862

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

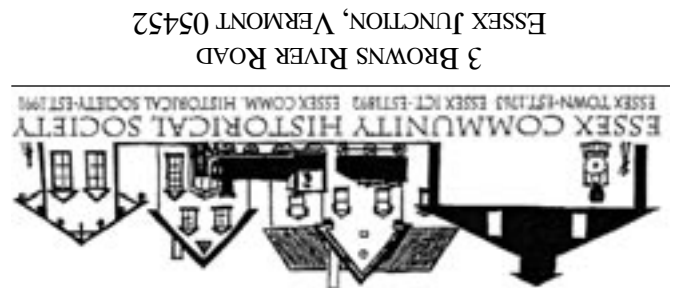
George R. Clapp (04)
290 Whitewater Circle
Williston 05495
879-0619

Ann Gray (05)
28 Rosewood Lane
878-4088

Sherry Norton (04)
9 Maplawn Drive
879-7334

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

David Clough, Vice President (03)
42 Brigham Hill Road
879-0849



UPCOMING EVENTS

ESSEX COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY TAG SALE

SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2003 - 9 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

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 Dave Clough, 870-0849 or Ron Clapp, 879-0619 to arrange a pick up of your items.

Items can be dropped off at the museum on Thursday, June 5 from 6:30-7:30 P.M.

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

WATER TOWER OPEN

The stone water tower, located on the grounds of Fort Ethan Allen, will be open to the public in mid-June.

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.