

# MORETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2

## MORETOWN ROAD MAZE



Can you find the roads listed below?  
They are not all straight up and down.

PRODUCED BY THE MORETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUD SEASON 2014

L	C	D	W	E	Q	F	T	A	R	T	S	S	S	P	H	E
Y	O	E	T	M	R	L	J	A	C	O	B	Z	S	L	E	G
N	B	V	S	J	O	I	R	E	N	R	U	T	A	N	N	D
C	B	I	E	X	B	N	N	J	M	I	H	N	M	E	N	I
H	A	L	W	R	A	N	B	H	C	P	O	O	E	D	I	R
H	C	S	O	I	S	P	I	L	L	W	A	Y	D	I	N	B
I	A	W	H	V	R	L	S	E	I	M	A	E	R	S	G	S
L	O	A	N	E	E	A	A	L	T	A	N	S	Y	S	R	A
L	M	S	A	R	H	C	T	N	U	H	S	T	H	E	D	L
L	A	H	M	R	C	E	P	E	E	N	W	A	P	V	C	A
L	H	B	E	O	T	N	A	W	A	R	D	B	R	O	O	K
I	T	O	E	A	E	B	Q	T	I	A	P	R	U	G	O	I
M	I	W	R	D	L	U	A	O	L	F	S	M	M	I	K	P
O	W	L	F	A	F	P	O	N	Y	F	A	R	M	C	O	B

TURNER  
FREEMAN  
HONAN  
NEWTON  
FARNHAM

LOVERS LANE  
TARTS  
LYNCH HILL  
PONY FARM  
MURPHY RD

SIDE  
COOK  
GOVES  
DEMAS  
COBB

HENNING RD  
FLETCHER  
WITHAM  
JACOB  
SALSKI

BRIDGE  
NOYES  
HOWES  
WARD BROOK  
DEVILS WASHBOWL

SPILLWAY  
FLINN PLACE  
RIVER RD

## MORETOWN ROADS

In the 1800's and early 1900's Moretown roads didn't have names. They were often referred to by their relationship to another landmark such as "the road behind the Talc mine" or "backside of the River". If you were looking for "Fred" and stopped and asked, you would hear something like this. "You looking for Fred, oh, his place is out beyond that big elm, on the corner, bout half mile from the red barn". Mail delivery in Moretown was delivered to a RFD box number or "Moretown Common", "Middlesex Star Route" or just simply, "Moretown".

Road work was simply stated in the early Town Reports. Annual road projects were given a number but no location, such as: Back Road project #1, Resurface project #2, and State road work #5. Evidently everyone knew where these projects had taken place.

The 1899 Town Report indicated that men worked on the "culvert on the big hill" also "worked on the rock hill" as well as "worked on bridge above village" and "fixed the stone on the 3<sup>rd</sup> curve from Casey Bridge". The men who worked on the road or had some expenditures were individually listed in the annual report such as this listing (2 bolts @ .5 paid to P. Farnham. = .10) Every man in town it seems worked on the roads, in the summer cutting brush and clearing and in the winter breaking roads.

Over time, certain roads were referred to for the people that lived there or once lived there. There was the "Theron Austin Rd" now called "Pony Farm Road". Theron and Helen Austin moved there in late 1930's or early 1940's, they farmed and milked 35 to 40 registered Jersey's (their barn collapsed under heavy snow in 1969 but no animals were hurt.) They also kept up to 35 Shetland ponies and participated in parades, fairs and farm shows. Driving by and seeing all those ponies on the side hill was always fun, the boys enjoyed playing cowboys on the ponies as well as pony baseball.

"Bat Hennessey Rd" wasn't named such until a few years ago; it was previously referred to as "Sweet's Camp Road" or "Bob Lanes Rd". Bat Hennessey lived on that road way back in the 1870's. Story is he and others used to race horses over the "old town road". Bat now resides at St. Patrick's Cemetery on South Hill.

“Spillway Road” was “Austin’s Road” after it was fragmented from Route 100. Kenneth and Raymond Austin and their families lived there. The spillway is that “little dam” or weir in the Mad River that is used by Green Mountain Power to keep track of water flow. Kenneth Austin worked for GMP, he would walk across the road from his house to a little concrete “telephone booth” like building by the edge of the bridge and make a paper recordings at 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM every day, then report it weekly to GMP, that duty was replaced by a machine in the 1940’s. That little concrete building is still used.

“Freeman Hill” as it is now named, was once “Forest Ward Road”, named for the man that lived there from the late 1930’s till he passed away in 1995. It was also locally called Cameron Road. The two Freeman brothers were the apparent early settlers on that hill in the mid 1800’s. An atlas from 1873 shows only 4 houses on the road, now there are thirteen. The big barn, now owned by Lester and Marilyn Cameron was built in 1905.

We expect that Doctors Brook road (once called Newton Road) was named for the two early Moretown doctors who lived in the vicinity. Moretown’s first physician was Dr. Stephen Pierce; he was followed by Dr. Lester Kinsley who settled here in 1827. Dr. Kinsley was also the postmaster, town representative and town clerk! He served in these positions until he died in 1881. Dr. James Haylett came to town around 1870; he also represented the town in the legislature and was town clerk, Dr Haylett passed in 1925.

“Old Route 100” was just that, before they carved up the hills and pastures in the 1970’s and ran a new road called 100B, removing the Flanagan school in the process. That section has also been referred to as “Horse Farm Road”. The Trodd Fortna family lived down there, next to the river in the 1950’s; they kept horses and built a tennis court. Not many people in the area played tennis so it was a bit of a novelty.

Do you know how Love(rs) Lane got its name? Or Devils Washbowl? We would like to hear from you if you have any information on the history of “your” road.

**Moretown Historical Society  
PO Box 487  
Moretown VT 05660**

We have gifts for sale!

Did you know there was such a thing as a MORETOWN coffee mug? (\$20.00)

Or a MORETOWN T- shirt? (\$20.00 each or 2 for \$35.00)

How about "Drawing Logs from Dowsville" a book by Mary Gow and Kitty Werner which includes the history of the Ward Lumber Co. and lots of great pictures and other local history? (\$30.00 or \$15.00)

There is also a pamphlet of POETRY written by Moretown folks and compiled by Earline Marsh. (\$8.00)

A work by Earline Marsh on the history of the Taplin School and more. (\$18.00)

OR we also have two little booklets one written by Lydia Billings (1963) and one by Mary Reagan, (1982) which outline the history of MORETOWN (\$3.00 for one or both for \$5.00)

Please contact Mary at the Moretown Historical Society for ordering or more information. 496-2901 or [MMurphy917@aol.com](mailto:MMurphy917@aol.com)

Are you doing some local research? Give us a call or drop a line, perhaps we can help!

**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**FLEA MARKET AT THE TOWN HALL ON MAY**

**17<sup>TH</sup>**

**CALL FOR A TABLE!**

**WATCH FOR OUR RETURNING BINGO NIGHT**

**COMING THIS FALL!**