

MORETOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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THIS ISSUE- MORETOWN HISTORY QUIZ

Questions and Tidbits of Moretown History

1. Who was Mrs. Herrick?
2. What date was Moretown chartered?
3. What date Moretown first “settled”?
4. When and why was the “Mad River” so named?
5. How many Moretown people died in the 1927 flood?
6. How many inches of rain fell in 24 hours during the 1927 flood?
7. How many cows drowned in Moretown during the 1927 flood?
8. How many horses drowned in Moretown during the 1927 flood?
9. The first library was located in whose home?
10. The _____ family owned the building where the library now stands.
11. In what year was the library moved off its foundation by Mr. Messier of Barre and a new foundation and cement floor installed by Joe Gabaree? _____
12. Bernadette Ferris was elected Town Clerk in what year _____?
13. The first school in Moretown was built in the _____ area where Ebenezer Haseltine settled. In 1888, Moretown supported how many schools?

14. In what year were all the elementary schools discontinued and the pupils transported to the new school addition in Moretown Village? _____
15. The Town Hall was built in what year? _____

16. In March 1985 it was voted at Town Meeting to spend how much money to make improvements on the Town Hall? _____
17. The first gathering for worship was on Moretown Common in what year led by Amasa Cole, a Methodist Preacher? _____ The first Methodist Church was built on the Common in what year? _____
18. The Methodist Church in the Village was built in what year? _____
19. The first Catholic Church was built on Paddy Hill in what year? _____
20. In what year was the current St. Patrick's established in the village? _____
21. There is a marker by a flat rock on the former Reagan farm on South Hill to commemorate what? _____ The marker was placed there in what year? _____
22. How many bridges were destroyed in the area during the flood of 1927? _____
23. Only one bridge remained in the area, can you name it? _____
24. Who originally built the Casey Bridge? _____ After the flood of 1927, a new bridge was built to accommodate modern traffic and a changing traffic pattern. But the community felt sentimental and wanted to keep their picturesque old covered bridge, so new shingles were put on the roof and the sides shored up and swinging doors at either end. The Casey Bridge was then used for storage of the town snow plow and other road equipment. For twelve years after the new bridge had been built "Old Casey" survived. Eventually "Old Casey" weakened under the strain of the elements and new loads. Foundations sagged and in strong winds the girders swayed. The town no longer had funds to repair the ancient Casey Bridge. Thus came the decision in the fall of 1949 to destroy the bridge. The first rainy day was named as the time when "Old Casey" should be burned. On November 4th it rained and in the presence of the selectmen and officials from Green Mountain Power the bridge was sprayed with kerosene and flaming firebrands touched to the timbers. Alas the bridge that had battled the elements for a century did not die easily. The bridge refused to catch fire. So kindling was stacked against the walls on both ends of the bridge and set off. Within minutes flames roared through the structure and soon the entire span gave way dropping with a crash into the river. "Old Casey" another old time Vermonter, had passed on.
25. Who was the last teacher to teach at the Common school?

Sources

Matt Bushnell Jones "History of Waitsfield"

Lydia Billing "Brief History of Moretown 1963"

Mary Reagan "A Brief History of Moretown, Vermont 1982"

Reports and stories held by Moretown Historical Society



Who are these kids?

First one to call or email and guess it right
Will win a prize! (Excluding MHS members!)

E-Mail to MMurphy917@aol.com

OR

Call 496-2901- leave your name, phone number and answer!

We thank Susan Werntgen, Bonnie Potter, Harlan Westover and the Goss family for their recent contributions to our collection.

For Sale

Moretown Coffee Mugs (\$20.00)- Moretown T-Shirts (\$20.00)- Moretown History Booklets (\$5.00)- Taplin School Book (\$18.00)- Moretown Poetry Book (\$8.00)
Draw Logs From Dowsville Book (\$15.00-\$30.00)

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

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

Answers

1. (Mary Herrick, School teacher for 39 years)
2. (June 7, 1763)
3. (1790 but land records started in 1792)
4. (1788 by William Strong a surveyor of the town, named it the Mad River in his field notes, due to his experiences with it) However, according to the Moretown Foolish Folks Fair, for one penny one could enter a side show to find out why the river was called the Mad River. Inside one found a doll cradle filled with rocks, a sign which read: "If you had a bed of rocks, you'd be mad too!"
5. (5)
(Albert Mitchivier, George Sherman, Mr. & Mrs. William Boyce and grandson Donald Brown)
6. (8-9)
7. (15)
8. (2)
9. (Mrs. Lilla Haylett's house)
10. (Palmers)
11. (1988)
12. (1956)
13. Duxbury (12)
14. (1960)
15. (1835)
16. (50,000.00)
17. (1802) (1832)
18. (1853)
19. (1857)
20. (1882)
21. (First mass) (1920)
22. (38)
23. (Casey bridge)
24. (Tom Casey)
25. (Peggy Pickett)

Score

19-25 correct- You must be a "local"

13-18 correct- Little over a "half local"

7-12 correct- Time to read the little history books

1-6 correct- Are you visiting from out of state? (We have those little history books for sale!)