

Middlebury Community House News

Main Street . Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Fall/Winter 2010

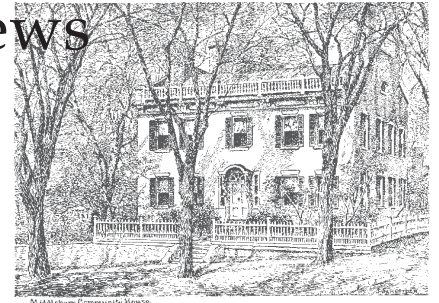
Mission Statement:

Partners for The Middlebury Community House was formed to promote financial support to assist with responsible caretaking and maintenance of the historic home belonging to the citizens of Middlebury.

Reservations:

The Middlebury Community House is available for meetings, receptions and private parties. Call Pat @ 388-2071 to discuss your needs.

See us on the web: www.middleburycommunityhouse.org



Early sketch of the house Horatio Seymour built in 1816

The House - Yesterday & Today



Joseph Battell
1839-1915

Joseph Battell, publisher and philanthropist, was a principal figure in early Middlebury. The son of Philip Battell and Emma Seymour Battell. He was born in Ohio, but returned with his family to Middlebury before the age of two. His mother died shortly after returning to Middlebury. Joseph and his older sister Emma were raised by their father and grandfather, Horatio Seymour, in the house now known as the Community House. Joseph attended Middlebury College but due to declining health never completed his studies. He instead traveled the world. When returning to the area he purchased a high elevation farm near Ripton, where his doctors felt the clear mountain air would help cure his ailing lungs. Purchasing and preserving forest land became a passion. At one time Battell owned over 40,000 acres of forest land. In 1911 Joseph sold a 1,200 acre tract of land to the State of Vermont for \$1.00 requesting it be preserved for a state park, the location is the alpine summit of Camel's Hump. Four years later his will deeded 25,000 acres surrounding the Bread Loaf Inn and the Inn itself to Middlebury College. An additional 5,000 acres on the ridge

from Mount Ellen to Mount Abraham was willed to the U. S. Government for a National Park. The government declined Battell's gift. Middlebury College benefited since it was named to receive the "residue" of the estate. In addition to his love of the land, Joseph Battell owned and edited a newspaper, authored several books and served in the Vermont Legislature. He was a Trustee of Middlebury College and was well known for his unconventional philosophies. He loved to "think outside of the box". He opposed the automobile and advocated for quiet ways to travel. Morgan horses were his preferred mode of travel. Joseph built the Battell Block where he resided winters as an adult, the Battell Bridge that connects the east and west sides of town in Middlebury and a farm in Weybridge where he bred, raised and trained Morgan Horses. Joseph, a bachelor, gave generously to the people of the town, college and state by preserving land to be used and enjoyed. Three buildings at Middlebury College are named for the Battell family.

Partners Memberships

Partners for The Middlebury Community House was organized in 2004 to promote financial support to assist with responsible caretaking and maintenance of the historic home that belongs to the citizens of Middlebury. Partners receive two newsletters a year with information about the house and updates regarding preservation projects. All monies received from Partners memberships go directly towards maintenance projects. We especially thank those Partners who continue to renew memberships each year.

The need to support the Community House is more important than ever! Stop and visit us soon and please help spread the word about this beautiful community asset. Your membership and donations to the Partners for the Middlebury Community House show interest and help us retain our 501-(c) (3) status. Donations are tax deductible in accordance with the law. Join or renew today!

We need your support and appreciate your interest!

See Exciting Challenges noted on reverse.

We love volunteers, are you interested? Information: call 388-2071

Join the Partners

I/We wish to become a Partner for the Middlebury Community House for 2010.

- Annual Membership \$20
- Additional Contribution is enclosed
- My Employer offers match grants

Name _____

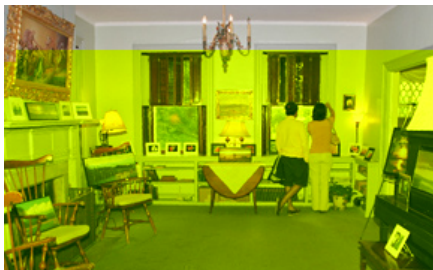
Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Make checks payable to: Middlebury Community House Partners
Mail to: 6 Main Street, Middlebury, VT 05753

Look What's Happening at The House



The Middlebury Arts Walk held the second Friday of each month April - October gave the Community House nice exposure. The artists were well received and enjoyed having their work displayed in our unique setting.

Marie Gordon's photography were on display in June. Her pictures, set among the furnishings of the house, creating an inviting show.



Ten staff members from Langrock, Sperry and Wool, Inc. help with yard work for Addison County United Way's Days of Caring held in September. The fence near the post office was cleared and the lilac bushes were groomed. Top soil and mulch was replenished and five truck loads of brush was taken to the transfer station. The help the volunteers gave us is extremely valued! Besides staff from the Langrock office, Susan Cady and Ray Rheaume gave of their time and talent to improve the appearance of the property.

Morgan Horse Museum to relocate in Middlebury

The Morgan Horse is the official Vermont State Animal, with roots dating back to 1789 in Randolph, Vermont. Justin Morgan bred "Figure" the founding stallion of the breed, making the Morgan one of the earliest horse breeds developed in the United States.

Joseph Battell is credited with publishing the first volume of the Morgan Horse Registry in 1894. Which was the beginning of a formal breed registry. Some give Joseph Battell the credit of defining true breed Morgans and assuring the future of the brood stock would retain the qualities the breed is known for; their

Member Board 2010

Barbara Blodgett <i>Member at Large</i>	G. Kenneth Perine, Finance <i>President National Bank of Middlebury *</i>
Ray Churchill <i>Honorary Member at Large</i>	Lynda Rheaume, President <i>DAR Representative *</i>
Phyllis Cunningham <i>Honorary Regent, DAR</i>	James Swift, Esq. <i>Rep. Swift/Stewart Family *</i>
Donna Donahue <i>Member at Large</i>	Staff:
Richard Emilo, Clerk <i>Member at Large *</i>	Patricia Hornbeck <i>House Director</i>
Jessica Liebowitz <i>Rep. President Middlebury College</i>	Mari Quesnel <i>Treasurer</i>
John MacIntyre <i>Member at Large</i>	Elizabeth Quesnel <i>Housekeeper</i>
Nancy Merolle <i>Rep. President Woman's Club</i>	Norm Grenier <i>Maintenance</i>
Kevin Newton, Bldg./Gds. <i>Member at Large *</i>	<i>* Trustees</i>

Generous Community. . . . our sincere thanks go to. . .

Neat Repeat Retail Shop for the \$500. grant that is helping to support an Energy Audit.

Preservation Trust of Vermont for the 2 grants for \$250. each towards an Energy Audit and a Structural Assessment.

Students from the Industrial Arts Class at Hannaford Career Center, taught by Michael Kane, for their skills and labor in remaking the Community Bulletin Board.

Brian Kane for the metal cap for the Community Board.

Susan Cady for her gardening skills on Days of Caring.

Laura Begnoche who volunteers each month when we host the Phoenix group from Hospice Volunteers Services.

Ray Rheaume for the use of his truck, tools, ladder and donation of paint.

Eternity Web Design for their continued web support.

To all the Partners for the Middlebury Community House who continue to sign up showing support year after year.