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# WORCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WORCESTER, VERMONT AUGUST 2021

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## A CELEBRATION OF FALL

On Saturday, September 4, Worcester will be the place to enjoy Labor Day weekend festivities with a real blast: the return of the North Star's fireworks production at dusk, known widely as the best display in the region. Preceding the big show in the sky, numerous daytime activities and performances will provide entertainment for all.

The Historical Society building on Calais Road will be open to the public beginning at 10:00 AM, featuring all new exhibits including Ida's Pantry. The annual WHS "Voices" presentation will take place in the Worcester Village Cemetery at 2:00 PM. To observe the anniversary of suffrage, a re-enactment of Worcester women registering to vote for the first time in national elections will be presented. Six of the 18 women who were the first to register will be featured, along with members of the local Board of Civil Authority.

Immediately following "Voices," music will be provided by the Morse family and food supplied by Kyle DeVitt at his popular venue right across the road (available all afternoon). Craft and farm goods vendors are invited to offer their products for sale. To reserve a space,



please send an email to Kyle DeVitt: [greenmtguy@gmail.com](mailto:greenmtguy@gmail.com). Games and other activities on Ladd field, including an ice cream social at the Worcester Methodist Church, will take place during the afternoon.

At 6:30 PM, well-known singer Linda Radtke will present, in costume, "From Parlor to Polling Place," a program of suffrage and 1920's era music on the second floor of the Town Hall, accessible by stairs and elevator. Radtke's appearance is underwritten by the Vermont Humanities Council and is free to the public. At dusk, all will be treated to what is promised to be the best fireworks display of the season. Plan to spend the day with friends and family in Worcester to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of fall.

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## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9: AN EVENING WITH PATTI CASEY & TOM MACKENZIE

The Worcester Historical Society will be hummin' and tappin' when Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie make their appearance on Saturday evening, October 9. This fundraising event will be partnered with a sumptuous five-course meal at 6:00 PM catered by NEK Catering of Danville. Both the dinner and the concert will take place at the Worcester United Methodist Church in scenic downtown Worcester.

NEK Catering will prepare the first round of this incredible evening with an offering of meatball appetizers, garden salad, prime rib, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, dinner rolls and cheesecake. Beverage will be included. A vegetarian entree will be offered and macaroni and cheese will be available for children. The meal will be served in the annex of the church.

Casey and MacKenzie, collectively known as "Shady Rill," are nationally-known, award winning-musicians. They will share their menu of French Canadian dance tunes, Tin Pan Alley and old time country songs, and a number of original pieces. The concert, which will begin at 7:30 PM will feature the hallmarks of these celebrated musicians – great harmonies and wonderful instrumentation on the banjo, guitar, hammered dulcimer, flute, keyboard and ukulele. We guarantee you will leave Worcester at the end of their



*Patti Casey & Tom MacKenzie*

performance with toes tapping and a smile on your face.

Tickets are available for \$40 per adult, which includes both dinner and performance. Families of three can dine for a special rate of \$100; each additional family member will be \$25. Tickets can be purchased from WHS Board members, at the WHS building on Open House dates, and during the festivities on September 4. If you're unable to attend the fabulous dinner, a ticket for the performance only will be available for \$15.00.

Between the dinner and the concert a very brief annual business meeting will be conducted.

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## LARGE NUMBERS ATTEND FIRST OPEN HOUSE OF 2021

Between 75 and 100 people viewed six new exhibits and visited with friends at the open house at the Worcester Historical Society building (the old white school) on Sunday, July 4. With great interest, they examined new exhibits and a spiffed-up, reorganized first-floor space, including a refreshed Maxham Fur Farm permanent exhibit.

Artifacts and documents not displayed before include:

- Scrapbooks from the Worcester Players' Drama Club and the Good Neighbors "Home Dem" group
- Valentines sent to Edna Ladd by many of her students during the 30s and 40s
- A display of Worcester veterans from the Civil War through WW II
- An honor roll of Worcester veterans



*Visitors view the Worcester schools and veterans exhibits.*

- A case of strange looking objects to identify (What is a gold-finder?)
- A pictorial timeline of the last 100 years in Worcester. When do you think LBJ's was constructed?

In addition, a brand new room was received with enthusiasm as folks were reminded of bygone days in an old-fashioned pantry. You'll have other chances to look and study all of these through the rest of the summer. Join us on August 7 and August 21 any time between 10 until 12 noon. Stop by and visit! Purchase a ticket to our gala October 9 event and check out our new publication, *Worcester Voices: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories*.



*Artist Newell Shonio with his paintings*

## SPOTTED AT THE JULY 4 OPEN HOUSE



*Young scholars imagine what it would have been like to attend school years ago.*



*A visitor learns about the Maxham Fur Farm.*



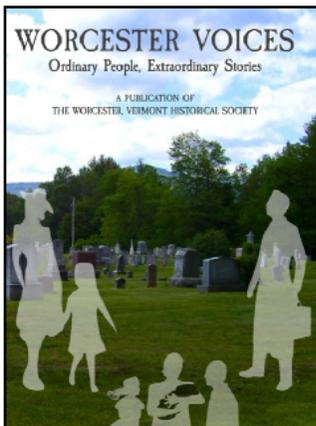
*The circle starts to fill in for a reading of "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" written in 1852 by Frederick Douglass.*

## "IDA'S PANTRY" PROJECT COMPLETED

After more than a year of remodeling, often delayed by problems related to the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the two old bathrooms on the first floor of the WHS building has now been transformed into a late 19th-century pantry decked out with appropriate utensils and accoutrements. The space provides a modern-day feature previously unavailable at the building: a small hot water system that will increase the use of the facility in coming years. The project was directed by Vivienne Adair and underwritten by an anonymous donor for whom we are most grateful.



## WORCESTER VOICES PUBLISHED



In 2014, the Worcester, Vermont Historical Society decided to portray some of its illustrious deceased citizens as a part of the popular Fourth of July festivities. Donning period dress, various community members stood by the appropriate gravestone in the Village cemetery, sharing an historically

accurate script composed by members of the Society. Humor and tragedy are woven into the stories even as they were lived by the characters depicted. The Worcester Historical Society's newest publication, *Worcester Voices: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories*, contains the scripts for these presentations as well as two additional scripts. Buy a copy at Open House!



[facebook.com/WHSVT/](https://www.facebook.com/WHSVT/)

## BRIEFLY NOTED

- The bench in memory of the late James Richardson has been semi-permanently installed on the front porch. We will remove it for the winter season. If you should spy anyone attempting to remove it, please inform David Book or Harold Richardson asap.
- We welcome Heather Lang Pagel to the WHS Board. She will be formally elected at the October 9 annual meeting.
- Those who have gone the second mile to create and improve the exhibits, redesign the floor plan, and clean the facility after a long period of disuse are owed a huge THANK YOU. You know who you are.

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Website

[worcestervthistoricalsociety.org](https://www.worcestervthistoricalsociety.org)