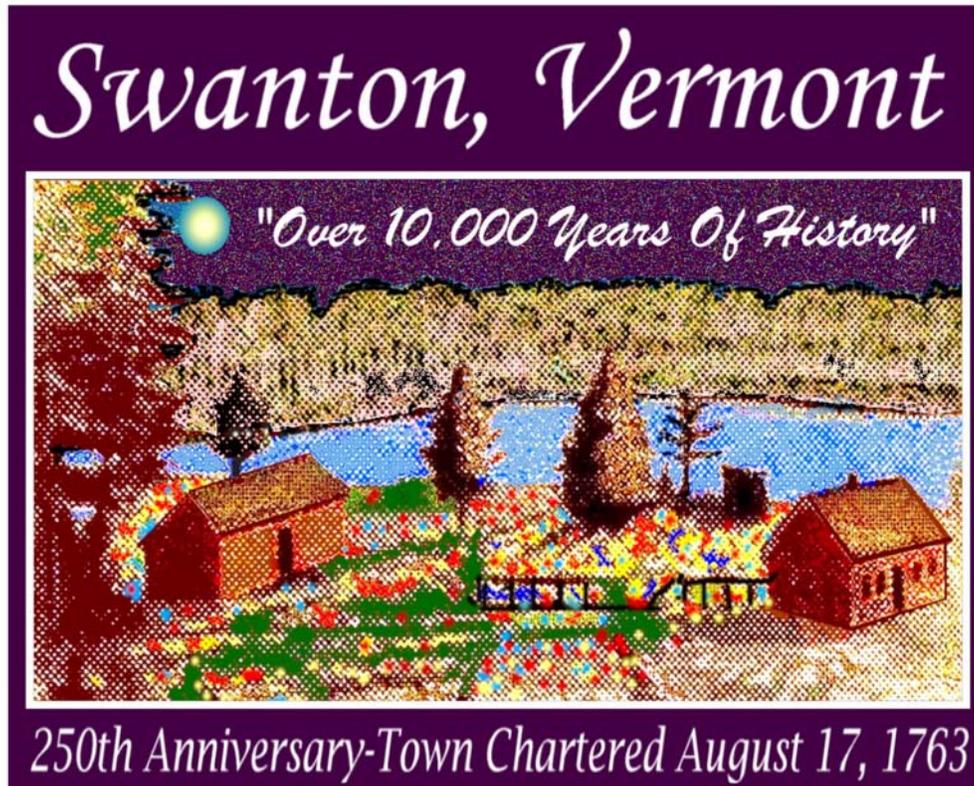


DEDICATION
Swanton 250th Anniversary Celebration



Our Mission: At a meeting of the Joint Legislative Body at Town Hall on October 2, 2012, Chairman Chris Leach recommended the formation of a committee to plan for the 250th celebration. Harold Garrett suggested that Ron Kilburn find people who might be interested in joining such a committee. He also suggested that the Town and the Village apportion money in their respective budgets to fund such an endeavor. Chris Leach asked Mr. Kilburn to “start the ball rolling” and to bring the results to the next Joint Legislative Body Meeting.

Mr. Kilburn informed the Joint Legislative Body on January 9, 2013 that a committee had been formed consisting of seven volunteers as follows: Ronald Kilburn, historian and Village President; Dr. Fred Wiseman, historian, professor, and Abenaki scholar; Jason Barney, history teacher at MVU; Joe Bertrand, Abenaki representative and leader, and Wildlife Refuge employee; David Jescavage, Town Administrator; Reginald Beliveau, Village Manager; Rebecca Rupp, SHS trustee, author, experienced with kids’ crafts and similar activities; and Jack Paige, from the Swanton Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Leach expressed the opinion that the \$5,000.00 apportioned by the Town and Village should be used for celebration expenses only.

Committee Meetings : The Committee held its first meeting on February 6, 2013 at the Swanton Chamber of Commerce office and we agreed to meet every other Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. History will reveal that fifteen (15) meetings were held over the course of the Spring and Summer until the last meeting on August 21, 2013. In the meantime, Rich Kelly and Alexandra Paxman joined the committee as additional volunteers. Joe Bertrand withdrew from regular meetings due to his work requirements at the Refuge. Alex Paxman served as Administrative Assistant during her Summer break from college. The meetings were generally well attended and productive. Each meeting served as a strong foundation for the next.

Website: Thanks to the guidance of Rich Kelley with the assistance of Reginald Beliveau and David Jescavage, **Swanton250.org** was opened early and is still running strong. The site featured Program Announcements; a History Quiz; Historic Photographs; the Orton Foundation Community Video; Kids' History Camp; etc. The site also features links to the Swanton Historical Society; Swanton Town; Swanton Village; Chamber of Commerce; Abenaki Self-Help Association. Check it out, it is still open for business.

Utilization of Community Resources: We endeavored to take advantage of the availability of the many wonderful resources in our community such as the Swanton Central and Elementary Schools; Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge; Swanton RR Depot Museum; Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall; Swanton Village Municipal Complex; Swanton Village Green and Bandstand; Maquam Beach; Missisquoi Valley Rescue; Swanton Volunteer Fire Dept; Swanton Police Dept.; National Night Out Project; Swanton Village Electric and Highway Depts; Swanton Town Highway Dept; Swanton Chamber of Commerce; Swanton Historical Society; etc. We were never turned down when asking for assistance or an opportunity to utilize the resource.

Meetings & Program: A total of 15 programs were presented in our community from April 6 to August 17, 2013. We endeavored to present a wide variety of events, each focusing on our unique shared history . We wanted to appeal to a diverse audience. All of the programs were free and open to everyone. Many of the programs offered free pizza and other foods. We selected a variety of venues designed to enhance the content of the various programs. Thanks to the unselfish effort and capable presentations by Dr. Fred Wiseman, we were able to begin offering programs to the public on Saturday, April 6 concluding with his History Walking Tours on Saturday, August 17. Dr. Wiseman presented a total of 8 programs, each one involving much research and preparation.

We also presented three programs featuring speakers from the *Vermont Humanities Council* Speakers Program. For the youngsters we offered the Summer History Camp, thanks to the efforts of our committee member Rebecca Rupp. The camp was conducted on 5 separate days from 10:30 –Noon at the Elementary School. Friday, August 2 marked the 200th Anniversary of the

burning of the barracks in Swanton by British invaders in the War of 1812. That occasion was marked by a talk and a walk led by our committee member Jason Barney which involved venues in the Village and at Maquam Beach, concluding with a BBQ and a bonfire.

In recognition of our shared history of over 7,000 years of Native American presence along the Missisquoi we presented “Digging Into the Past – Archaeology Along the Missisquoi” including an afternoon site visit and an evening classroom presentation by the Northeast Archaeology Research Center from Maine. This program at the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, August 11, featured a free barbecue and entertained a large audience.

Concurrent House Resolution No. 122 Thanks to the efforts of Jason Barney from our Committee and Brian Savage and Michel Consejo, our House Representatives, H.C.R. No.122 was RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives in Montpelier commemorating the Sestercentennial of the Town of Swanton on August 17, 2013. The Resolution also acknowledged the incorporation of the Village of Swanton in 1888 and the 1894 opening of the first municipally owned electrical company in Vermont. One copy of the Resolution was sent to the Swanton Town Clerk and another to the Swanton Historical Society. These have been professionally framed and are available for inspection.

Swanton’s Birthday Party: Saturday August 17 was a glorious summer day for our party. Festivities began at noon with a performance by *SAMBATUCADA*, the marching salsa band from Burlington. . 1:30-3:30 featured a History Walking Tour around the Village led by Fred Wiseman. 4:30-8:30 incorporated the National Night Out Project in the park, with fun and food. 5:30-7:30 involved a 2nd History Tour, this one complete with horse drawn wagon. 6:30-7:00 enjoyed the MVU Rock Band on the bandstand. At 9:00 a spectacular fireworks display announced the Grand Finale, bringing an end to a very successful community celebration of our 250th birthday.

Community Photograph: Also on Saturday at approximately 5:00 PM citizens and guests gathered on the Village Green near the bandstand for a Community Photograph taken by professional photographer Sondra Sarra assisted by the Swanton Village Electric Utility crew and their bucket which hoisted her to the height of an optimum vantage point. Over 100 men, women and children of all ages joined in the singing of “Happy Birthday to Swanton”. We now have the photograph to memorialize the occasion. (See back cover of Annual Town Report)

Finances: Thanks to the assistance of the Swanton Village office staff we offer the following financial summary: INCOME: \$2,500. from Town of Swanton; \$2,500. from Village of Swanton; \$1,025 miscellaneous cash donations; \$240. from T shirt sales TOTAL INCOME: \$6,265.00 EXPENSES: \$6,053.79 SURPLUS: \$211.21

In Conclusion: It has been a pleasure to serve on this Committee of devoted Swantonians dedicated to protecting, preserving and celebrating our common history. It has been rewarding to see how well the Committee worked together to meet our common goals. It was also gratifying to witness the support we received from so many individuals and institutions. Our heartfelt thanks to you all.

On behalf of the *Swanton 250th Celebration Committee*, I offer this, our Final Report.

Sincerely,

Ronald F. Kilburn
Swanton, Vermont
January 15, 2014