

Windham Co. history fair to be Aug.14

By JOSH STILTS / Reformer Staff
Monday August 2, 2010

BRATTLEBORO -- History is set to repeat itself at the second annual History Fair on Saturday, Aug. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in front of the County Courthouse in Newfane.

The event will feature exhibits from the Vermont Historical Society, the Historical Society of Windham County, the Estey Organ Museum, the Brookline Round School House, Brookline Church Preservation Association and Vermont Cemetery Association.

Eight historical societies around Windham County, including Brattleboro, Dover, Dummerston, Grafton, Guilford, Jamaica, Townshend and Whitingham, will also have booths. In addition to exhibits, many of the towns will have their published town histories for sale as well as other historic memorabilia of the area.

The event not only raises awareness of the area's history but also serves as the Vermont Historical Society's main yearly fundraiser.

"It's important not to forget where we came from and preserve the past of our county," Windham County Historical Society board member Mary Laitres said.

Antique professionals will be available to appraise old treasures for a small donation fee and genealogist Joann Nichols will be on hand to answer family histories and how to research ancestry.

Handcrafted wares, including colonial furniture reproductions, old maps of Vermont, hand woven and felted items, wood carvings, pickles and preserves will be available for purchase.

Vermont authors Wayne Carhart, Deborah Lee Luskin, Charles Fish, Jesse Haas, Karen Hesse, Johanna Hurwitz, Laura Stevenson and Franklin Reeve will be available to sign copies of their books on Windham County history.

Live music by the Blind Roosters as well as the Estey Organ Museum are scheduled.

The Museum of the Historical Society of Windham County will be open to the public all day with regularly scheduled tours of its extensive collection of area artifacts.

The History Fair is sponsored by the Historical Society of Windham County. Admission is free and the event will take place rain or shine.

"People are interested in their roots, even if they didn't grow up here," Laitres said. "They want to learn from the past, know about whets happened in the area and how it evolved." This event allows people to do that, she added.

For more information contact the Historical Society of Windham County at 802-365-4148 or www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org.

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