

A WORD FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR...

the last five years. When Michael told the board in early July that he had decided to leave us and take a new position with Sustainable Woodstock, the first question posed to me, somewhat accusingly, by one of our officers was, “Did you write him a letter of recommendation?”

As it happens, I wasn’t asked to do so. But if I had been, this is what I would have said:

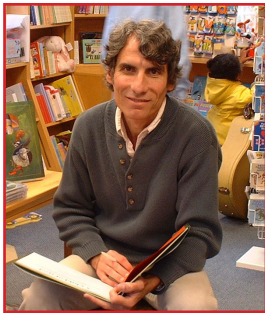
“Michael is a very thoughtful, kind person. He is funny and a natural storyteller. He has a stash of jokes that are ready for specific occasions. He is calm and measured. He knows how to make people feel comfortable and included. He is meticulously organized. I can’t imagine what his “to-do list” looks like, but it gets done routinely on schedule. He is able to juggle many balls at the same time. He sees the need for an action and acts on it. He sees the big picture, but is very aware of all the little pieces that make the larger thing happen.

“I’m not really sure that Michael is just one person. He seems to have cloned himself. He broadened the job at the Homestead that he was hired to do to include planting and nurturing the apple orchard, meeting and greeting various groups who take part in our programs, opening the Ed Center on numerous occasions, and generally putting the Morrill Homestead on a much larger map—encouraging people to come from miles around to visit.”

Michael has brought wide-ranging interests and skills to the position of Director. His sensitivity to the historical significance of Justin Morrill and how to relate it to our society has enhanced the programs and events presented by the Friends. In short: Only the highest praise for Michael.

Did I say that we miss him already?

Cameron Speth  
Chair, Friends of the Morrill Homestead



GARDEN REPORT

A steady flow of Master Gardeners has been working hard at the Homestead throughout the 2018 growing season, and several new projects are unfolding. One of them is formulating a plan to deal with the numerous invasives in the gardens.

Our present procedure is called Solarizing: we make a platform and lay the invasives on it to dry. The seed heads are then snipped off and burned and the dried plants are composted separately from the main compost pile.

The solarizing platform is positioned on the South side of the barn as shown in this picture. We are hopeful this technique will keep the invasives at bay, or at least slow their growth.



As always, we continue to follow Justin Morrill’s example of experimenting and learning to best care for our Earth. And we will be pleased to welcome volunteers to help us “put the garden to bed” on October 6, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Tasks will include cutting back perennials and pulling annuals... raking, mulching, weeding, and composting... and preparing the kitchen garden and ornamental beds for the winter and the next growing season. Master Gardeners can earn outreach hours by participating, and all are welcome.

If interested, please remember to dress for the weather, with sturdy footwear, gloves, and a sun/rain hat. Basic garden

tools will be on hand, but you can also bring pruning shears, a weeding tool, and a kneeling mat. Snacks and beverages will be available throughout the morning.

No registration is required, but doing so helps us plan. You can register online at [morrillhomestead.org](http://morrillhomestead.org)... by phone at 802-765-9630... or by email to [metcarpenter@mac.com](mailto:metcarpenter@mac.com).

Martha Cain  
Garden Manager

Friends of the Morrill Homestead

State-Owned Site and National Historic Landmark

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Em. Lady signed,  
Justin J. Morrill.

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The Justin Morrill Historic Site, one of eight State-Owned Historic Sites and National Historic Landmarks, is maintained and operated by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, which encourages the discovery and appreciation of the state’s rich heritage through the stewardship and interpretation of the historic sites by evoking an authentic sense of time and place.

In partnership with the Division for Historic Preservation, the Friends of the Morrill Homestead fosters an awareness of the life and legacy of Sen. Justin Morrill with programs, events, and public outreach to enhance the visitor experience.



[www.morrillhomestead.org](http://www.morrillhomestead.org)

The MORRILL HOMESTEAD  
Chronicle

News and Information from Vermont’s First National Historic Landmark and State-Owned Historic Site  
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Fall 2018: VOL. 12 No. 2

“WE THE PEOPLE” – AUGUST 5, 2018

It’s not every day that an individual who met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. graces the stage of the historic Strafford Town House. But on Sunday, August 5, Dean Shirley A. Jefferson shared a lively, deeply moving, and inspirational speech that had the audience accompanying her in songs that she sang while participating in a civil right march in Selma, Alabama in 1965. (As a young girl, Jefferson met Dr. King at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in Selma.)

On a hot, sticky August day that was aptly evocative of summer weather in the Southeast where Jefferson was raised, nearly 120 people sat on the old wooden benches to hear her speak of what it was like to grow up in the segregated South. Jefferson’s personal warmth and easy rapport with the audience had participants transfixed as her speech ranged from personal stories and pivotal points in the Civil Rights Movement, to Justin Morrill’s role in drafting the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Jefferson went on to explain the legal basis of iconic civil rights cases that were decided by the U.S. Supreme Court based on Section 1 of the 14th Amendment—often called the Equal Protection Clause—which provides that no person shall be deprived of equal protection under the law. She explained the legal basis for the Supreme Court’s 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, in which the Court concluded that states could not maintain separate schools for African-American and white students, even if the facilities were deemed equal. The Court found that segregation itself violated equal protection under the 14th Amendment.



We the People Discussion Panel (left to right): Representative Jim Masland; Christine Kemp Longmore, Founder/Director Constitutional Council of Accountability with Law Enforcement Officials; Representative Tim Briglin; Julie Kalish, MA, JD: President of the Board, American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont and Lecturer for the Institute for Writing & Rhetoric, Dartmouth College; Representative Diana Gonzalez (on behalf of Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman).

where she now serves as Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity, Title IX Coordinator, and Associate Professor. Jefferson also serves as a member of the president’s/dean’s administrative cabinet, helping to create a unique environment for manifesting a commitment to cultural diversity throughout the school.

During the far-ranging audience discussion that followed her speech, Jefferson led an animated exchange that was enriched immensely when several audience members shared their personal experiences of what it has been like to live as an African-American in a largely white Vermont.

Following the audience discussion, a panel of leaders in the areas of civil rights, cultural diversity, and related proceedings in the Vermont legislature each shared a brief presentation, and then fielded questions from the audience. Afterward, as participants mingled with speakers, ebullience pervaded the gathering that mirrored the brightness of the mid-summer sun.

Michael Caduto



# COUNTDOWN TO APPLEFEST!

Autumn in Vermont brings a classic and well-loved harvest gathering—the 19th Century Apple & Cheese Harvest Festival, which will take place this year at the Morrill Homestead on Sunday, September 30 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

Chosen as a “Top 10 Fall Event” by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, this celebration of Johnny Appleseed’s birthday is a perfect outing for the family, with live farm animals (the kind that Justin Morrill would have had on his small 19th Century farm), cider from an antique press, heirloom apples, period games, face painting, Vermont artisan cheeses, ice cream, and homemade apple pie, live music from *Out on a Limb* and, of course, Justin Morrill’s historic Gothic Revival home and gardens.

This final major event on our 2018 calendar is sponsored by the Bushway Insurance Agency; Flint, Blake & Boles Roofing; and Kate Cassidy of Four Seasons-Sotheby’s International Realty. And the modest admission charge—\$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for kids under 15—includes lunch, which will be served from 12:00 noon-2:00 pm.

Hope to see you there!



# OOPS!

Contrary to the statements made in the previous issue of the Morrill Homestead Chronicle, Senator Charles Sumner was *not* the Chair (or even a member, for that matter) of the Joint Committee on Reconstruction. And perhaps of more interest to our readers, Justin Morrill was *not* the source of the core language contained in Section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

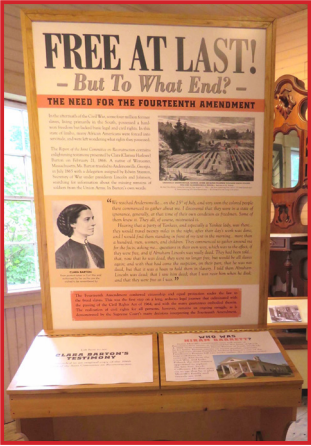
“... all citizens of U.S. resident [in] said States, are equal in their civil rights, immunities & privileges and equally entitled to protection in life liberty & property; in granting the elective franchise no distinction shall be made on account of race, descent, or color; & all laws in contravention of these rights, immunities & privileges are null and void.”

Continuing research by Director Michael Caduto and Board Member Roger Walke, revealed that the language in question was penned by Senator Lot Morrill of Maine. Its authorship had been wrongly attributed to Representative Justin Morrill by Joseph B. James in his 1956 book, *The Framing of the Fourteenth Amendment*. Further research by Roger uncovered a correction in a collection of essays published 12 years later, in 1968, by Howard Jay Graham, a premier historian of the 14th Amendment, who had previously accepted James’ erroneous attribution.

So we can no longer include “co-author of the U.S. Constitution” on our hero’s resume. But the mistake was an honest one: and now we’ll always remember there were *two* Morrills in Congress in 1865!

# “FREE AT LAST!” EXHIBIT

Commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the ratification of the 14th Amendment, the Friends of the Morrill Homestead, in conjunction with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, present an expansive exhibit: **And Justice for All: Justin Morrill and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**. The exhibit highlights critical aspects of the 14th Amendment... elucidates Justin Morrill’s role in drafting the amendment... explores major legal decisions based on the Equal Protection Clause... and tells the story of Reconstruction in



the aftermath of the Civil War. The exhibit can be seen in the Carriage Barn exhibit space at the Justin Morrill State Historic Site in Strafford, Vermont, 10:00 am-5:00 pm, from Wednesday through Sunday each week through October 14, 2018.

*The Friends would like to thank those whose generosity made the 14th Amendment exhibit and event possible: Woodbury Foundation, Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Vermont Humanities Council, Mascoma Savings Bank, Dead River Co., and a number of individual donors.*

# HOW MORRILL’S 19TH CENTURY HORSE BARN BECAME A 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION CENTER

Visitors to the Justin Morrill State Historic Site may not realize that the brown painted building to the right of the driveway and slightly to the north east of the main house is the Education Center—an exterior reconstruction of the horse barn and chicken coop that stood there in Justin Morrill’s time. Those same visitors might also wonder how the spot where horses and chickens were once housed came to be a climate-controlled year-round facility where a variety of programs and meetings are held and where historical artifacts... a large portion of Morrill’s library... and the office of the Friends’ Director are contained.

Well, it’s kind of a long story...with a happy ending!

For many years after Justin Morrill’s historic home was acquired by the State of Vermont in 1969, the Homestead was simply “the big pink house behind a purplish fence” on the road between Strafford’s Upper and Lower Villages. It was often closed and uninviting. That started to change in 1990, when the Division for Historic Preservation, to further understand the significance of the site, contracted with the firm Primavera, of Barnard, Vermont, to carry out an extensive study of the property. This comprehensive study identified plants, landscape features and missing structures. To make it more accessible, Susan Weber was hired in 1993 to condense the study into a booklet, *Justin Smith Morrill: Farm & Gardens Walking Tour*. Later, in 2001, the Friends of the Morrill Homestead contracted with Lucinda Brockway to develop an action plan for restoration of the historic landscape.

Something common to all these studies was the need to add a year-round facility to what, up until that time, had been a strictly seasonal operation. But where could it be placed? And how would it be paid for? Then an idea arose: could such a facility be built on the footprint of the old horse barn?

At that time, I was the Historic Sites Operations Chief at the Division for Historic Preservation. From other projects I had worked on, I knew the Vermont Agency of Transportation had Federal

grant funds, called “Enhancement Grants,” that they were required to give to projects that had a “transportation and public places” connection. A 19th Century horse barn reconfigured to a meeting place at a public facility seemed to meet the criteria. After all, horses were the means of transportation in the 19th Century and an artfully worded grant application, with broad backing by the community, might have a good chance for success.

To help drum up that broad backing, Lorenz Rutz, who worked as the seasonal docent at the Homestead, galvanized the community by holding public meetings and “one-on-ones” with home owners in Strafford’s Upper Village. Meanwhile the Division enlisted the cooperation of Strafford’s Morrill Memorial & Harris Library, which would free up a significant amount of space in their building if the historic Justin Morrill book collection could eventually be transferred to the new facility. The Strafford Selectboard was wooed with the promise that the new building be available for the town to use for small meetings.

Thanks in part to these efforts, the application to the Agency of Transportation was successfull. Moreover, after much lobbying by the Friends and the Strafford Selectboard, the Vermont Legislature added funds to State’s Capital Budget to match the Federal grant. With funds in hand, the Division then sought proposals from various architectural firms to design the building.

Scott Dillon, an archaeologist at the Division, was able to determine the actual foundation of the horse barn. The Montpelier architectural firm of Gossens Bachman was hired to design the building on that footprint to meet the needs of the State and the Friends. Wright Construction from Mount Holly, Vermont was hired to construct the climate-controlled building that we have today which was formally dedicated in 2007. The exterior of the building, including the brown paint, reconstructs the original horse barn and the interior is a modern facility meeting many of the needs of the historic site.

*John Dumville  
Board Member, Friends of the Morrill Homestead*

# A YEAR THROUGH ONE BOARD MEMBER’S EYES

When someone asks what being a board member for The Friends of the Morrill Homestead entails, any one of us is likely to give a different answer. For all of us the duties mean monthly meetings to plan programs and to keep them funded, but the actual work in carrying out the programs means that no two board members’ experiences are exactly the same. What follows is my experience, and as noteworthy as what I include is what is missing.

Before retirement I spent 43 years as a secondary school teacher, and my internal calendar naturally begins in September. For The Friends, this means the Annual Apple and Cheese Festival, a harvest celebration at the end of September; for me, this event means working the cider press. Preparations begin early in the month lining up help because it takes at least four people to move the press from the barn into the yard and the same number to operate it. (As it turns out, these are not always the same four.) Once the help is lined up, the next step is to make sure we have what we need in the way of bottles, corks, labels, buckets, funnels, strainers, and cups. The last step before the big day is picking up 20 crates of apples from an orchard in South Pomfret.

Once the festival begins, my vision narrows, and I rarely look up long enough to see the rest of the festival—the cheese and heritage apples, the animals and face-painting—or to partake in the delicious lunch. At the press our goal is to turn every apple into cider but to have no cider left over when the festival is over. Over and over I say, “All the cider you can drink for free... or you can take a bottle home for \$5.” We start the press a few minutes before the festival begins so there will be cider to drink when people arrive, but after that we try to time our 20 bushels of apples over the day to allow children to participate on one end of the two-handled crank. It’s fun and a little dangerous, a little bit like a carnival ride. The antique press on loan from our neighbor Paul Kristensen? People are always curious about its age, and I can point to two different 19th Century dates stamped on the machinery. By the end of the day I am weary and blistered, sweet-smelling and sticky, and never, never thirsty.

After Columbus Day the historic site closes until May, and the Friends go into planning mode.



paintings that will be auctioned in July to help fund the Friends’ educational programs. By the end of January the artists are committed, and then my work as a board member is mostly waiting for the monthly meetings.

In March and April the Friends’ education programs begin with pruning workshops and orchard walks, and my work for the GIG begins to heat up. I remind the artists about dates and share details for the show, and I consult with the “mini” committee to make sure we are on track to have 40+ of them to auction on the big day. All winter we mail out canvasses or deliver them in person, and when mud season is over, the first of them begin to come in.

In mid-May I do my small part on “Wake Up the Gardens Day” by turning over, weeding, and edging the two annual beds on the south side of the Homestead; this involves an hour and a half of crazed physical work; on the other side of the

house a host of skilled volunteers work at more sensible pace doing amazing work in the larger perennial beds on the north side of the house.

By June the Gallery in the Garden is in my daily thoughts, and I begin watching weather projections long before they could ever be reliable. I write a final email to the artists, count minis as they come in, and set up meetings for the final week. I buy wine and seltzer for the party, and cups and plates. I solicit volunteers to make hors d’oeuvres. The Carriage Barn art show will run for two weeks and I need volunteers to monitor the show every hour the site is open. Meanwhile I try not to imagine everything that could possibly go wrong.

Luckily, with reasonable planning, an event like this—a party for the community with gorgeous art and an auction for a good cause, all to open on Strafford’s celebration of the 4th of July Weekend—cannot fail, especially with all the help of board members and other volunteers. The final week is hard work, but all of it with clear purpose—the hanging and lighting of the art, the arrangement of the minis for the auction, and the setting up of tents and tables. There is rhythm to it, particularly the tents and tables, because we set up tables and tents for all our events; and once the event begins, it runs on its own momentum.

If the weather is good, so much the better. After the party is over, the art show continues, and if I find myself monitoring for more shifts than I anticipated, the Homestead is a pleasant spot to spend a quiet afternoon with a book.

One July morning I venture into the woods near my house to collect birch bark and pine twigs for the Fairy House Festival that overlaps with our art show. I won’t play a role in the event, but when I deliver my bag of materials, I try to imagine how the young children who attend will assemble the materials into fanciful creations.

Then late on a Sunday afternoon in the middle of July, the art show is over, as is my year of work as a Friend. I relax. There are a few loose ends to tie up, but for the most part it’s clear sailing until September when the new year starts.

*Jonathan Stableford  
Board Member, Friends of the Morrill Homestead*

# REPORT FROM THE STATE OF VERMONT

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has been pleased to welcome Alex Tolstoi to the team this season as an intern with the Historic Sites Program. Alex has a background in the buildings trades and is currently working towards his master’s degree in Historic Preservation at the University of Vermont.

Although Alex has done a wide range of work at far flung State-owned Historic Sites this summer, his primary project has been to develop a cyclical maintenance manual for the buildings and grounds at the Justin Morrill Site. This manual will serve as the template for cyclical maintenance manuals that will be developed for each of our sites. Improving our cyclical maintenance regimen throughout the program

should help us to be more proactive in our approach to caring for these precious historic resources.

Among the projects completed in the Morrill House this year has been the long-awaited plaster restoration in the back hall and stairwell. We had postponed work on the badly damaged walls until restoration of the roof above the hall was completed. That project wrapped up last fall. As a finishing touch on the hallway project, Alex constructed a new wood railing above the back stair, replacing a board railing installed by the Division several years ago. The recreated rail was copied from historic photographs.

The plaster restoration was carried out by Ron Bisson Plastering. While at the site, Ron also

repaired damaged plaster in the nursery. When that work was complete, Alex repainted the entire room so it now looks clean and cheerful.

We are pleased to report that visitation to the Morrill Site is up again this season. The walking tours of Strafford Village, sponsored jointly by the Division and the Stafford Historical Society, have been a popular addition to this year’s events. We are grateful to our Tour Guide John Freitag, who introduced the idea, pursued it, and is leading the walking tours on the third Saturday of every month through September.

*Tracy Martin  
Historic Sites Section Chief  
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation*