



The 2017 Historic House Tour, October 14

Join Us for a Tour of James L. Taylor's Lone Pine and learn more about Manchester's history at the turn of the 20th Century



James L. Taylor's Lone Pine has stood at the corner of River Road and Main Street since 1900. Taylor, the son of a wealthy Brooklyn industrialist and early golf enthusiast, had played with his father in their native Scotland and endeavored to further the sport throughout his life. In 1899 he purchased land on which he would build his summer residence, and in exchange for 50 shares of \$50 par value stock, provided the 200 acres for the new Ekwanok Country Club golf course.

In addition to co-founding the Ekwanok, he brought course designer John Duncan Dunn and golf legend Walter J. Travis to Manchester, who together laid out the new course. Taylor served as the club's vice-president from 1902-1926, governor from 1899-1932, and succeeded Robert Todd Lincoln as its president from 1926-1932. He died in St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1935.

Lone Pine was left to his only child, Miss Florence Taylor, who would continue to summer in Manchester until her death in 1976. She left the house to the McNamara family, who had served the Taylor family faithfully for a generation.

Lone Pine is currently owned by Anzelmo Graziosi and Maria Violi of Stamford, Connecticut, who purchased it in 2010 for use by their growing and

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From the Curator

All Those Old Documents...

Throughout the collection there are numerous folders and artifact boxes containing written documents, legal, personal and all manner of correspondence dating from the 1700s to the past couple of decades. Gently unfolding, assessing the condition, scanning if needed and then setting them in Mylar sleeves or other preservation techniques leaves us with one final task...What does it say?

Reading script is no longer an everyday occurrence; rarely do I receive a handwritten note or a letter. The common communicate is typed letters with (or without a wet) signature, email or text messages. Yet transcribing the early documents is one of my favorite (and tedious) tasks... the use of language, spelling (old English use of long S or F's), and elaborate grammar make each document a unique challenge depending on its author.

This document caught my eye because I recognized Timothy Mead's name while glancing over it. Mead was one of the earliest large landholders in what is today's Manchester Center, and prior to it being called Factory Point, the area was known as Mead's Mill. His refusal to sell any of his land kept the area largely undeveloped save for the grist mill and other utilitarian structures built along the West Branch of the Battenkill. But in 1790-91 he agreed to sell some of his land, including a tract to the Baptist Society to build a meeting-house and "land for burying the dead." Today a portion of that parcel is Factory Point Cemetery. The meetinghouse was relocated to its current location at the corner of Route 7 and Bonnet Street in 1833, and became the First Baptist Church.

A portion of the document is shown above and has been transcribed as follows:

(not shown this page: for the sole use and convenience of a meeting house or)... houses and for the use and convenience of burying their dead and we the said Timothy Mead Timothy Soper Isaac & Jerimiah do each for ourselves covenant and agree that we have a good right to dispose of the same in manner as before mentioned and that we do forever acquit and relin



quish all rights to settle there for the purpose above mentioned - In with whereof we have in our hand and seals this 22 day of August 1791 signed sealed and delivered.

- In presence of-----*
- Martin Powell*
- Eliakim Deming*
- Timothy Mead mark*
- Timothy Soper mark*
- Isaac Whelpley*

Since Mead, Soper, and Jeremiah Whelpley were illiterate, their marks appear on the document instead of a signature.

— Shawn Harrington

Legacy Giving

MHS is dedicated to saving the photos, documents and artifacts that tell Manchester's story, but we are also very much concerned with the future. If you are interested in preserving the history of Manchester and sharing it with future generations, we invite you to consider including MHS

in your estate planning. A simple bequest in your will is a very easy way to ensure that our work will continue for many years into the future. If you are interested in arranging for a bequest to MHS, please speak to your attorney or give us a call at 802.549.4582. Thank you!



This very large mural (shown above) was painted by Fritz Dillmann in the 1950s on the wall of the gas station that stood where the Dunkin' Donuts is today. It was meant to provide a map of the area to customers. Dave Quesnel let us know that it was Walt Freed, Chip Watson, and Dave who figured out

a way to save it in 1990. "We carefully cut the plaster around the mural, somehow got it into a frame with plywood backing, and then put it back up!" Thanks to Brent Herrmann, the 16 foot long by 3 feet tall mural was rescued from destruction once again and is now safely in storage.

also instrumental in the start-up of the Bromley Junior Ski Program, now called JISP, a free instructional ski program for local elementary school children. His own three daughters learned to ski behind their dad and went on to many ski-racing honors through high school in the Bromley racing program. Many ski racers, including some of the world greats of the 1950s and 1960s, may recall Fritz, enduring bitter cold, as the chief starter of many Bromley ski races, including the once prestigious Louise Orvis trophy races.

This original of this unique hand-painted map of Manchester by Fritz Dillmann is in the MHS collection, thanks to a gift by his wife. MHS is offering a color reproduction of the map for \$25.

If you would like to purchase a copy, please email us at info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org or call 802.549.4582. All proceeds benefit the Manchester Historical Society.

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extended family. They have graciously offered to open their home for this exclusive event, giving us an opportunity to view the interior of this turn of the twentieth-century home, which has been maintained and updated for modern family life while retaining much of the original floor plan and architectural details.

There will be three tours given on Saturday, October 14, at 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm. Admission is \$50 per person with all proceeds benefiting the Manchester Historical Society. Ticket reservations may be made by emailing info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org or by leaving a message at 802-549-4582. For more information visit manchesterhistoricalsocietyVT.org.



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The mission of the Manchester Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester through the research collection, exhibitions, programs, and publications.

1897 SOCIETY



PROPRIETORS CIRCLE



UNION CLUB



Fritz Dillmann Remembered

BY KATHE DILLMANN

Fritz Dillmann (1911-1997) was born in Stuttgart, Germany, and immigrated to New York City in 1936 after completing his architectural studies in Berlin. He came to join his fiancée, New Yorker Mary “Bunny” Fuller, whom he had met in the ski slopes in Germany in 1933. They married in 1938 after she graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga, New York.

Fritz worked for several top furniture and showroom design firms in Manhattan and traveled frequently with his wife and friends to ski the early ski trails of the Berkshires and Green Mountains, at Bromley near Manchester.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army’s famed 10th Mountain Division ski troops during the Second World War, spending most of his training in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains. When the 10th was deployed overseas in 1944, a training industry sidelined him and he was honorably discharged.

Vermont lured him east again. He had been the ski lodge architect for the new Snow Valley ski area in 1940-41, and it was to Manchester that he was drawn. The Dillmanns moved permanently to Manchester in the spring of 1945.

Manchester was a sleepy town with little in the way of employment at the time. Fritz threw himself into jobs that entailed design, from sign making to mural painting, including memorable murals on lounge room walls at the Worthy Inn in Manchester and the Hotel Bardwell in Rutland. As the construction trade picked up, Fritz embarked full time on his architectural career, including new house design and old house renovations. He designed and built his own home on East Manchester Road in 1951, where members of his family still reside.

The local ski resort development boom in the 1960s brought a demand for his architectural talents, included (but not limited to) the then-beloved version of the Swiss chalet that predominated in early ski resort design. But modern hotels and condos, luxury homes of many styles, and residential homes reflecting vernacular New England architectural elements were all in great demand from his small one-person architectural business. In his spare time, Fritz brought out his water colors to paint local landscapes; he was long an artist member of the Southern Vermont Arts Center.

Fritz loved skiing, which he did at Bromley from the late 1940s until the 1980s, often entertaining the après-ski crowd with his beloved “squeezebox” accordion. He was a founding member of the Bromley Outing Club, for which he designed the logo, and was



Fritz Dillmann at Snow Valley in 1941 shortly after the completion of the new base lodge.