



HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

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Stannard House May See New Life by Bill Kaigle & Kate Miller

Despite its peeling paint, boarded-up windows and sagging walls, three Milton Elementary School students are looking at the old Stannard House on Route 7 with energetic and optimistic eyes. Sixth-graders August Cyr, 11, Alison Joseph, 11, and Mae Kemsley, 12, have launched a "Raise the Roof" campaign to fix up the historic landmark.

August said she got the idea after hearing her father talk about the Stannard House. "I'm a big history and Civil War buff, and I realized I had to save [the house], so I dragged these guys into it", she said with a smile, gesturing toward Mae and Alison.

When asked why the house is important, the girls launch into a complete verbal history of Civil War General George J. Stannard, born in Georgia, Vermont and the first Vermonter to enlist in the war. Credited with stopping Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, Stannard lost an arm in battle; it was this injury that led to the unique barn that once stood behind the house in Milton. (See an in-depth profile of General Stannard on page 2.)

"The barn was probably more valuable because it was built for a one-armed man", Mae explained, adding that the barn was taken down [in 1989].

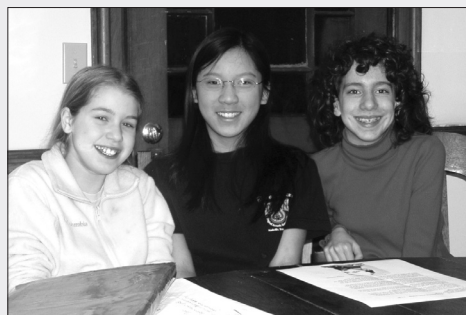
The girls are aiming to fix up the exterior of the house by giving it a good coat of paint, planting flowers, and perhaps installing a plaque to commemorate its historic value. They are also holding a contest to choose a few painters to create murals on the wide boards covering the windows.

August, Alison and Mae made a presentation to their teachers and to the Milton Historical Society. They contacted historian Howard Coffin, who wrote a letter praising them and offering his support. Readers who were in attendance at the Soldiers'

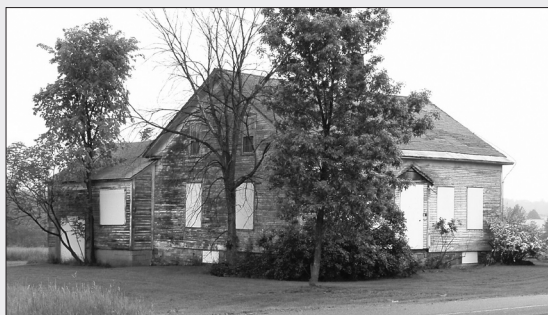
Monument Rededication in September 2004 may remember him stating strongly in his address that the house "should be saved." On Town Meeting Day, the girls set up a booth to raise funds and promote awareness.



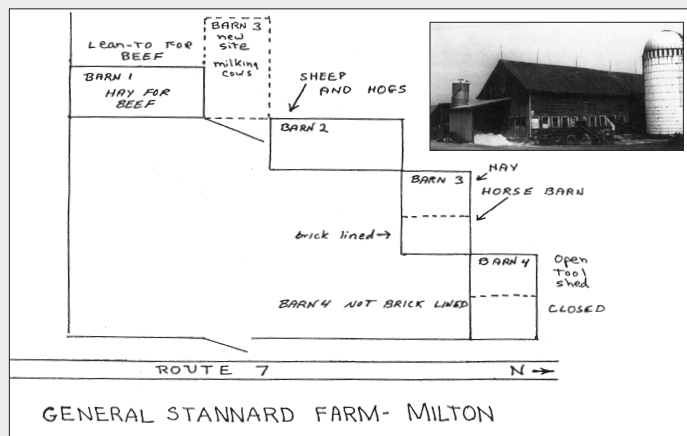
The Stannard House in the late 1800s. Dr. Calvin Deming (1774-1849), the first Secretary of the Vermont Medical Society, lived and practiced medicine there from 1820 until his death. He also served as West Milton Postmaster in 1837.



August, Mae and Alison (left to right) explained their plans to the Historical Society at our March meeting.



The historical landmark as it sits today. The recently boarded windows may see colorful murals in the near future!



The floor plan of Stannard's brick-lined barn shows how it was built for a person with only a left arm. It was later changed to accommodate dairy farming.

When the girls contacted the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC), owners since 1989 of the land on which the Stannard House sits, they had a pleasant surprise. "They were interested in what we're doing and they said they'd donate what we'd need to paint the house", August said. "I was

on the phone and I almost dropped it when I heard that".

"Yes, we will be providing the supplies and our staff will join the kids [to complete the house painting job]," said recently departed GBIC Vice President Sam Matthews. "We're just so deeply touched that August and her classmates are interested in this project."

The girls' teacher, Katie Reen, said she was impressed with their ambitiousness. "Every bit of this has been their own effort, their own fire, and their own drive," she said. Reen has been in discussions with Matthews' replacement at GBIC, Joe Thibault, who is enthusiastic to keep things rolling after all the effort the girls have put

forth. He has been in contact with Bob Zatzke, Lead Paint Hazard Abatement Program Coordinator, regarding applying for a lead paint clean-up grant for about \$5000.

The girls' quest to save General

Stannard's home has garnered attention outside of Milton as well – Vermont Public Radio recently interviewed them in a profile to be aired soon! They have also been invited to the GBIC Annual Meeting on June 20th, where they will be honored for their initiative and efforts.

Looking forward, August, Alison and Mae would love to REALLY "raise the roof" and make the house usable if for nothing else, simply educating people about General Stannard. But right now, they're focused on clearing the lead paint

hurdle before pursuing anything else. *Stay tuned!*

*To contribute to the "Raise the Roof" Campaign, make check payable to August Cyr, Alison Joseph, or Mae Kemsley and mail to:
Amy Joseph, 13 Lena Court, Milton, VT 05468*

General George J. Stannard

by Jane FitzGerald

George Jerrison Stannard, Vermont's most famous Civil War veteran, was born in Georgia, Vermont on October 20, 1820. He attended public school in St. Albans, and later became a foundry clerk in St. Albans until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Stannard's military interest was evident at an early age. A brief summary of some of his accomplishments follows: He was named Colonel when the Fourth Vermont was formed. From 1858 to

1861 he participated only in state military circles and was the first Vermonter to volunteer for service in the Civil War. On March 11, 1863, he was commissioned Brigadier General of the United States Volunteers by President Lincoln and was given command of the Second Vermont Brigade comprised of the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th regiments, all 9 months.



pushed the enemy back in a second counter action. Stannard was painfully wounded in the leg during the charge, but remained on the field until he was relieved of his command and the injured had received help.

On September 29, 1864, Stannard's action at Fort Harrison showed great bravery and his strong character inspired his men to hold the fort against great odds. Near the end

Although he had no formal military training, Stannard showed signs of strong leadership ability. He played a crucial role in helping to stop Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. Stannard's Sixteenth Vermont

of this battle Stannard's right arm was amputated as a result of a serious gunshot. Stannard received the Brevet of Major General of Volunteers from President Lincoln for his gallantry and heroism. At that time Stannard's military career ended because of his war-related injuries. In 1866-67, Stannard went to work for the newly created Freedmen's Bureau in charge of General Oliver O. Howard, a fellow Vermont General. The Freedmen's Bureau was established to assist negroes with employment and receiving and protecting their civil rights. He also served as Collector of Customs for the Vermont District from 1865 to 1872.

In 1868, he moved to Petty Brook (near the south boundary of Milton), where his brick manufacturing and horse raising businesses failed. It should be known that while Stannard has left a lasting impression, he actually spent a very short time in Milton.

In 1873 General Stannard was appointed doorkeeper for the U.S. House of Representatives, a position he held for thirteen years. He died in Washington on June 6, 1886 and was buried at Lakeside Cemetery on North Avenue in Burlington, Vermont. In 1908, a monument honoring him was erected in his hometown of Georgia by the State of Vermont.