

# The Mount Independence Courier

The Newsletter of the Mount Independence Coalition Vol 14 No 1 Spring 2006



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### Welcome to the Mount Independence Coalition

In 1776, ten thousand American rebels dug into the hard ground of Mount Independence to face off against the world's most powerful military. Long abandoned by history, its extensive works reclaimed by nature, Mount Independence is today a place of singular natural beauty, where visitors can spend an afternoon walking in the footsteps of the patriots who helped preserve a budding nation.

The mission of the Mount Independence Coalition is to support the efforts of the Vermont State Division for Historic Preservation to protect and interpret this unique historic and natural treasure. Located in Orwell, Vermont, Mount Independence honors the sacrifice, the ingenuity and the courage of those who rallied to their nation's defense.

Before you begin to explore our web site and the links to related sites, consider adding us to your favorites so you can check back frequently to learn what's happening at Mount Independence and with the Coalition.

Thank you for visiting.

This page was updated on February 12, 2006.



### NEWS

2006 is the 10th anniversary of the grand opening of the Visitor Center

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Join the Mount Independence Coalition [Yahoo list](#) to receive e-mail bulletins relating to activities and news about the Mount.

## News from the Site Administrator

Can you all believe it was 10 years ago this summer that the visitor center at the Mount Independence State Historic Site opened to the public? What a glorious day the opening was and what a great culmination of the hard work, ideas, and commitment of many people from many walks of life. Thanks to the invaluable help of the Mount Independence Coalition, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has continued to make improvements to the exhibits and programs offered at the Mount and we appreciate this enduring partnership.

This winter many people came to the Mount to hike, since there wasn't as much snow as usual. Some people were lucky enough to spy bald eagles soaring over the southern vista area, and there were sightings of other interesting wildlife as well. In March I gave an illustrated talk to the Monkton, VT, Florona Grange about David Rusco and the Mount Independence powder horn, which is prominently displayed in the visitor center. Several grange members and others in the audience were direct descendants of David Rusco, who moved to Monkton with his large family in 1795.

The year 2006 has some exciting offerings planned. This year is indeed the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the visitor center and the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the

original construction at Mount Independence. The seasonal exhibit, in the space across from the Haas mural, will take a look at the process of building the Visitor Center. Photos showing construction are fascinating. The programming committee has worked



Concrete forms ready to pour the Visitors Center

diligently over the winter to plan special events. Take a look at the enclosed schedule now and mark down on your calendar the programs you want to attend! We hope there is something for everyone. Not only tell your friends and family about the programs, but go one step further and bring them along! Or considering bringing a group for a special visit to the site. With advance reservations for groups of 10 or more, the admission fee is \$4 rather than \$5. Of course Coalition members get free admission. When you come to