

Rutland Historical Society Quarterly
Vol. 38, No.4
The Art of Dr. Emelie Perkins: A Calendar

Living for almost ninety-six years (1890-1986), Dr. Emelie Perkins certainly saw quite a bit of history. After completing her schooling and then finally retiring from decades of practicing medicine, Dr. Perkins switched gears to focus on her love of art. Most of her work chronicled the change of seasons at her Mendon farmhouse (built in the late 1830s), with her cats and dogs featured year round.

Her work, depicted in the quarterly, captures the charm of the old house, including tall ceilings and patterned wallpapers. We see the transformation of her porch throughout the year, from drifts of snow with animal tracks to lush grass, flowers, and the previously bare bushes filled with life. Other elements of time are preserved in these pictures, such as milk bottles lining the porch. Dr. Perkins' artwork is a neat glimpse into how life in Vermont has changed over time, yet very much remained the same.