

This painting of the Champlain Thrust Fault at Lone Rock Point in Burlington, was executed by Raymond Pease in June of 1934. His signature can still be seen in the bottom right corner of the painting.

Presumably, it hung in the basement of the Fleming Museum (next door) until the early 1960's when the geology department moved into this building from the now extinct East Hall, and this room was renovated into a museum space. It has been on this wall since that time.

Our original goal during the 1991-93 museum renovation was to transfer this painting over to the north wall, but upon taking the wooden frame down we discovered that someone had *glued the entire canvas to the wall*. Why this was done, we have no idea, although the Paintings Conservator at the Shelburne Museum suspects that the original frame might have sagged on such a large work and was therefore removed from the painting during the move in the 1960's.

Once confronted with the fact that our painting was so firmly affixed to the wall, we were left with four options:

- 1.) Rip the painting down, therefore ruining it.
- 2.) Spend thousands of dollars to have it professionally removed and remounted. This would, of course, be the most desired option, but our budget just doesn't allow it.
- 3.) Physically cut it out, wall and all. This would provide us with a ready made back-support and would preserve the painting but would also cause significant structural damage to the wall. (The wall currently has a large blackboard on the classroom wall behind it.)
- 4.) Erect a false wall, therefore preserving the painting for someone in the future (ie. *You*) to find as a sort of time capsule.

We have elected to go with Option #4 and preserve this painting for the future. Even if you have no immediate use for it, we hope that the adventure of exhuming it and reading the words that we've left for you (look on the back of the wallboard that covers it) will provide the kind of cheap thrills (a 1960's term) that makes your business worthwhile. The local TV station is here to watch us board it up, we hope you have similar interest when opening it back up.

As geologists, we would all love to be able to see the changing of the landscape and the peoplescape in the future. We would love to know your time as you are able to know ours, but alas, you have the advantage of hindsight over us. Most, or all, of us have probably now joined the carbon phase, but we sincerely hope that the few souvenirs that we've left behind (be observant, there are others) will give you a better idea of the state of the science, and the culture, at the close of the 20th Century.

Take care of this museum. George Perkins, Zadock Thompson, Charles Doll and the rest of us are watching you.....

Jeff Howe
Perkins Museum of Geology
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