



Hartford Historical Society

The Garipay House • 1461 Maple Street
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HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD • WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER



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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Wilder's Sarah Fecteau Served As A "Hello Girl" In World War I

By **Scott Fletcher**

"The humblest hello-girl along ten thousand miles of wire could teach gentleness, patience, modesty, manners, to the highest duchess in Arthur's land."
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, Mark Twain, 1889

When the U.S. entered World War I, the American Expeditionary Force, or AEF, took its own telephone switchboards, which were operated by men. Most male operators could not speak French and many were slow. It took sixty seconds to connect an average call.

In the United States, many women served as switchboard operators and became known as, "Hello Girls." In 1917, General John J. Pershing, commander of AEF forces, put out a call for women operators who could speak both French and English. Over seventy-six hundred women applied for the program and among the first women chosen to receive training was Sarah Fecteau, daughter of Napoleon and Adeline Fecteau of Wilder.

Sarah had worked at the telephone exchange in White River Junction for four years and learned to

speak French from her French-Canadian parents. After being accepted into the Signal Corps Operator Program, Sarah was sent to New England Telephone in Lowell, MA where she learned Army protocol, underwent physical training, and took the Army oath.

After her initial training, Sarah was sent to AT&T in New York City where she learned what to expect in

Sarah Fecteau was a member of the Signal Corps Telephone Unit that arrived in France in March 1918 and served until the war ended on, "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. After the war, they were not recognized as veterans of the U.S. military until a bill passed Congress and was signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

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From the Editor . . .

Our cover story this issue is about former Wilder resident Sarah Fecteau who served as a telephone operator in France for the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War I. Sarah was brought to our attention by Donna Ayers whose great-aunt Olive Shaw was a member of the second unit of operators to ship out for France. These women, known as “Hello Girls,” finally received the recognition and benefits due to military veterans in 1977.

Now, a group of Hello Girls descendants and supporters, along with the World War I Centennial Commission, the Doughboy Foundation, and many other veterans groups, are campaigning to award the Hello Girls the Congressional Gold Medal. For more information, visit hellogirls.org.

Some years ago, we profiled William Burtch who made many of the bricks used in the buildings along Quechee Main Street. Despite his acumen and industry, Burtch became insolvent and had to move

his family to the midwest. This issue we piece together the compelling story of Ebenezer Hutchinson who moved to Quechee in about 1817 and struggled for success as a copperplate printer. The scarcity of cash and a dearth of financing made early Hartford a tough business environment. Hutchinson’s former factory, now apartments, backs onto the Quechee green.

The June presentation of the Hartford Historical Society focused on the remarkable career of Strafford’s Senator Justin Morrill. Successful in business, Morrill retired at age thirty-eight and began a long career in public service. He designed and furnished his home in Strafford, which will close for renovation in 2025. Go see it now if you can.

Thank you and welcome to the newest HHS patron, Becca White. Please contact us to learn how you can help preserve our local history.

Scott Fletcher, Editor

Prisoner Nearly Escapes

The Landmark, April 29, 1920

A sensation in White River Junction was the escape from a passenger car southbound for the state prison at Windsor, of Henry Lapier, sentenced to serve from five to ten years for burglary. The prisoner was in the charge of Deputy Sheriff Towne of Chittenden County. The train had gone scarcely a mile from the Junction when the prisoner was permitted to enter the toilet of the car alone. He at once smashed the car window, handcuffed though he was, jumped from the window, and landed on the track without serious injury. The jump was near the B.F. Andrew & Son Co. lumber factory and Lapier was seen on the track by some of its men. They hastened to the escaped prisoner and, seeing him handcuffed, notified Chief of Police O’Keefe who took him in charge. Deputy Sheriff Towne returned Lapier to the Hartford jail and took him to Windsor on the next train.

The Mission Statement of the Hartford Historical Society

To acquire, identify and preserve
information and artifacts related to
Hartford’s past and communicate knowledge
of local history through programs,
publications, and other interaction with the
community.



Hartford Historical Society

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Justin Morrill—Strafford’s Favorite Son

By Mary Nadeau

At our regularly scheduled June program meeting, State Historic Preservation Officer Laura Trieschmann gave a presentation on the life and remarkable achievements of Justin Morrill, Strafford’s most famous “son.”

Justin S. Morrill was born on April 14, 1810, to a farm family that had moved to Vermont after it became our fourteenth state. Both his father and grandfather were veterans of the American Revolution. After attending school in Strafford, Thetford Academy and Randolph Academy, his formal education came to an end in 1825 when he had reached the age of 15. Undaunted, he managed to acquire a vast library of books, and through his own perseverance obtained a superior self-education.

Young Justin worked at various jobs in New England before becoming a store owner in Strafford (the building still exists and houses the Strafford Post Office). Shrewd and hardworking, he then invested in

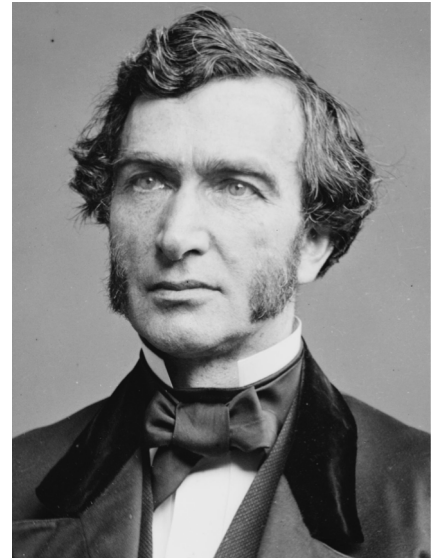
He crafted a program that dedicated seventeen million acres of federal lands to the states, each state receiving 30,000 acres that could be sold to finance the establishment of one or more schools for the purpose of teaching agriculture, business, engineering, mechanics and home economics.

other stores around the state, in banks, real estate and railroads. Having made his fortune, he retired at the age of 38 to be a gentleman farmer. In 1851 he married Ruth Barrell Swan. (The couple had two sons, one of whom died in early childhood.) During that same year, Morrill began construction of his Strafford “dream home,” a rambling one and a half story Gothic Revival style house, which he designed with inspiration from his collection of books on architecture. The interior features elaborate mahogany woodwork. The exterior was originally painted a sandy color, but he later changed that to pink, which was thought at the time to resemble stone. The extensive landscaping plan included a wide variety of plants that could withstand the harsh Vermont winters. Farm animals included

cows and sheep, and above and to the right of the house there was an orchard of what we think of today as heirloom apples. The homestead also included a horse barn, carriage house, ice house, blacksmith shop and a summer gazebo, all tightly grouped.

Following his early retirement, he turned his attention to politics. When he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1854, he belonged to the Whig Party, but after it disbanded, Morrill became one of the founders of the Republican Party.

During his tenure in the House, he is most remembered for the 1862 Land Grant College Act. This has been noted as his greatest achievement during his twelve years in the House. Sensitive to his own lack of educational opportunities, he crafted a program that dedicated seventeen million acres of federal lands to the states, each state receiving 30,000 acres that could be sold to finance the establishment of one or more schools for the purpose of teaching agriculture, business, engineering, mechanics and home economics. This concept came in an era when higher education focused on the subjects such as Greek, Latin and history. (Laura gave us the unsettling information that the “federal lands” allotted the states had been seized from Native Americans, a practice considered totally acceptable at the time.) A major goal of the Act was to meet a rapidly industrializing country’s need for scientifically trained technicians and industrialists.



Justin Morrill invested wisely as a young man and retired at age thirty-eight. He began a life of public service, which included forty-three years in the U.S. Congress. He was an eloquent speaker and frequently addressed gatherings in White River Junction while traveling to and from Washington D.C.

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Justin Morrill was a serious student of architecture and landscape design. In 1851, he began building this Gothic Revival home in his native Strafford, VT. The property included a horse and carriage barn, a cow barn, a sheep barn, a corn crib, an ice house, and a blacksmith shop. An irrigation system brought water from a man-made pond to the house, garden, and barns. The house had a large library and a two-hole "indoor outhouse." Justin Morrill would recognize many of the buildings in the Strafford of today including his father's blacksmith shop and a store where he worked as a young man.

Military training was required in the curriculum of all land-grant schools. The funding led to the establishment of one hundred and five colleges, universities and mechanical colleges.

In 1861, he crafted the Morrill Tariff, a measure that increased taxes on imported goods to provide protection from foreign competition and to encourage the expansion of domestic industry. The following year, he was the architect of the Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act, which banned plural marriage and imposed a \$500 fine and up to five years of imprisonment for the crime of bigamy.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Morrill was viewed as a skillful negotiator and an expert on the nation's financial affairs. In 1865 he shaped legislation that created the country's first income tax to help the country recover from the cost of the Civil War. He is also recognized as a framer of the Fourteenth Amendment that granted equal protection and rights to freed slaves.

Morrill was first elected to the Senate in 1866. Upon his arrival in Washington, the Capitol was incomplete, including the lack of the iconic dome, and the Washington Monument was but a "stump," construction on it having been suspended during the Civil War. As chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Buildings, he guided legislation for the construction of the Capitol's west front terrace, the

Executive Office Building and the unfinished portion of the Washington Monument. While serving in the House, it was his idea in 1864 to convert the old House chamber into the National Statuary Hall. (Each state is permitted two statues of noteworthy citizens; Vermont's contributions are of Ethan Allen and Jacob Collamer, a Senator from Woodstock.)

During 1871, construction was begun for an ornate home in Washington on fashionable Thomas Circle. It was often the scene of merriment, as echoed in Morrill's annual birthday party, a highlight of the D.C. social season. It was his primary residence, and the Strafford house became his summer home.

The year 1872 saw Morrill collaborating with Frederic Law

Olmstead on the landscaping of the Capitol grounds. Some historians consider his greatest construction legacy to be the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress.

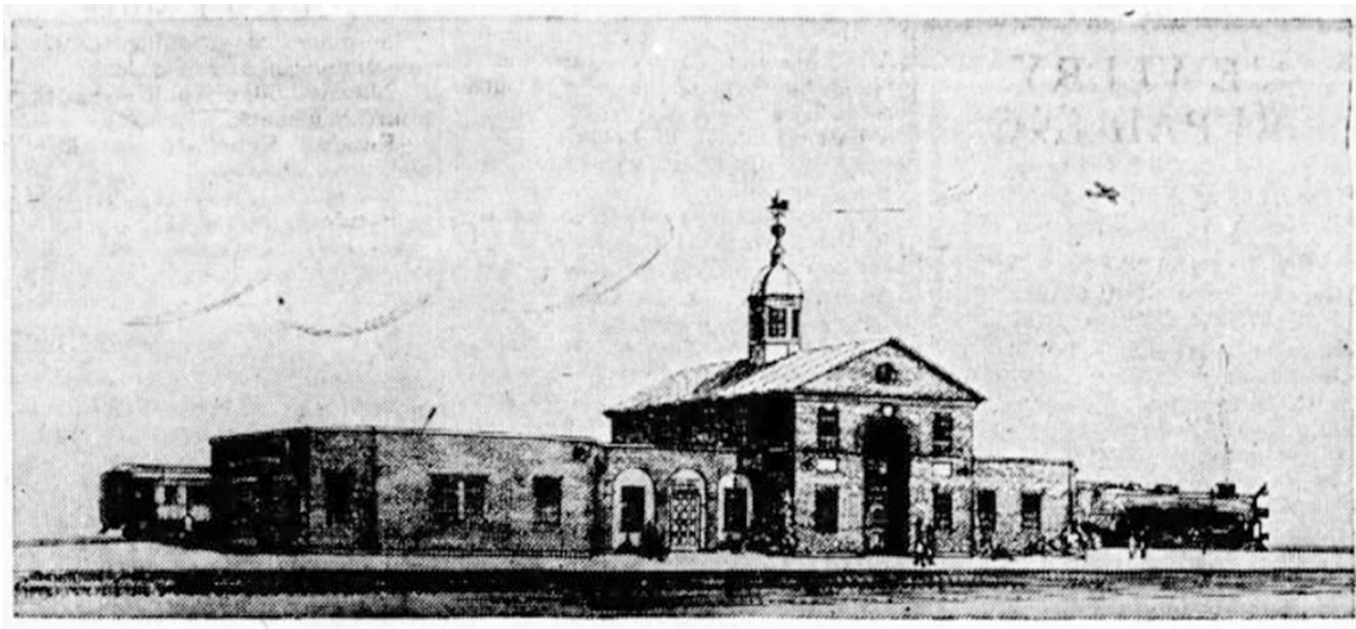
By 1890, the Morrill Act Amendment to the original Land Grant College Act was passed, targeting the former Confederate States and leading to the creation of 17 colleges and universities for Blacks. (It took until 1994 for the Act to be extended for the education of Native Americans.)

When Senator Morrill passed away from pneumonia in 1898 at the age of 88, he had served in the U.S. Congress for 43 years, setting an impressive record up to that time. His body rests in the family's Strafford mausoleum. Morrill's portrait still hangs outside the Senate Chamber, capturing the image of a man whom his colleagues respectfully referred to as the Father of the Senate.

Senator Morrill's Strafford home, furnished with items brought to Vermont from his Washington mansion, was designated as Vermont's first National Historic Landmark. In 1969, the property was conveyed to the State of Vermont, where it is open to the public from May through October.

The Morrill Homestead will be closed during 2025 to complete the remediation of damage caused by extensive flooding of the house's basement and other structures during last July's heavy rains.

Hartford's Stolen Weathervane Recovered



A five-foot copper weathervane was placed atop the White River Junction train station when it was rebuilt in 1937.

On November 3, 1983, unknown persons climbed to the roof of the White River Junction train station and wrestled a large copper weathervane down from its perch on the cupola. The thieves lowered their prize to the ground and disappeared.

It was the beginning of a rash of weathervane thefts. Three days later, a copper weathervane shaped like a trotting horse disappeared from atop a barn on Route 5 in Windsor, VT. Later that month, weathervanes were purloined from atop a fire station in Hallowell, ME and from barns in nearby Farmingdale, and Winthrop, ME. State police and the FBI investigated the cases and looked for connections.

The Hallowell weathervane was recovered when Samuel Pennington, publisher of the *Maine Antiques Digest*, received phone calls demanding a \$1,000 ransom. Pennington met with two mysterious men in the woods near Manchester, NH, paid the ransom, and returned the piece representing a fireman driving a horse-drawn cart to the Hallowell Fire Department. But Hartford's weathervane was not recovered.

The Hartford weathervane was built in 1910 by W.A. Snow Iron Works of Boston. It was modeled after a steam locomotive and coal tender. It was five feet and four inches long, weighed over a hundred pounds, and had graced the White River Junction station since it was re-built in 1937. It is not known who originally purchased it or where it perched before arriving in Hartford.

Hartford native Byron Hathorn purchased the White River Junction depot from the Boston & Maine Railroad and the Central Vermont Railway in 1995. "When I bought the station, there was nothing but N, S, E, and W above it," he says.

"Everybody in town was mad when it was stolen," recalls Hathorn. "What a terrible thing to do. But people were also amazed at how it got pulled off. They went up there with a forty-foot ladder in the middle of the night, took it down the ladder, jumped off the roof, went down through the underpass to the other side of town, and ran down South Main Street with it. It's likely it was somebody local."

While restoring the building, Hathorn found a couple in Claremont, NH who worked with copper. "The original weathervane was taken down during a restoration in the early seventies, and we had a photo of it sitting on the hood of a Ford Pinto," says Hathorn. "Knowing the width of the hood allowed us to figure the measurements for the reproduction." When Byron Hathorn sold the railroad station to the State of Vermont in 2013, the new weathervane went with it.

In 2023, while preparing to sell artwork from the estate of an art collector named Martin Shack, Sotheby's sent photographs of all the pieces in the sale to Art Loss Register where they were compared with items in a database of art work that had been reported

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"Hello Girls" continued from page 1.

the war zone, how to translate messages into both English and French, and how to deal with military personnel. On March 6, 1918, Sarah was a member of the first unit of thirty-three women Signal Corps Operators who shipped out for France from Hoboken, NJ.

By July 1918, the "Hello Girls" had tripled the capacity of AEF phone lines and Sarah Fecteau had become a supervisor. Operators averaged just ten seconds per call. Sarah was the only woman from Vermont to fill this vital role. Operators were paid \$60, \$72, or \$120 a month depending on whether they were an operator, supervisor, or chief operator.

During World War I, women were not yet able to vote in the United States, and their role in the U.S. Army was limited. More than twenty thousand women served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps along with some fifteen hundred Navy nurses. Some women served stateside as drivers and pilots, freeing men to go overseas.

The U.S. Army did not allow women to serve as physicians, although some women with medical training served as nurses. Many women physicians also joined the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the French and British Armies.

"Hello Girls" were supervised by General Pershing and his staff, but they provided their own uniforms and housing in private facilities was provided by the YWCA. Pershing insisted that Signal Corps Operators receive salaries equivalent to Army nurses.

Women telephone operators were often stationed within range of German artillery and air raids were a regular occurrence. Some switchboards were near the front lines. The women also had frequent contact with wounded American soldiers and German prisoners.

More enjoyably, there were regular dances each week. Given the preponderance of men, women were encouraged to "Quarter" each song with four different partners, which provided relaxation for more of the soldiers.



"Hello Girls" were recruited and commanded by General John J. Pershing but, at war's end, they did not receive the recognition and benefits given to veterans of the U.S. Army. Pershing did, however, provide the helmets and gas masks seen here. Signal Corps Operators provided their own uniforms and lived in housing provided by the YWCA.

In the last months of the war, the AEF considered communication so essential that telephone exchanges closest to the front line were exclusively operated by women working twelve-hour shifts. In the rear, male operators worked overnight shifts when telephone traffic was slower.

Sarah attained the rank of second lieutenant during her eighteen months of service. While in France, Sarah met U.S. servicemember Carl S. Reiber with whom she corresponded for months. Sarah and Carl married in Paris on May 19, 1919.

After their heroic service during the war, the "Hello Girls" returned home where they were denied veteran's status or benefits. It wasn't until 1977 that President Jimmy Carter signed a bill giving surviving Signal Corps Operators recognition as veterans of the U.S. military.

By 1922, Sarah and Carl Reiber had settled in Chicago where Sarah's eventful life was ended by appendicitis at age twenty-six. Sarah's husband and mother returned her remains to Hartford, and she rests with her family in Mount Olivet Cemetery. Sarah Fecteau's name appears on Hartford's new war memorial.

“Hello Girl” in France

The Boston Post, July 21, 1918

Below is a letter from one of the girls “with the colors” who is serving as a telephone operator at Brest. There are a good many girls with the Signal Corps in France, and all of them are said to be doing very good work. Here is what Sarah Fecteau, formerly of Wilder, VT, says of her experiences thus far in France.

Somewhere in France.

Dear Friends—I am feeling just fine and could not ask for better health.

The weather here is terribly warm and it is all we can do to keep our coats on, but we are in the army now, so I suppose we must stand it.

Now I can relate to you some of my history since I left home, but not all of it. From England we landed at Le Havre and stayed there a few days, and from there we proceeded to Paris, where we stayed a little longer than a week, and while there we had three air raids.

Two of them didn't amount to a thing, but the first one did a great deal of damage, and you would think by the noise, shouts and bustle that you were called for and couldn't come. But it didn't scare us in the least, as we very calmly grabbed the first thing we could find, and threw over our shoulders, then proceeded down to the cellar, as during these raids everybody goes in the cellar, as that seems to be the only shelter from the falling buildings, etc.

When all this was going on I thought I would be brave and not go down at first call, but put my head out of the window to see something, but the French night watchman walked in and caught me, and say, I never got such a raking over the coals in all my life. He seemed to think it was terrible.

I next proceeded to Tours and was stationed there about five weeks and a half, and then went to St. Nazaire and stayed there a few days, until we were finally stationed here in Brest, and as far as I can now see we are going to stay here for the duration of the war, but you just bet we have plenty of excitement.

We are having some great times, and the other day I was in, “The Chateau” where in olden times princesses and queens were imprisoned and hung; also where knights were put to death, and everything is the same as of old. Around here is where all the wickedness took place, and of all the romantic places it is most wonderful.

Would write more, but will next time, as I have some reports to make out.

SUPR. SARAH A. FECTEAU. Telephone Unit, Signal Corps.

Copperplate Printing Comes to Quechee

By Scott Fletcher



Ebenezer Hutchinson was born in 1787 in Lyndeborough, NH. His father and uncle were both Congregational ministers as was his brother William. In the American Revolution, Ebenezer helped defend the coast of Maine as a captain in the Farmington militia. After the war, he produced pottery with his brothers.

Ebenezer married Elizabeth Carter in 1812 and they moved to Vermont in 1815. Their first son, William, was born in Barnard, VT in 1817. Around that time, Ebenezer opened a pottery factory in Quechee village where he and his brother William advertised, “a large assortment of brown earthen-ware, including ceramic sap pots.” None of these pots are known to have survived.

But Ebenezer Hutchinson was also interested in printing and, in about 1818, he hired a copperplate engraver named Moody Morse Peabody. Peabody, a former watchmaker, had recently engraved a copperplate map of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, which Hutchinson printed in January 1819. Hutchinson also printed and sold masonic aprons and diplomas engraved by Peabody.

By 1820, Ebenezer’s brothers Benjamin and Daniel Hutchinson had taken over the pottery operation while Ebenezer advertised his services in copperplate engraving and printing. Furthermore, he purchased the right to publish and sell a new map of Vermont by James Whitelaw who was Vermont’s Surveyor General for seventeen years starting in 1787, and who published a highly regarded map of Vermont in 1796.

Together, Hutchinson and Whitelaw solicited updates to the details of the early map from the select boards of every town in Vermont. Then they embellished the map with a drawing of Montpelier and a table noting the population of each Vermont county in 1820. Finally, the map was engraved on copperplates. This may have been done by Moody

Revolutionary War veteran Ebenezer Hutchinson moved from Barnard to Quechee around 1817 to make pottery with his brother William. The words E.W. Hutchinson Pottery Factory appear on this hand-colored map of Vermont by James Whitelaw that Hutchinson printed in 1821. The Vermont Legislature eventually voted to give Hutchinson two hundred dollars for printing this “beautiful and useful” map.

Peabody although one source says Hutchinson, "bought the plates and copyright to Whitelaw's maps." The map went to press in 1821, the year in which Ebenezer and Elizabeth had their second son, Edwin.

The Hutchinson and Whitelaw maps of Vermont were enthusiastically received, and ringing endorsements were offered by the governors of Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire. The Vermont Legislature initially declined to help subsidize the printing of the map opting, instead, to purchase five copies for the use of the Governor, Council, and House of Representatives.

Ebenezer Hutchinson advertised his map for sale throughout the state at prices from three to six dollars a copy, depending on finishing, but sales lagged. Hutchinson supplemented his income selling almanacs, hair combs, silver-plated window springs, oil pressed from pumpkin seeds, and pyroligneous acid for curing hams. Under pressure from creditors, however, he was forced to liquidate his holdings in 1823 and his factory in Quechee was acquired by Abel Barron and Shubael Russ.

In 1822, engraver Moody Peabody published an ad in a Woodstock paper asking his customers to settle their accounts and, in 1823, he advertised copperplate engraving in Reading, VT. By 1832, he had moved to Utica, NY where he was arrested for counterfeiting and forced to destroy his printing plates and currency. He was arrested for counterfeiting a second time in 1840, prompting him to move to Canada where he was advertising his engraving services in 1843. Peabody was arrested a third time in 1859 for, "obtaining goods under false pretenses." He died in Wilton, Ontario in 1866.

Elizabeth Hutchinson died in 1824 and was buried in the Quechee cemetery. That same year, Hutchinson

Auction.

To be sold at public auction, at the house of Ebenezer Hutchinson, in Queechee Village, on Saturday, the 4th day of October next, a great variety of articles, among which are the following :

3 Horses,
2 Chaises, with Harness,
4 Waggon, s,
3 Sleighs,
2 new half plate Harnesses,
4 plain do.
6 Saddles,
Quantity of Bridles,
Writing Paper by the ream.
Wrapping Paper do.
Blank Books,
Patent Balances for weighing from 3 to 1200,
Sets Measures,
Patent Window Springs. (large lot)
Pails and other Cooper's Ware,
Brown Ware, sold in small lots,
Quantity of Hops,
Small lot Iron Ware,
3 Watches,
3 Bureaus,
6 Tables,
2 high-post Bedsteads,
4 common do.
Light and Wash Stands,
Sets Dining Chairs,
100 tanned Sheepskins,
Leather of various kinds,
Boots and Shoes,
Maps of New-York and some other States,
Large quantity of School and Miscellaneous Books. with a great variety of small articles, too numerous to mention.
Sale at 12 o'clock precisely
☞ The owner of the above property hopes there will be a general attendance of those who wish to purchase. as it is intended to make actual sales of every article to keep him from prison.
EBENEZER HUTCHINSON.
Queechee Village, Sept. 22. 1823

advertised his map throughout the state and directed customers to send their payment to Montpelier with their state representative. In October 1824, he distributed maps for legislators to deliver to their constituents. He also printed a second edition of the map.

Hutchinson left Quechee in 1825, opened an office in Woodstock, and continued to offer copperplate printing and engraving services while still advertising his map around the state. The following year, the Vermont Legislature finally approved a bill paying him \$200, "as a remuneration for the expenses incurred by him in publishing a useful and elegant map of this state." (*Vermont Republican and Journal.*) He was still living in Woodstock in 1827 when he married Betsey Watson.

In 1829, Ebenezer Hutchinson published a revised version of Whitelaw's 1813 map of the United States and Canada. In 1830, he published a map of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey engraved by John G. Darby. In 1838, he published a revised version of his 1821 map of Vermont by James Whitelaw, followed by a final version of that map in 1851.

By 1833, Hutchinson was living in Barnard, VT where he and Betsey had a son, Clinton Carter Hutchinson. Ebenezer Hutchinson

died in 1855 and his simple obituary in the *North Star* newspaper read, "At West Randolph, Oct. 8, of consumption, Capt. Ebenezer Hutchinson, Publisher of Maps, aged 67 years." Ebenezer and Betsey rest in the Quechee cemetery near his first wife Elizabeth.

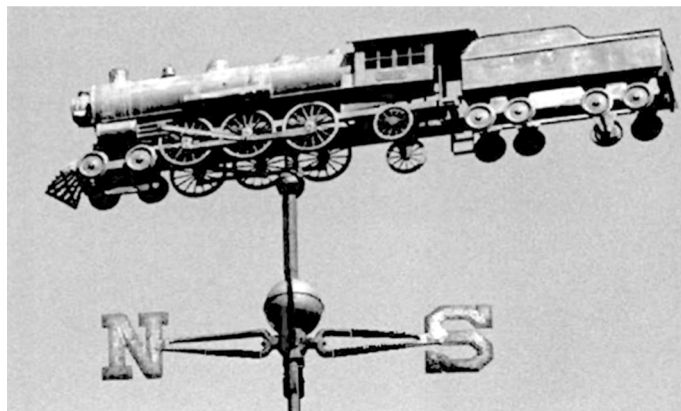
The threat of debtor's prison prompted Ebenezer Hutchinson to auction his considerable property in Queechee Village in 1823. Two years later, he lived in Woodstock and continued to advertise copperplate printing services.

"Weathervane" continued from page 5.

stolen. There was an apparent match, and closer examination of the surface of the weathervane in the auction showed that it was identical to the patination of the one reported stolen in White River Junction.

Sotheby's removed the weathervane from its auction while Art Loss Register contacted the Vermont Agency of Transportation, which now operates the White River Junction train station. It was decided to return the weathervane to Vermont where it arrived on May 7, 2024 and is now in the care of VTrans in Barre, VT.

"It should really be displayed by the Hartford Historical Society," says Byron Hathorn. "But I know there are space constraints there, so maybe the state could put it on a semi-permanent loan to Hartford. If we don't have the wherewithal to present it properly, maybe it can be brought down for special events. I hope it isn't put in the Vermont Historical Museum in Barre because it would just be lost in the collection. The weathervane belongs to White River Junction, not Vermont." The Hartford Historical Society has contacted the Vermont Department of Transportation to be part of the discussion as the future of the town's weathervane is decided.



Sotheby's has all of its auction pieces examined by the Art Loss Register, which maintains a database of stolen artwork. The locomotive weathervane in a sale at Sotheby's matched one in the database and ALR determined from the patination of the copper surface that it was the one stolen in White River Junction. Hartford resident Byron Hathorn purchased the White River Junction depot from the Boston & Maine and Central Vermont railroads in 1995 and had a reproduction of the original weathervane made.

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Hartford Historical Society

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THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society

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Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547*

THANK YOU!

Yesterday's News

Couldn't Hurt *Spirit of the Age*, December 12, 1872

We hope that John Cone will derive benefit from that "personal" in the *Quechee Times*. "Go for him," girls.

Frogs as Wasp Eaters *The Landmark*, June 12, 1919

The common green frog has been discovered to possess an insatiate greed for wasps. This extraordinary appetite does not seem to be in the least checked by an occasional sting. The protecting color of the frog, which sits motionless upon leaves, no doubt deludes the most wary of insects into a sense of security.

Found *Vermont Journal*, November 6, 1820

In the barn of the subscriber, the third instant, an officer's UNIFORM COAT. The owner is desired to prove property, pay charges, and take it away. Aaron Harrington

Lighting Up White River Junction *The Landmark*, December 13, 1895

The Electric Light Co. is stringing wires and placing lamps for the street service. There will be 42 lights.

Stranger Than Fiction *The Landmark*, May 12, 1883

The drug store was burglarized Friday night, the thief entering by the cellar window which he broke out for the purpose; he then went up the cellar stairs, broke open the money drawer, took what change there was some \$15.00, took a nice pipe, a cigar holder and a few trinkets and left by the window again. The thief proves to be Parker, the night porter of the Junction House, who during the day of entering asked one Southgate, employed at the Junction barns, if he did not wish to join him in the intended enterprise, but as Southgate did not wish to enlist he concluded to go it alone, which he proceeded to do. Southgate saw him go in and come out. Saturday forenoon he went away, was at Pease's hotel during the afternoon, and showed some of his trinkets as we learn. Saturday night he left and now where is he? The whole thing to us looks very strange yes, very strange.

Come and Get Her *The Landmark*, May 12, 1883

Major Russ is rid of the devil at last. He sold her to butcher Smith last Monday morning, but was cunning enough to let the purchaser come after his property; it was a four years-old heifer. It took two men all the time and three a part of the time to manage her, and then she was not half managed. We saw it all done. Smith's customers, most of them, have had a piece of Satan the past week—not the first time either.

A Grand Organization *The Landmark*, May 12, 1883

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has paid during the last fifteen years insurance benefits amounting to \$1,362,441.80 an average of \$2,620.08 on each claim, at a cost per member of \$33.33 per year. The Brotherhood pays for the loss of a hand, arm, limb or eyesight, the same amount as for death.

Welcome Back! *The Landmark*, April 14, 1888

John Starr has moved from his farm in Hartford and come back to the Junction. As he never troubles anybody he is welcome.

Bon Appetit *The Landmark*, September 8, 1883

Four hundred of the veterans who attended the reunion, took supper with C.W. Pease without expense to themselves.

Hartford Historical Society

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HHS Calendar

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM will be open Friday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in June, July, August, and September, or by appointment. Please call 802/296-3132 or email us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.org. Phones/email are checked twice a week.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS are open to the public on the second Monday of the month at the Garipay House at 6 p.m. (Please check for exact date.)

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 - “Hotel Coolidge’s History, Present Status, and a Vision for the Future,” Presented by David Briggs. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Free and accessible.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - “How Electric Power Revolutionized Life in the Upper Valley,” Presented by Steve Taylor. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Free and accessible.

The **Genealogy Center** on the second floor of the Hartford Library is open Fridays from 2-6 p.m. and by appointment. Please call Carole Haehnel at 802/295-3974 or email her at: chaehnel151@comcast.net. Interested in helping residents explore their family histories? Please contact us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com.

Websites

Hartford Historical Society: <http://www.hartfordvthistory.com/>

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