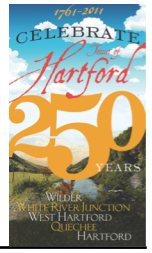




Hartford Historical Society

The Garipay House • 1461 Maple Street
Hartford Village, Vermont 05047

HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD • WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER



Volume 38, No. 3

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July-August 2025



The Three Sisters are Growing Strong in Hartford

By Scott Fletcher

Hartford resident Earl Hatley and a small group of volunteers are creating a traditional Native American garden at the edge of the polo field in Quechee. Last year, the Quechee Lakes Association gave Earl permission to use the property that adjoins a marsh on the south edge of the field. In the spring of 2024, he enclosed the area with a fence and planted the first crop with an emphasis on corn, beans, and squash, which are known in Native American culture as the “Three Sisters.” Earl calls the space, “Three Sisters Garden.”

With help from volunteers, the garden produced what Earl calls, “an amazing abundant harvest. The first harvest filled up my pickup bed to the top,” he says. “We had two hundred and twenty-five squashes, plus eighty ears of corn and about ten to fifteen pounds of beans.”

Three Sisters Garden is laid out in four rows that run from east to west to provide even exposure to the sun through the day. Rows are three feet wide, and there is nine feet between the rows. The rows are topped with

mounds that are formed with soil and compost without turning the ground underneath.

“We plant seven corn seeds around the top of each mound,” Earl says. Seeds are first oriented toward the east, west, north and south. Then, three more corn seeds are planted. “Seven is a sacred number for us,” he says. “We believe there are actually seven directions; the four cardinal directions and then up to the sky, down to the earth, and within our hearts. So we plant seven corn seeds.”

Earl plants corn according to the weather and the lunar cycle. Night time temperatures need to be consistently above 40 degrees for most plants in the garden, he says. Fifty degrees is better for corn. Once this occurs, usually around Memorial Day, he watches

Earl Hatley, second from left, with volunteers during the first growing season at Three Sisters Garden in Quechee. The garden produced a large harvest of corn, squash and beans for Abenaki families in Hartford and other parts of Vermont.

Continued on page 6.

From the Editor . . .

Hartford resident Earl Hatley is the driving force behind Three Sisters Garden in Quechee, which we visit this month. Earl was born and raised on the Cherokee Reservation in Oklahoma and later moved to Vermont where he became an enrolled member of the Missisquoi band of the Abenaki people. When he first visited Quechee Gorge, Earl had a vision of Abenaki dancing in this traditional homeland, and he imagined them dancing there again. We look at how Earl's vision is taking shape.

As our country celebrates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, we share an incident involving Daniel Webster and a veteran of the battle of Bunker Hill that happened at the fiftieth anniversary of the battle in 1825. We also report on how our June speaker, Israel Provoncha, brought the art of Revolutionary War reenacting to life.

Vermont was the first state to outlaw slavery, but it has not been immune to racism, sexism, and intemperance. When "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was first

published in book form in 1852, it helped sharpen the debate over slavery that led to the Civil War. It also addressed other social issues at the time. After the war, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" came to life on stages across the country. This issue, we show how the play was received when it came to the Village Hall in Hartford, VT in 1886.

February 12, 1809 is the birth date of both Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin. That same year, Hosea Doton was born in Pomfret, VT and, in 1840, he began keeping a diary that provides a window on life in Pomfret and Woodstock until his death in 1886. Hosea was a farmer, teacher, surveyor, legislator and engineer. His diary describes all of these activities, providing a discerning look at things that have changed and things that haven't. The diaries have now been transcribed and can be found on our website.

You will also find a membership form on our website, and we invite you to join us in exploring local history.

Scott Fletcher, Editor

Auto Accidents in Vermont

Vermont Standard, February 22, 1920

The motor vehicle accident statistics for 1919 are interesting, showing 20 persons killed in Vermont during the year from automobile carelessness. The total number of accidents reported since July 1 was 1126, and of this number 951 have been serious enough to warrant classification. The classification according to the nature of the accident is as follows:

- Automobile vs. team, 11
- Automobile vs. trolley car, 13
- Automobile vs. bicycle, 13
- Automobile vs. motorcycle, 14
- Automobile vs. cow, horse, dog, 55
- Automobile vs. pedestrian, 75
- Automobile Vs. wagon, 129
- Automobile vs. pole, curb, etc., 196
- Automobile vs. automobile, 445

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

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordvthistory.com>

info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

802-296-3132

Board Members and Officers

Judy Barwood—Director & Chair	802-295-2435
Carole Haehnel—Board Member	802-295-3974
Rich Landry—Board Member	802-356-9664
Denise McCabe—Board Member	802-356-5483
Peggy McDerment—Board Member, Treasurer	802-295-2357
Stephen Mead—Board Member	603-252-6692
Linda Miller—Board Member, Secretary	802-299-8657
Phil Sargent—Board Member	603-252-3794
Pat Stark—Board Member	802-280-2221

Program Director	Mary Nadeau	802-295-2123
Assistant Archivist	Pat Rondeau	603-675-6612
Newsletter & Web	Scott Fletcher	310-730-5051
Facebook Admin	Jim Kenison	603-540-4591
Long Range Planning	Judy Barwood	802-295-2435
Lawn/Snow Plow	Frank Weigel	
GenCenter Director	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974

Hartford Teacher Dedicated to Historical Reenacting

By Mary Nadeau

At our June program, Hartford High School history teacher, Izzy Provoncha gave a lively presentation about his twenty-nine years of historical reenacting. Izzy brought an extensive display of authentic period uniforms that he has personally hand-sewn. Reenactments are his passion, and he likens the experience as a “drug.” Over the years, he has participated in events recalling the Civil War, The American Revolution, the War of 1812, our Civil War and the two World Wars.

He noted that historical reenacting has gone on “forever,” citing Roman Emperor Titus’ flooding of the Coliseum to stage a mock naval battle. In more modern times, Buffalo Bill reenacted the Battle of the Little Bighorn, involving Native Americans as participants. Other popular activities have centered around the centennial of the Civil War (perhaps the most popular reenacting experience), and currently there is a huge interest in the Semiquincentennial of the Revolutionary War.

Referred to colloquially by reenactors as “The Hobby,” people are attracted for various reasons, including a love of history, to connect with their ancestors, for the educational experience, through a strong connection to historical sites, borne of a desire to revisit historical times, to acquire and maintain a social network and from a sense of guardianship for the stories of America’s past. Izzy described several levels of reenacting:

Basic – “Farb,” the cheapest level, where, in his words, “You look like crap.” The costumes are not authentic, and participants ignore the fact that beards were not worn during the Eighteenth Century.

Mainstream - Groups that have been around for a long time and do it pretty well. They usually have acquired authentic costumes and artifacts over time.

Progressives – They are concerned about being as authentic and accurate as possible and are very



*Izzy Provoncha as a Lieutenant
of the 27th Regiment of Foot,
Light Infantry.*

interested in the educational aspect of reenacting. There are often generations of participants in this group. Originally, there were no safety standards, but that has changed over time. Many children of World War II veterans (including women) felt connected to the war and inherited a sense of pride in that generation’s accomplishments.

To this group, accurate historical interpretation is paramount. Izzy cited among the false ideas steeped in historical tradition those centering around the famous Boston Tea Party. Most Americans think that the Bostonians who participated in dumping British tea into the harbor were dressed like Native Americans, resplendent in the feather headdresses worn by tribes in the Midwest! Actually, all they did was smear their faces to darken them. So, myth busting is paramount, and information is

gleaned from sources of the period, turning to what was said and written at the time.

Workshops are held by Progressive groups with experts to teach how to hand sew uniforms. Some have gone as far as to recreate the actual fabrics used during the period. Event standards are high, and no beards, calico or plaid shirts are allowed. Increasingly, women are taking a more active role in The Hobby and enjoy engaging in research.

During the Q&A, we learned that the British used red for their uniforms because it was the cheapest dye available during that period. We were also told that clothing during the Eighteenth Century was tight fitting and clung to the body. During some reenactments, historical figures are sometimes portrayed, especially if there is a physical resemblance. Historical sites have levels of authenticity as well, with Colonial Williamsburg and Fort Ticonderoga receiving high marks.

The audience had the opportunity to examine Izzy’s articles of clothing, to appreciate his expert sewing skills and to try on historically accurate headwear.

Uncle Tom's Cabin Comes to Hartford, VT

From The Landmark, November 26, 1886

An inclement night greeted the patrons of the "Guy Family" entertainment at Village Hall on Tuesday evening, yet the attendance was good for all that, the excellent reputation of the Family for giving fine entertainments being the magnet that drew the audience together. We have seen the troupe many times, but never when the members played so well as on this occasion. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was on the bill and was presented very effectively."

"Uncle Tom's Cabin," was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1851 and is thought to have been partly inspired by the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law by the U.S. Congress in 1850. The story was first published in serialized form in an anti-slavery newspaper and was instantly popular. When it appeared in book form on March 20, 1852, the first three thousand copies sold the same day.

The book was intended to show the evils of slavery, and how it could be overcome by Christian love. Uncle Tom, a long-suffering black slave, gave the abolitionist movement a name and face, and sharpened America's debate about slavery prior to the Civil War. A story circulated that President Abraham Lincoln met the author at the beginning of the Civil War and said, "So this is the little lady who started this great war."

An early version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was performed by a circus in Cornish, NH in 1853. In 1882, the play was performed for a small crowd on an inclement evening in Windsor, VT.

In 1882 and again in 1886, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was performed to enthusiastic crowds in Hartford. In 1883, the play was performed in Springfield, VT by a company that included African American players.

Audiences jeered as Simon Legree beat Uncle Tom, and cheered as Eliza and her husband George escaped to Canada. Along the way, they absorbed messages about a variety of social issues including racism, sexism, and intemperance.

Although the depictions of women in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" are sometimes seen as clichés rather than realistic portrayals, the book affirmed the importance of women in the family and society and thus advanced the women's rights movement. Although Harriet Beecher Stowe's sentimental style of writing was often criticized, writer Jane Tompkins praised the book for its, "intellectual complexity, ambition, and resourcefulness."

On September 27, 1895, the play drew a, "good-sized audience," to the Gates Opera House. *The Landmark* reported that, "The work of the leading characters was fairly well done, and the colored quartette sang very nicely."

GUY FAMILY
—AT—
Village Hall
W. R. JUNCTION, VT.,
Tuesday Eve., Nov. 23, 1886.
With the ever popular drama entitled
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN
with one of their own pleasing and original SPECIALTIES between each act, combining two entertainments in one.
The
Guy Family
is an old and reliable company, this being their
FOURTEENTH SEASON
before the public. They have a circuit of 1420 towns, and have never yet failed to give satisfaction.
Popular Prices.
Reduction for children under 12 years of age. Doors open at 7, Band Concert at 7:30. Performance to commence at 8. Military Band Parade at noon. Don't forget the date,
NOVEMBER 23.

New Hotel Coolidge to Open in White River Junction

The Vermont Standard, July 23, 1925

That famous hostelry known as the Junction House was totally destroyed by fire on the evening of January 21, 1925, and 12 weeks after, its nationally known landlord, the genial N.P. Wheeler, framed in the lobby a \$2 bill with this inscription: "This bill first money collected as room rental in the new Hotel Coolidge April 22nd, 1925, received from E.C. Belanger representing Kent Bros. of Boston, Mass."

Rising Phoenix-like from the ashes of the old hostelry is the new hotel which, when completed, will have 109 rooms or 61 rooms less than the old house of which only the tall chimney is still standing. Named for his personal friend, President Coolidge, it is eminently fitting that over the office registration desk there is large photograph of the first citizen of the United States and underneath in his own legible handwriting are these words: "To N.P. Wheeler with regards. Calvin Coolidge."

Starting on the old site immediately after the big fire, Mr. Wheeler first built a two-story structure 141 feet long and now thirty-five men are rushing to completion this summer an extension on the north that is 234 feet long. It is a securely built wooden building, but faced with gray stucco of an attractive shade and regarded by experts as near fire proof as modern construction can make it. Twenty-four rooms will be ready for occupancy in the extension on August 1, and twenty more will be finished before the end of next month. The general arrangement of the main part of the hotel is quite similar to the old except that great improvements have been made in every room.

One finds the same large lobby with its comfortable chairs and writing desks, with the billiard room at the north end and opening out from the lobby on the South Main street side the news stand and a large barber shop. The large dining room at the right of the office is almost ready for occupancy and is one of the handsomest in New England. With an entrance on South Main Street, and at the right as one enters the main dining room, is a cafeteria where the food will be cooked in an electric range. All these rooms are finished in cypress and the wood is stained to bring out the grain most artistically. In the rear is the large kitchen equipped with the latest contrivances of the culinary art, a pastry room, dining room for the help and a storeroom with a capacious refrigerator that can be loaded right from the back street. All the floors are

of hardwood with a fire wall in the rear and a tar and gravel roof second floor.

Eventually, Mr. Wheeler will add another story to correspond with the three-story extension on the north side. The second floor of the main building has in the rear fourteen rooms for the help. West of these are thirteen rooms for transient guests. Over the office are seventeen more rooms, many of them facing the union station and protected from the sun's rays by awnings. Some of the rooms are in suites, some with baths, while all the others have hot and cold water. Besides the electric lights there are additional electric connections for the women that still curl instead of bobbing their hair or for any other purpose. All the rooms have hardwood floors with rugs in the center and iron beds with springs that might well have been made by that legendary character Sancho Panza, "who first invented sleep."

Hard pine is used for the finish in the sleeping rooms. The large vacant stores on the north side on the first floor of the extension have already been rented to the American Railway Express company, the Marshall Music company, and the Grafton Electric Light company. Mr. Wheeler started in the village in grocery business and later was in the livery business, but for nearly 30 years he has been in the hotel business and if there is a better known or more successful boniface in this part of the world one has yet to find him. May he live as long as he wants to meet and greet his friends, who are legion.



N.P. Wheeler filled the Hotel Coolidge with modern features after the fire in 1925.

the moon. "We plant in the waxing moon, meaning a new moon has just passed," he explains. "Once you have good night time temperatures and the moon is starting to wax, now you can plant corn."

On the next waxing moon, Earl plants four beans in the center of each mound representing the four cardinal directions. "Around the outer edge of each mound," he says, "we plant squash seeds in each of the four directions. So that's seven, four, and four. Those are sacred numbers for us - the four and the seven. The garden is 49 by 49 feet, which is a multiple of seven."

Then, Earl places a tripod over each mound to support the new plants. "I use limbs that I cut in the forest," he says. "I put them in a tripod, tie them at the top, and train the beans to climb up the poles away from the corn so they don't choke the corn and pull it down, because they will."

"Beans provide nitrogen to the mound, which benefits corn and squash," Earl says. By August, the squash plants cover the space between the rows. "You don't have to weed because the squash leaves will be there. The other thing is that planting the three sisters together in the same mound creates a chemical synergy that prevents a lot of predators."

"Every tribe has a story about the three sisters and how they came to us," says Earl. "A lot of these stories are real elaborate, but the point was that the three sisters had to be planted together because they were buried together, and what came out of their graves was corn, beans and squash -- one from each sister. Tribes all over North America are planting the three sisters this way."

"We don't normally plant corn in rows like this," Earl says. "It's better to scatter the mounds because deer can't walk through easily. They just kind of walk away because it's too complicated. But we plant in rows to make it convenient for volunteers."

While growing up, Earl learned to plant mounds in a spiral. "We put one mound in the center and then start spiraling out further and further so that we can walk through the middle as we need to. A spiral, again, makes it unfavorable for deer to roam in."

"My father was Shawnee and Cherokee," Earl says,



The gate at Three Sisters Garden is always open for visitors to experience Abenaki agriculture. Above, the 2024 harvest was distributed to Abenaki families around Vermont.

"and he was a farmer. His experience was not only gardening but tending native fruit trees and fruits and nuts. He had a great green thumb. So I learned from him. I spent most my life on the Cherokee reservation in Oklahoma."

Around 1973, Earl was married, had a small child, and was building a home and garden on the Cherokee reservation. "We lived in a tent for sixteen months while I worked on the cabin," he says, "and the news people came out to see us homesteading. Because our story got into the paper, one day a man drove up, a Cherokee man in his fifties and, since I was so young, I saw him as an elder."

"He got out, introduced himself, and opened up this trunk that was just packed with seed trays of everything imaginable that is indigenous to the



*Seven corn seeds, four squash seeds, and four beans are planted on each mound.
Beans climb the tripods while corn ripens underneath.*

Cherokee and our homeland. He had spent his life going around the southeast gathering up these seeds, acclimating them on his farm, and then he was on a mission to find other Cherokee growers he could give the seeds away to.

“Every year, he would show up and give us more seeds, and he was also giving seeds to growers all around the fourteen counties of the Cherokee Nation. By 1990, his seed project had gotten so large that the Cherokee Nation picked it up and they built greenhouses and gardens at the tribal complex in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

“Now, every Cherokee gardener that wants starts or seeds can go to this garden and get what they want, with the concept that they give back at end of the year so that the nation can have this available for all tribal citizens. Other tribes have picked up on this, and now thirty-nine tribes in Oklahoma are growing traditional gardens and giving seeds away to gardeners.”

Along the enclosure of the garden to the north, Earl plants gourds, sunflowers, and ground cherries – all of which are traditional Abenaki foods and he can tie these plants to the fence if support is needed. Ground cherries are in the tomato family and resemble tomatillos. They are yellow-orange and sweet. “Abenakis have been growing them for ages,” he says.

To the east of the rows, is a young bed of sun

chokes, which are known as Jerusalem artichokes. Further east, Earl plans to grow a bed of sweet grass.

By the fence south of the rows, Earl has begun planting a riparian buffer, which is a collection of trees and shrubs that help manage runoff water from the garden, or flood water coming into the garden from the marsh beyond the fence. “A riparian buffer soaks up water, holds it, and filters it. It’s like a sponge,” Earl says.

“We have an edible riparian buffer, which is important to the Abenaki. We have elderberries and I just planted native wild plums that I found on the

banks of the Winooski River near Barre. They were growing in a riparian pattern with ground nuts growing up all around. So, I’ve planted ground nuts from there in our buffer. Ground nut plants look like sun chokes with yellow flowers,” he continues, “but, instead of artichokes, you have a round nut and they’re really good.”

“I’m going to keep planting plums and ground nuts along the fence, along with chestnuts and other things. We have a butternut tree and some elderberries are already putting on berries,” Earl says. “Everything in the buffer is edible, so we call it a food forest.”

“We have three white oaks. Mostly what you see in Vermont are red oaks, but white oaks are where the good acorns are. They have so much less tannin that you can eat some of them raw or you may have to boil them once. With red oaks, you have to boil them over and over and over so its edible and digestible. White oaks were incredibly important to the Abenaki.”

Toward the western edge of Three Sisters Garden, there is a fire circle that Earl plans to use for storytelling and seasonal ceremonies. Next to that is an area for drumming and dancing.

“Abenaki have ceremonies throughout the year,” Earl says. “We have a ceremony in June for planting, and then a ceremony to give thanks for the harvest.

Continued on page 10.

First Hartford, VT Resident Killed in Korean War

The Landmark, November 16, 1950

Cpl. Roger K. Adams, 20, of this town, who was listed as missing in action in August, was killed in Korea July 16, according to word received last week Wednesday from the government by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Adams. Cpl. Adams is the first White River casualty in the Korean war. He was born January 10, 1930.

After graduating from Hartford High school in 1948, he enlisted that summer in the Army. He was stationed at Fort Dix for a time and was one of several chosen to go to West Point, where he was a cadet instructor until April, 1950. In April, he volunteered to go overseas. On July 1, he wrote to his parents that he was leaving Japan for some unknown destination. That was the last time they heard from him.

His last visit home was in the spring. On August 25, Cpl. Adams' parents received word from the government that he was missing in action. No word had been received until last week. Besides his parents, he is survived by three brothers, Howard, a Hartford High school junior, Conrad of this place, and Leon of Lebanon, N.H. Also surviving is a grandfather, Robert Seaver of Quechee.

Hartford Group Launches Fundraising Campaign For Monument Honoring Veterans of the Korean, Vietnam and Post-1975 Eras

Building on the success of Hartford's first veterans' monument, a dedicated group of residents has launched a new fundraising campaign to create a second monument in Veterans Park on Railroad Row. This new installation will honor local veterans who served during the Korean, Vietnam and post-1975 eras.

The original monument, honoring WWI and WWII veterans, was unveiled on Memorial Day 2024 thanks to widespread community support. Since then, many Hartford residents have expressed a strong desire for a second monument to recognize later generations of veterans whose service has not yet been formally honored.

The new monument will match the original in design—constructed of granite with bronze plaques—and will be placed about 40 feet beyond the first. It will include the last remaining cast iron eagle from Hartford's original WWI memorial, generously donated by the Hartford Historical Society. A surrounding brick path will feature engraved honor bricks available for tribute to veterans or other special individuals.

The total project cost is just over \$70,000. With major support already secured from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation and pledges of donated

labor from local contractors, the committee now aims to raise the final \$30,000 needed to bring the project to completion.

The fundraising campaign runs through August 31, 2025. Community members can contribute in several ways:

- Mail a check made out to the Hartford Historical Society to:
Treasurer – Monument Committee
253 Lower Hyde Park
White River Junction, VT 05001
- Donate online at: <https://gofund.me/945d1171>
- Sponsor an Honor Brick in the monument walkway dedicated to a veteran or someone special.
<http://www.fundraisingbrick.com/hmp/>

Donations may be tax-deductible and go through the Hartford Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Every contribution supports the construction, installation, and ongoing care of the monument. For more information, contact the Hartford Monument Committee: ww1monument@gmail.com.

Together, we can ensure that all eras of service are recognized and remembered.

Daniel Webster Meets an Old Veteran at Bunker Hill



The Battle of Bunker Hill was fought two hundred and fifty years ago on June 17, 1775. British troops crossed the Charles River from Boston and landed on Bunker Hill and Breed's Hill about two o'clock in the afternoon. The battle lasted some three hours, and the roar of cannon was reportedly felt and heard in Hartford and neighboring towns.

At day's end, British troops occupied Bunker Hill but one thousand and fifty-four British regulars and officers had been killed or wounded, compared with four hundred and fifty colonial fighters. British General Henry Clinton wrote in his diary that, "A few more such victories would have shortly put an end to British dominion in America."

In June 1825, fifty years after the battle, Senator Daniel Webster delivered an address when the cornerstone was laid for a monument to commemorate colonial soldiers in the battle. The following account of this event is taken from an article by journalist Ben Perley Poore that appeared in *The Landmark* on December 25, 1887.

"There was a long procession, which had moved from the State House in Boston, each division of which had its allotted position on the hill around the platform from which the oration was delivered. The most interesting of these divisions was one composed of Revolutionary soldiers, headed by Gen. Lafayette, riding in open barouches.

Each had some time badge, some relic of the Revolution, which he wore on his person or displayed from the carriage. By one was borne a tattered color, by another a dilapidated drum; here was seen a cocked

hat, with its gilt mountings tarnished with age; there a knapsack or cartouch box, moth-eaten and crumbling to pieces; some were dressed in their ancient regimentals, and some clad only in homespun garments, similar to those they wore on the day of the battle. On their arrival on Bunker Hill the veterans left their carriages, and were escorted by the marshals to reserved seats directly in front of the platform. As Mr. Webster proceeded in his oration he addressed these Revolutionary heroes, saying: "Venerable men! you have come down to us from a former generation.

"You are now where you stood fifty years ago this very hour, with your brethren and your neighbors, shoulder to shoulder, in the strife for your country." "Ye-e-s! ye-e-s!" said one of them, a hoary-headed old man in his second childhood, who rose and began to narrate his personal reminiscences. "I remember all about it. It was this hour fifty years ago. I was fighting here. I stood as it might be there," pointing with his staff to a spot some rods off.

"I had paused," said Mr. Webster, "on being thus unexpectedly interrupted, and finding that the old man was disposed to be garrulous I suggested that he stop until I had told my story, when he could tell his. But the old hero had told his tale too often to listening ears to have it passed by then, and he went on."

"I stood right up there," he continued, "and it was there, right up there, that Warren fell." "Just then," Mr. Webster would go on to say, "the old soldier fell himself, or was pulled down on his seat by his companions, who kept him quiet. Then I went on without further interruption."

Then we have a ceremony for the hunting period, and one to welcome the quiet, winter inner period. In the spring, we celebrate the earth waking from winter.”

This is the second growing season at Three Sisters Garden and, like last year, the harvest will be distributed to Abenaki families in Vermont including a number of families in Hartford. The rest of the food is divided between the Koasek band of Abenakis in Thetford, and the Missisquoi band in Swanton.

“The Missisquoi, my band, feed hundreds of Abenaki families and the Koaseks have a couple hundred as well. They give it away really quick,” says Earl.

“We got our corn seed from Homer St. Francis, former chief of the Missisquoi band,” says Earl. “The ears are solid yellow and solid red. It doesn’t matter which one you plant, you’re going to get two-thirds yellow and one-third red. I planted nothing but red in my garden at home and still got two-thirds yellow and one third red. It’s beautiful corn.”

Abenaki corn is traditionally planted and tended by women. “When the corn tassels are producing pollen,” Earl explains, “the women capture the pollen and

sprinkle it on the silk of each ear. The ears are full if you pollinate right. At home, I collect the pollen in a wide mouth jar and then brush it on the silks.”

When Earl moved to Vermont, he discovered that seeds were not readily available to Abenaki people, many of whom had lost their land and had no way to grow food. “They were in a crisis, and that was where I got the idea to do this garden. I want to help feed Abenaki families and raise these seeds to a point where I can give them away.”

Earl also hopes to build pathways in Three Sisters Garden and post signs in both Abenaki and English. “I would like to build a wigwam,” he says, “a typical Abenaki dwelling covered with bark. I want the garden to be a cultural experience.”

In a video on the Three Sisters Garden website, Earl explains that Ottaquechee is the Abenaki name for the nearby gorge, “where the land falls.” He says that Abenaki people lived on or near the garden site as long as six to nine thousand years ago, and Three Sisters Garden is dedicated to their memory. “It’s a wonderful, beautiful and spiritual thing we’re doing here,” he says.

Thank You HHS Supporters!

PATRONS

Ken Parker

Becca White

Schaal Electric

Meeting House Restoration

Rockwood Land Services, LLC

Dorothy & Schuyler Borst

Heather Craig & Brian Chaboyer

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Aurora Day Care

C&G Creative Catering

Ennis Construction

Heart to Home LLC

Sabil & Sons Inc.

Studio Nexus

Bailey/Howe Library at UVM

Cloverleaf Jewelers & Gifts

Please contact us to learn about promoting your business by supporting the Hartford Historical Society.

Hartford Historical Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Regular - \$25 [individual & family] | <input type="radio"/> Non-Profit - \$30 |
| <input type="radio"/> Senior - \$20 [individual & family all over age 55] | <input type="radio"/> Business - \$50 |
| <input type="radio"/> Life - \$250 [any individual over age 60] | <input type="radio"/> Patron - \$100 |

Name: _____ Additional Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Comments: _____

The Hartford Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to:
Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Contact Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Corporate/Business: \$50 _____ Patron: \$100 _____ Benefactor: \$250 _____ Other: _____

Special Opportunities for Higher Levels of Support

Silver Sponsor: \$500 _____ Gold Sponsor: \$1000 _____ Platinum Sponsor: \$2500 _____

The Hartford Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to:
Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

THANK YOU!

Yesterday's News

Hot from the Oven, *The Lebanonian*, December, 1897

A bite into a Hanover Cracker is a delicious revelation of what a cracker can be — by the use of the purest materials, and by packing the crackers hot from the oven into pasteboard cartons, so as to keep them fresh and sweet, and prevent them from being handled or accumulating dust and dirt.

Nice Bloomers! *The Landmark*, September 30, 1882

Mrs. A.B. French had a fine display of night blooming cereus on Monday night and many of the citizens took occasion to admire its matchless beauty.

Back From the Brink, *The Landmark*, July 30, 1887

Den Sullivan is almost forty-six years old, and never until last week had to pay a doctor a cent for himself. But last week he was so sick that he thought he was "kilt."

Lit Wits, *The Landmark*, November 10, 1888

The fourth meeting of the Quechee literary society was held at Chas. Cowen's on Tuesday evening and was well attended. The next meeting will be held at Dea. Cady's and the program includes selections from Hawthorn, twenty questions upon California, thirty common words liable to be mispronounced, the question box, etc..

Pay as You Go, *The Landmark*, August 4, 1888

When you come to the circus Tuesday, Aug. 7, it will be a good time to pay for *The Landmark* and also for advertising. See that you do it.

Thank You Mrs. H., *The Landmark*, August 4, 1888

Mrs. Hamilton is repairing the office so long occupied by Col. Pingree. What a nice place it would be for our village library and a reading room.

Play it Again Sam, *The Landmark*, August, 1888

A new piano was put into the Junction House Wednesday, which makes three now there. This is worse than a hard attack of delirium tremens.

Gone to Deer Park, *The Landmark*, June 5, 1886

That notable event, the marriage of President Cleveland, took place Wednesday night. The affair was quiet and homelike, in accordance with the President's wishes. The couple went to Deer Park, MD, for the honeymoon.

He that Hath Ears ... *The Landmark*, September 30, 1882

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." We have two stalks of corn sent us by S.C. Field of Hanover, each of which measures fifteen feet and four inches, and both weigh ten and three-fourths pounds. This is what we call "Field corn," it is none of your pampered land forced garden stuff. We had to take away one or two partitions to get it into the office. Hereafter, *The Landmark* does not wish to be insulted by having stalks sent us that are less than twenty feet. We won't tolerate them on our premises.

Practice Makes Perfect, *The Lebanonian*, February, 1898

Dr. Phineas Parkhurst, who was not an educated man, was invited to a meeting of a medical society. Various subjects were discussed and he was invited to take part; he said, "Gentlemen, I can't talk but, by Judas, I can practice with the best of you."

Hair Today ... *The Landmark*, April 24, 1886

"Lon" Gove, the tonsorial artist at this place, has gone to Littleton where he is to flourish the razor.

Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547

Hartford, VT 05047-0547

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 15
HARTFORD, VT



*Full color printing of this issue
sponsored by the
Filling Station Bar & Grill.*

HHS Calendar

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM will be open Friday mornings, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in 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 Tuesday of the month at the Garipay House at 10:00 a.m. (Please check for exact date.)

August, 30, 2025 - Abenaki Garden Open House, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. See and learn about centuries-old agricultural practices still in use, and foods that have become a part of the Greater New England culture. Quechee Polo Field.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - "Upper Valley? Where the term came from," 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 3-6 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.

Website

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

HHS Membership Form: <https://hartfordvthistory.com/contact/membership/>

Hartford VT Historical Society Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hartfordvthistory>