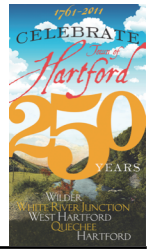




Hartford Historical Society

The Garipay House • 1461 Maple Street
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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November-December 2025

How the Upper Valley Got its Name

From a talk to the Hartford Historical Society by Steve Taylor

How did the Upper Valley get its name? Well, it's very simple. The name came because of a newspaper war and that's what I want to talk about.

First, we need to start with a little history. In 1946, the Manchester newspapers, the Union and the Leader, came up for sale. They were owned at the time by the widow of Frank Knox. He was quite an operator and he owned quite a few newspapers and one of these just happened to be in Manchester. He was a Republican but he served Franklin Delano Roosevelt as Secretary of the Navy in World War II.

After he died, his widow didn't want to fool around with newspapers so she put them all up for sale. One of the bids that came in quick was from the Ridder family. They later became Knight-Ridder, the Miami Herald, and Jose Mercury News and a whole bunch of others. But Mrs. Knox didn't like German people so she wouldn't sell to the Ridders and the papers stayed on the market. Then, along came a man named John McLane Clark. He was from the McLane dynasty in New Hampshire. There have been governors and businessmen and bankers and all kinds of things.

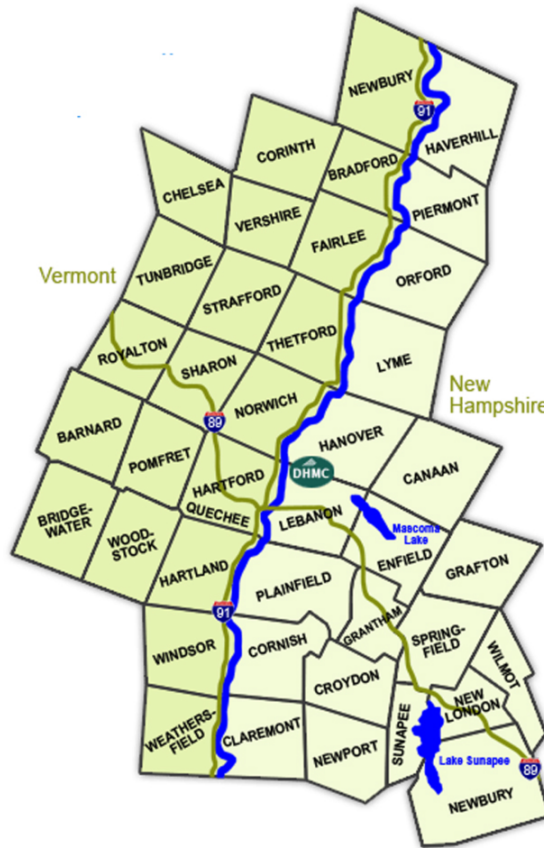
But John McLane Clark's mother married into this family, so he's working at the Washington Post as an editorial writer and he hears about the Manchester

papers coming up for sale, so he put together a bid and he seems to have the inside track until a guy named William Loeb came in with a higher bid, and Mrs.

Knox said, well they will go to Mr. Loeb.

John McLane Clark missed out and he was totally disappointed because he had his heart set on doing it. Well, he heard there was a newspaper coming up for sale in Claremont in that Connecticut Valley area. So he negotiated a deal and bought that paper in 1947. Well, he had a lot of talent and he had money behind him and he proceeded to make this little paper, the Claremont Daily Eagle, into a hell of a regional newspaper. He brought in good people and good writing and good photography.

The paper became known as a top regional newspaper and the region that he covered, the Eagle's franchise really, was from Orford, Bradford and Fairlee down to Bellows Falls and Charlestown. It was a going operation. He attracted some really great talent and built a great newspaper. But, in November 1950, there was a freshet and the Sugar River was flooding. So Clark and two of his kids went out in a canoe, the canoe overturned, and Clark drowned.



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From the Editor . . .

It is our custom to provide a summary of the talks presented to the Hartford Historical Society, but this issue features an edited transcript of a carefully researched talk by Steve Taylor in September on how the towns on both sides of the Connecticut River from Weathersfield to Newbury have come to be known as the Upper Valley. It's a fascinating look at how life has changed in the region this past century, and gives me a new appreciation for the *Valley News*.

A small apartment building on Maple Street in Hartford was formerly the meeting hall of Myrtle Lodge, No. 27 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F). There is no longer an active Odd Fellows lodge in Hartford, but sixty founding members gathered at the Junction House in White River Junction in 1887 to begin a period of friendship and service that would last nearly a hundred years.

In their day, the Odd Fellows were the largest fraternal organization in the world with an estimated

six hundred thousand members. Today there are only three active Odd Fellows lodges in Vermont, and just sixty thousand members worldwide. This issue provides a brief look at the time this remarkable organization thrived in Hartford.

Finally, we report on the recent assembly of jigsaw puzzles at the Bugbee Center to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth. Having seen them, I can tell you this was a great achievement.

Would you like to support the HHS in the role of Volunteer Coordinator/Event Planner? Please contact our Board Chair Judy Barwood. Do you have suggestions for this newsletter? Please cast down this issue and contact me.

Join us on November 12 when Joe Trottier presents the History of the Advent Christian Campground. It will be a nice evening out. Details are on the back cover.

Scott Fletcher, Editor

She Just Wanted Nails

The Landmark, July 26, 1889

A Hartford lady tells a story of an ancestor of hers, a direct descendant of John Eliot the great missionary. This ancestor was a woman, the head of a family in New Haven, and about the year 1785 she ordered a lot of nails from Boston. The kegs came in due time and when they were opened, one of them was found to be filled with Spanish dollars. She wrote to the Boston merchant, telling him about the contents of one of the kegs. He answered that he had bought it for nails and had no further responsibility in the matter. The money was kept among the family treasures, untouched and unclaimed, until the death of the head of the house who, in her will, ordered that the dollars be melted and cast into a communion set for the New Haven church. This was done.

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.



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Well, Mrs. Clark took over. She's got five kids and she had this whole project thrown in her lap. You have to give her credit. She took on the challenge and did everything she could to keep it rolling. During this time, the Eagle called its territory the Twin State Valley and the Eagle had a radio station called WTSV for Twin State Valley. And there was one in Lebanon, Twin State Lebanon, and so on. Mrs. Clark took over and while she was running it, working real hard, give her credit, it was amazing.

But in 1951 or so, a couple of young Ivy League guys on the staff began to feel that Mrs. Clark wasn't up to it. The paper was losing its bearing and just wasn't what it had been when John McLane Clark was running the show. They got thinking, maybe we could do better. And by golly they had rich wives so that was a big plus.

Well first, who were these guys? They both lived in Plainfield. Jim Farley was a Dartmouth man, and his wife was a Bacon from Boston, famous publishing house Allyn-Bacon. And the other one was Harvard graduate Alan Butler whose grandfather was the novelist Winston Churchill, not the Winston Churchill from England, the Winston Churchill from Cornish. His mother married a Churchill. Alan Butler Sr. was a pediatrician at Mass General and Harvard Medical School. Interesting thing about him, in the late 1940s, he advocated for a single payer health system for the United States and the medical societies called him a communist. So, as you know, we never got that.

So, anyway, young Butler and Farley have wives who have money. Alan Butler's wife was Augustine Pardee Butler and they called her Dee, and she had plenty of money. So they got thinking, let's start a new newspaper in this territory. It seems like a good area, and we've got money from our wives and we can put this all together. So they came up to Lebanon and rented what had been a Kaiser-Frazier dealership on Route 10 on the way to Wilder dam. In recent years it's been a furniture dealer. So they bought a press, and they got a White River Junction address, which they needed in order to get an Associated Press franchise. So that was it.

They bought the Landmark, which was a weekly, they bought the subscriber list and all that, and they got started. They needed a design so there was a famous graphic artist over in Woodstock named Frank Lieberman so they hired him and he did this proposed layout using certain typefaces and put it all together and it was wonderful. Later on, they won some national prizes because of their typography. They

needed a name and they thought it was going to be the Valley Times but they found out there was already a Valley Times down in Pennsylvania, and so they said, okay, Valley News.

They said, okay we're gonna start this newspaper and it's going to cover Hanover, Lebanon and White River Junction. Then they said, what are we gonna call the region? At first they called it, "tri-towns," but that didn't catch on very well right off the bat. So, how are we gonna differentiate? Hey, let's call ourselves the "Upper Valley." Their definition of Upper Valley was, draw a line through Plainfield and Windsor, and then everything north. That was their territory and they were basically taking away half of the Daily Eagle's territory. So Upper Valley here we come.

So June 9, 1952, the first issue came off the press. There were a lot of people who said, you're crazy. The Rutland Herald wrote a snotty editorial and said they might as well quit tomorrow and forget it. Locals around here were bemused with these Ivy League boys with their rich wives coming in and starting a new newspaper. Here it is the Upper Valley and the Twin State Valley and that set off an incredible newspaper war.

And think about in 1952 what this region was like. It was a time when a lot of things were happening and these two guys were plunging into the middle of it. Agriculture was consolidating. The hill farm culture was vanishing. It went from thousands of farms down to hundreds of farms. Textile mills were declining. Quechee Woolen and Bridgewater Woolen and Hartford Woolen were all going away. Transportation to Boston was on two-lane roads and railroads that were slowing down. If you wanted to go to a Red Sox game, it would take you the better part of four hours on these roads. Land was cheap. There wasn't much development. Not many restaurants or much to do.

As a teenager, there weren't many places to take a girl out. Mostly you went parking. You'd say to a girl, "Want to go count the lights at Wilder dam?" But a big thing changed the culture of this region, and I think it probably changed things as much as the interstates, the coming of television of 1954. In late 1953 in Plainfield, Tracy Spaulding ran a general store and he got a franchise to sell General Electric television sets. One day a truck unloaded a bunch of TV sets. Tracy had them in the aisle between grocery shelves and everyone thought he'd lost his mind. And remember TV sets were big, and they took one out of the box and they put it up on the meat counter and plugged it in

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Upper Valley continued from page 3.

and all it did was go shhhhh because there was no reception here.

Well, in April 1954, Channel 3 in Burlington and Channel 8 on Mount Washington came on the air. In two weeks' time, people were going to Windsor to get loans to buy TV sets and they weren't cheap. They were like five hundred bucks. And everybody's getting a TV set. But then you were only half way there. You had to have an antenna. Remember those miserable things? Always tipping over or broken. That changed culture like nothing. Instead of putting on community plays and doing traditional community activities, all of a sudden, people were staying home and watching TV.

They were watching Jackie Gleason, and the Playhouse 90 and the \$64,000 question, Gunsmoke and on and on. That's what people talked about. That was life. The \$64,000 question, everyone was watching it. "Did you see that guy last night? Do you think he's going to win tonight?" Turned out later on it was all fake. It was all rigged.

In Plainfield, we were always putting on a three-act comedy with local people acting, and we charged 35 cents for the PTA. You'd have performances Thursday night, Friday night, Saturday afternoon and maybe Sunday too. Everybody loved that. It got us out of the house and got us together. Another thing that I grieve about terribly and I think you will probably agree, after the coming of television, on Sunday afternoon, everybody loved to do it. Get in the car and go visit somebody. Let's go over and see the Millers. You didn't call to see if they were going to be home and were going to welcome you. You knew they were going to welcome you. Or if you stayed home, the Millers were going to come over. It was wonderful and people stopped doing that.

When it comes to television, I just can't over emphasize how much it changed life here. In those times, our biggest export, really, was our young people. People headed south, just got out of town and went somewhere else. The military. Maybe go work for Pratt and Whitney. Go to Manchester and get a beautician license. That is what happened.

Back to these two newspapers, Claremont and Lebanon, here we go with this great newspaper war where two news organizations are competing head-to-head to try to beat down the other one with better coverage, better pictures, more timely news. All these essentials of running a highly competitive newspaper. The Eagle had bureaus in Lebanon, White River Junction, and Windsor. And they were going full bore to fight off this paper in Lebanon.

There was a lot of emphasis on sports at that time. They killed each other on sports. Got to have a big headline on Hartford playing Lebanon. You know that's a big deal. So this paper would have a big spread and the other paper would have a big spread and it was off and running and no one was really winning at first. Until a big turning point was the Grantham Mountain forest fire in 1953. They both did a magnificent job of coverage. One of them would charter a plane and take aerial photos. They just did all kinds of stuff to get that event covered really well. But what it did was it proved the Valley News could do it really well. Up to that point, a lot of people thought it was a dilettante operation but no, they were serious, they came on strong, and did a good job.

But this competition at times would get ludicrous. Really crazy. One time, I won a trip to go to Washington D.C. with 4H. I was sixteen years old. And a girl from Lebanon she was going with me. There were four from each state. Anyway, we were getting on the train. It was the middle of the week and I had on my necktie and jacket and Barbara had on a big puffy dress. It looked like a prom dress. The conductor thought it was a shotgun wedding. But the Valley News took a picture of these kids getting on the train heading to Washington. Off they go. The next day it was on the front page of the paper. The Claremont Eagle newsroom saw that and they thought, "Oh my god." They called up the Associated Press Bureau in Washington D.C. and said we've got to have a picture of these two kids in front of the Washington monument. So we got hauled down there and the picture was on the front page of the Daily Eagle the next day. Somebody laid out money to get that done.

While this war was going on, everyone was losing money. Butler's wife was the one who wrote checks every Friday to cover payroll. That's the way it was. Mrs. Clark was losing money because she lost a lot of her circulation and her advertising. And it seemed like a dead end for about five years. In 1957, Mrs. Butler said, "Enough, I'm not paying any more for this stupid newspaper." So they put it up for sale and along came these two guys with deep pockets. One was Walter Paine and the other was James Ewing. They already owned the Keene newspaper and they picked up a weekly in Newport, and they bought this basket case and said let's give it a run and see how it goes.

At the time of this change, the Butler crew had started this crusade and Paine and Ewing continued it. That was to root out corruption in Lebanon. And that

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Bugbee Center Visitors Complete Historic Jigsaw Puzzles

Hartford's committee to plan celebrations for the nation's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary provided jigsaw puzzles of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution to the Bugbee Center to raise awareness of the historic events of 1776. The puzzles have now been assembled and are being framed for display at the center.

"They donated the puzzles and asked us to put them together, so we did," says Wilder resident Paul Vanesse. "Basically, Carol Williams and I assembled them while other people came along and helped."

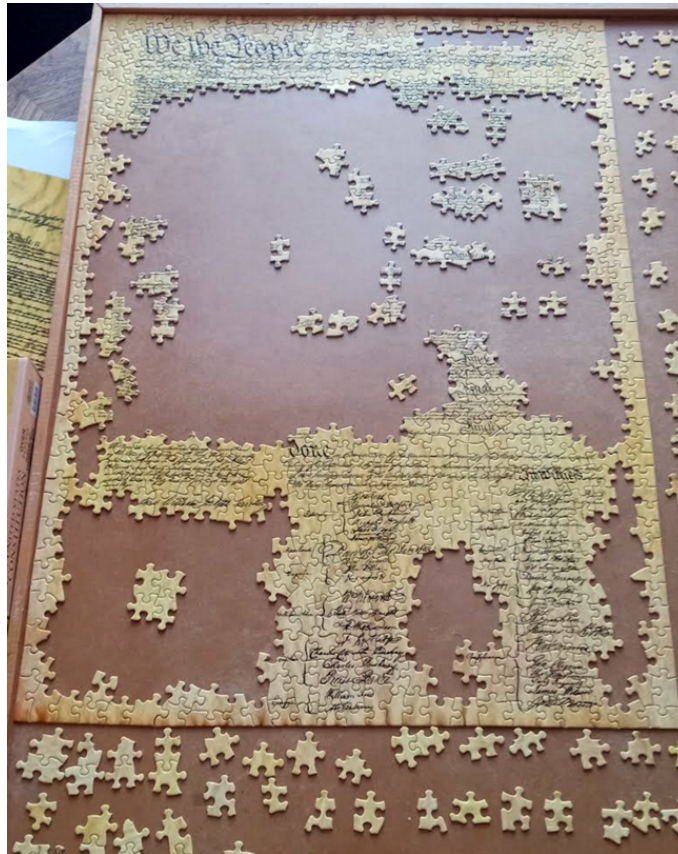
"It was challenging," Paul said. "It was tedious," said Woodstock resident Carol.

They started with the Declaration of Independence, which will be two hundred and fifty years old next July. "The first day, July 25, we got the frame done," said Paul, "and we kept moving along. We had a woman who did the brown background because she couldn't read the writing. One day I did all the signatures. We finished it on August 13."

The puzzle had taken nine days to complete. It was then transferred to a large sheet of parchment paper and glued together. "We probably worked two or three hours a day on it," says Paul.

Then they started working on the Constitution puzzle and completed the border on the first day. "Then I did the signatures," says Paul, "and then we started filling everything in."

This proved to be a challenge due to the puzzle's



This puzzle of the Declaration of Independence took visitors to the Bugbee Center nine days to complete. Paul Vanesse completed the signatures in one day.

small and mostly illegible text. "The puzzle has article one on the left and articles two through seven on the right," says Paul. "We found it difficult at first but then I decided to start at the bottom with the smaller articles and work up. We finally got it done."

The puzzle took eight days to complete but it has now been glued together for framing. Unfortunately, several large areas of the puzzle fell apart while it was being transferred from table to paper and had to be carefully repaired.

Finally, Paul and Carol assembled a puzzle of the U.S. flag provided by Hartford resident Linda Miller.

This proved to be the

greatest challenge and took eleven days to complete. "They didn't give us a poster," says Carol.

The stars and stripes are embellished with eleven hundred and forty-three pictures of postage stamps from 1870 to 2002. The stars all have a postmark from one of the fifty states. "It wasn't going too well until I decided to just do the red pieces," says Paul. "Then I started with the pieces that had just four slots." Upon completion, the flag puzzle was returned to its box.

Jigsaw puzzles were first created in England around 1760 by John Spilsbury and were once a common pastime. "I used to do puzzles as a kid growing up," recalls Paul. "If I was home sick from school my mother would get a puzzle and put it on the card table, and I did puzzles with my kids as they were growing up. There was more family time then, and people don't do that as much now."



Odd Fellows Brought Hartford Friendship, Rituals and Peace of Mind in 1887

By Scott Fletcher

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) was organized in the United States on April 26, 1819 by Thomas Wildey. The first meeting was held at the Seven Stars Tavern in Baltimore, MD. Odd Fellows lodges had previously existed in England since at least 1730. The first I.O.O.F. lodge in Vermont opened in Burlington in 1845.

The Civil War greatly reduced membership in fraternal organizations in the United States, particularly in the South. After the war, however, an era dawned that has been called the, "Golden Age of Fraternalism" in America. Membership boomed and organizations such as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) attracted as many as forty percent of white American males. By 1896, the I.O.O.F. had lodges in every American state and was considered to be the largest fraternal organization in the world.

Myrtle Lodge No. 27, I.O.O.F., opened in White River Junction in 1887 with sixteen members attending a banquet at the Junction House. The *Rutland Daily Herald* reported that, "They have one of the finest lodge rooms in the state." The lodge met every Tuesday evening.

Many prominent residents of Hartford were Odd Fellows including Byron Bogle, junior partner of Bogle Brothers Jewelers; George Fellows, photographer; Dr. Elmer Barrows; Henry Miller, owner of the Excelsior Carriage Company Store; David Perrin, Postmaster; and Lyman Gibbs, partner in the Junction House Hotel.

The list of notable Odd Fellows includes six U.S. Presidents; Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Harry Truman. Some aspects of Roosevelt's New Deal programs were reportedly modeled after Odd Fellows' social services. Charlie Chaplin, Charles Lindbergh, William Jennings Bryan, and Wyatt Earp were also members.

The I.O.O.F. also appealed to Hartford residents in the middle and lower middle classes, and the term Odd Fellows is thought to reflect the variety of occupations that were represented in the organization. Membership was originally limited to white males although the Odd Fellows welcomed women in 1851. Members were required to believe in a Supreme Being who was the Creator and Preserver of the Universe.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS



Opposite, Odd Fellows imagery includes the all-seeing eye of God along with a hand with a heart, symbolizing that a handshake from an Odd Fellow comes from the heart. The bundle of rods in the lower right conveys that a group bound together is stronger than a single rod alone. The Odd Fellows logo, top, has the letters F, L, and T in three rings of a chain. This stands for the words Friendship, Love and Truth. Thomas A. Wildey, above, convened the first Odd Fellows meeting in America in Baltimore, MD in 1819. The first lodge in England reportedly opened in 1730.

The Odd Fellows' purpose was to, "Visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan." It is sometimes referred to as the, "Triple Link" fraternity with reference to the I.O.O.F. symbol with its three links of chain surrounding the letters F, L, & T, which stand for friendship, love, and truth.

Membership in the I.O.O.F during the 1800s typically required an initiation fee of fifty dollars and quarterly dues of about ten dollars. In return, members enjoyed social interaction, financial assistance when needed, medical help in times of illness, and funeral services.

Odd Fellows historically participated in carefully scripted rituals, particularly during the initiation of new members, the advancement of members through the various degrees, and funerals. Meetings began with each person in the room giving one or more passwords. There were also ritual costumes, images, songs and prayers.

Odd Fellows could identify members of other lodges using an Odd Fellows handshake, which was a specific hand clasp with one member saying, "Are you looking for me?" and the other replying, "For you." Stories that Odd Fellows were forced to ride a goat during their initiation are thought to be apocryphal.

The funeral of an Odd Fellow typically included a public procession, starting from the deceased's home or church, to display the grief of other members. The funeral service was led by lodge officers and included specific rituals, prayers, and symbolic actions unique to the Odd Fellows. An evergreen branch was sometimes used to represent that the deceased's virtues will remain "ever green" in memory.

On October 29, 1889, *The Landmark* printed a note reading, "Mrs. Thomas Miles wishes to tender her thanks to the many friends for the kindness shown in her husband's late illness and death; and also to the members of Myrtle Lodge I.O.O.F., to all of whom she feels truly grateful."

Such fraternal support is still offered in Vermont today with active I.O.O.F. lodges in Burlington, Waitsfield and Belmont. The Gill Odd Fellows Home in Ludlow, VT also continues to provide assisted living, independent living, and memory care services.

The website of Burlington's Queen City Lodge, No. 1, says that there are currently sixty thousand Odd Fellows in ten thousand lodges in thirty countries. Myrtle Lodge No. 27, I.O.O.F. is no longer active in White River Junction, but an organization of that name appears to have been formed in Santa Fe, NM.

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The following piece from *The Landmark* describes a meeting held in Hartford in 1949 to celebrate the founding of the Odd Fellows in the United States in 1819.

ODD FELLOWS TO OBSERVE 130th ANNIVERSARY

The Landmark, April 21, 1949

"On Tuesday night, April 26, at the Odd Fellow Hall, all branches of the Odd Fellows will observe the 130th anniversary of the founding of Odd Fellowship in the United States of America. After the regular meeting of Myrtle Lodge No. 27 all branches of the Order will take part in celebrating the anniversary. This is also a guest night for anyone who wishes to attend.

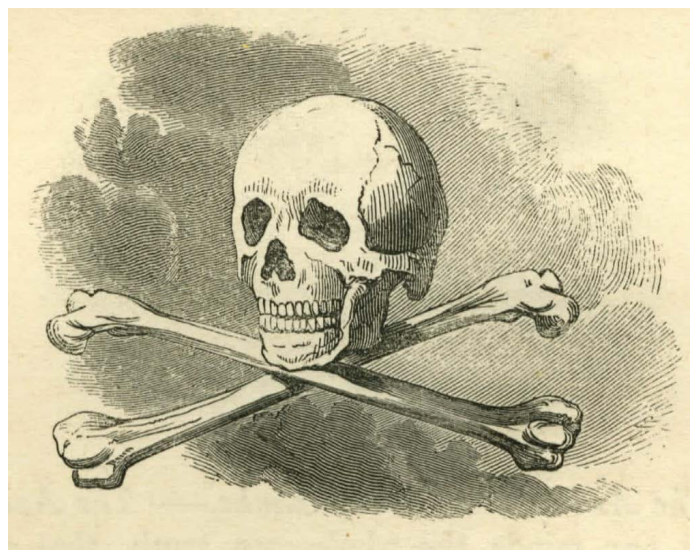
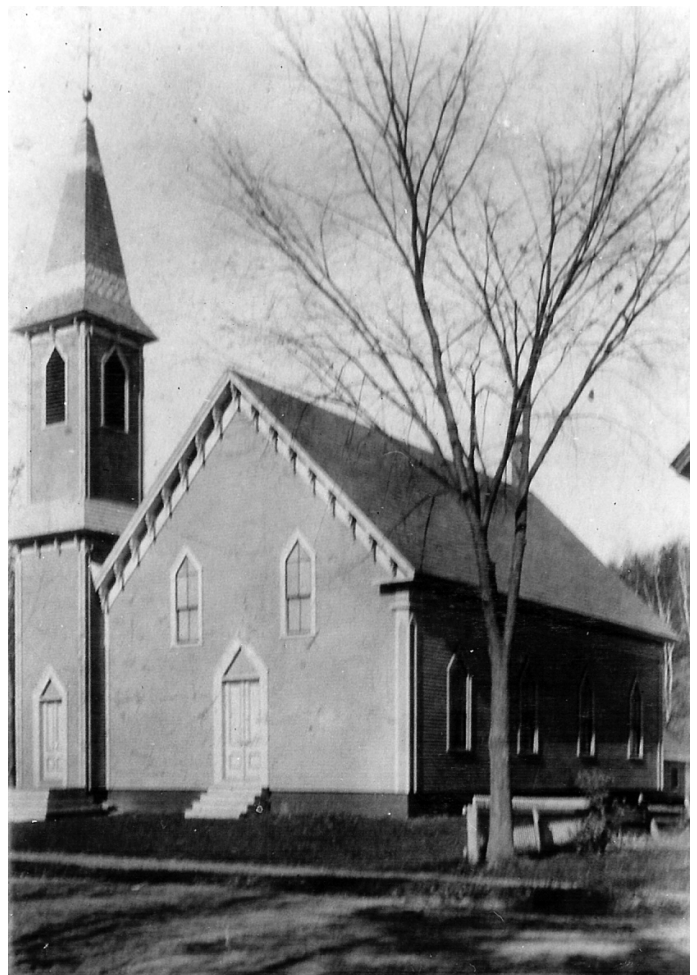
"The program will start at 8:00 o'clock and will include a very interesting Safety program. Charles J. Cadett, safety officer, from the Department of Public Safety at Montpelier will talk on the subject "Driver Education and Training" and show the film "Teach Them to Drive," and other films which pertain to Public Safety. Merritt A. Edson, Major General USMC Retired, Commissioner of Public Safety, will also be present to conduct the program.

"Odd Fellowship was founded on April 26, 1819, by Thomas A. Wildey, and has rapidly grown to become one of many large organizations which, strive for brother-hood all over the world. The Order consists of three branches, The Subordinate Lodge, The Encampment, and The Canton, a semi-military branch.

"A person must belong to the Subordinate Lodge before he can join either The Encampment, or The Canton. There are also two branches for the ladies, The Rebekahs for men and women, and The Ladies Auxiliary to the Canton.

"There are also the Grand Lodges to the Subordinate and Encampment branches, and the Department Association to the Cantons.

"There will also be refreshments."



Top, Orren Taft died in 1898 and gave property on Maple Street to the Universalist Church for use as a meeting house. In 1945, the building was sold to Myrtle Lodge No. 75. It is now apartments. Odd Fellows used skeletons as reminders that we are all mortal and must bury the remains of our brothers.

was real. Lebanon was run like a dictatorship by a character named Joe Perley.

Joe Perley was a cattle dealer, and a graduate of Dartmouth College, and he ran Lebanon. He had a bunch of disciples and they followed him along. What the Valley News did was this. A couple times a month they put a picture on the front page of a house and it would say the taxes on this house are \$424. Right next to it was a picture of a house that looked just like it and it said, the taxes on this house are \$900. If you were in Lebanon, you knew this guy's a buddy of Joe and this guy is an enemy of Joe and Joe's sticking it right to him.

The Valley News sent a couple of reporters over to town hall and demanded to see the assessing records. But Joe and his disciples picked them up and pushed them out the door and wouldn't allow them to see the records.

Here's how Joe ran Lebanon with such power. Every year you've got to get your tax rate. So you've got your property and you've got it all listed off so you go down to Concord and get your tax rate based on that bunch of profit. So you come back and you know in your head there's some new property on there that's not in that block of money. So you're always running a surplus and you just do as you please because you've got money nobody really knows about it.

So eventually this led, in 1958, to Lebanon deciding to become a city just to get rid of Joe Perley. They voted, in a referendum. A couple times in the years since, there have been people who said, "Oh, it was better when Joe Perley was running it, let's go back." But people said, "No way." That's a good example of what a crusading newspaper could do. Root out corruption and improve the life of a community.

So Paine and Ewing were going along, covering their debts, and the bills and paying the help but not really doing much. But in 1961, the Valley News one month turned a profit. They were just about to throw in the towel and shut it down, but then it turned a profit. Then it lost money a couple months and then it turned a profit for two months and over the course of the year the thing was profitable. They hung on. A year later, Mrs. Clark said, "This is insanity, I can't keep doing this, I'm burning up all my money." So she sold the Eagle to another party and over the years, the Eagle has been bought and sold seven or eight times. Most recently, the guy who has been trying to make it go, threw in the towel and they shut it down on the first of July. So anyway, the Valley News came along and they just had this territory and they were making a

buck with it.

There were two big factors in their success. Number one, of course, was the interstate highways and that's a fascinating story in itself. If you come up from Concord and get to exit nine, there's a big Market Basket, and a bunch of gas stations, and the highway goes straight ahead toward Sutton. It could have gone west toward Bradford, but Claremont and Springfield and Rutland said, "No, the highway should go south of Mount Sunapee, cross the river there, and go up the western side of Vermont."

Others said, "No, it should go to New London and Lebanon and White River Junction and Montpelier." There was a battle in the newspapers and politicians lined up on one side or the other. It was really a bitter fight and it wasn't until 1963 that the Federal Highway Administrator in Washington D.C. said, "I'm sick of it, this is where it's going to go."

How did that happen? Very simple. James Cleveland, congressman from New London, Norris Cotton, United States senator from Lebanon, Lane Dwinell, Governor of New Hampshire, Lebanon, Charles E. Kelton, White River Junction, chairman of the Vermont Highway Board, and Dartmouth College. Look at the history around here. Dartmouth College gets whatever it wants. And they wanted that highway to come here. So here it came as you well know.

Of course, the term "Upper Valley" is very elastic. In all those years, it has gotten bigger and bigger and bigger. Now there's a map from Vital Communities that has sixty towns in it. It's enormous. When we used to have phone books, I used to go through and add up how many "Upper Valleys" there were. It was getting toward a hundred. I bet now there are 150 Upper Valley companies, charities, clubs, or whatever. It's just amazing that there's this huge territory and that's what we call it.

As this great newspaper war ended, the Valley News became the dominant media organization and the Eagle struggled on, star crossed ever since. But I think two things have happened over the past seventy-five years as this war played out. Number one is the disappearance of the hill country culture. Farms and a way of life. That has vanished and I grieve about that. There was also the slow extinction of the textile industry. Hartford Woolen, Bridgewater, Quechee and so on, all folded.

Second, was the coming of the interstates. Think of it, we've got interstates going in four different directions and we're right in the middle. During this

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time, land became an investment vehicle. In 1963, you could have bought land in Plainfield for ten dollars an acre. When the interstates came in, land jumped to twenty dollar an acre. Oldtimers in Plainfield were saying, "That's crazy, it ain't worth it." Then it went to a hundred and then it went to a thousand. Where is it now? It's just unbelievable.

There was also the sudden death of the machine tool sector in southern towns like Windsor, Springfield and Claremont. It happened very fast. Manufacturing companies all went away in a matter of six or eight years. The Japanese came in with faster, better and bigger equipment and those industries just vanished.

Of course, we have to talk about the rise of Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Dartmouth College rising to national prominence, I trace that to June 1953 when Dartmouth invited Dwight Eisenhower to give the commencement address. He made a very famous address saying, "Don't join the book burners," which was a cry against McCarthyism. It brought Dartmouth prominence and helped make it the national institution it is today. And of course the medical center has just been growing and growing.

The economy of our region has been maturing and we're now in pretty good shape. We've got technology, healthcare, education, and some impressive research like Creare, which does research in Hanover. And Hypertherm in Lebanon, which does cutting-edge manufacturing and employs a lot of people. And we've got Timken Aerospace. We've got some resource-based industry, and tourism, and retirement communities that bring a lot of money into the community and create employment.

My last point about the great changes over this seventy-five-year period is the change in the political complexion of this region. It was solid Republican, progressive Yankee Republican, for many years. As recently as the early 1990s, Hanover and Lebanon both sent Republican delegations to Concord. Windsor County had three Republican state senators.

But the area has now become Democrat for the most part. Sometimes a Republican will slip in, around Newport or Claremont, a little more Republican around there, but in Windsor County, Hanover, Lebanon, and up and down the river it's a huge change.

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THANK YOU!

Yesterday's News

Ouch, *The Landmark*, June 2, 1883

A Barton Landing district dentist extracted one hundred and fifty-two teeth in one week.

Let's Dance, *The Landmark*, June 2, 1883

The first hand organ made its appearance on the streets Saturday.

That's Entertainment, *The Vermont Standard*, February 12, 1874

As our community have not had benefit of a regular course of lectures, like most of our neighbors, our pastor, Mr. Rodgers, has made a commendable effort to supply the deficiency by an occasional free lecture. His lecture on "Moses," and also the one entitled the "Prayers of the Age," were masterly productions, fully equal to some of those productions, the fame of whose authors is trumpeted all over the land. Our community heartily appreciate this effort on the part of our pastor to supply this lack of intellectual entertainment.

Shining Like the Sun ... *Manchester Union*, 1889

Odd Fellowship is not like the balloon inflated with gas and drawing after it a few men of ambitious desires into the clouds, collapsing after a brief journey and returning to earth again, but is rather like the sun that sends its light and heat into the dark and cool corners of the dreary world and carries joy and gladness to the hearts of those that need sympathy and aid from their fellows. Our order does this every day in the year.

You're Welcome, *The Landmark*, May 10, 1889

Mr. Nutt will please accept our thanks for a generous supply of very fine asparagus.

Happy Anniversary, *The Landmark*, December 31, 1890

A.A. Earle celebrated the thirty first anniversary of his wedding day Friday morning last. He is liable to remember it for some time as Mrs. Earle was a victim of La Grippe and the "old man" had to get up and light the kitchen fire and hustle around and get his own breakfast.

Ain't It Grand ... *The Vermont Odd Fellow*, June 1, 1958

Nineteen Past Grands of Myrtle Lodge No. 27, I.O.O.F., were present at their Annual Past Grand's Night on Tuesday evening, May 20, in White River Junction. Two Past Grands from other lodges were also in attendance. A baked ham supper was served by the Noble Grand, Vice Grand and their committee. Charles E. Bogle, P.G.R., presided and all officers' chairs were filled by Past Grands. The roll was called for all Past Grands of Myrtle Lodge. Thirty-five jewels were awarded to members ranging from 25 years to 45 years in Odd Fellowship.

The Poet P.V. Fisher, *The Landmark*, May 27, 1882

Mr. P.V. Fisher, is nearly 90 years old and his faculties are unimpaired. He can perform more manual labor than many and can beat the world chewing tobacco, smoking clay pipes, and staring at people as they pass along the street. Mr. Fisher has pumped the organ for nearly half a century, and takes a deep interest in all that pertains to this part of public worship. One Sabbath morning, the organist Miss Loud was late and P.V. began to despair of her putting in an appearance. Suddenly the organist came in sight; now filled with ecstasy and delight, P.V. was struck with a spark of inspiration. He burst forth as follows:

*"There comes Miss Viola M. Loud,
To play the organ for the choir.
A little angel from a cloud,
To raise our songs of praises higher."*

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HHS Calendar

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM is open by appointment and/or when the “Welcome” flag is hanging on the front porch. 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.)

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - “The History of Hartford’s Advent Christian Campground,” presented by Joe Trottier. 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.

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