



# Hartford Historical Society

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

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

Volume 24, No. 5

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May/June 2012

## Decoration Day [or the First Memorial Day in Hartford, Vt]

from The Landmark, April 15, 1882

A little less than a year ago a move was made in Hartford by some of the survivors of the civil war, to organize an association of the honorably discharged veterans with a view to the due observance of the day set apart by the national as well as state law, for the proper commemoration of the survivors, and preservation of the memory of those who gave their services and their lives to save the nation in its four years of utmost peril. A society was organized in May, 1881; articles of association were adopted, officers chosen, and the secretary of the association opened a record of the articles of association of "The Hartford Memorial Soldiers Association," --its members, officers, and proceedings. It offers membership to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion, or any previous war in which our country has been engaged. Its present membership is about 30. On last memorial day, May 30th 1881, immedi-

ately upon its organization, exercises were held at the cemetery between White River Junction and Hartford village, which, for lack of time were quite informal, and details were sent to the several cemeteries in other parts of the town (except Quechee where similar exercises were held) to decorate the graves of soldiers in each.



100.50.76 Quechee Cemetery Memorial Day Services

It is proposed to commemorate the coming anniversary Tuesday, May 30th, 1882, in a manner befitting the occasion, which a united people has set apart as a holiday on which the living may gather to strew the flowers of spring over the graves of the country's defenders. The number of living soldiers in Hartford is small; while the graves of their fallen comrades, though few in our home cemetery, are far more numerous about the hospitals,

the prisons and fields of strife in the south land, than most people of this peaceful day, even among their own townsmen, are aware. Of the first company of

*(Continued on page 3)*

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS: On Wednesday, April 11, 2012, Donald

Wickman, a noted historian from Rutland who specializes in the American Revolution and Civil War, will speak on George Houghton: Vermont's Civil War Photographer. A hidden gem. On Wednesday, June 13th, Carol Dewey Davidson will speak on the A.G. Dewey Company, the extensive textile manufacturing operation located near Quechee Gorge, which was once a significant area employer. Carol has interesting family connections. Her maternal grandfather was Dusty Miller, the founder of Miller Auto, and her father's ancestors started A.G. Dewey Company (sometimes referred to as Dewey's Mills). Another of Carol's ancestors is Admiral Dewey.

We wish to extend a special invitation to anybody who formerly worked or lived at Dewey's Mills to be our guests. If you know of anyone please contact them and offer a ride, or if you are one and need a ride, please contact one of us!

Please join us at 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village.

## From the Chair . . .

Many people are involved in preparations for two forthcoming publications which will document the disastrous effects of "Irene" and help to preserve memories of the more joyous events of 2011 – the year long Semiquincentennial Celebrations. We thank you for the photos and stories already submitted. In the tradition of yearbooks, publication will be subsidized in part by ads and donations. As this newsletter goes to press, we do not have details, but if you would like your own space, either as a business, or as a friend of the Hartford Historical Society, please contact Pat Stark or e-mail me: [dyamashita@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dyamashita@myfairpoint.net) for further information.

May-June means it's time for our **annual meeting**, the only time all members of the Hartford Historical Society have an opportunity to make official decisions for this august organization. Well, we may not want to be identified by "majestic dignity" – but we are defi-

nately playing an important role in not only preserving the past, but using that information to enrich the present, and hopefully inspire the future! Be sure to join us on June 13. We need your vote.

In addition to the election of officers, the Executive Board has suggested that an invitation to Lifetime Membership be extended for a limited time only. In acknowledgement of the fabulous Semiquincentennial events, the price will be \$250.00. **If approved at the annual meeting, this special membership would be available for one year only, from June 2012- June 2013 and include 1 copy of the 250<sup>th</sup> Memory Book and 1 copy of the Flood publication.**

Not only will we appreciate your participation in decision-making; we look forward to hearing about Dewey's Mills from Carol Dewey Davidson and then sharing those delicious refreshments!

Please join us on June 13.....

*Dorothy*

## From the President:

We have been working hard on getting the 250<sup>th</sup> book together with the talented eye of graphic artist Corin Hirsch. We will need sponsors and lots of ads sold to pull this off! Meanwhile, the Garipay House is undergoing much needed maintenance. We cannot thank our members enough for their support as we go forward in our endeavor to make the Hartford Historical Society a more dynamic organization and community resource. Stay tuned and see you all soon!

*Susanne Abetti*

*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.hartfordhistory.org>

### Officers

Dorothy Yamashita, Chair	603-448-1067
Susanne Walker-Abetti, President	802-295-9687
Bill Wittik-Vice President	802-295-9683
Tammy Ladd-Recording Secretary	802-356-2965
Carole Haehnel-Treasurer	802-295-3974

### Directors

Tony Battaglia	802-295-7563
David Ford	802-356-2776
Martha & Brent Knapp	802-295-2713
Peggy McDerment	802-295-2357
Joyce Miller	802-295-2025
Lorna Ricard	802-295-2701

**Newsletter Editor:** Muriel Farrington 802-295-6511  
[newsletter@hartfordhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@hartfordhistory.org)

**Curator/Archivist:** Pat Stark 802-478-1110

**GenCenter Director:** Carole Haehnel 802-295-3974

**Genealogist** Mary Ann Devins 802-281-9095

(Continued from page 1)

one hundred, raised in Hartford, organized in our midst -- and sent to the front in July, 1861, ("F" Co., 3d Vt. Reg't,) nearly half fell in their first battle, and dyed the waters of the Warwick with their best blood, when less than nine months in service. forward, thence to the first engagement, from Yorktown to Appomattox, in Maryland and Pennsylvania, to drive the invader south, and on the soil of Virginia, Carolina and along the shores of the Gulf and the banks of the Mississippi, from the first alarm of war, till the final shout of victory, men of Hartford fought and fell with no ambition but the unity of their country, the supremacy of its laws, peace and prosperity for the generations to follow their sacrifice. Is it not fitting that they be remembered? that their achievements be cherished as a boon to the living, and their graves strewn with flowers by the loving hands of a rescued and prosperous people, saved by their loss, rescued by their devotion, made "free indeed" by their valor?

It is in contemplation [sic] now, to make this, the coming anniversary, a celebration worthy of the cause it commemorates. Col. Thomas O. Seaver, who was its captain in 1861, led the first of Hartford's volunteers to the defense of the nation's honor, has been invited to deliver the commemoration address, on the coming decoration day, and has accepted the invitation. It will be a pleasure to the survivors of that command to listen in peace to the voice of their veteran commander, and it ought to be no less a pleasure and privilege to those of us who enjoy to-day in fullest

measure the fruits of their work, without the bitter experience which they must ever hold in remembrance.

For the occasion in 1881 more than half of the money needed for its expenses was contributed by the few surviving comrades of those whose memory the day recalls, though there were many instances of generosity by their fellow citizens which they remember with gratitude. The executive committee of the society now proposes to issue tickets with their purpose endorsed upon them, in order that those of their fellow citizens who esteem it a privilege to aid in the cause, may be enabled to do so; and it is hoped that such, and such only, will contribute as are able to give, and are disposed to aid freely, and not grudgingly, to commemorate the worthy deeds of those who shed their blood that the nation might live, and enjoy with peace "a new birth of freedom in all its borders." These tickets will be found during the month of May at such places in various localities as to be within the reach of all who desire to aid in the cause. They are not tickets of admission, but commemorative of the occasion. The price will be twenty-five cents each, and a record will be made in the books of the association, giving the man and number of tickets taken by each person who invests. No other means of raising funds for the expenses of the occasion, except by society assessments will be adopted. Any number can be had by any individual, and all are cordially invited to attend upon the exercises of memorial day, whether patrons of its expenses fund or not. Notices will appear in due time.



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Dewey's Mills—subject of our June meeting, presented by Carol Dewey Davidson.



# Curator's Corner

Wonderful Donations are still coming in!

- We have acquired another Harvey diary – thanks to David Briggs. This is earlier – 1884 and includes his duties as chairman of the School Committee.



- A second donation of interest was donated by Nelson Fogg – he found it in the old Dr. Worthen House. I'd never seen a 3-sided 'Chandelier' thermometer before!



John Cone brought us in a wonderful watercolor of the Hartford Mill, donated by his sister Janet. It had been commissioned by their father and hung in the house for many years.



## Mystery Photo

No one has given us any information of the bi-centennial plates from the last issue. Let see if we have any luck with this photo! It is the town laying or repairing water or sewer lines – maybe Wilder?

If anyone recognizes either the houses/location or the people please let me know! Thanks Pat [295-3077]

### Commercial/Institutional Members:

Baker Pottery  
 CEMMS Family Painting  
 Geo Barns  
 Hartford High School  
 Hartford Memorial Middle School

Kibby Equipment  
 Main Street Museum  
 Meeting House Furniture Restoration  
 New England Transportation Institute and Museum

### Membership rates:

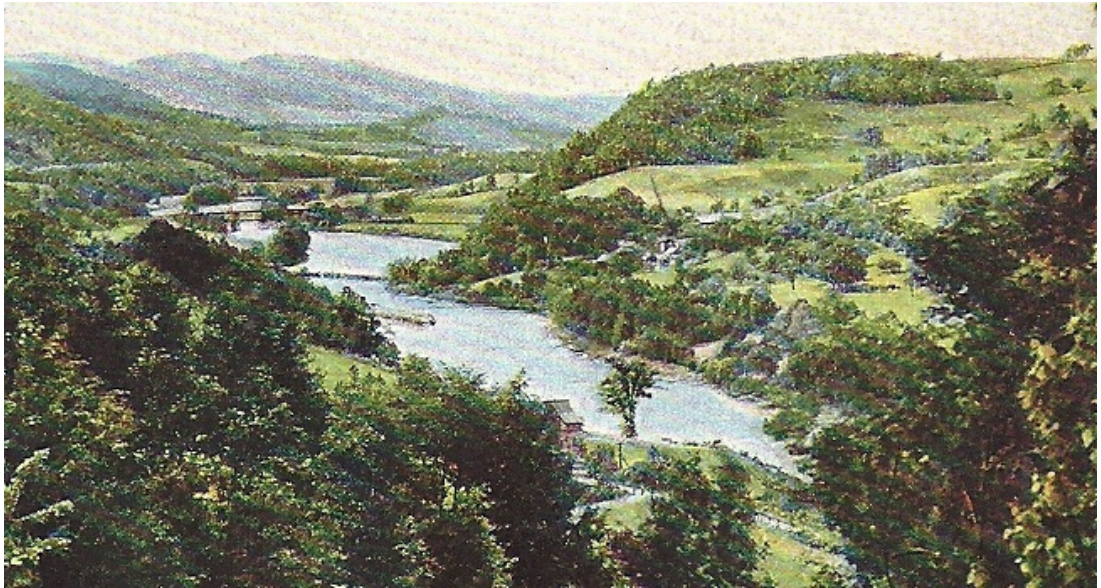
Individual: \$15  
 Family [same address]: \$20  
 Senior: \$10  
 Senior family: \$15  
 Commercial/Institutional: \$25  
 Junior membership – No fee but needs a sponsor [contact Dorothy Yamashita]

# THE CENTREVILLE MILLS

[Taken in part from Tucker's History of Hartford]

In 1791 18 acres bordering on the White River "with all the water privileges" in what became known as Centreville was purchased by Lemuel Cone for \$85. In 1801 it was sold in a Tax Sale to Peter Miller, who sold it to Jedediah Strong of Quechee in 1805 along with 54 more acres with a gristmill, saw-mill, blacksmith shop & dwelling for \$2,000. After a few more transfers his son John Strong acquired the property and in 1839 formed the White River Mill Co. and repaired the buildings. At the time of Tucker's book in 1889 the mills were under the ownership of David Moore and Edgar Madden and in full operation.

Here ends the known history of the Centreville mills. It has been stated that the dam there was



breached in high water in 1900, and the 1927 flood completed its removal. Evidently the mills were not in operation at that time. The recent flood has exposed a few more sections of the mill complex including a piece of water wheel.

This post card looking upriver shows Centreville including the covered RR Bridge [thus it was taken before the Great Train Wreck of 1887], the Centreville dam, and buildings along Runnals Road.

## HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### HONOR ROLL:

Abbott, Collamer Martin  
Black, Harry A  
Black Judge Henry F  
Bradley, Fred L  
Falzarano, Guerino  
Falzarano, Rosaline  
Guarino, Alfonso  
Guarino, Alfred  
Jones, Dorothy Mock  
Lehman, Ralph W  
Mahady, Judge Frank G  
Nadeau, Mary N  
St. Croix, John W.  
Stevens, Annie Louise Morris

### HONOR ROLL

Please consider adding someone to our Honor Roll! Our Honor roll has not grown much lately and I'm sure there are plenty of folks who have an interest in our town and its history! They can be living, or not, and we only need a little information: Your name & contact information, the full name of the person you wish to honor, what they did to advance the History of our town [why you feel they should be honored], and a brief biography [date born & location, where educated, and any other information you feel is important.

There is a link to a form on our web site [[hartfordhistory.org](http://hartfordhistory.org)] or contact Pat if you'd like one.

Thanks

# The Loyal Club—2nd Installment

## The Spanish War Lawn Party

On July 7, 1898, the club gave a lawn party, on the green opposite the Junction House, for the benefit of the young men of Hartford who volunteered for the Spanish War.

This effort met with an enthusiastic response from the citizens at large.

This was prior to the clubs attempt to create a park but the land adjacent to the First National Bank had been filled and stocked to grass. The ladies in charge of the affair were Mrs. O. W. Daley, Mrs. Charles H. Brown, Miss Lillie B. Lyman and Mrs. E. J. Wallace.

It may be of interest in years to come, to know who the citizens were that rendered special help.

The season was one of prolonged heat and drouth.

The roads were intolerably dusty. The Fire Department rallied and wet down the streets with streams from the hydrants. Mr. W. J. King provided an engine headlight for the lawn, and Chinese lanterns added their genial twinkle to the scene.

The Hartford band rendered its best and most loyal music, free of charge, and Mr. Lyman Gibbs, not to be out done, generously transported the band, at his own expense.

Rev. Fr. Lonergan was present with a fine support from St. Anthonys: while other pastors with their people, were in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Morse of the Junction House loaned chairs and tables, and even provided ice cream when the club supply failed. Some one loaned a tent, and Gates Opera House settees, while Mr. C. R. Jamason printed the bills, and Mr. C. R. Cummings the tickets without charge. With such support, no wonder the lawn party was a success, socially and financially.

The club cleared on the sale \$108.25. The Secretary wrote at once to Captain Herbert T. Johnson, of Co. G., 1St Vermont Infantry, Vt. Vols., stationed at Chickamauga Park, Lytle, Ga., asking what the Hartford men most needed. Captain Johnson advised the club to send cash instead of supplies. This was done at once a draft being sent to Captain Johnson for \$87.50.

A handsome letter of acknowledgment was written by George Hough and was signed by five of the men in Co. G. Later, fine letters came also, from the Hartford men in other posts.

The Hartford men in Co. G., 1St VI. Infantry, at this time, were,

George Hough,	White River Junction
John Stone,	White River Junction
Nelson La Porte,	White River Junction
Daniel Sullivan,	White River Junction
William Starr,	White River Junction
Henry Coutermarsh,	Hartford
Arthur Brown,	West Hartford

## Stationed at other Posts were

Joseph Hodette, White River Junction  
U. S. Signal Corps, Huntsville, Alabama., and '  
Will St. John, White River Junction  
Co. E. , 1St N. H. Infantry, Lexington, Ky.

Each of the nine men received \$12.50. Not a magnificent or embarrassing amount surely, but just enough to assure the soldier boys, so impatiently awaiting active service, that the Town's heart beat as truly for them as for the heroes of 1775, 1812, 1846 and 1861.

The raising of the Maine, and the burial of the victims, with all the honors of war, at Arlington this spring, revive the memories of 1898.

## The Veterans

As the Loyal Club was organized in 1891 to aid Lincoln Post, it always has been a co-worker with the Veterans. Before the Hartford Memorial Association as organized in 1881, a few ladies met yearly in the Point cemetery to place flowers on the graves of soldiers who fell in the civil war.

They gladly co-operated with the Hartford Association when that was formed, and later with the Post, and once more with the Association when the Post surrendered its charter. It has co-operated with the Association since 1902.

The teachers of the High School and Grades, and the pupils are now of the greatest assistance on Memorial Day. The recitations, the flag drills, and the songs, thrill all loyal hearts.

The noble response of the schools to the call of the Veterans, contains promise that, in the years to come Hartford will not be lacking in unselfish and brave citizens.

It is with deep regret that the club learns that the Veterans will do the actual work at Memorial time no longer.

*(Continued on page 7)*

It is well for they earned an honorable discharge from such service years ago.

May the organization which seeks to do this work in their stead, carry it forward in the same loyal spirit.

The club will miss the Veterans. It was an honor to work with, and for them. It will never forget their unfailing courtesy and good will.

May they long be seen in the front pews on Memorial Sunday, and the front seats of the Opera House on Memorial Day.

They gather reverently, and listen intently. Those who watch them do not forget that the smoke of many a battlefield has encircled them, and that they willingly offered life itself to save the country in 1861.

### Village Improvement.

When the railroads were built in town 1847-49, and that part of Hartford at the mouth of White river was named White River Junction, and had a Post Office of its Own distinct from that at Hartford village or West Lebanon, N. H., that energetic, enterprising citizen, Colonel Samuel Nutt, abandoning the river trade and adjusting himself quickly to new conditions and demands, bought the Grafton House at Enfield, N. H., and removed it to this village to become famous, under his management, as the Junction House. It was then that a raised board walk with railings was built, connecting the hotel and station.

Years later after the burning of the Junction House, in the days of the Barrons, and the rebuilding of the present one in 1879, the high board walk was eventually replaced by one of gravel.

The northern portion of land opposite Gates block, was still used for dumping purposes, especially waste paper, coal ashes and car trucks.

In the spring of 1899, Mrs. Wallace in behalf of the Loyal Club, petitioned the Central Vermont Railroad officials for permission to create a park out of the land lying both north and south of the walk, which was granted.

The club voted on April 3rd, 1899, to undertake the redemption of this waste tract in the heart in the village. The club understood then, as now, that it is simply a tenant-at-will of the Central Vermont Railroad. The men of the village offered to sign money if papers were circulated. This was quickly done, and the business people of the place contributed over \$300.00.

The fence alone cost \$115.60. From data now available, it is believed that the entire cost was about \$350.

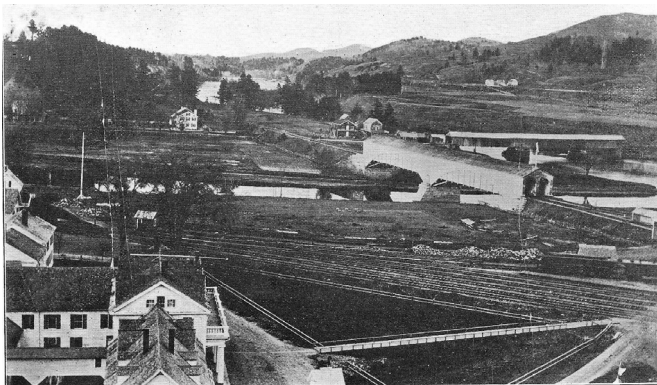
In the spring and summer of 1902, the ladies worked enthusiastically, setting out trees, shrubs and flowers.

A guest at the Junction House, Mrs. Jenks, of Warren, Mass., becoming interested in the work presented the club with an ornamental fountain for the park. On Aug. 6, 1907, Miss Helen W. Smith gave to the club a handsome public drinking fountain in memory of her brother, George W. Smith. This fountain, of granite and iron, in beautiful design, stands near the First National Bank, and is a blessing to the community. The Hartford Water Company generously supplies the streams, for both fountains free of charge.

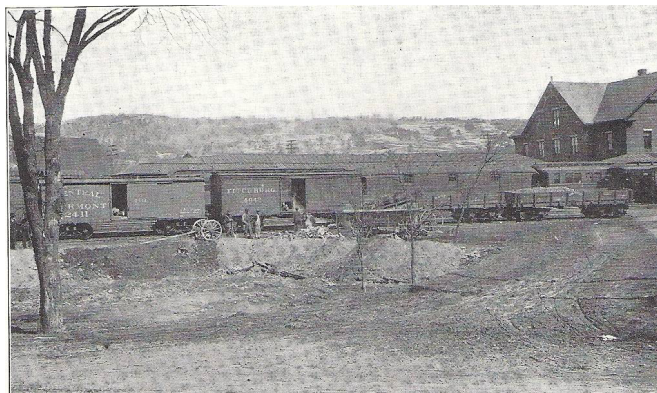
The club seconded the petition of the Hartford Village Improvement Society begging the Town Fathers to enforce the law against advertising in the White river bridge. When the bridge was repaired, the Club, under the imitative of Mrs. George Stephens, chairman of the Village Improvement Committee for the year 1909, requested that the bridge be opened on the west side, giving the beautiful view up the White river to the Pomfret hills. Both requests met with a courteous compliance.

The club has endeavored to inspire citizens to trim weeds, early and often.

It aims to create the public sentiment that shall arouse the community to petition for clean river banks and slightly thoroughfares.



Looking north from the Pinnacle, White River Junction, about 1860 to 1865. It shows the original Junction House, brought from Enfield, N.H., its annex—the old Hartford House, and the Gates mansion. The park space was then a hollow, spanned by a walk on posts. A road then led over the tracks to the ford on the White River.



Northern part of the Park site as was in the Spring of 1899.

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## HHS Calendar

*Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events*

**Summer OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House** – May - September:

The 1st Tuesday of the month 6-8pm

The 2nd Sunday of the month 2-4pm

Or by Appointment [call pat at 295-3077 M-F 9-4]

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** – Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Municipal Building, 171 Bridge street, WRJct at 4:30

**4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House May – Oct and the Hartford Library Nov – Apr. at 6:30pm Please check for exact date!

For more information contact Dorothy Yamashita, Board Chairman.

**Wednesday, June 13, 2012** – Carol Dewey Davidson will speak on Dewey's Mills. Refreshments will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

**Wednesday, September 12, 2012** – Judy Barwood will speak on the Latham family and the Latham Iron Works formerly on Latham Works Lane. Refreshments will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

**Wednesday, November 14, 2012** – Kip Miller will speak on Green Mountain Studios. Refreshments will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village  
Don't forget the **Genealogy Center**, upstairs in the Hartford Library is open Monday afternoons

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### **Hartford Historical Society**

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