

Hartford Historical Society

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

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

Volume 25, No. 3

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March-April 2013

UPCOMING PROGRAM:

Hartford Historical Society Program for April 10, 2013

Join us at the Hotel Coolidge where Charles “Chuck” Bohi will give a talk entitled *White River Junction and West Lebanon, the Crossroads of New England* at our next regularly scheduled program meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

White River Junction was just a collection of a few homes until the railroad came in 1848. As a natural junction of lines to New York and Montreal, it, along with West Lebanon, New Hampshire, quickly became a major railroad center.

Well into the 1950s, the area was linked by multiple passenger trains to major urban centers, and milk trains brought the “white gold” through town on the way to Boston. In addition, the region was an important junction of significant freight transportation routes from Canada and the industrial Midwestern states to New England.

Come recall the days when White River Junction and West Lebanon, New Hampshire, dared call themselves the “Rail Crossroads of New England”.

This Historical Society program will be held at the Hotel Coolidge, 39 South Main Street, in White River Junction at 7:00 p.m.

The hall is handicap accessible. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.



Amtrak Train #55, White River Junction, Vermont, in major winter storm on December 27, 2010—Photo by Charles Bohi

Please Note Change in Location!

The Christmas Cookie and Grandmother’s Mittens Event

On Saturday, December 15, 2012, the Hartford Historical Society held a Christmas Party at the Garipay House which was open to the public. We offered Christmas cookies, wassail, photo ops with our lawn ornaments and tours of the Garipay House, highlighting some of our recent changes as well as our many interesting displays.

The cookies came from some of Hartford’s best cookie makers, including members of our board—

Mary Nadeau, Carole Haehnel, Peggy McDerment, Tammy Ladd and Susanne Abetti—as well as HHS supporters Amy Willey and Norma Young.

The mittens were gathered from church bazaars and senior centers, guaranteed to be made by grandmothers. The house was gaily decorated, and we had an exhibit displaying the patterns used to make our

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From the Chair . . .

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT OUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

The Board of Directors has decided to try something new this year. Our annual business meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 18, 2013, at the Garipay House on Maple Street in Hartford Village** (next to the Foodstop) **from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will be a potluck lunch, with the Society furnishing hot dogs, rolls, beverages and condiments. Members are encouraged to bring salads and desserts to round out the meal.

The past practice has been to hold our annual business meeting at the regularly scheduled June meeting, just prior to the program. Unfortunately, this has not worked well. With members of the public streaming into the hall in anticipation of hearing our speaker of the evening, along with the many side conversations, it has been difficult, at best, to conduct an effective meeting. As a result, the officers often felt pres-

sured to race through the agenda. To remedy that, we will separate the two events this year.

The Board encourages all Society members to attend this annual meeting. As usual, we will receive reports from our officers, conduct the election of officers and discuss plans for the coming year. Anyone who is interested in serving on the Board of Directors should notify Peggy McDerment, chair of the nominating committee, so that your name may be placed in nomination.

If you haven't been inside our "home" recently, you won't want to miss this opportunity to see the amazing changes that have taken place over the past year or so. There will be interesting displays to view and a chance to look at items in our permanent collection.

Please plan to join us on Saturday, May 18th, from 1:00 to 3:00 at the Garipay House!

Mary Nadeau

Benefactors:

- TransCanada
- The Byrne Foundation
- The Vermont Community Foundation
- The Anne Frey Charitable Trust
- The Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions
- The Preservation Trust of Vermont
- F.W. Webb Company
- Mascoma Bank

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>

hartfordhistoricalsociety@myfairpoint.net

802-296-3132

Officers

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

Mary Nadeau, Chair	802-295-2123
Martha & Brent Knapp	802-295-2713
Art Peale	802-295-6100
Peggy McDerment	802-295-2357
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newsletter@hartfordhistory.org

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Membership: Dorothy Yamashita 603-448-1067

GenCenter Director: Carole Haehnel 802-295-3974

Genealogist: Mary Ann Devins 802-281-9095

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vintage lawn ornaments. The patterns are now part of our collection.

When the time arrived to open our doors, we had a steady stream of visitors and excited children of all ages. It was delightful to have the children visit and enjoy the museum! Their favorite displays were our historic school desks and old fashioned baby carriage. The display of children's toys from over 50 years ago also captured their interest. Later they munched cookies and had fun picking out a pair of mittens. We were very pleased to have them with us because we know that children are our future. Our intention is to inspire them at an early age to become history buffs!

Toward the end of the party, Mary Dupuis arrived with her family and joined in the celebration. They were very happy that a new home was found for their oversized Christmas lawn ornaments.

The ornaments are now stored in the garage, waiting for December 2013 when they will show their jolly faces and bring holiday cheer once again.



Lois Kidder, Mary Dupuis, Martha Knapp and Brent Knapp in front of the exhibit panel.



*Visitors Enjoying our Museum Displays—above left; Cookies and mittens—above right
l-r below—Children playing school, Zoe Zanleone with snowman, Zoe in Sleigh*



Christmas Lawn Ornaments History

Over this past Christmas season, the Garipay House lawn was adorned with beautiful vintage lawn ornaments, thanks to the hard work of our board members Martha and Brent Knapp. In the early 1950's, Leo Raymond of Norwich purchased the patterns for these ornaments through an ad published in the weekend edition of the Valley News. He passed them on to his son, Paul Raymond of Thetford, who later purchased patterns for two more lawn ornaments, the elves and the big snowman, from a 1988 edition of Women's Day magazine. Paul cut out the lawn ornaments from large pieces of plywood.



Lawn Ornaments in the snow (above).

Martha Knapp painting the elves (lower left, and Brent Knapp drawing in the details, (lower right)

Due to illness, Paul unfortunately was unable to finish them, and he gave the cutouts and all of the patterns to his sister, Mary Dupuis of Wilder. She realized she would not be able to finish them, either, so she advertised through the internet on Hartford's Listserv for someone willing to take on the project.



Brent and Martha then contacted Mary Dupuis and visited her to scope out the project. They decided it looked like something they would like to tackle, as they felt the ornaments would look nice in the front yard of the Garipay House where they could be enjoyed by a large number of people in the town of Hartford.

Turns out it was a great idea!

Commercial/Institutional Members:

Baker Pottery
 CEMMS Family Painting
 Charlie Brown's Outdoor Equipment
 Faith Bible Bookstore/WVFA Radio
 Geobarns
 Hartford High School

Hartford 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]

Oral History Project

The Historical Society and the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission have an on-going oral history project and are always looking for volunteers to interview our citizens. The subject can be someone you know or a person from our list. If you have an interest in conducting an oral history, please contact Pat at 295-3077 weekdays. Here is an excerpt from a recently completed one:

Barbara Ticehurst Remembers the 1962 Bank Robbery

"In December of 1962, the First National Bank of White River Junction was robbed. I was working in the bookkeeping department at the time and didn't know what was happening in the front part of the bank. A young man, later identified as Robert Laware, entered the lobby, headed for teller Alice Sayre's window and laid his shotgun on her counter, pointing at her, and

said "Fill it up!" She put some cash in the bag and Mr. Laware left.

"It seems that he had been over at the nearby diner and had asked the waitress to give him a paper bag so he could go rob the bank. It was during the hunting season, so the presence of the shotgun was not alarming.

"After he left the bank, we were all made aware of what had happened. While I was counting the cash left in Alice's drawer, Barbara Turner, one of our other tellers decided to call her husband to let him know that she was okay. Francis Turner worked in West Lebanon at Flanders & Patch. When Barbara told him that the bank had been robbed and described the robber, Francis said "He's here trying to buy a car." So the police were notified, and not long after Mr. Laware was in police custody."

Curator's Corner

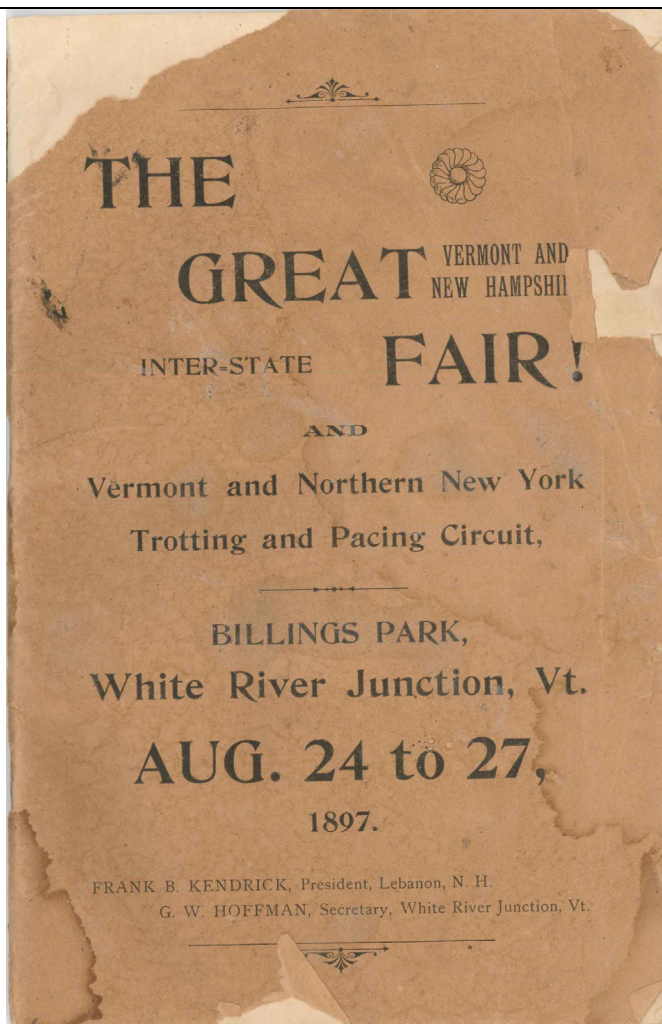
While Martha has been making great progress in getting our House in shape and creating great new exhibits for us, artifact donations have continued to come in over the winter. Some that gave me particular pleasure are programs for the 4th Annual Vermont State Fair in 1910 and the 1897 Inter-State Fair at Billings Park. Both include Railroad schedules (it cost 10 cents to take the spur from the Junction to the Fair!) Rhonda Martin has given us some interior photos of the old Hartford Diner, among other items, again priceless additions to our collections. I believe Martha's favorite donations are the two arrowheads/tools found on Jericho Hill years ago by a member of the Haehnel family.

Our post office displays this year are titled "Our Ragging Rivers" and feature floods and ice from years past. Unfortunately we have no good photos of when the Bridge Street bridge went out. If anyone took any, we'd love to have copies! (Or any other photos that could be shared!)

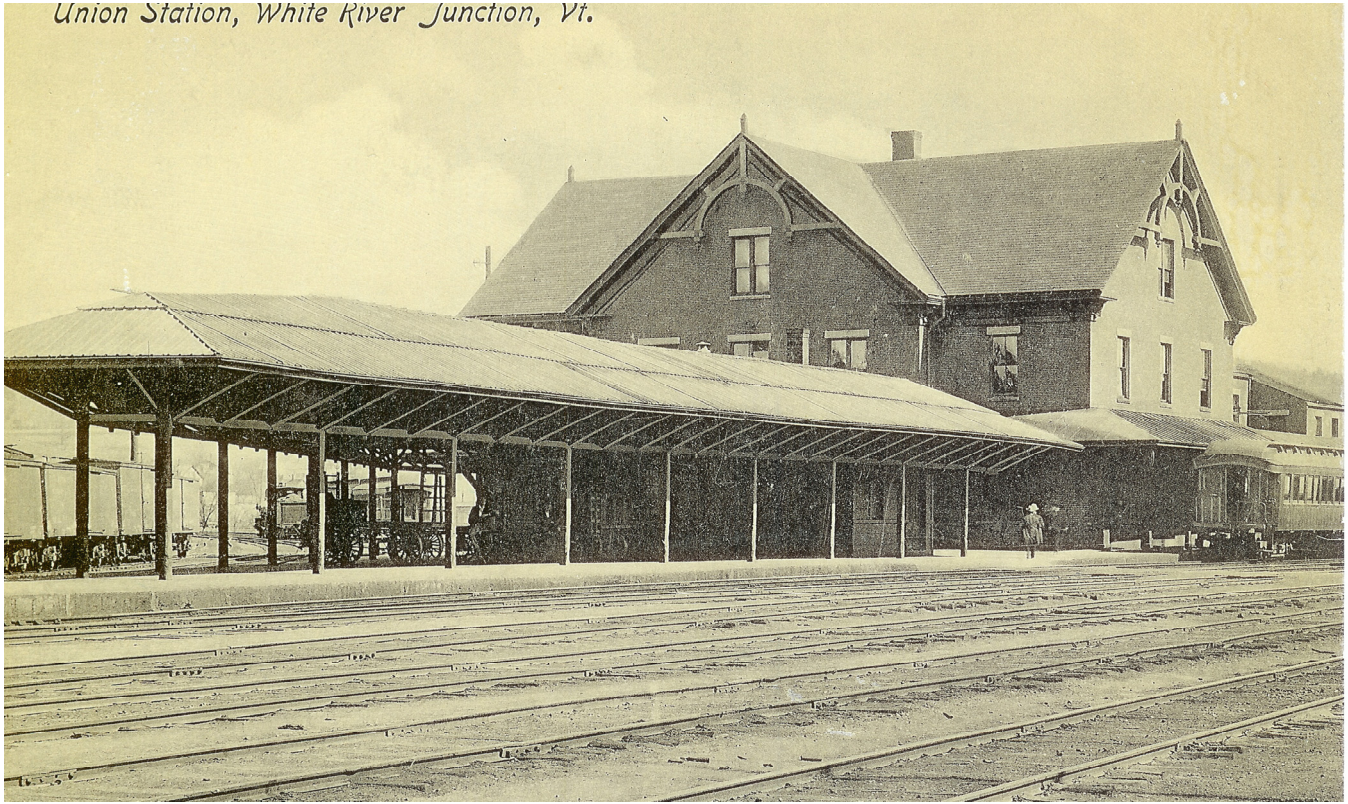
Keep us in mind when doing your spring cleaning or at any other time when you are hoeing out an accumulation. I am happy to scan photos if you do not want to donate your originals. Just give me a call at work in the Municipal Building (M-F 9-4 at 478-1110).

Thanks

Pat



Union Station, White River Junction, Vt.



Come hear more about White River Junction's Railroads at our April Meeting

Hartford Historical Society's Publications for Sale

The Year in Photos - 2011- Hartford, Vermont Celebrates 250 Years -\$19.95

Great Train Disaster of 1887 - original photos and articles from newspapers of the time - \$5.00

Railroad Enthusiasts Day - reprint of original program when Old 494 came to the Town of Hartford - \$2.00

Image of America Hartford by F.J.Barrett - \$21.99 [members \$19.99]

Historic Postcards- .50 each or pack of 6 [1 each] \$6.00

Historic Postcards—Railroads - Woodstock RR Set - \$3.00

Local Railroad Note Cards- \$1.00 each or Set of 6 [3 each] for \$5.00

Muriel Farrington's Note Cards featuring historic buildings -\$1.50 each or set of 6 [1 each] for \$6.00

1889 White River Junction Lithograph copies - \$1.00 each or Set of 6 [1 each] for \$5.00

We also have a number [not all] of **HARTFORD KEY** Yearbooks for sale - \$25.00 ea.

The above may be purchased at the Garipay House, ordered and picked up at the Municipal Building or mailed prepaid with postage. Contact Pat Stark at 478-1110 (local call) for additional information

From the Membership Secretary:

Did you know that there are 370 members registered on our computer? A special thanks to the 30 people below who have sent in membership renewals for 2013. This shows 43 members, or maybe a few more, depending on how large a family is. And some of our Life members are couples, so we can add another 25, plus there are 6 Life-250 memberships, bringing the total to 74. So when it is time to mail 200 newsletters to meet the minimum requirement for the bulk postage rates, where do they go? About 60 copies go to Historical Societies, Libraries, Educational Organizations and Supporters.

In response to my e-mail query, 24 have notified me that they plan to mail a check, and there are probably another 50 people who have not been contacted.

Your membership dues are sent to the Treasurer, Carole Haehnel. The Membership Secretary records names and addresses and maintains the mailing list.

I invite each one of you to serve on the Membership Committee by recruiting one new member or reminding a friend to renew! In addition to all those names in our computer, let's set a goal of 100 paid memberships by May 30, 2013!

- Dorothy Yamashita

HHS Members- 2013

Aher, James & Diana
Appleton, Jon H.
Ammel, Robert E.
Baker, Bridget
Barwood, Judeen C.
Berezin, Iris
Bettis, Phyllis
Bettis, Susan
Blake, Robert E. Jr
Blood, Janet
Book, Rebecca & Raymond
Brown, Jean
Camp, Susan & Jack
Clifford, Cameron
Coogan, Debbie
Cook, Marcia
Cronce, Carol
Diedzic, Jay
Fine, Susan
Follensbee, Bob
Foster, Don & Susan
Gadzinski, Priscilla
Gould, Jeanette
Guarino, Raffaele
Haehnel, Carole

Janisse, Kathy & Lani
Kelton, Joan
Knapp, Martha & Brent
Lake, Dick & Joan
Lehman, Ralph
Lovell, Claire
Lutz, John & Ruth
Lyman, Harris
Matheson, Harvey
Mayhew, David R.
McDerment, Peggy
McCrackin, Mark
Miller, Joyce
Moroney, Sally Bennett
Nadeau, Mary
Needham, Joanne & Andy Johnson
Nichols, Edward & Donna
Old, Mary
Pippin, Beverly A.
Plattner, Robert & Georgia
Plume, Dr. Stephen K.
Ricard, Lorna E.
Shambo, William & Phyllis
Smith, George W. Jr
Smith, Sandra

Spydell, Janice
Stark, Pat
Stone, Gordon
Stone, Thomas
Theriault Family
Tonkovich, Jim & Wendy
Wang, Steve
Willey, Scott & Catherine
Wittick, Bill & Carolyn
Wright, Elinor
Yamashita, Dorothy
Zacharski, Leo & Pat

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 need only a little information: Your name and 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 of birth and location, where educated and any other information you feel is important. There is a link to a form on our web site (hartfordhistory.org) or contact Pat if you'd like one. Thanks.

HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONOR ROLL:

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

Honor or Remember a Special Person in your life!

Looking for a way to honor someone, mark a birthday or anniversary AND help your Society? Consider donating to our ongoing expenses. We will print the name of the person(s) you are honoring along with your name in the next newsletter. Remember the newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month before they come out: Dec 15 - Jan/Feb; Feb 15 - Mar/Apr; April 15 - May/June; June 15 - July/Aug; Aug 15 - Sept/Oct; Oct 15 - Nov/Dec.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF _____

Submitted by _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Towards: _____

Items you might choose from:

- **Garipay House**: - Fuel, Phone, water/sewer, electricity, general repairs/maintenance, including lawn mowing & snow removal
- **Special Projects** - such as displays
- **Programs** – mileage for speakers, etc.
- **Newsletter** – mailing and printing
- **Collections** – cost of materials to clean and store our collections
- **Computer** – costs for printing scanned photos, copying documents donated, drives to store our digitized photographs

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Membership (please circle):

Individual \$15.00 per year

Family (same address) \$20.00 per year

Senior \$10.00 per year

Senior Family (same address) \$15.00 per year

Commercial/Institutional \$25.00 per year

Special Gift of Support \$ _____

Name: _____

Additional Names: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone/e-mail: _____

Questions/Comments: _____

Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society and send to: Treasurer; Hartford Historical Society; P O BOX 547; Hartford, VT 05047.

HHS Calendar—Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

Winter - OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House – October – April
[excepting Holidays and bad weather—best to check for flag or call first] M-F 9 am – 1 pm – call to be sure at 296-3132 or email at HartfordHistoricalSociety@myfairpoint.net

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 mornings at 296-3132 M-F 9-11 am or email us]]

2nd Wednesday – Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Municipal Building, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, Vermont at 4:30

4th Tuesday – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Upstairs at the Garipay House at 6:30 pm. Please check for exact date as it is somewhat flexible!

For more information contact Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – Chuck Bohi will speak on the history of White River Junction and West Lebanon, the Crossroads of New England 7:00 pm at the Hotel Coolidge, 39 South Main Street, White River Junction. Refreshments will follow.

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 – Jim Flanagan will speak on the history of Hartford Motors 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments will follow.

Wednesday, September 11, 2013—David Brown will speak on Hartford farms, farmers and related stories from his youth. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments will follow.

Wednesday, November 13, 2013—Laura B. Levy will speak on the Glacial History of the Upper Valley and its effects on our local landscape. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments will follow.

Don't forget that the **Genealogy Center**, upstairs in the Hartford Library, is manned Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Carole Haehnel will be happy to assist you in exploring the resources we have and in accessing information from *The Landmark*, which we have on microfiche.

Hartford Historical Society
POST OFFICE BOX 547
HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047

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