

Matthew Cole Visits the Garipay House By Martha Knapp

On April 3rd, Matthew Cole, Community Relations representative from TransCanada, paid a visit to the Garipay House to give us the assistance we need to have our slate roof repaired and restored. We are very grateful for their support of the society. This is the third year in a row that TransCanada has helped our society improve our museum building so that we may continue to serve our community by preserving the building and the artifacts that are in our care. During 2011, they helped us purchase new electronic equipment, and in 2012 they enabled us to repair and rebuild our front and back porches.

The slate roof is a much larger project and we need to hire the experts who know how to repair our precious slate roof in the proper manner. With this grant from TransCanada, we



Matthew Cole, on behalf of TransCanada, hands the \$10,000 grant to Martha Knapp of the Hartford Historical Society shall be able to do just that. This will correct the environmental conditions in the attic area, and that will provide us with some new much needed space for storage so that we can free up other areas of the house to display items from our growing collection..

The funds come just in time because we just recently learned that the Garipay House will be receiving and housing our collections that are now being kept at the Town's Municipal Building. The Municipal Building will be undergoing renovations this year so all of our materials housed there must be removed and temporarily stored here.

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UPCOMING PROGRAM: June 12, 2013—Hartford Motors

Our next program meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ on Wednesday, June 12th. Jim Flanagan will speak on the history of Hartford Motors, which for many years was a fixture in downtown White River Junction.

Sherman Manning operated the business as a garage at the intersection of Routes 5 and 14 before it was pur-

chased in 1955 by two young entrepreneurs, Peter Flanagan and Andre Rocheleau. The business was moved to Pine Street in 1972 and offered Chrysler, Plymouth and International Harvester products. Jim will include stories gleaned from Mr. Manning's grandchildren as well as tales of the Flanagan and Rocheleau families.

Please plan to join us. It should be an informative and entertaining evening. As usual, a wonderful assortment of baked goods will be provided after the program, compliments of the excellent cooks in the Society.



From the Chair . . .

If you're like me, you probably have boxes of old photographs stashed away which you haven't gone through in years. Some of them may have been handed down from parents or grandparents who enjoyed capturing the moments with their Kodak Brownie box cameras. (Perhaps you would have to be over 50 to remember them!)

Every now and then somebody mentions a business that was very popular in its heyday, but no longer exists, or a building that disappeared over time or has been so transformed that the original structure can no longer be recognized (think about the old ODD Fellows Hall on Maple Street in White River Junction as an example). It's disappointing to have to tell people that we don't have photos in our collection of the places they ask about, but the chances are good that someone in town has what we are missing, squirreled away in an old shoe box, gathering dust.

A good rainy-day project would be to look through these hidden treasures to see if some of them would make good additions to the Hartford Historical Society's collection of photos. Thanks to modern technology, the originals can be scanned on the spot and handed right back to you. Please help us to fill in the gaps! If you have photographs to share, contact any of the officers or board members listed in this newsletter,

> 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.

and we will make convenient arrangements to get them scanned so that they become available to everyone.

I encourage you to attend the next program meeting on Wednesday, June 12th to hear Jim Flanagan give us a history of Hartford Motors and the people who owned and ran it, from its early beginnings as a garage on Maple Street to the modern showroom on Pine Street, where many Hartford residents shopped for their vehicles until it closed several years ago. Come and share with us your memories of Sherman Manning, Peter Flanagan and Andy Rocheleau.

Don't forget the annual membership meeting to be held at the Garipay House on Saturday, May 18, 2013! Come and enjoy a pot luck lunch. The Society will furnish hot dogs, rolls, beverages and condiments, and members are encouraged to bring salads, side dishes or desserts to round out the meal. We will hear reports from the officers, hold elections and discuss plans for the coming year. Tours of the House will be offered. See you there.

Have a wonderful summer! Mary Nadeau



Hartford Historical Society

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Directors				
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Genealogist	Mary Ann Devins	802-281-9095		

"NOTABLE CITIZENS OF HARTFORD'S HISTORY"

By Carole Haehnel

The Historical Society held an Open House featuring wine and cheese on Saturday, April 6, 2013, at the Garipay House to unveil the newly created panels depicting stories of earlier settlers and distinguished residents of the Town of Hartford. Each of the eight panels, which were prepared by members of the Society, displays information and pictures about a historical Hartford individual or family.

The event was well attended, and everyone enjoyed a convivial and informative evening. Some old acquaintances were renewed and new friendships formed. Those in attendance also had the opportunity to study other artifacts and displays at the Garipay House.

Due to the positive public response to the event, the Board of Directors would like to hold similar gatherings in the future. The present exhibit will continue until July, when a new group of "Notable Citizens" will be in the spotlight.

Look for more photos on page 10.



Martha's assistants Kristy and Jim, who did a great job helping install most of the exhibition materials.



Hartford's citizens enjoying display on historical citizens of Hartford.

⁽Continued from page 1)

We are thankful and appreciate the support for the preservation of the history of our town from TransCanada, owners and operators of the Wilder Dam. They are certainly part of our town's on going history making and we wish to acknowledge that connection.

Thank-you, TransCanada!

From the Membership Secretary

The following members have renewed – or joined – since the last newsletter was published. Names printed in bold are new members.

Arnold, Jeff & Noreen Backman, Mike & Steve Swayne Black, Roy Bradley, Edward & Marie Cusson, George & Kay Farrington, Muriel Follensbee, Lorraine Hardy, Dan & Carol Hazen, Alice Kemon, Ken & Alice LeBrun, Nancy Lerner, Fred & Sheryl McDerment, Brian McKinley, Chris, **Mello, Deanna**

Miller, George & Linda

Peale, Art & Betsey Runnals, Kenneth Taylor, Pat Tuson, Gwen & Leonard Morse Weinbert, Marvin & Nancy

There were 61 memberships listed in the March-April newsletter and 25 in this issue, making a total of 86 memberships to date. Send your renewal in today and we can easily make it 100 by May 30!

New members may join at the annual meeting, and of course, renewals will be accepted. Hope to see you there

- Dorothy Yamashita, Membership Secretary

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. To help us estimate the quantities of food we'll need to purchase, please RSVP to our membership chairman, Dorothy Yamashita, at 603-448-1067.

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.

Commercial/Institutional Members:

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

Memories of Growing Up in Hartford Village (1938 – 1945) By G. Jeanne Coates Schatz

My father, Elgin "Roy" Coates was employed by the U.S. Government in the Department of Veteran's Affairs. When the VA opened the hospital in White River Junction, my father was transferred to that facility as a "procurement clerk" from Northport, Long Island, New York. We arrived in White River in September of 1938 - mother Beatrice, younger sister Audrey, my dog Jerry and Chipper the bird. We stayed in a cabin near the hospital until my parents found an apartment in Hartford. Then the moving van arrived, and we moved in. On our second night in the apartment, there was a terrible storm. My sister and I were so scared! It seems we were up all night. The next morning when it was daylight we saw trees down everywhere. We had lived through the Hurricane of 1938! We played outside the apartment on School Street, climbing the downed trees, meeting a lot of children and making new friends.

My sister and I were enrolled in Hartford Grammar School. I was in the fourth grade. The room was on the second floor, facing east. I remember a very large glass cabinet containing all kinds of birds of many different sizes and colors. I used to spend time looking at the beautiful birds (I wonder if that was saved). The fifth and sixth grades were taught by Mrs. Farrington. She lived on the highway to White River, east of the cemetery on the south side. She always had red and white checkered curtains in her kitchen window because she wanted her students to know where she lived. She told us we should remember her name because she lived far away, wore a ring and weighed a ton. I never forgot her name! I was one of the grade crossing guards (AAA) and wore a white sash with a very important looking badge. When on duty, I was stationed at the south end of the bridge, and my job was to get the students across the street safely at the intersection by the mill and the bridge and on to school. I felt very important. I even had an "AAA" official raincoat and hat. However, my grades went south, and I was removed from my duties until I got my grades back up. My activities were curtailed, so I turned to reading and ended up reading more books than any other student. I was at the library every Saturday getting more books. My grades went up, and I have never stopped reading. The school bathrooms were on the lower level and had water tanks up high over the toilet with long, long chains. Pull and flush!!

Across the street from the west side of the school was the home of a dear lady we called Grandma Butler. She used to sit outside in a canvas "sling" chair and always waved to us. When the war came she taught us to knit, and we knitted scarves for the soldiers. At the bottom of the school hill, if one took the road going up the hill (to the right if facing the front of the school), and continued to the top of the hill was a house on the left where the "Avon Lady" lived. Her name was Ruth. If one continued on to the right a little way down, there was a pasture. One could climb over the fence and go east to find a pond nestled in pine trees, where we would ice skate all winter. If one went past the pond and continued, one would find the "Fairy Rocks" that overlooked White River behind the high school. They were a formation that looked like staircases the fairies would climb in their world. This was a favorite destination for many walks that our family took. Another interesting walk was through the cemetery (on the highway to White River). Climbing up the hill and down, one ends up on the road about where the "Avon Lady" lived. Sometimes we would do that walk from the high school.

We eventually found a house to rent. It was on Summer Street, right across from the Coburns and west of the Kings. To the east was an apartment building. It was a wonderful house with two stories, and it included a kitchen, living room, dining room and a bedroom on the first floor, three bedrooms upstairs and town front entry doors with good, big porches. We were in heaven! We all loved the house, the yard and we, mother, father, two daughters, grandmother, dog, bird and cat. were very happy there.



Old Hartford School

We had a black iron stove that used kerosene, and mother cooked very well on it once she learned how to handle it. One of my jobs was to clean and polish the stove every Saturday. We had a square washing ma-(Continued on page 6)

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chine that rocked to and fro, with a wringer across the top that would swing all around so it could be set at various positions. Our sink was black. Everyone called it a "zinc" (maybe a local term?). Our "family room" ended up being in the dining room, with a couch, radio, rocking chair, etc. That is where my family was gathered on Sunday, December 7, 1941. I will never forget that day. My life never was the same after that. During the week my Grandmother had the 'right' to the rocking chair, on Sundays my father had the 'right'. The person in the rocking chair controlled the radio! The dining room table was used for games and homework and, if we had company, to dine. Saturday night was always bath night at our house. We had to be clean for church!

Mother soon added chickens, and we used the chicken coop in the back yard after we had cleaned it up and fenced the chicken yard. She sold eggs when the hens cooperated. She also had a vegetable garden. Her flowers were very beautiful. We often had a hobo knocking on the back door, asking for something to eat. My mother always fed them. She would put the food in a metal pie pan and they would sit on the back porch and eat. No one ever was turned away. My grandmother always said the hobos would mark out a house so the next one always knew where to stop. I always looked for the mark, but I never found one.

I had a paper route in Hartford, and I sold subscriptions for the daily (five days a week) Claremont Eagle. The papers came via train to White River Junction, and the mail carrier for the Hartford Post Office picked up and delivered the papers to the Hartford Post Office every day. Mildred Dailey was the Postmaster, and she gave special permission for the mail carrier to do this. The papers arrived at 5:00 p.m., and I rolled them at the post office, packed them in bags and, in dry weather, used my bike for delivering them. Otherwise, I walked. I started my route with 32 customers. My old dog, Jerry, died before I got the route. My new dog, a young German shepherd, went with me. I trained him to take the papers to the porches. When we left Hartford in 1945, I had still maintained 32 customers. My very best friend, Marion French, took over the route. I was one of the carriers that won a free trip to New York City.

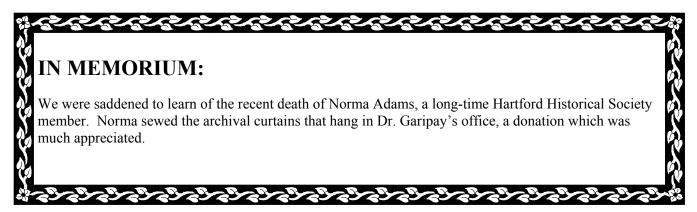


Post Office

I played trombone in the Hartford High School band. We won first prize at a competition, and I marched in a LOT of parades. My parents made me practice in our garage. My friend Marion played the mellophone, and she practiced with me. The neighbors were not thrilled. Mrs. French cooked baked beans on Saturday and she sold them in pints and quarts. People would line up to buy them. Mr. French was an ice man; he was very big and strong. The customer would place a sign in the window with the number of pounds of ice wanted, and Mr. French would take it off the truck with ice tongs, put it on his leather- covered shoulder, bring it into the house and put in it the ice box. Children followed the truck in hot weather hoping to get a piece of ice.

Milk was delivered (it was raw), and in winter it would freeze on the porch steps. We fought over the iced cream on top. Raw milk was the cause of TB for my sister later in her life. Margarine was sold without color, and it had to be mixed with a little package of yellow dye.

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DEALING WITH A GROSS MUSEUM OBJECT (Gross is "museumspeak" for Huge)

By Martha Knapp

Recent visitors to the Garipay House may have noticed that something has changed; the huge barn loom is missing from the dining room. The loom was a special object donated to us in 1998 by Gloria Perkins. It had been given to her in the 1970s by Ruth Bugbee Hughes who lived on Christian Street. Ruth had it built for herself (circa 1880), well over 100 years ago. The loom has most of its original parts, and it was a working loom when the Society received it. However, it was never worked after it was set up in the dining room, although it was a very unique object from the past to view.



Loom in dining room

As we looked to our future in the Garipay House, the loom became problematic because it took up almost the entire dining room floor space. Because we



Empty space that was used to play ping-pong when the Garipays occupied the house.

were looking for ways to increase visitation to our museum, we needed additional space to create exhibits or to hold events that would bring in audiences who would enjoy learning about our town's history.

After renovating our basement area in 2010 -2011, we thought it we had found a good, logical space for the loom. We measured it carefully and were happy to discover that the loom would definitely fit (*see above*).

With the Board still not convinced, Brent and I went to the Preservation Trust of Vermont's Grand Isle Lake Resort to attend the "Community Development and Historic Preservation Retreat" on October 15-16, 2012. We were instructed to bring a problem or project that needed to be solved and to make a presentation to the group of participants. I presented the proposed loom project, Brent voiced all of our concerns and we showed the photos that we had brought with us. The feedback started to flow, and by listening to the expert opinions of the attendees, we soon had all the answers that we needed:

• The barn loom would be fine in the basement.

- We should make it a working loom.
- We should give demonstrations.

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- We should video the demonstrations so that those who can't go downstairs could watch it upstairs on a screen.
- We should contact the Vermont Weavers Guild and find the resources we would need to complete this task.

After relating all of the suggestions and proposed solutions to the Board, it was agreed that we should move the loom. During November of 2012, our workers Jim and Matt began to slowly take the loom apart while I photographed and labeled every piece. We moved it to the basement area and carefully laid it out on a large piece of TYVEK.

On December 15th, the Board was able to hold a celebration in the area of the dining room which was formerly occupied by the loom. This was our "Christmas Cookies and Grandmother's Mittens Event", and it was well attended by both children and adults.

I learned about the Heritage Weaving Studio, located at the Bridgewater Mill Mall, in December of 2012, when it was featured in the Valley News. After the holidays, Brent and I made a visit to the studio. We explained to them that we were with the Historical Society and had a large loom just like theirs. They had eight looms that were working and turning out beautiful rag rugs like a factory. We couldn't help but admire the rag rugs and placemats that they make. The work is done utilizing total recycling, just as it was generations ago. The Studio gets the tee shirts used for the rag rugs from the Bridgewater Sustainable Earth Foundation's Thrift Store, located on the floor above them. We became very excited about our loom and realized we could perform the same work. We asked how we could get our loom in working order, and they told us that we would need Andy Bird. We were given his number, and when I called, he said he could come to the Garipay House on the following Tuesday. Andy arrived with two garbage bags full of tee shirts. I have since bought a round cutting tool and this is used to make the weft (the horizontal rows).—>

Andy is a member of the Vermont Weavers Guild and a volunteer at the Heritage Weaving Studio. He offered to volunteer for us as well to help us get our loom in working order. He began by telling me what carpentry work needed to be done on the loom. He explained that many of the parts were not original to the loom, and some of the parts were missing such as braces and pegs and wedges. He asked whether I had a carpenter. Luckily, my husband Brent is one, so Andy began to take measurements and draw pictures of the things we would need. I was to call him when it was all together.

Brent studied the loom and began making the missing parts. He also made a repair to one of the original legs, which had been resting on bricks because it was damaged.



Old beam turner



Kristy O'Meara preparing to cut the tee shirts with a roller cutter to create the weft..

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Brent with the beam turner that he made from Andy's drawing.



Loom with cloth applied to the rollers.

Prior to his third visit, Andy told me to buy some new cloth, such as a painter's drop cloth and to cut one piece four feet by seven feet and another four feet by five feet. He drew me a pattern, showing how to sew the pieces together. These were to be the aprons for the rollers, also called beams. He also instructed me to buy dowels four feet in length. The original leg piece and the original fabric that was on the loom are now in storage.

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I brought my crew back to Bridgewater and used the Heritage Weaving Studio's setup to learn the process of "winding the warp." We have a setup just like theirs on order that will enable us to wind the warp at the Garipay House. It was made by a volunteer from Bridgewater.

There are seven steps to setting up a loom:

- 1. Winding the warp
- 2. Chaining the warp
- 3. Threading the warp through the reed
- 4. Threading the warp through the huddles
- 5. Lashing the warp to the back beam and adding long sheets of paper.



Jim Merritt at the loom, lashing the warp to the back roller and adding paper to separate the warp as new layers are rolled on.

- **6.** Winding the warp to the back beam
- 7. Tying the warp to the front beam



Andy Bird, Loom Master – "We're not making a watch here. It's not complicated."

So, stay tuned for the invitation to come to the demonstration that will be coming up soon. Watch as we sit on the seat and recreate the way our ancestors made rag rugs in their spare time. In the process, we'll be recycling rags into something useful by using the tools of the trade and our 150 year old loom!



Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

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 the original program when Old 494 came to Town of Hartford (\$2.00)
IMAGES OF AMERICA HARTFORD by F.J.Barrett – (\$21.99 / members \$19.99)
HISTORIC POSTCARDS - (.50 each or Pack of 6 [1 each] for \$5.00)
HISTORIC POSTCARDS – RAILROADS - Woodstock Railroad Set – (\$3.00)
LOCAL Railroad NOTECARDS – (\$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 WRJCT 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 each)

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 802-295-3077 or 802-478-1110 after business hours for more information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Type of Men	bership (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
		Institutional \$25.00 per year
Special Gift of	of Support \$	
Name:		
Additional N	ames:	
Address:		
State:	ZIP Code: Pho	ne/e-mail:
Questions/Co	omments:	

Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to the Treasurer at P O BOX 547, Hartford, VT 05047.

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Return Service Requested

HHS Calendar

Street, Hartford Village

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OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

[excepting Holidays and bad weather] M-F 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <u>or by appointment</u> To be sure we are open, look for the flag outside the building, call us at 296-3132 or email us at <u>hartfordhistoricalsociety@mytairpoint.net</u> For an appointment call or email us or contact our Archivist, Pat Stark, at 295-3077 M-F 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Special 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

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 p.m. Please check for exact date! Saturday, May I8 – ANNUAL MEETING and POTLUCK – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Garipay House. Hot dogs & bev-

erages will be provided – bring a salad, dessert or other dish to share. Wednesday, June 12, 2013 – Jim Flanagan will speak on the history of Hartford Motors. Refreshments will follow. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Print are secured from the Regent 11th) – 3rd Annual Welcome Abenaki Day, Lyman Point Park, next to the Municipal Building in White River Junction

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

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

Don't forget that the **Genealogy Center**, upstairs in the Hartford Library, is open Monday afternoons, staffed by Carole Haehnel and Mary Ann Devins.