

# **Hartford Historical Society**

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

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

Volume 27, No. 1

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September-October 2014

# The 4th Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day

This day began early for us. Because of a "Small and Inspiring" grant from the Vermont Community Foundation we were able to order a 20x40 tent from Blood's Catering and we set up all of our tables and chairs for the moose meat, corn on the cob, pot luck feast we were serving at noon. We had a list a mile long to get done in the next 3 hours but between our staff and volunteers, we had quite a few people to do many different tasks and it all got done. Susanne Abetti took on the

task of signage and per usual she aced it.

Nate Pero unfortunately was called away for the day but he came and brought us the moose meat that he had received for this day from the Fish and Wildlife department, and the moose meat stew he had prepared. The task of cooking the moose meat and corn on the cob was given to Brent Knapp, the Hartford Historical Society's own "grillmaster". His brother Mark, who used to be a butcher, came

ANNUAL ABENAKI

HONORING DAY

We are happy to see the Municipal Building being preserved. Here is one of our happy new signs.

showed him how to slice it and what side to cook it on and answer other questions. The moose and the corn on the cob were deliciously prepared and by noon, we had an abundance of food from the pot luck to go with it.

Nate had also invited Bobbie Two Feathers, a woman who talks about pine needle teas and other teas derived from trees and the healing properties of each. She had eight different samples of quite pleasant prepared teas to taste. She also had other crafts that she had made including beautiful dream-catchers, and

many people were interested in her offerings of the day.

Masters of Ceremony, John and Donna Moody who work for the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions have been partnering with the Hartford Historical Society since 2011 to present this event. John and Donna Moody began with a few words to acknowledge the many people and tribal peoples who worked to make this day possible.

John related the historical facts about the Abenaki Canoe Village in the 1760's which was on the very ground we were holding (Continued on page 3)

# **UPCOMING PROGRAM:**

**Ken Alton** will deliver a talk entitled **"From Roger's Rangers at White River Falls to the Wilder Dam Redevelopment 1759-2014" at our next program meeting to be held on <b>Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1761 Maple Street in Hartford Village. The program begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the general public.

#### From the Chair . . .

The Society's Financial Picture: Operating as a non-profit entity entails on-going financial challenges. The Hartford Historical Society is largely dependent on the generosity of both individuals and benevolent organizations to cover both its general operating expenses and the cost of maintaining the Garipay House museum. Other income comes from member dues and from various fundraising activities, such as sales of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, the quilt appraisal event and the Yankee Brass Band concert. (More of these events are currently in the planning stage.)

The majority of the funding that has made it possible to accomplish critical improvements to the building, such as repairing the leaking slate roof, bringing the electrical wiring up to code and replacing the front porch, came as the result of the hard work and grant writing expertise of our museum curator, Martha Knapp. Through her tireless volunteer efforts, we have seen our building transformed into a real museum, a busy place where people of all ages come to learn about our town's history, to do historical research for school projects or for books that are being written, to enjoy special programs about historical events and people that have impacted our community or to simply enjoy the many fascinating artifacts and photographs in our continually growing collection.

We are enormously indebted to the generous benefactors who have awarded us grants, but there is an enormous amount of competition for a limited amount of grant money. This year, some of these organizations and businesses that have helped us in the past have announced that they are cutting the amounts of their grants or passing us by altogether. Martha's greatest concern at this time is whether we will be able to afford oil to keep the Garipay House heated and open during the coming winter. Therefore, we are putting out an urgent appeal for donations to the fuel fund. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please keep in mind that we operate as a non-profit 501 (c) (3), so all donations made to the Society may be listed as charitable donations for tax purposes.

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.

Other ways that you can help are to pay your membership dues promptly each January. We depend on that income to cover the cost of the six issues of this newsletter that you receive annually. (We are very grateful to those who include an extra donation when paying their dues.) While attending our programs at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, please consider putting a donation in the Lucite box to help defray the rental fee for the church hall.

You may want to honor a friend or loved one by making a memorial donation in his or her name to the Society or to name the Society as a benefactor in your will. By doing so, you help to preserve the memory of individuals, families, businesses, neighborhoods and events that carved Hartford into the community that it is today so that future generations will have these resources available to them.

Thank you for considering our appeal. Again, all gifts to the Society are charitable donations and may be reported as such when you file your income taxes. We are happy to give you a letter documenting your gift.

Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board



# **Hartford Historical Society**

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#### **Officers**

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These pine and other tree needle teas were very pleasant to taste and learn about.



Brent Knapp slicing the moose meat



Masters of Ceremony, John and Donna Moody

this event on, and Donna welcomed the people to the homeland of the Abenaki called N'DAKINNA which is the Abenaki name for their homeland which means of course, "Our Land". She spoke about the traditional mealtimes where the custom was that the elders and young children go first in line. Suddenly there were many people happy to be an elder. We began the feast which lasted until about 1:30.

Then the call for the speakers went out, and Jesse Larocque began the afternoon program with his interesting demonstration of pounding the black ash, slitting them apart and giving them a soft sheen with his pocketknife, while telling us about the ash trees in N'Dakinna. His talk is always a learning experience and a laughing at jokes experience. I never want to miss Jesse. I am always in the front row along with many elders, children, and families. He is such a good teacher.

He took time to welcome some friends from Ari-

zona, two Dine men. He said they were professional hecklers and so he brought his own hecklers just in case. (Donna explained that the traditional Navajo language name for the Navajo people is Dine.)

Michael Boles also spoke to us of his learning from Jesse about this skill. He explained that he was just an Irish country boy from Vermont but he has to keep his Abenaki wife Valerie and their two daughters Megan and Emily supplied with the materials they need. We can all see what productive Abenaki basket makers they are as we see them beautifully demonstrate their art to us every year.

Next came Jeanne Brink who shared more stories about the old days with her elders living the traditional life. She told us one about how as a child, she used to like to bring home baby mice to take care of and her mother had to explain to her that their home was outside, and that they would be happier if they could live the way they were supposed to, not needing interfer-



Jesse Larocque teaching his skills

Megan, Emily, Valerie and Michael Boles a family affair.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

ence from us. All of a sudden, we, who were sitting up on stage, noticed the audience stirring and pointing to something on the ground in front of us, and we asked them what was going on? And they said, there was just a little mouse down there in front of the stage. We all started laughing and Jeanne says "the little mouse heard me and they often do that, the little animals when you are telling a story about them they show up." She also told of her mother Nettie who was a deer hunter because she knew how to walk quietly in the woods. At times she would scare the hunters who couldn't hear her coming. Sometimes she would take Jeanne hunting with her and give her beechnuts to eat so she would be quiet while she waited for the deer to show up.

Donna told us that story telling as they were doing was kept for the winter months when everyone wasn't so busy so this was unusual telling stories in the summer. Donna also spoke of the many families from different tribes of Indian people who live in Vermont and have lived here for many generations, such as the Nipmuc, Blackfeet and the Wampanoag. When things were bad in their areas, some would come to Abenaki land to escape the effects of King Philip's war in the late 1600's and some of the wars out west in the 1800's when the buffalo were mostly killed off and people were starving. At certain times, Vermont was the safe zone to seek refuge. That is why we changed the name to Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day as our mission in the historical society is to



David Ford holding his "Demi John" Abenaki basket.

preserve the true history to share with future generations. John noted that in the 2000 and 2010 Vermont and New Hampshire, members of over 125 Native tribes from all over the Americas identified themselves living here!

Rhonda Besaw who brought her beautiful beadwork booth to our gathering was very busy as she was giving free beading lessons, but she managed to take a little time out to share with us her family's beginnings in Plainfield, New Hampshire. Her family comes from the Upper Valley but mostly now lives in northern New Hampshire.

David Fairbanks Ford of the Main Street Museum came and beautified the place again with his museum's collection of Abenaki Baskets.

We had two other basket collectors, Harry and Sally Picard who heard of this event in Connecticut and they drove up for the day to meet Jeanne Brink to seek her advice on preservation and identification because they had rescued a collection of baskets from their summer home on Lake Champlain. She brought photographs. One of her baskets was just like one in the collections held by the Main Street Museum. This probably meant that the same Abenaki family had traded both of these very beautiful baskets at some point in the 19th or early 20th centuries.

We are thinking for next year's event to include inviting people who have Abenaki baskets, and would like to learn more about them by maybe even putting the word out now. We could catalog and photograph them. And put them in a little booklet (or big book, depending on the response), updating them as we go along. We would like to begin with the collection at David Fairbanks Ford's museum. David was my first supporter when I began to research the Abenaki history for our historical society. David is also responsible for beginning the Artistic Community now thriving in White River Junction. He is known for beginning things. It would be very interesting for Abenaki basket collectors to get together and share their basket stories.

I could not include everything in this story as the day was beautiful and full and there were many people who all said they had a wonderful time. We can only hope to grow each year and learn as much as possible about the Abenaki People and other local indigenous people. We often hear that much has been lost but I think seeking this knowledge locally has helped it return and the journey will continue to be rewarding.

# The Tinkham Store Robbery

(Part one of four parts)

Reprinted from the Interstate Journal & Advertiser April 1900 issue published by Cummings Printers of White River Junction, Vermont.

#### **CHAPTER I: THE FIRST MOVE** OF THE CONSPIRATORS

At about four o clock on the afternoon of Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1900 two men called at the Candlish stable on West Street in Rutland to hire a two horse team to drive to Proctor six miles distant. The team was obtained and they started off saving they would be back in about two hours.

As the evening passed and they did not return, Mr. Gleason in charge of the stable telephoned to Proctor to learn if the team had been seen there. There was no

trace of the outfit that could be found until late when it was learned that a team answering to the description had been seen to pass Mendon and afterwards through Sherburne on the east of the mountains and about twelve miles from Rutland.

Early next morning a sheriff and deputy started on the trail.

#### **CHAPTER II -**THE ROBBERY AT TINKHAM'S STORE

A beautiful little village is Quechee nestling in the valley of the Ottauquechee River which affords power for manufacturing, and with the Woodstock Railway for a THE STORE WHERE THE ROBBERY WAS COMMITTED taken a little by surprise but means to market, it is the home of a thrifty people.

A good sized woolen mill gives employment to many while the rich soil of the valley and neighboring hillsides yields a bountiful harvest to the husbandman.

Living somewhat removed from the rush and worry of the larger places one finds many peculiar traits among the people. For instance here where "everybody knows everybody" and "most folks are honest" people rarely lock their doors. The inhabitants usually retire early and it is not an unusual thing to find the streets deserted after nine o'clock.

For twenty-five years the leading country store in Quechee has been kept by Scott Tinkham, a prosperous merchant, well and favorably known throughout the town of Hartford, and is also the postmaster and express agent.

The accompanying picture shows how the store looks from the exterior. The main entrance is seen on the right and the post office entrance next, while near the corner may be seen the doorway leading to a tenement on the second floor.

At 10 o'clock on the night of Sept 18, Mr. Tinkham was alone in the store, his clerks having left but a few minutes before, and as was his custom he took the contents of the money drawer into his private office which is in the rear of the post office on the side of the build-

> ing next to his house and proceeded to "settle up his cash." The curtain of the office window was up and it was possible for anyone to look in from the street and see all that was going on.

> The outside door opened and someone came in. Mr. Tinkham rose from his desk, stepped out into the store and stood behind the counter. Two fellows in complete cowboy attire, sombreros, flannel shirts, leggings, with faces covered by black masks, confronted him and with revolvers drawn, commanded, "Put up your hands!"

Mr. Tinkham was thought the affair was a joke;

that someone was trying to scare him. He answered in an evasive sort of way and laughed at them. They repeated their demand and flourished their revolvers in his face. He laughed again and putting his hands in his pockets, walked along to the front of the store.

At this, the intruders lost all patience and said they wanted his money and that they meant business.

(To be continued)

# June Meeting Featured the History of Gateway Motors

Allen Hall, proprietor of Gateway Motors, gave a talk on the history of a car dealership that has been a fixture in White River Junction since the 1920s. The business, started by local businessman Alfred Watson, was originally located on Bridge Street between the railroad overpass and the fire station (now home of the Main Street Museum.)



Gateway Motors at its former home on Bridge Street in White River Junction

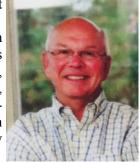
In 1927 Gateway was purchased by Marcus "Buster" Pippin, who saw his fleet of Studebakers washed downstream in the devastating flood later that same year. In the aftermath, he restocked his inventory with Ford products, and they have been the primary line ever since. The company was sold to Dave Hall and his partner Robert Guernsey in 1961. The dealership was relocated in 1967, first to a big white barn located at the site of the present bus terminal, and then into a newly constructed building at the present location on Sykes Mountain Avenue. When Mr. Hall perished in

the crash of a private plane, son Allen Hall took over Gateway Motors' operations. "I had lost my father, my boss and my best friend," he recalled.

Over the years, Gateway Motors has established a reputation for honesty and excellent service. member of the audience who traveled to the program from Burlington shared with us that not only has he purchased all of his vehicles from Gateway, but he will let no one but Gateway mechanics "touch them". A former employee said that when he went to work selling cars at Gateway, the first rule Allen laid down was "never lie to a customer". Several members of the audience spoke glowingly of his integrity and cited situations when they felt he went way beyond the call of duty to assist a customer, even if it meant not being reimbursed by the Ford Motor Company for expenses incurred. On one occasion, a customer who had just purchased a new Ford and was taking his family to Washington, DC, broke down en route. Allen sent a

replacement car on a flatbed at his own expense.

Recalling the days when Americans had three companies from which to choose (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler), Allen talked about the tremendous changes that have taken place in the automobile industry over the years. Today there are over twenty companies marketing cars, so competition is fierce, but Gateway Motors continues to remain one of the area's most successful enterprises.



Customers and former employees attending the program on the History of Gateway Motors paid tribute to the honesty and integrity of local businessman Allen Hall.

### From our readers.....

RE: March/April issue - Jericho School House "Mystery" - from Gloria Hammond

I attended one room schools in Epsom, N.H. during 1940-1949. Some of the schools had been modernized but not all. The Short Falls School had no running water and provided chemical toilets. Beside the school there was a building of similar dimensions of 6 feet by 16 feet that had been used as an outhouse, divided for boys and girls. Part of the building was used as a woodshed for the wood burning stove. When I attended that school, 1947-1949, the building was used entirely for firewood storage. Years later when the American Legion purchased the school the small building was removed. I can imagine that the foundation of such a building could leave a low stone wall, as described in the "mystery". Perhaps such a building was removed, fell into disrepair, or was torn down at Jericho.

Any thoughts – I'd love to hear!

# Welcome Georgann Stephens - Window Glazier

We are very fortunate to have a new staff member here at the Garipay House, Georgann Stephens. She has many skills and when she said she did windows, I said welcome to the team. As she is from the Hartford Restorative Justice Center, her first week was as a volunteer to give it a trial period and she began glazing the windows. The job also includes painting. Board members who visited were pleased with her work as was I, and she has been here now for 3 months. She loves it here and stays very busy. If you get a chance to visit us, please check out the windows. They look very nice.

We all stay very busy here at the Garipay House and we are hoping it is in the cards for us to stay open all winter. We have exciting plans for the near future that we will unveil soon. We have much to offer visitors and school groups, researchers and history enthusiasts. In the meantime, we continue to do the maintenance and up-keeping of this great town resource. Any ideas, assistance, or advice to continue our mission would be deeply appreciated.



Georgann at work on the shutters

## **Curators Corner**

By Pat Stark

The dissolution of the collections of the New England Transportation Museum [formerly in the RR Depot] has me thinking about the fragile nature of our institutions. Once an active group of folks focused on the restoration of 'Old 494' and creating a space where our transportation history was explained, it had dwindled to a very few folks to do all the work. As time changes all things, so many of these folks found it necessary to cut back on their activities – most of us can certainly understand what that is like! We are fortunate that our recent changes are in the other direction – with the coming of Martha, Susanne, the work crew and new volunteers our Society has taken great leaps forward and become the active institution our founders dreamed of. There are still many hurdles to be overcome [one near to my heart is an addition to store and display our growing collections]. Let us hope the future support and involvement by our citizens enables this momentum to continue far into the future!

#### 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
Route 4 Country Store
Schaal Electric
White River Toyota

# **Invitation to Visit Our Genealogy Center**

By Martha Knapp



Ray Fields points out the wall of genealogy materials.

Those searching for information on their family history are invited to visit the Genealogy Center, a branch of the Hartford Historical Society. It's located on the second floor of the Hartford Library, just a few doors down Maple Street from the Garipay House. On the second floor there is a space dedicated to genealogical information, where a large collection of books has been categorized and organized by Carole Haehnel and her volunteer assistant, Ray Fields.

Resources available include military and veterans' records, from the Revolutionary War down to the present time. There is also a collection of Vermont town histories. You will find government books, reference books and a number of genealogical magazines. There are old newspapers on microfiche and filing cabinets, organized by family names in alphabetical order, each containing items such as obituaries and marriage announcements that could be found in our newspapers.

The Center also has genealogy books that were written and recorded by many citizens who are no longer with us. It is our hope that those researching their families' histories will share copies of the information they find with us so that we can store it for the benefit of future generations.

The Genealogy Center is open each Monday from 2-4 p.m. and welcomes anyone



Carole Haehnel with Microfiche device and filing cabinets dedicated to the genealogical research.

searching for information about ancestors. If these hours are inconvenient for you, feel free to call for an appointment that would better fit your schedule. Our dedicated volunteers have put a great deal of effort into organizing these materials and are ready to help you navigate your way through the many resources available.

Have you found us on **Facebook** yet? Join the 170 folks already there in discovering and discussing Hartford's History and Genealogy!

# **Leaving Our First "Home"**

By Pat Stark

The Hartford Historical Society's first "home" was a small room in the Municipal Building. Before that, we had to make do with a space in the Municipal Building lobby for the display case donated by Sylvia Colodny. The room, some old file cabinets and a desk were donated to us by the town, and the room was furnished by the Plattners and other Directors. On October 24, 2013, in anticipation of the vacating of the building for renovations, everything was moved to an upstairs room in the Garipay House. Everything is once again in one building again, making it much easier for those wanting to do research.



The Door Moving Out Room almost empty Loading Up

#### AFTER THE MOVE - At the Garipay House

Here are some photos of the items removed from the Municipal Building in their new locations upstairs in the Garipay House. We are VERY grateful to the Hartford Employees from Parks & Rec who moved the HUGE lateral file for us – it was a "close call" and ALMOST didn't make it up the stairs! It is a wonderful file for our Photograph Collections.



Photos, clockwise: Desk from old office, Filing cabinets, lateral file cabinet, bookcase from old office, cabinet for rare books

# The Society's Annual Meeting

The Hartford Historical Society's annual business meeting was held at the Garipay House on Saturday, May 31, 2014. We took advantage of the warm, spring weather to enjoy an outdoor lunch that included Brent Knapp's famous grilled hot dogs, home baked beans, potato salads and a host of other delicious side dishes. For dessert there was a variety of delicious pies made by Tammy Ladd, served up with ice cream and a dash of whipped cream for good measure.

During the business meeting that followed, the annual reports of the officers were read and accepted. Proposed revisions to the Society's bylaws were approved unanimously. It was noted that membership dues have remained unchanged since 1987, even though operating costs have increased substantially during that period of time. Martha Knapp recognized the excellent work done by our two workers from the Restorative Justice Center, Kristy and Jim, and each was awarded a thank you gift of \$100. Leo Zacharski gave a progress report on the Jericho Community Club's fundraising campaign to repair the Jericho Schoolhouse and make necessary improvements to the schoolyard property.

Dan and John Aher joined us to witness the induction of their mother, Helen Aher, into the Society's Honor Roll. A list of Helen's many accomplishments and contributions to the Town of Hartford and to the Society may be found in the March-April issue of this newsletter.

Elections followed, and the current Society officers were re-elected for the coming year. Board members whose terms were up for renewal were re-elected for three-year terms. We welcomed Dan George as our newest board member and Peggy McDerment into the newly-created position of assistant treasurer.



# **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:			City:		
State:	ZIP Code:	Phone:			
e-mail:					
Questions/Comments:					
Mail this completed form Historical Society, Attn:					

## **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]

#### **Hartford Historical Society**

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Ins newsletter is printed in color thanks to a printed in col

#### **HHS Calendar**

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

#### **OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House**

(excepting Holidays and inclement weather) M-F 9-1 pm. or by appointment. To be sure we are open, check for the flag outside the building or contact us mornings at 296-3132 or email us at <a href="https://hartfordhistoricalsociety@myfairpoint.net">hartfordhistoricalsociety@myfairpoint.net</a> For an appointment, call or email us or contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 M-F from 9-4 p.m.

**Special Summer Hours**: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month 6-8 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month 2-4 p.m.

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS open to the public

 $2^{nd}$  Monday of each month - The Hartford Historical Society Discussion Group at the Bugbee Center at 10:30-11:30  $2^{nd}$  Wednesday - Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Municipal Offices, 171 Bridge Street (now temporarily located at 35 Railroad Row), White River Junction at 4:30 p.m.

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday – **HHS Board of Directors Meeting** – at the Garipay House, 6:30 p.m. (Please check for exact date.) For more information, contact Mary Nadeau at 295-2123.

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2014 – Ken Alton will speak on "From Roger's Rangers at White River Falls to the Wilder Dam Redevelopment, 1759 to 2014." 7 p.m. at the Greater United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

**Saturday, September 13, 2014** – Glory Days of the Railroad celebration in downtown White River Junction. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free and open to the public.

**Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2014** – Mike Lyford will speak on **The History of White River Paper Co.** 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

**Wednesday, April 8,** 2015 - Round table discussion on **Growing Up in Hartford** by local folks. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street; Hartford Village. Refreshments.

**The Genealogy Center,** located upstairs in the Hartford Library, is open Monday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. 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.