



# Hartford Historical Society

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

WWW.HARTFORDHISTORY.ORG

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

Volume 19, No. 2

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September-October 2006

## Alice Hazen on Teaching in Hartford

Exerpts from a Hartford Oral History Project  
Interview with Randy Dickson, February 7, 2006

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Well, back in those days I had gone to school tuition free in the State of Vermont with the idea that every year I went tuition free I had to teach in the state for that year, which they're talking about bringing back again now. So I technically owed the State four years but ended up giving 'em forty. I taught third grade in first year in Wilder and then I taught fourth grade and then when they took the fifth and sixth grade out of Wilder the principal was a fifth grade teacher so she remained there as a fourth grade teacher and I ended up going to White River.

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So it was that I had a chance to teach in these areas before I actually went into phys ed because then I could see the other side of the story, that phys ed wasn't the only thing that had to be covered in that classroom. I think so many times that specialists do figure that theirs is the only one and if you've experienced it you know what it is.

*RD:* How many years did you spend there?

*AH:* In the classroom actually I think it was '59 before I had finished my work at Ithaca.

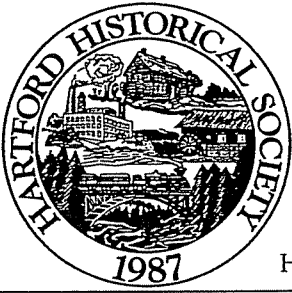
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*RD:* So how did you do that? Did you go back nights or weekends or summers or did you build up credits over the time?

*AH:* Four very long hot summers! I did a regular,

Don't forget - the next program is Wednesday, September 13 at 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford Church of Christ. The program will be "Sprightly Steps: Vermont & New Hampshire's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition," presented by Adam Boyce. See pg. 5 for details.



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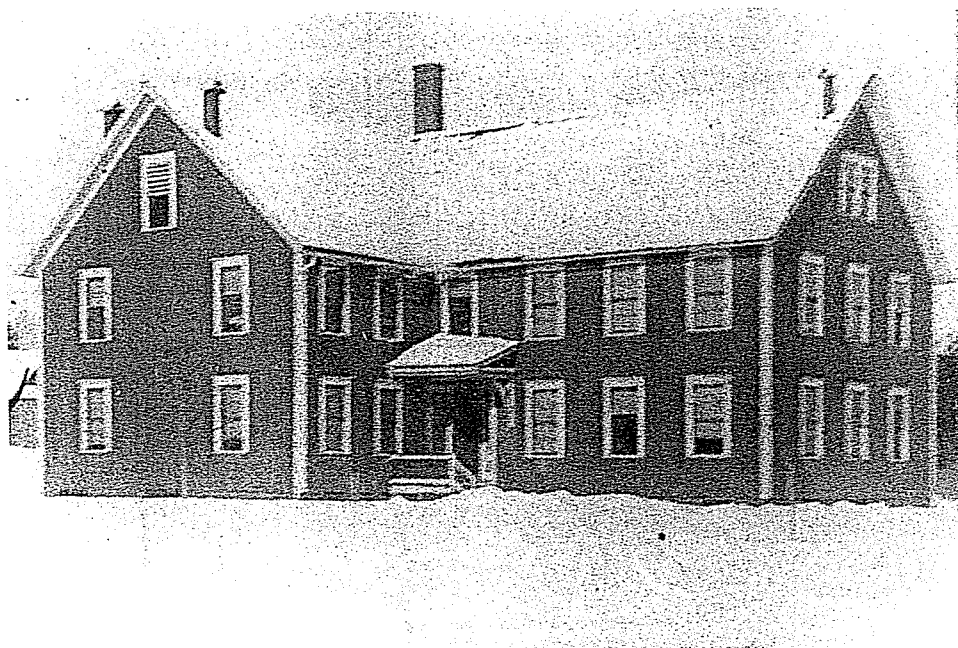
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*The Old Wilder School*

I can now see those coat hooks that I would no more do today, but we could be vaulting and I'd have coat hooks hanging on each [side], I mean really but in Quechee I had a small area and then I lost that and ended up in a classroom. [In] Wilder we had what I called the hole in the wall; it was cement floors, cement walls and two metal posts in the basement.. There were challenges back in those days - I did a lot with square dancing because it could keep a whole group active whereas when you got your big gyms you sort of drop things like

what they called an intersession, a two weeks followed by a six weeks, so we did eight weeks. I had a friend that went out with me. I had three full years like that, summers, and then my last summer was just a two-week. I had to have two courses more because at that point when I had graduated Lyndon was only credited so when I went on for my masters I had to have forty hours. Back when I started out something like \$17.00 an hour and it got all the way up to \$27.50 per hour for a course.

that because you did have the space and room to do things.

You go to take a course in UVM now and it's over \$1,000.00. I look at these youngsters today coming out of school and they're in hock for their education for a good half of their lifetime. I figured I pay tuition free and then to go \$27.50. It was like renewal of certification first time I think it was five bucks. Last time I renewed it was one hundred and seventy-five.

But when Dothan Brook opened I went there full-time until '97. I turned sixty-two and had forty years in the same month and said this is it. [There] you had all grades and you still had an awful lot of faces because they'd just shoot in, shoot out, shoot in, shoot out, it's not the same as having them all day long.

I started teaching phys ed, this was back in '65, '66 and then I was traveling on the road. I was White River for two days, Wilder for a day, Hartford for a day, and then I'd be out at Quechee and Ottaquechee for the other day. It was a sea of faces - you were seeing well roughly five hundred faces a week and you got to know no youngster that well. The youngsters I had in the classroom I knew a lot better than, you'd figure phys ed we'd get to know, well you would a certain few but not the whole sea.

I remember this one [child in ] particular and it

But it was fun to be on the road, I enjoyed being the road and there was lots of interesting things. I remember at one point in Hartford Village we had no gym and I used to hold class in the hallway and



## Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

[HTTP://WWW.HARTFORDHISTORY.ORG](http://www.hartfordhistory.org)

### Officers:

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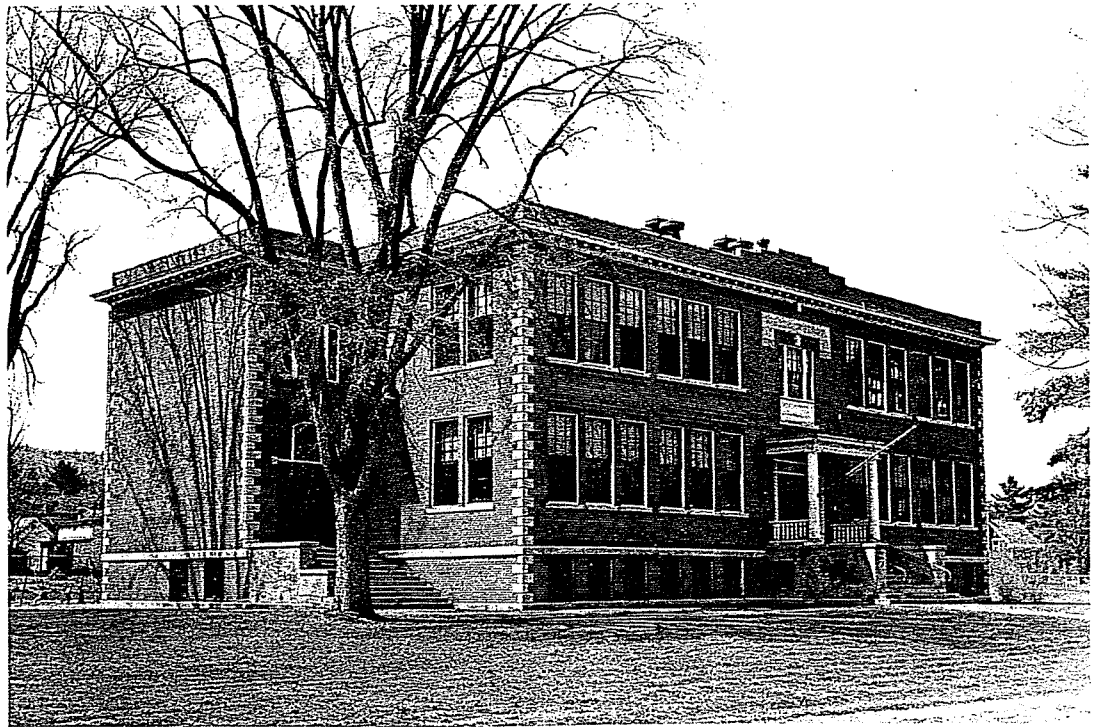
was my first year of teaching, my first year with my own class. I had a young lady by the name of Suzie and Suzie was here from the Korean War, her father was a doctor at Hitchcock and Suzie was so artistic, all I'd have to do is tell her what I wanted for a bulletin board and Suzie did it, tremendous, tremendous and one day we were doing spelling. When she came the first year she came in the second grade and she knew not one word of English when she walked through, when she got to the third grade she was in the top reading group. But this particular day we were a Friday afternoon spelling test and I said something and a question was raised and Suzie started in and she went on, she got up, this was right after lunch, she got up, went up to the board started drawing and the whole nine yards and she had that class right in her hands. Telling about her experiences of being on a forced march, how they came in and took their radios and gave them the whole thing on this. Finally I said you know we've got to go home! All this came back to one day we had an alert, a warning, a civil defense went off and we'd go downstairs and sit in the hallway, well this particular day when we went to sit down Suzie says no, I won't, I won't, she would not sit there. Well Suzie was not one of these that would not say no. Well come to find out she wouldn't sit there because it was a doorway and somebody could open that door and grab her.

Memorial Day exercises was the biggest thing and I'll never forget this one particular day, Esther Blodget had this thing where she was gonna have living pictures and she had this big frame and youngsters would pose in this frame having to do with Memorial Day. The wind was blowing so, it was all Es and I could do to hold that frame, however her kids put on their performance. A good deal of time was spent each spring getting ready for Memorial

Day - that was a big to do there in Wilder and it was always held outside of course.

As you look back I feel sorry for the kids today because they are pulled in just so many different directions. You have youngsters come in and say Mrs. Hazen, I don't have my sneakers, well where are your sneakers, well I stayed with mother tonight and last night and I was at dad's the night before and I forgot to bring 'em so it's, it's a tough situation for them.

But at the same time I was teaching I was also doing some coaching there at one point and it's, I enjoyed coaching. I helped out with the field hockey, Kathy Carlson and so forth. That was probably, if I had to look back the big high point of my teaching career was the Gales to Wales trip. The Gales to Wales was started as a field hockey and ended in field hockey. We were taking the girls to field hockey camps here in the state and there was this gal by the name of Susan Faithful who was bringing a team over from Wales. She'd done this a couple of summers and finally one summer she said well, why don't you come over and visit us? I remember Kathy saying it to a couple of girls and a couple of team members sitting there one day at camp and saying what would you think of us going to Wales? One looked at the other and said we'd have to stick up a bank. I mean that was far off for them as this was in August. [The Gales] was short for girls, they called them gals. In September we got the okay from the school board to



*The Wilder School, built 1913*

## Mystery Solved!

While filing a recent donation I noticed this Program – which explains the ‘mystery photo’ of a couple of issues back!



1929

2004-12  
CPT

### Graduation Exercises

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNE 14, 1929

GATES OPERA HOUSE

**Opera**

PRESENTED BY  
CLASS OF 1929

**Members of Graduating Class**

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Pres. - Kenneth Swanson        |                   |
| Vice-Pres. - Charlotte Cameron |                   |
| Sec. - John Warren             |                   |
| Treas. - Joseph Sawyer         |                   |
| Mary Allen                     | Milton Worthen    |
| Nedra Arlous                   | Francis Campbell  |
| Marjorie Byron                 | Louis Fiskerson   |
| Charlotte Cameron              | Clifford Fleury   |
| Marguerite Carey               | Albert Fetter     |
| Barbara Dustin                 | Clayton Gould     |
| Mavis Gibson                   | Alphornus Guertoo |
| Dorothy Jamason                | Wendell Penn      |
| Ardene Perkins                 | Francis Henderson |
| Virginia Quinn                 | Oscar Johnson     |
| Kenneth Renault                | Edward Robinson   |
| Rosie Romano                   | Joseph Sawyer     |
| Annie Schettino                | Francis Stone     |
| Mary Schettino                 | Thomas Stone      |
| Lillian Shaw                   | Kenneth Swanson   |
| Lillian Sturtevant             | John Warren       |
| Marjorie Worthen               |                   |

**Opera**

### "WINDMILLS OF HOLLAND"

BY OTIS CARRINGTON

**Cast of Characters**

Mynheer Hertogenbosch.....	Francis Henderson
Vrouw Hertogenbosch.....	Mavis Gibson
Wilhelmina.....	Annie Schettino
Hilda.....	Marjorie Byron
Bob Yankee.....	Francis Stone
Hans.....	Albert Fetter
Franz.....	Kenneth Swanson
Katrina.....	Barbara Dustin

Chorus of farmers' daughters and workhands, composed of all other members of the graduating class.

**Musical Numbers**

ACT I

- Overture
- Opening Chorus
- "Vot is it"..... Hertogenbosch

- "Mother Mine"..... Wilhelmina
  - "The Spider and Fly"..... Vrouw Hertogenbosch
  - "There are Others"..... Hilda and Franz
  - "Looking for a Girl"..... Franz and Chorus
  - "Fishing"..... Wilhelmina and Bob
  - "In Dreamland"..... Hans
  - Wooden Shoes Finale..... Chorus
- Piano Solo, Rosie Romano
- ACT II
- Drum Song..... Chorus
  - "Shame on You"..... Wilhelmina, Hilda and Vrouw
  - "A Common Game"..... Trio
  - "Poppies Red and White"..... Girls' Chorus
  - "A Man in Business"..... Bob Yankee
  - "When I Was Young Like You"..... Hertogenbosch
  - "Nothing to Do"..... Bob, Hertogenbosch and Chorus
  - Finale..... Chorus
- Awarding Diplomas  
Awarding of Watson Prize  
Awarding of S. A. R. Medal

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# Program Notes

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## Sprightly Steps

Vermont and New Hampshire's Contra and Square Dancing

Our next program meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, at the Greater Hartford Church of Christ in Hartford Village beginning at 7 p.m. If someone you know would enjoy this topic, by all means bring him or her along. All of our programs are free to the public and handicap accessible. Refreshments will be served following Mr. Boyce's presentation.

**Sprightly Steps:  
Vermont & New Hampshire's  
Contra and Square  
Dancing Tradition**  
by Adam R. Boyce

Dancing is, for many people, a celebration of life, as well as fond recollections of times past. Compared to our ancestors, who might well dance at least 4 times a week, for an average of 8 hours each time, we don't enjoy dancing as much as past generations; they had less free time than we do today, restricted to their respective communities due to lack of good roads and transportation, not to mention all the various and sundry farm and household chores, yet, they had time to dance, and dance they did.

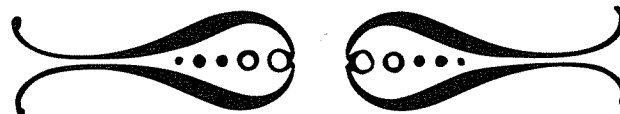
Although early settlers frowned upon the merriment of dancing, or frolicing, it was, nonetheless enjoyed by countless individuals for many generations, in country towns and cities alike. From fancy balls or cotillions to kitchen junkets or "tunks," people of all ages and backgrounds fell under the spell of the fiddle

upon their souls. Changes in musical styles and culture over the years have made old-time dancing nearly extinct, but some faithful practitioners are keeping the old styles alive.

Through old photos, copies of dance cards, quotes from various sources, and handed-down stories, Adam Boyce presents a sampling of dance heritage from Vermont and New Hampshire.... where it came from, how it developed and changed; Adam tries to incorporate local dance history, where available, to make it more interesting and alive to those in attendance. He also plays a few live fiddle tunes to illustrate the different types of tunes used for various types of dances. Audience members are invited to ask questions and share their own dancing experiences.

Dancing is, after all, a human experience, and means different things for different people....for some, they would "rather dance than eat," while others have "2 left feet," and have a strong dislike for the practice. Nonetheless, dancing was an important means of community interaction, a celebration for various occasions, and a connection with past generations.

Adam also explores the musical styles and influences connected with, and which displaced, dancing. Sometimes, communities had to improvise, based on which types of musical instruments were available. While some communities have similar dance/music styles, it tends to be regional, based on the callers/prompters and musicians/instruments, and the expertise of those callers/prompters/musicians. Much of the musical style is handed-down and learned/played by ear.



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Vice-Pres. Charlotte Cameron  
Sec. John Warren  
Treas. Joseph Sawyer

Mary Allen	Mario Worthen
Vernon Anderson	Francis Campbell
Marjorie Byron	Louis Fairbank
Charlotte Cameron	Clifford Frary
Margaret Carey	Albert Forter
Barbara Dustin	Clayton Gould
Mavis Gibson	Alphano Gurrino
Dorothy Jamason	Wendell Jann
Arlene Perkins	Francis Henderson
Virginia Quinn	Oscar Johnson
Virginia Remault	Edward Robinson
Marie Romano	Joseph Sawyer
Annie Schettino	Francis Stone
Mary Schettino	Thomas Stone
Lillian Shaw	Kenneth Swanson
Lillian Shurivant	John Warren
Marjorie Worthen	

2004-15  
577

**Graduation Exercises**

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GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNE 14, 1929

GATES OPERA HOUSE

Operetta  
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CLASS OF 1929

Operetta

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11. Drum Song..... Chorus
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15. "A Man in Business"..... Bob Yankee
16. "When I Was Young Like You"..... Hertogenbosch
17. "Nothing to Do"..... Bob, Hertogenbosch and Chorus
18. Finale..... Chorus

Awarding Diplomas  
Awarding of Watson Prize  
Awarding of S. A. R. Medal

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# Your Society at Work

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## Historic Trivia

100 years ago— Mrs. Charles Wilder donated 2 lots to the town for a new school. Evidently the old wooden one was in need of replacement.

## Thank You!

Edye Lowell donated 3 of our missing Quechee Times from her personal collection. Thanks again Edye!



## Happenings Around Town

SEPTEMBER 10 – 10AM the Quechee Church will be celebrating their 175th Anniversary starting at 10AM during regular church services, followed by a Pot-Luck Lunch. Everyone is invited to come dressed in Period attire if desired.

## Mystery Photos

Can you identify the people or dates in these photos? If so, the Hartford Historic Society would like to hear from you! Contact Pat at 295-3077. Thanks!



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## Curator's Corner

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Sometimes the 'Gods of Non-Profits' smile on you, and this happened to us in June. New Jersey Machine in Lebanon was vacating their space and donating much of their used office furniture and storage cabinets to Upper Valley Non-Profits – I understand schools and historical societies were at the top of the list.

We were fortunate to be among them! We have acquired 3 sections of flat plan files [the kind designed for blueprints] which I have been wishing for for several years now. The value of

these if purchased new is above \$5000! They are excellent storage facilities for many things – from posters to framed items! [I just hope the Garipay House structure is not being overloaded!]. We are also getting a small metal bookshelf that has the capacity to have glass/Plexiglas fronts reinserted to make an excellent display case.

Speaking of display cases – stop by at an open house and see the wonderful display cases we now have thanks to the friends and family of Evelyn Stevens!



# Hartford Historical Society

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## HHS Calendar

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*Programs are held at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ on Maple Street in Hartford at 7:00 p.m. and are followed by refreshments.*

Tues., September 5, 2006 – Open House – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. The public is welcome to visit the Garipay House and see items from our collection on display. Volunteers are on hand to give tours and answer any questions.

Tues., September 13, 2006 – Sprightly Steps: Vermont's Contra and Square Dancing Tradition – Early settlers may have frowned upon the merriment of dancing, but people of all backgrounds fell under the spell of the fiddle. Presented by Adam Boyce.

Sun., September 10, 2006 – Open House – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 1:30 - 4:00 PM. The public is welcome to visit the Garipay House and see items from our collection on display.

Tues., September 26, 2006 – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 7:00 PM. For more information, e-mail Clyde Berry, Board Chairman.

Tues., October 3, 2006 – Open House – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. The public is welcome to visit the Garipay House and see items from our collection on display.

Sun., October 15, 2006 – Open House – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 1:30 - 4:00 PM. The public is welcome to visit the Garipay House and see items from our collection on display.

Tues., October 24, 2006 – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 7:00 PM. For more information, e-mail Clyde Berry, Board Chairman.

Tues., November 7, 2006 – Open House – Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. The public is welcome to visit the Garipay House and see items from our collection on display. Volunteers are on hand to give tours and answer any questions.

Wed., November 8, 2006 – A Hard Founding Father to Love: Ira Allen of Vermont – Land speculator, revolutionary and government leader, Ira Allen was a significant figure in 18th Century Vermont. Kevin Graffagnino examines Ira's checkered career.