



Hartford Historical Society

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

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Reminiscing With Norman Lyman

Interview by Beverly Bishop for the Hartford Oral History Project

[Editor's Note: Norman D. Lyman, former Vice President of the Hartford Historical Society is fondly remembered by all who knew him. We would like to honor his memory in this issue of our newsletter with a segment from his Oral History tape. Norman was interviewed on October 1, 2004 by Beverly Bishop at his home in the Jericho District.]

NL: The farm up above my grandfather bought in 1888. My folks sold it in 1964. We bought this place in '54 - it was available and we had a lot of cattle, a hundred and fifty head up there and big sugar place. We bought this to help the farm survive a little more, bigger acreage. When we gave up farming my folks sold it to my son. And then I in turn, my wife and I here, oh, gosh we've been here eighteen years in this building so that our younger people, so it's still in the Lyman family. When we sold it to our son we took a life lease on their property to put our mobile home here but we don't own the land under it. We figured that somehow who knows but when we aren't around that there would be another little chunk for Lymans and that's all that's left up here, I do have a nephew that lives in the mobile home right by the old community schoolhouse. He does a lot of mowing around here, puts up around 20, 25,000 bales a year. It all goes to horses basically, a pile of horses around you'll see.

There's one dairy farm down over the hill that still has some use, but that's all that's left. I can remember when there was between four and five hundred cows up here in this one square mile. For a long time, way back in the late '30s when Bellows Falls Cooperative Creamery started they got more milk in one mile up here than they did in any route to Bellows Falls Creamery, they'd pick up practically a truck load right

here. I've had to hitch up the horses a number of times and pull 'em out of a snowdrift or mud hole.

BB: Can you remember your childhood up on this hill, and what it was like growing up in your family?

NL: That was an interesting part of my life because, might as well say it now at Christmas Day I'll be eighty years old. But I can remember being youngsters in the Depression and if we went to the big town - we

called it in those days - White River it was a rarity. I can remember my father taking my brother and I, he's a year older than I am, to a restaurant in White River and we were just scared to death cause we'd never been in one. It was a Howard Restaurant in between the two bank buildings - it used to be Howard Drug and was a side fixture of that. I can remember that but other than that we hardly ever went to the town.

Of course the school was in the rural schoolhouse - it was all students - anywhere from ten to sixteen students when I went. I sometimes wish we had 'em back again the rural little schools. You always knew what the upper class people were doing, so if you was in the third grade and hopefully get into the fourth the next year you knew what was all about because you watched and listened to. There were activities that involved all years of students - some years they weren't in any one class

but from eighth grade to first grade. I think it's one thing that you had a tendency to develop a little bit what school was all about because you had that type of schooling around you everyday. If you didn't get it the teacher usually would help you and sometimes they would ask an older student to step in and help you, the younger class ones.

BB: And you walked to school?



Norm Lyman displaying a certificate from the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation.

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NL: My brother and I for a number of years it was a common thing, it was a few of us after all, recess we had to come home and feed the cows their hay in the fifteen minute recess but you run up the roads and down it wasn't, it was close, it's a big farm and a little school-house but that was a way of life.

Another thing I remember them was the Christmas parties, used to have all students whether you were scared to death or worse which I was scared to death half the time.

BB: Of what?

NL: Oh, you had to be in a little Christmas play and step out in front of your friends of the neighborhood, your parents and whatnot. You'd peek around the corner to see who was there. But always they had a nice program too for children for Christmas, and they had a Christmas tree and there was a present or two given out. We had one family that was well known in the area, a farmer people who didn't have any children but they'd always come to the school programs for the children and there was always a present under the tree from those people for every child in the neighborhood.

BB: Would you care to say who that was, or do you remember?

NL: Well they were related to the Wallaces that Wallace Road was named after. Yep, and talking about that, Wallace Road that's a new fixed up road since 60s, 70s but it was an old town highway. Part of it's not opened up yet but it's still town highway, that traveled portion on this end now is probably a little over a mile and there's thirteen properties built on that road since it was opened up. Quite a few, one-third of 'em I would say, I know right off they're in the Town of Norwich - the northern part of the Jericho District is on the border with the Town of Norwich. My son [has an arrangement] with some property owners that are research doctors, Elliott Fisher and Nan Cochran, that live up on top of the ridge over there in some land that was owned by Byron Hathorn and they built a quite a nice house -not elaborate but a good one -and that's in the Town of Norwich. My son has sixteen hundred maple taps up in there and he has for quite a number of years. They like to have it done of course this Current Land Use. They're in it 'cause they've got couple hundred acres or plus and we tap and cut wood to thin it out for 'em but that's part of that land use that they're in. I've sugared all my life and once you are in it you never want to give it up.

This Wallace Road that I mentioned about - the gentleman that lives on Wallace Farm and his wife - Dr. Leo Zacharski bought that place probably twenty-five, thirty years ago, it's a white house on the corner.

And they are living in the farmhouse with the Wallaces, they fixed it up a little bit but it was in good shape. About a half a mile on Wallace Road off the road a little bit down in the hollow by the brook is an old cellar hole and that's where Frank Wallace that owned this Wallace place was born. There's no house, but I can remember when I was a youngster the old barn that was there. I don't know whether the house burned or just neglected and fell in but I think it did burn.

BB: Where did your grandparents come from, you said they moved here in 1888?

NL: Well in this Historic District they just make reference to 'em as you come up over the top of the hill -what we call Jericho Hill - keep looking ahead to what we call Griggs Mountain or Happy Hill, there's a beautiful homestead up there and that is the Lyman homestead.

BB: Were they there for a long time?

NL: Yes, it's still in the family. Years ago when my grandfather left there as a young man he had three sisters that eventually came back, one was never married and I can remember when we was kids they had a cow; two of them were married but their husbands were deceased when they came back and they took care of that house and one of them was just a little lady. These were my great aunts and they lived in that house after their husbands -- came back someone lived in Strafford and one was never married and lived in that house all the time too and one of them milked a cow until she was eighty-four years old. -- geese & ducks too I guess. That was a pain as my uncle or my father had to put in the hay for 'em for the cow and get wood for their supply and we as kids every once in awhile especially in the late fall we'd go up and see if everything was all right but always had cookies or something when we'd stop in.

What turned everything around from the old days to the modern days happened in 1931 up here, that's when we got the electrical power.

BB: How did it, how did life change then, like give me a before and after picture?

NL: Old lanterns, we had to use lanterns in the barn because my father didn't have enough money to wire the barn, but we did the house. The biggest thing that I can remember is that we didn't see it, they was going to string a wire up on a Saturday so we didn't have to go to school. The hired men and dad were working in the woods so my brother and I took right off to the woods and we come back and there the wire was all up and we missed it! Most of the farmers put some into their barns but we didn't until 1939. That and of course the automobile but that was around in the late '20s too you see.

BB: Did your family have a car?

NL: Oh, yes.

BB: What was the earliest one you can remember?

NL: I can remember an old beat up Plymouth about 1931- '33 and there was two or three other old models that *(Continued on page 4)*



Hartford Historical Society

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A Hard Founding Father to Love: Ira Allen of Vermont

November Program

By Mary Nadeau, Program Chairman

Our next regularly-scheduled program will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, at the Greater Hartford Church of Christ in Hartford Village beginning at 7 p.m. As always, our programs are free and open to the public, so please do what you can to spread the word about this wonderful opportunity to learn about one of Vermont's most colorful and controversial historical figures.

Our speaker will be J. Kevin Graffagnino, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society and the author/editor of 14 books. Mr. Graffagnino, who pursues Vermont history with a passion, is an excellent speaker and enjoys peppering his presentations with good humor.

The following is excerpted from his article, "Rascal on a Pedestal: Ira Allen" which appeared in the Spring, 1988, issue of *Vermont Life*:



Ira Allen, circa 1790. A father and zealous protector of Vermont and a father of its university, he was also a tireless land speculator and inveterate schemer who was laid to rest in a pauper's grave in Philadelphia. Allen designed the Great Seal of Vermont in 1778.

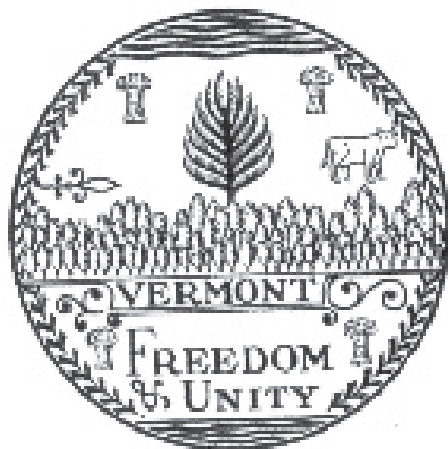
For many Vermonters, Ira Allen is a hard founding father to love. Serious students of early Vermont history know him as one of the state's most important eighteenth century leaders, an equal of such pioneer heroes as his brother Ethan or first governor Thomas Chittenden. However, the popular historical tradition reveres Chittenden and Ethan Allen, but holds little fame and less honor for Ira.

Ethan Allen—bold, colorful, swashbuckling military adventurer—is Vermont's version of Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett; Thomas Chittenden—wise, steady, taciturn One-Eyed on—is our George Washington. If Ira Allen had a national counterpart among his generation, it may have been Aaron Burr, who also reached too high and fell prematurely from power and posterity's grace.

Ira's contemporaries saw much to criticize in his character, goals and tactics, and succeeding generations of Vermonters have found it difficult to view him with the affection most early notables evoke. Still, whatever his faults, Ira was a central figure in Green Mountain affairs for more than a quarter-century, and a knowledge of his career adds much to our understanding of Vermont's formative decades.

Today, Ira Allen remains an ambiguous historical figure. In a state that looks to Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys for its early heroes, Ira's political wheeling and dealing and commercial scheming seem both unexciting and unattractive.

Yet the fact remains that Ira epitomizes an important type of early Vermonter, the frontier entrepreneur who relied on his wits to get ahead, who weighed altruistic and selfish factors in facing each new situation, and who envisioned great new things for a land where others saw only wilderness.



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dad had, maybe a little pick-up style and I learned to drive on a 1934 Chevrolet pick-up and we bought our first tractor in 1938, tractors was coming around.

BB: So until then?

NL: It was all horses - I can remember my father was taken sick in '33, very sick and ended up in the hospitals in Boston, he was bedridden for pretty near two years.

BB: What was wrong with him?

NL: He had a tooth taken out and a piece of tooth got into his lung and nobody knew it. It formed an abscess and he picked up pneumonia. They took out most of one lung that was infected so.

BB: Did he recover from that?

NL: Yep he did but it was close for a while. He survived but he was not really physically [well], he did a lot more than he should have we know because that was his determination.

I've always thought that something like that might happen in the prime of life you see my father was thirty-six years old when that happened.

NL: But that was right in with the Depression - we sold all the cows and my uncles and aunts came and stayed in the house - we lived out one summer with my siblings with our children. Now I have three sisters and one brother, there were six of us. We closed the house off practically and kept the young stock. Two years later we started farming again, got a little help and we had to buy quite a few cows. We bought some up north with the help of a gentleman from West Hartford by the name of Langdon Hazen who was very adapt at buying cows and had a truck. He helped my father pick out cows - we must have bought around twenty of 'em to get started back, of course we had some heifers that were coming around. My aunts and uncles or somebody would come in and take care of us, of course my father was home all the time for the last year but he was bedridden.

BB: Tell me a little bit about your mother.

NL: She was born and brought up in Groton but lived in Wheelock, Vermont between Wheelock and Sheffield. They moved to Norwich when she was around fourteen years old and her father basically was a Sire in Scotland and she had a brother and sister. Her brother ended up being quite well known, the Nelson part of W. H. Trumbull Nelson Company in Hanover, a big contractor. He passed away and my mother lived 'til she was eighty-two. My father didn't, he passed away when he was seventy.

BB: Well what, how would you describe your mother?

NL: Very, very active - Woman's clubs, Home Demonstration Club, extension work, all this. My father was very active too as he knew that his physical [strength] slowed down so he [had to] use his head instead of his strength. He ended up one of the first directors of soil conservation and he was the soil conservation agent in Windsor County, the very first one - in 1935 or '36. He did that for quite awhile and then he went into politics as Town Selectman for quite awhile, he went to Montpelier too and we were Eastern State Farmers reps at the same time.

I remember going to high school I was late pretty near every day because my brother and I had forty cows to milk [before we left for] school everyday.

BB: You had milking machines then?



Norm and his brother at the sugarhouse.

NL: Yeah and we had a hired man or two, but we were very active on the farm, did a lot of work.

BB: Did you milk 'em at night too?

NL: Oh sure. We were just like the hired man even at fourteen. The Saturdays you had chores, and projects to do on Sunday. When I was ten, eleven we had chores to do - fill wood box, feed the calves; get the hay down or something like that. As far as milking probably when I was about twelve or thirteen my brother and I had to do it. I remember we were about thirteen and a hired man was taken sick for a couple of weeks and my brother and I got a great little gasoline engine to run the milking machines. Didn't seem to have any trouble but Dad was around to see that everything went all right. That's when we really got started and then in high school we were working when we weren't going to school.

When I graduated in '43 of course that was in the middle of World War II, and that was more scary I think than anything in my life. It was the dark time of World War II which was about two years, no driving, no vehicles, pick up the paper, listen to the radio. I can remember a big saying that the bombers from the allies went over Germany last night we lost maybe one or two, but they lost a whole city. I mean those are the things that you heard. Everybody was war conscious too, oh, terrible.

BB: Do you remember the day that war was declared?

NL: Yes, I do, it was on a Sunday and that was Pearl Harbor. We'd heard about it on the radio and the next day in high school we were all in assembly in the gymnasium and we heard President Roosevelt declaring war. But that lasted about four years too. I went and had my physical, which was mandatory 'cause you had to register for the draft and everything. But they wouldn't take me because on account of food production. But it got to the point my father said that well if you're gonna take one you're gonna take two because I'll have to sell the cows as there's nobody to hire to work on the farm because everybody else is busy in the service or in factories. So that was that and your rationing that went along with the war.

BB: What was that like?

NL: Oh, what the size of the family and where you were. Your gasoline

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was rationed and you had just about enough gas to get down street once to get a load of grain or something like that cause there was no pleasure driving - that was out. And coupons, then your sugar was rationed, you didn't get very much of that either but thankfully mother knew how to use maple syrup - all the farmers that did sugaring were [better off].

Right after high school, my first day of work was the day after I graduated - full-time on the farm, my brother was a year older and we more or less did all the farm work. We stayed there until 1964, I had back trouble and my brother [had] just went to work for Trumbell Nelson's and I just couldn't carry the farm. We sold the cattle off, we had around seventy milkers and three thousand buckets sugar place, made a lot of syrup.

My father right along about then was cornered by President Eisenhower to represent the northeast, Northeast Forest Advisory Council and he represented more or less the hardwoods and the sugaring of the northeast and he was on that council for nine years. It was quite a big one, he did a lot of work with laboratories especially in Philadelphia that were doing a lot [with] the maple syrup industry. He knew things that science was working with and I have a lot of books and pictures of that time - he was president of the sugar makers for years, we were quite active.

BB: What about your three sisters?

NL: My oldest sister, Elizabeth Summers, her husband passed away probably six years ago and she's living with her daughter now in North Carolina. He worked for Westinghouse Corporation all those years and they lived in Denver and Saint Louis and Memphis and they ended up in New York and they lived in Canada. The next in line below me lives in Norwich - Charlotte Saylor. The youngest sister Anne she's lived for years in Austin, Texas.

BB: So none of the girls had an interest in doing anything on the farm?

NL: No. They had more or less household chores, there was a lot to do but not too much outside. Well after we got a baler, one or two of 'em had to handle some baled hay now and then or drive a truck to pick it up and those things but basically their work involved all the household work. They were all very, very heavy involved in 4-H and we all came out pretty good I think. Two of my siblings, one brother and a sister they went to National 4-H Congress in Chicago for different years. I had an opportunity to apply and try and I won a big award, American Agriculture Magazine, do you remember that? I had to write a biography of my life up to then of what I was doing, your marks in school, what you did on the farm and what you did for your community and maybe church related or youth related. I had been to talk over to WGY in Schenectady on a Saturday morning which was Vermont's turn for 4-H youth to speak. It was Windsor County's turn so my sister and I, we were asked to do it. I have an idea that 4-H set me up because I took my first prize speaking in 4-H and I placed second in State of Vermont so maybe that was a little jump. I came back home from Schenectady to Woodstock where the County Agent, 4-H Agent and my mother and my younger sister met me there and on the way home my younger sister says, "Mother you gonna tell him?" "Quiet, quiet," and then mother says, "We opened the letter that was addressed to you but we surmised what it was just by the heading on the envelope, you won the trip that included all New England, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware to the two weeks to Camp Miniwanca (?) in Shelby, Michigan. It was a youth camp, and I was fortunate enough to, I mentioned it quite a few times through my life, that I had a ride on the Twentieth Century

Limited, which was the passenger train before the diesel engines - it was a steam engine. It was that famous train from New York to Chicago - so that meant a lot. I had just graduated from high school.

BB: Boy, so they had to live without you here for two weeks?

NL: Yep, and they had to do haying and we had a little extra help come in because we were remodeling the stables for the cattle at that same time, but things progressed all right.

BB: So what was the camp like?

NL: There was a student, most of them were students, the counselors were usually college boys and there were six hundred at camp. For that two weeks I was in the tent with a bunch of nice boys - I can't remember their names but I can remember their first name because every one of 'em was Robert, five Roberts in one camp! We were divided up into groups, Indian names basically - we were in the Crowfoot, there was a hundred or so in each group, kind of broke up. I can remember felt pretty proud out there - it bordered on Lake Michigan, about forty miles north of Muskegon which is about halfway up the coast of Michigan, and there was a lake right near the property [with] a lot of acreage. The sponsor of that camp was William Ainth Danforth who was owner, founder and president of the Ralston Purina Company. He did that for his love of life for youngsters because he'd give a little talk to us one day and he could hardly get around he was about eighty years old then, so it was quite a proud set-up up there.

We'd go into Lake Michigan all in groups, you went out to the water [to see] who could stay under the water the longest. I never could even swim - I passed the swimming test by holding my breath and going across the bottom but that's all right. That was really amazing because the six hundred included all the counselors and everybody that had to do with the camp itself, not your personnel that were there to work. They lined up right down the whole front of that beach there and you'd go out to your chin and they had a big bull horn and that's when you ducked your head underneath the water and probably hundreds of them popped right back up, and when it got all done I took my class for Crowfeet. I couldn't believe it but there it was, seems that time was around sixteen, eighteen seconds - then the winners of the six groups, three of 'em were Red Cross swimmers instructors and the other three were just members of the camp. So I had to represent that, so there were six of us that got out in that water again, okay, down you go and that's when the torture and pressure come in and you stayed there because the first one to pop they'd hol-ler right out so you could hear. One, two, three, and I was waiting for that fifth one, boy, boy, boy the fifth one came and I was right behind him, I took the whole and I won it.

I knew when I left there was a lot more to the country than Jericho District because some of the boys were farm boys [who'd say "oh we have a thousand acre ranch and with four hundred acres of corn", it was big to some of 'em but it was huge to me. But you heard about all those different parts of the country just through the boys that you converse with. And I had to write a summary of my trip to Martin Agriculturist but that wasn't very hard either because I had a good teacher, my mother.

Before I went out there I graduated from high school and the principal of the high school come in one day in March he says, "Norman, we want you to speak at graduation." I says, "Oh, oh here's one time I can tell you no". You had to write your

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own speech but I wasn't, my best year was my senior year I was on the Honor Roll once or twice but that's all. I probably had about an eighty-six or seven, eighty-four average when I graduated but every year I was better - you got used to it and used doing things different than you were when you were a freshman. My English teacher, born and brought up in Craftsbury Common, Vermont [was] a farmer and her father was Eastern States representative up in that area. Monday morning English class she says, "Well I wonder what you do over the weekend." I says to her what did she do, and she said, "Oh, I filled out grain slips for dad," and of course the rest of the kids want to know what the hell you guys are talking about. But when she found out she did a lot of prodding and, "Norman you are going to," which to speak didn't bother me any.

BB: So you wrote your speech?

NL: Oh, yes, it was some part of the government I didn't even keep a copy of it. But the year before that I was in prize speaking - I had to learn "Message to Gosha," that took about fifteen, twenty minutes and I had to learn the whole thing. Well so I had some training there that certainly helped out.

When we sold the farm I wanted to know what I was going to do. Well, we had a family with children, very young ones growing up. I had a chance to get into the water and waste water division in the Town of Hartford. I went to work there and I came right into the waste water division and I took it over instantly, first plant operator - in the first group who got their certificate to be plant operators from the State of Vermont.

BB: What did that entail?

NL: A lot of studying. I went to night, afternoon school, classes in Brattleboro for twenty-two weeks. It involved basically a lot of chemistry and math - there's the two big points and I didn't take chemistry in high school which I should have. I wanted to go ahead and I did it on my own - the Town give me a little boost and help through the Town Manager, he was excellent.

BB: Who was the Town Manager at the time?

NL: Ralph Lehman, he was there thirty-five years. He was there all the time I worked for the Town and I can remember we had to take a basic course [which] was set up by the University of Sacramento and we kept that as a guidelines and our instructor was an engineer from the Vermont Water Resources, wonderful fellow. There was two classes going at that time one in Brattleboro and one in Middlebury because the treatment plant operators are all new - popping up everywhere in all the big towns in the state. We had one plant started in Wilder and I took that right over on the first day that we opened it up - they says, "Norman this is going to be your field I guess," but my farm background was a natural.

BB: What were some of the things that helped you in your new line of work?

NL: Well we had an image to straighten out, [the] sewer department; we were working in the sewers - makes me think of Norton on Jackie Gleason Show. Well I was always proud of Norton. But there was an image and of course usually we were very definitely the low pay rate or pay plan of any department. If you work in the sewer you can't go any lower in a sense of where everything starts from - you usually start from there - so we had to change that image a little bit through being certified operators. There was five classes and I went from one to four in

three years. I could not take five because I had to have a PE. I enjoyed it because you was in construction, you was in lab work, designing and a lot of math that went with it so.

BB: Did you have to take a final [exam]?

NL: Oh yes, we had to. The Exam was closed book and they put out a hundred and twenty-five questions with answers that you had to come up with - Some of 'em were multiple choice and some of 'em were true and false. Some of 'em were tests to do, or figuring out by math or chemistry

We went back the following week to final things up and our instructor says you guys didn't come in first, he says I'm awful disappointed that none of you came in first you let the gentleman, his name was Foster from Middlebury come in first. But we did come in second and it wasn't you Curly Warden [he was from Brattleboro]. He was a go-getter too but and he says Norman you beat Curly by two points so we took second and third. I felt pretty good on that. We had a good time but you had to go to classes do some relative class work - even attending meetings, every two years you had to apply and renew your certificate.

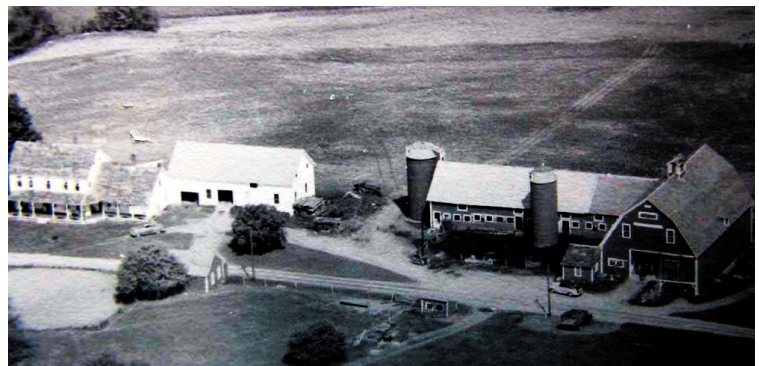
After about three or four years I wasn't attending any classes because they got me in the state to go around be one of teachers so you just kept that up and my certificate number was twenty-two - I guess today they're up in the thousands.

BB: What were your days like, how did you spend your days working for the Town?

NL: Operating the plant itself was a lot of work - we have seven personnel now in the plants. There are these forms to fill out and some of it's mandatory - everyday gallons that came into the plant, gallons that went out, how much sludge. A lot of it you had to test every week, now you have to do it every other day, BOD is a big, big thing in the plants and that's biological oxygen demand in your sewer - that's how you measure the strength of the sewerage. And then your maintenance of motors 'cause the plant there in White River we use between two thousand and twenty-five hundred kilowatt of power a day.

There's five of them down there that been there ever since it started. Of course they got new ones and one of 'em here retired a year ago. If they got in there they had to go to these classes that I took and I helped 'em out and we got the pay up, it is the highest paying positions in the Town now - Public Works is Waste Water.

I also worked a lot in the Highway Division and the Rec Department. Well, I worked for the Town twenty-four years - I retired in 1989.



Lyman Farm in the Jericho District of Hartford.



Your Society at Work

Hartford Library Genealogy Center Update

What started as an informal genealogy interest group at the Hartford Library is becoming a major resource for local (and distant) researchers with an interest in Hartford families.

Over the summer, assistant librarian Marian Williams and Hartford Historical Society board member Jim Kenison were busy answering queries from people all over the country. This service is being offered free of charge, but many people have made monetary donations to the library as a result. People have been asking for help in writing to the library, or via e-mail through the historical society. In addition, people are encouraged to post queries on the society's website. Donations received at the library are being earmarked for future purchases and improvements to the genealogy center.

The collection is growing rapidly with magazines and books being added regularly. The library is now holding the historical society's genealogy files as well as saving and filing obituaries of local interest.

Through the efforts of Jim Kenison, the library has received a donation of a microfilm reader and printer for the center. Many microfilms of local genealogical interest are available through the library's inter-library loan service. Librarian Nadine Hodgdon is also investigating the possible purchase of microfilms for the library's permanent collection.

Anyone interested in learning more or volunteering (conducting research, filing, etc.) is asked to contact either Nadine or Marian at the library at (802) 296-2568.



Curator's Corner

AUDIO AND VIDEOTAPES

The Hartford Historic Preservation Committee is in the midst of working with the school to produce a video for the Visitor Centers using some of our Oral History. It naturally makes me think about the proper Care and Storage for such media.

- * It may be obvious, but never touch the tape surface – remember that our fingers have acid on them!
- * Purchase high quality tapes – for cassettes [if you are still using them – we are] buy the ones with a little screw in the corner – this will enable them to be dried if they ever get wet.
- * Record videotapes at standard speed [SP rather than EP] for better images.
- * Break off the tab[s] to prevent accidentally re-recording over the tape.
- * Use the Pause as little as possible, but Never us Stop except at a black point.
- * To rewind a cassette flip it over and use Fast Forward, Rewind

'Tis the Season ... to volunteer!

The Hartford Historical Society currently has a wide range of volunteer opportunities for those of you looking for ways to become more involved. Below is a listing of several key areas using volunteers on a regular basis. If interested, please contact the person listed beside your area of interest. Thanks for your assistance!

- * Collections – Volunteers are used in helping to catalog items in our collection and setting up displays – both at the Garipay House and at various locations/functions. If interested, please contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 (days), or 296-2192.
- * Book Update Committee – Volunteers are needed to gather historical data and photos from local businesses and to write informative captions to be included in our updated history of Hartford. Please contact Jim Kenison at 738-5333.
- * Program Refreshments – Volunteers needed to help provide and serve refreshments at our four annual programs. If interested, please contact Mary Nadeau at 295-2123.
- * Open House Docents – Volunteers are needed to host our two monthly open houses at the society's museum in Hartford Village. Please contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 (days), or 296-2192.
- * Publicity Coordinator – A volunteer with internet access is needed to coordinate publicity for our regular programs and special events. This would involve sending e-mails to newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. If interested, please contact Mary Nadeau at 295-2123.

By Pat Stark, *HHS Archivist*
archivist@hartfordhistory.org

is more stressful on the tape.

- * Do not leave tapes in the machine when not in use.
- * Make an extra copy as soon as possible of valuable tapes and store the copy at another location such as a back or a friend's house. Don't let a flood or fire deprive you of your only copy of Grandfathers Memories!
- * Always keep tapes away from magnetic fields such as electric lines, fluorescent lights, electric motors, and magnets.
- * Store them on end like books in labeled hard containers in a cool, dry, dark area.
- * Keep dust off your tapes and equipment.
- * Last but not least – Read the manuals for your equipment and Clean the recording heads on schedule.

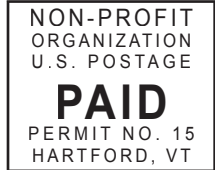
THIS 'n THAT

We have a few items which we would like to sell – if anyone is interested in helping us market them, either thru E-bay or some other means, please contact Pat [295-3077 days] or a Board Member.

Hartford Historical Society

POST OFFICE BOX 547

HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047



Next Program

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

7:00pm

**Ira Allen: A Hard Founding
Father to Love**



HHS Calendar

Special Meetings, Programs and Events

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.

Wednesday, 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.

Sunday, January 14, 2007 - *Book Update Committee Meeting* at the Garipay House @ 2:00pm. Members of our Book Update Committee will discuss the progress and next steps to be taken in updating John St. Croix's Historical Highlights.

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 - *The St. Albans Raid*. Kevin Graffagnino will give a lively description of the only Civil War battle that was fought in Vermont.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007 - *The Transformation of Quechee*. From a sleepy little village to a beautiful and vibrant community, Quechee has undergone an incredible transformation since the 1960's. Presented by John Lutz

Ongoing Meetings

First Tuesday - *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.

Second Sunday - *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. Volunteers are on hand to give tours and answer any questions.

Fourth Tuesday - *HHS Board of Directors Meeting*. Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street/Route 14, Hartford Village, 7:00 PM. For more information, please contact Clyde Berry, Board Chairman.

The Society would like to thank Jon-Mikel Gates for his work in preparing our newsletter for publication while we have not had the means to do so ourselves.

His work has been very much appreciated.

Thank you!