



Hartford Historical Society

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

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

Volume 20, Number 1

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September - October 2007

Found in an Old Desk

An intensely interesting story of one of our local traditions, the burning of Royalton, VT., which took place in 1780, or 120 years ago.

By Alice E. Pitkin, Hartford, VT

[Editor's note: Reprinted from the March/April 1901 issue of the Inter-State Journal, Published in White River Junction, VT.]

"I am an old man now, four score years and ten, and much sorrow and much gladness have been in my life, and I for one say the world is growing better, and the new ways are good ways, even if I am in daily fear that the new light called a lamp, and likely to explode at any moment, will ruin the eyes of all my grandchildren.

But of the past I will talk this morning, for my little grand-daughter, Bess, has asked me to tell the story of how I was rescued from the British and Indians by a brave woman the day of the burning of Royalton, and she will write it down as I talk, to tell it to her grandchildren, she says.

I must begin the day before, the Sabbath, October 15th, 1780. I remember the morning was a frosty one with bright sunshine on the red and gold of the leaves on the trees above us and under our feet, and the log meeting-house was cold, and John Loveland and I swung our feet from the wooden bench where we sat, to try to make them warmer, and then we looked at one another and started to laugh, when we caught the eye of the tithing-man, who made a step forward as if to give us a rap with his badge of office, so we turned our attention to Parson Matthews, who had got to thirty-eighthly of his discourse.

After the service, Madam Loveland, (and whenever the yellow and pink rose bushes are in bloom in your mother's garden, child,

I think of Madam Loveland with her pink cheeks, and yellow hair shining in the sun, for she was an English maiden, whose father came to this country when her mother died), as I was saying, she came straight to my father in the doorway, and asked if I might not go to her home for a visit, and go to school with John that week.

Father frowned, for he did not believe in Sunday visiting, but no one could resist Madam Loveland, as she said she knew I would "be a good child and study the scriptures with John, and I will take care of him for his mother's sake, sir," she said, with a catch in her voice, for she and my dead mother had been dearest friends, and so my father could but relent, and I went home with John to memorize three psalms for our Sabbath lesson with a joyful heart.

In the good old days children did not sit up till the unseemly hours of the present generation, but went to bed in the loft at an early hour, and that bright October day came to a close all too soon, and John and I betook ourselves to bed betimes, where we dreamt of nutting on the Sabbath day, of the tithing-man who looked at us sternly with rod in hand, and of Indians, which dream seemed a terrible reality, for we wakened to see our room lighted by a terrible red glare, and the air was full of the hideous shouts of the red men.

Too frightened to stay in bed where we were, John and I hurried into our garments, and clutching at one another crept to the window, looking out of which we saw over a hundred Indians, mad with fury and thirst for blood, piling on more kindling to the already burning house of neighbor Matthews and turning every now and then to torment someone in what seemed like a band of prisoners.

Too frightened to stay alone any longer, we stumbled down the

(Continued on next page)

**September Program:
Wed., Sept. 12th - 7:00 p.m.
The Great Railroad
Disaster of 1887**

stairs into the living room, where we found Madam Loveland dressing little Ruth with trembling fingers. As the father caught sight of us he said, "wife, take the children and go to friend Farwell's house-it is so far from the road the Indians will not be likely to go there, and if they do us no harm, for we have many friends among the red men, I will let you know when it is safe for you to return, but if they show signs of attacking our home I will go to the woods for safety."

The mother could not trust herself to speak, but, wrapping up little Ruth warmly, she stood up to receive a silent embrace from her husband, and for him to kiss the children, and then, still in perfect silence, left the house by a back way.

We had lost sight of the house and John and I, as is the way of children when danger is out of sight, were just beginning to breathe freely, when, from the direction in which we were going, the same horrible din was heard approaching. Flight was impossible, for truly "an enemy encompassed us about." Madam Loveland, meeting this awful catastrophe with the bearing of a queen, went forward, with her three trembling children, to meet them. It was the band under La Mott, who so villainously helped plunder the settlers in revenge, who was in command.

He saluted the lady before him, and gracefully intimated that she must give up her boys, and before the agonized woman could protest, with another graceful salute gave the order to go forward, and John and I, huddled with other prisoners no older than ourselves, passed her.

John, poor lad, was so blinded with tears that he could not look up, but I turned for one last look at my best friend and saw her change from the look of despair to one of determination as she put Ruth on the ground and went forward as for a purpose, and my boyish heart took courage.

Too frightened to ask a question, even, of our fellow-prisoners, and too proud to be seen crying like a girl, we were marched on to the river, whose strong current we were obliged to ford to the other side, where La Mott and his band of Indians joined his commander, Lieut. Horton and his company, and there we poor children waited, shivering in the keen October air, with terrible stories of Indian outrages running through our heads.

Suddenly, on the opposite bank, a woman's form appeared, and my heart gave a great leap, for it looked like the cloak of Lincoln green, which Madam Loveland had brought from the old home across the sea, and the child in her arms had on a cloak of red, like little Ruth's. I turned to speak to John and saw he was watching, with the same thought. On she came down the bank, and started to ford the stream, when she met an Indian, whom I remembered having seen eating in her kitchen a few weeks before. He offered, by signs,



Early engraving depicting the Raid on Royalton

to carry her across on his back but she, we could see, refused, but let him take little Ruth. But the poor little maid, who had made no sound before, began to scream with fright, and the mother had to stop to reassure her before they could go on. In the middle of the stream the current was so strong that the Indian entreated her, by signs, to wait on a rock while he carried the child over and returned for her. Faint from grief, fatigue, and fasting, she had to submit.

I cannot tell you-you will have to imagine, how John and I felt when we saw that delicate woman and little child put down in that hostile camp. Young as we were, we realized enough of their danger so we could scarcely breathe.

Stopping only to thank the friendly Indian, she asked to be shown to Lieutenant Horton. He had just been consulting with La Mott, and stood a few paces in front of the prisoners. *(Continued . . .)*



Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

Officers:

Dot Jones, President	(802) 295-2701
James Kenison, Vice President	(802) 738-5333
David Ford, Secretary	(802) 356-2776
Peggy McDerment, Treasurer	(802) 295-2357

Directors:

Dorothy Yamashita, Chairman	(603) 448-1067		
Chuck Bohi	295-5596	Randy Dickson	280-1780
Alice Hazen	295-2481	Joyce Miller	295-2025
Noel Vincent	295-5932	Bill Wittik	295-9683

Fred Bradley, Honorary Director (802) 295-3819

Newsletter Editor: James Kenison (802) 738-5333
newsletter@hartfordhistory.org

He greeted her with ready courtesy, asking wherein he could serve so fair a lady, but at the mother's cry of, "Where is my son?" the cold English face hardened, and in measured tones she was told, "He will not be harmed, but trained as a soldier with others, that Her Gracious Majesty might have more faithful servants in the next generation than the vile colonists of this age had shown themselves."

The mother love was stronger than the indignation at the injustice done her adopted home, and with words as persuasive as were Eve's of old, John's freedom was won and he was in her arms before I could realize he had left my side.

Then, when the mist in my eyes had cleared away, for I had no one to rescue me, I looked again and saw John whisper in her ear. As she looked upon me and the seven other lads of my own age or thereabouts, and all the children of neighbors and playfellows of John and I, then the emotion in her face gave way to pure resolve, as she turned again to the commander and pleaded for the children of her friends.

Horton was on the point of yielding, when an old Indian brave stepped forward and said they had "had enough of the pale-face squaw talking, we have shown ourselves but women in giving up her son," and with a stride forward tore John forcibly from his mother's

embrace. Then, lads though we were, we saw what we never had seen, nor ever should see again, a woman throw English pride and the reserve of Puritan training to the winds, and her tongue seemed verily inspired as she pleaded for her son, and the sons of her friends, till, utterly unable to refute her arguments, touched and abashed before her, Horton gave the order and the six white men under him escorted us to the water's edge.

There was no place for fatigue or faintness now in the brave woman's heart, as she bade us wait while she took Ruth and little Roger Kidder, who was only seven, across the swiftly flowing stream in her arms, and then coming back she showed us how to put our arms about one another and so be strong enough to breast the current which had been too much for her alone when coming over the first time, and so "we reached the Promised Land in safety."

The old man fell silent, dreaming of the past, when little Bess touched him softly, asking, "Grandfather, dear, what became of John and little Ruth when you grew up?"

"Little Ruth, my dear, grew to be like her mother, and John became your grand uncle and Ruth your grandmother when you came into this world," and again he fell into a dream of the old days of hardships and trials, but of true affection.

News and Notes

Discover Historic Hartford

Saturday, September 22nd from 10am to 3pm. The Second Annual Tour of Historic Hartford will feature 12 of our oldest churches or church sites.

This is a self-guided tour and directions will be provided when you sign up. There will be volunteers at each site with information about the church/site and a stamp for your passport. Drawings for 'prizes' will be held from all completed 'Passports' returned to us at the end of the day. Directions and Passports will be available from the Hartford Historical Society anytime in September. The Passports are free to those over 70 and under 7 years of age. All others can have one for a \$5 donation to the Hartford Historical Society.

Included will be the site of the first Meetinghouse on the Green, the old Dothan Church site, the first Catholic Church in town, and a chance to see what is really down there at the Advent Campground. Why IS it called a 'campground' anyway?

Come explore our historic houses of worship! For more information contact Pat at 295-3077 [work days] or leave a message at 296-2192. Volunteers are still needed to host some of the sites.

September - October 2007

250th Anniversary Update

The planning for the 250th anniversary of Upper Valley Towns continues. Each Town has been asked to establish a planning committee for the event. Local committees should meet in September and the region-wide committee will meet again in October. If you are interested in planning and would consider serving on the committee, please call Jim Kenison at (802) 738-5333.

Genealogy Resource Center

The Hartford Genealogy Resource Center was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$2500 to be used toward the purchase of microfilm copies of "The Landmark", a weekly newspaper published in White River Junction from 1882 to 1952.

The Center has now received the entire run of the paper on microfilm, which is available for viewing at the Center on Mondays from 12 to 6 pm or by appointment. The Center is located upstairs at the Hartford Library on Maple Street in Hartford Village. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the library at (802) 296-2568.

From the Chairman

By Dorothy Yamashita, *Board Chairman*
chairman@hartfordhistory.org

Welcome to our new board member, Charles Bohi, better known in our community as “Chuck”. “Railfan” was not part of my vocabulary before I met Chuck; “history buffs” I had met before, so I soon caught on to the idea that when the enthusiasm for railroads borders on an obsession, maybe that’s a “railfan”. He really is a man of many talents and we are privileged to have him as a member of our group.

Charles Bohi is a retired high school teacher who lives in White River Junction, Vermont. Born in Iowa, he became interested in railway stations in 1961 when it was clear that many of these structures were about to be removed. He is currently the relief caretaker at the Amtrak Depot in White River Junction, Vermont and gives presentations to Elderhostel and other groups interested in railroad subjects.

At the August Sunday afternoon open house, I had the privilege of working with Judy Barwood, whose family dates ‘way back’ in Hartford. Judy is working on a BA in history at Colby Sawyer College, and is meeting the required 120 hours of her internship by volunteering at HHS. Archivist Pat Stark is happily providing opportuni-

ties for Judy to experience a variety of tasks including setting up displays for Glory Days, recording some oral history, cataloguing archives, tracing deeds, and working at the Folklife Center. Judy already knows how to file and answer the phone! “She is wonderful!”, said Pat.

If all student interns could be like Judy, we’d like more! Thank you, Judy.

There is still one opening on the Board of Directors. Volunteers for any scheduled activities are always welcome. Looking forward to meeting you.

Hartford Genealogy Resource Center

Located at the Hartford Library

Open Mondays, 12 to 6 p.m.
or by appointment

Volunteers are needed

Please contact Jim Kenison at (802) 738-5333.

White River School Celebrates 100 years of Education on Pine Street



The White River School building on Pine Street will open for its 100th year on September 4th, 2007. Known over the years by four different names, Hartford High School (1908 – 1963), Memorial Annex (1963 – 1970), White River Elementary (1970 – 1994) and White River School (1994 – 2007), the school’s staff and students are making plans to commemorate the building’s past and to celebrate its’ 100th birthday. These include studying local history, special 100th year activities, and a party next Spring. Residents and alumni who want to know more can contact the White River School at 295-8650.

In Memory of

Alice E. Smith

December 2, 1906 - June 2, 2007

The Hartford Historical Society Board of Directors would like to offer its condolences to the family of Mrs. Smith, longtime Hartford Grammar School teacher and principal.

[Editor's Note: This memorial was accidentally omitted from the last newsletter.]



Discover Historic Hartford

2007 Passport

Saturday, September 22, 2007

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Instructions and locations on back of this sheet.

<p><i>Center of Town Meeting House and Cemetery</i></p>	<p><i>Quechee Congregational Church</i></p>	<p><i>Greater Hartford United Church of Christ</i></p>
<p><i>Dothan Church Site</i></p>	<p><i>St. Anthony's Catholic Church</i></p>	<p><i>Old St. Anthony's Church Site</i></p>
<p><i>Upper Valley Assembly of God</i></p>	<p><i>Advent Christian Campground</i></p>	<p><i>West Hartford Church</i></p>
<p><i>United Methodist Church</i></p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>E-mail: _____</p>	

Discover Historic Hartford

Saturday, September 22, 2007

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Instructions and Site Locations

Visit the site(s) of your choice between 10 am and 3 pm on Saturday, September 22nd. A volunteer at each site will stamp the appropriate box on the other side of this sheet. IF you visit all 10 sites, fill in the bottom section on the other side and drop your completed passport in the envelope provided at the last site you visit (all sites will have an envelope). Prize drawings will be held at our September Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 25th. You do not need to be present to win. Suggested donation for participation: \$5.00 (no charge for children under 7 and seniors over 70).

NOTE: *Participation in this event is voluntary and the sponsors are not responsible for any injuries, thefts, or other incidents at the various locations.*

#1 Center of Town Meeting House Site & Cemetery - Center of Town Road (off Rte. 4) near Meetinghouse Common Park.

#2 Quechee Congregational Church - Downtown Quechee at 1905 Quechee Main Street.

#3 Greater Hartford United Church of Christ - 1721 Maple Street at the western end of Hartford Village.

#4 Dothan Church Site - At intersection of Jericho Street and Newton Lane.

#5 St Anthony's Catholic Church - 15 Church St, WRJct. (across from the Tip Top building parking lot)

#6 Site of old St Anthony's Church - South Main Street. Go past the cemetery and enter the driveway after next house.

#7 Upper Valley Assembly of God - Wilder Village at 2087 Hartford Avenue on the corner of Gillette St. and Hartford Avenue (Rte. 5N).

#8 Advent Christian Campground – 150 Advent Lane. Turn by the sign between Knight's Funeral Home and Mt. Olivet Cemetery, go straight through the 'Y' to the Dining Hall – the first building on left (white).

#9 West Hartford Church - West Hartford Village at 5275 Route 14 beyond the new bridge on the opposite side of the road.

#10 United Methodist Church - 106 Gates Street across from the old telephone building and beside the old Miller Auto lot.

Town maps are available at the Garipay House on Saturday and the Municipal Building during office hours.

Curator's Corner

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

The biggest item in our collections is the Garipay House, so I would like to give you some information about it as an artifact. The history of the house is somewhat vague. We know it was built between 1911 & 1918 – the exact year is unknown. We have a photograph looking down the street and it appears to have had a different roof line – did it burn? According to the Sanborn Insurance Maps in the 1880's there was a long narrow building located behind what is now the house. Early on an undertaker owned it – was the office built for him?? If you go into the basement the floorboards etc. under the kitchen go in the opposite direction than the rest of the house, indicating it may have been an addition at some point. There are granite stairs under the kitchen, indicating there may have been a bulkhead entrance at one point. The foundations are very wide in some places – perhaps indicating a former building? Many mysteries down there! The basement may be viewed with an appointment.



As most of you know, an old house is always in need of repairs. The slate roof is losing slates and in need of inspection & repair, the upstairs wiring should be upgraded, and the plumbing is existing on prayer alone! When we started to do a Disaster Management Plan we decided our biggest hazard was a flood from interior plumbing giving out.

We were fortunate to be bequeathed the building in 1995 by Dr. Loretta Garipay, who along with Doctor Stanley owned it since 1936. It is a well built house but upkeep on it had been neglected for a long time, with water stains evident in every room. When we acquired it we put insulation on the attic floor and had some electrical work done with funds left us by Mrs. Garipay. In 1998 we had the slate roof repaired. The same year the Garden Club installed the stone walk in the front and Dart Corps volunteers helped clean and install a stone path in the back. The Caledonia Work Group also came to fix the plaster problems in what became the storage room and several other repairs around the house. 2000 saw a new furnace installed along with a new fuel tank. Not to list all the many minor repairs, etc. In 2001-2 Pete Schaal upgraded the electrical on the first floor and installed track lighting for our displays. (The upstairs still runs on 'knob & tube' wiring). In 2002 the front porch deck was repaired and in 2003 the supports were replaced and new shingles installed. We are currently replacing the back porch roof and hope to have the front dormer shingles replaced (hopefully that will keep the bats out) at a cost of around \$2,500. This will not leave much for our regular bills, let alone any archival photo sleeves & boxes needed to house our donations.

Yes, I have a dream for our home. We are fortunate in having a large lot. There is room in back to put on an addition – an underground vault for our records, etc., a large display room on the first floor so we can display large items such as our sleigh, a handicap bathroom and entrance, an upstairs meeting room large enough to accommodate our Board Members (who now have to sit 3 deep), and an elevator so folks can view the Doctors Office (and we won't have to carry big, heavy boxes up a curved staircase). This will still leave room for a parking lot in back.

We have the potential to be a first-class facility with programming and research facilities as well as a museum and storage, but all of this is costly. Even keeping the house in the condition necessary to preserve our valuable artifacts is a challenge. Fund-raising is hard work and the Board members do not have the time to put into a major campaign. Perhaps we should ask the taxpayers for more than the \$3000 we currently get? We are aware how high taxes are already for folks so are reluctant to ask for more. Any thoughts or suggestions you might have will be welcomed by the Board.

Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547

Hartford, Vermont 05047-0547

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 15
HARTFORD, VT

September Program:

Wed., Sept. 12th - 7:00 p.m.

The Great Railroad Disaster of 1887

Society Calendar

Special Meetings, Programs and Events

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

Thursday, Sept. 6 -- *Railroad Photography Exhibition*

Opening, Photography by Chris McKinley on exhibit at the New England Transportation Museum, 100 Railroad Row. White River Junction. 7:30 pm. Admission with donation to museum.

Saturday, Sept. 8 -- *Glory Days of the Railroad*

Downtown White River Junction. 9 am to 5 pm.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 -- *The 1887 Railroad Disaster*

Phil Rentz will speak on the greatest railroad disaster in the area, which occurred in West Hartford in 1887.

Saturday, Sept. 22 -- *Discover Historic Hartford*

Historic Tour of sites throughout the Town of Hartford. 10 am - 3 pm. \$5 donation, ages 7-70. Volunteers are needed. For more information, call Pat Stark at (802) 295-3077 (days) or 296-2192 (evenings).

Wednesday, Nov. 14 -- *19th Century Popular Music*

Eric Bye will present a lively history of popular music from the 19th century, accompanied by live and recorded music.

Ongoing Meetings and Events

Regular meetings and Open Houses are held at the Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street in Hartford Village unless otherwise noted.

First Tuesday (February through October) -- *Open House*

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. 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 (May through September) -- *Open House*

1:30 - 4:00 p.m. 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*

7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Dorothy Yamashita, Board Chairman (See page 2 for contact info.)