

# **Hartford Historical Society**

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

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

Volume 21, No. 2

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November-December 2008

### MEMORIES OF A FORMER SCHOOLGIRL

**By Virginia Close** [Edited by Pat Stark]

Here are some notes, for what they are worth. To ramble on would be easy.

I am not a Vermonter - I was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. When my father, who worked for the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company, was transferred to the White River Junction office, I went into the second grade there. The Grammar School went through Grade 8 and, at least in the mid-30s, graduation exercises were held in the high school auditorium, a rather small room.

The school building itself still looks quite similar in outline but one part of it is gone. On the back of

the building, facing the railroad tracks were two large tubes - large enough for children to slide down - one going down at an angle to the right and the other to the left. At any rate, these constructions were used for fire drills. What reminds me of cupboard doors closed them off from the classroom when not in use. One little boy was selected to go first. I do not remember girls doing this. He sat on an old bag of some sort and slid down cleaning the route as he went. Since the village was a busy railroad center, everyone lived with soot and the tubes were quite dirty.

There is a playground for children now in the area near the railroad tracks behind the school. A building called "The Practice House" where we had sewing and cooking lessons used to be there. My only recollection of that is making a slip which never fit me and



(Continued on page 2)

# November Program

Wednesday, November 11: Mount Independence—An Historical and Archeological Legacy by Peter Lihatsh, at 7:00 pm at the Hartford Church, followed by refreshments. Take a walk back(wards) in time and history to see how Vermont and Vermonters were truly the foundation of our nation's struggle for independence. We've all heard of the Battle of Saratoga, but fewer have heard about Mt. Independence. Peter will describe how critical the events at Mt Independence, Hubbarton, and other local events played in leading up to the Battle of Saratoga. Come learn more about how Vermont played such an important role in the Revolution.

making eggs goldenrod, which I still like. However, my sewing never improved and my cooking skills today are minimal. I do not know what the boys had in their sessions in "The Practice House".

Mrs. Farrington was a teacher. Her daughter, Mary, married Harold Rising, He died some time ago, but Mary has been gone about a year. She compiled an oral history of the Italian families living in the South End in the days when many of them had vineyards and/or bought grapes for wine.

When the Close family moved to Vermont we lived on Taft's Flat in a time when old Mrs. Taft was still alive. fMr. Dulac had a garage about where the funeral home is now. Wilder Pierce had a farm

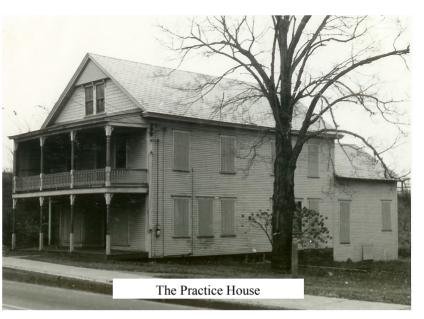
about where the do-it-vourself laundry is now. He delivered milk driving a horse-drawn cart. When my times. Once a large wooden building with a good resmother wanted to buy pasteurized milk, she soon taurant, it marked the days of the village being a hub of learned that it had not reached this far north—so she transportation. I can well remember how the trains gopasteurized it herself.

Of course the telephone company building is above. completely different, no longer the smaller red brick and stayed in White River.

# **Curator's Corner**

A major change this year is that the house will be 'put up for the winter' - pipes drained, heat off, etc. due to the cost of fuel and lack of attendance at Open Houses this past year. The town will be shutting off the water to ensure no unexpected problems will arise from our old piping. The house will be inspected often and the mouse traps and phone messages checked. The few items that might be damaged by freezing will be removed to heated, secure spaces. As long as the temperature changes are gradual, most items are not affected by freezing. This will be effective by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. An Opening on May Day is anticipated. Meanwhile the usual processing of donations, etc. will continue as before.

Pat Stark



The railroad station, too, has changed with the ing north down along the river would reverberate

I often think about how things have changed, building that it was. My father was in charge of the but I think, also, of the different kinds of families with long distance lines and had Burlington in his charge as children in the school. There were, of course, families well. He traveled there regularly, but when the time of different means but also of black or mixed races came that we could have moved there, we all said "no" how unhappy it was for them when there was more, or at least overt, discrimination.



# **Hartford Historical Society**

Post Office Box 547k, Hartford, VT 05047-0547 http://www.hartfordhistory.org

#### **Officers**

Dot Jones, President	802-295-2701
Bill Wittik, Acting Vice President	802-295-9683
David Ford, Secretary	802-356-2776
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Randy Dickson 295-2025 280-1780 Joyce Miller Peggy McDerment 295-2357 Bill Wittik 295-9682

Newsletter Editor: Muriel Farrington 802-295-6511 newsletter@hartfordhistory.org

Archivist: Pat Stark 802-478-1110

# From the Chair:

I recently reviewed the very thoughtful responses to the 1995 membership survey and have observed that many suggestions made at that time have been incorporated into our program. Some of our members have been "wearing several hats" for a long time. I am continually meeting people who express a willingness to help, but they don't know what needs to be done. And the Board members say—"It would be a good idea—but who can help us?" So we are sending out a survey with the membership renewal forms and hope that each of you will take time to respond.

As we prepare to mail these forms, the many out-of-state addresses remind me of our Coast-to-Coast representation. Even though you may live far away, we hope you will take the time to fill out the enclosed survey and let us know how we can improve our services. Having been a military wife for 30 years, I remember how much it meant to hear news from home and how excited I was to see a car with license plates from Vermont! We welcome your renewal and input!

In the words of David Briggs, who gave us his personal summary of the cycles of growth in White River Junction, "In the final analysis, it is all about people and their dreams, their values and their goals."

With that in mind:

Be sure to VOTE.....

And BEST WISHES for a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Dorothy Yamashita

# CONTINUING EDUCATION.....

Did you know????

Vermont recently became the 35th state to approve legislation which provides a process for museums and other collecting institutions to establish ownership of undocumented collections, long-forgotten loans, and doorstep donations [property which may or may not be pertinent to the mission of the institution] - that has long been a burden for many institutions. It's difficult to dispose of something that isn't legally yours! Thus the necessity for the recent legislation and the need to provide information to those concerned.

Thanks to Pat Stark for making arrangements with the White River Junction Methodist Church for our group to host an excellent workshop on Building Accomplished Museums offered by the VMGA (Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance). Workshop Leader Erica Donnis provided twenty Historical Society representatives from Glover, Cavendish, Strafford, Hartford, and Hartland with a better understanding of the essential elements of creating and maintaining documentation for museum collections. Pat Stark and Priscilla Gadzinski developed a very fine system for our collections back in our early years, and we now have additional sample forms and training materials for any volunteers who might like to assist in processing donations.

Through our membership in VMGA, varied workshops and 'conferences' are offered throughout the year where you can learn about many topics from Archeology to Grants & Fundraising, including many workshops on the details of running a museum/historical society. These are open to any of our members and the small fee charged can be offset in part by the Society. If you would like more information contact Pat or go to <a href="mailto:vmga.org">vmga.org</a> and look under 'collections care'.

November 2008

# **Honor Roll**

Rosaline and Guerino were leaders in the White River Junction, Wilder communities from 1924 to 1959 when Guerino passed away and 1963 when Rosaline left Vermont to spend the rest of her long life with her children in California.

I enclose a biography detailing the support they gave and the contributions they made to Hartford.

My brothers and I attended Wilder Grammar School and Hartford High school. After we finished our postsecondary school, we left to live in various cities in the U.S., Europe and Africa, but whenever we met we always had happy reminiscences of our lives in White River Junction and Wilder. I have always been very proud when asked where I hail from to say that I am a Native Vermonter.

One of my great pleasures when I was a young girl was walking my dog between Wilder and Hanover, through the fields which were ,at that time, full only with grass, trees, ponds and cows.

Clementina Filosa-Morton

# BIOGRAPHY OF GUERINO AND ROSALINE FILOSA

Guerino Filosa was born in Sessa Aurunca, Italy in 1893. He came to the U.S. in 1912 and settled with relatives in Connecticut and worked selling advertising for two Italian papers in New England. He was in World War I on the American side where he served in the famous Lost Battalion and, after receiving his U.S. citizenship on being demobbed (standing down of nation's armed forces), he opened up schools of the Italian Language in St. Albans, Bellows Falls, and White River Junction.

He met Rosaline Falzarano, a first generation Italian-American, and they married in 1923. After a year in St. Albans, they returned to White River Junction, finally settling in Wilder with their six children—five sons and a daughter.

In April, 1930, Guerino began the Italian-American newspaper, L'Informatore (The Informer) which was in Italian and English and especially catered to Italians living in Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut. It was a joint venture with Rosaline contributing articles of local and national interest as well as recipes and local news. Guerino's editorial was always in Italian and reflected the National and International news of the day. The entire newspaper, which ran from April 1930 to December 1959, is archived on microfilm at the Vermont Department of Libraries in Montpelier. Guerino continued teaching Italian and also was legal advisor to Italians who had little knowledge of English or American law. He served as Justice of the Peace for Windsor County, and was Chair of the Italian division of the Democratic party of Vermont during the Roosevelt years. He assisted in reviving the American Legion Post in White River Junction and served as Commander and Past Commander. He started the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, of which he was the first Commander. He was a member of the Vermont Press Association.

Over the years he campaigned actively for Governors of the state such as Governor Gibson and Governor Emerson. He was the campaign manager for Peter Bove, who lost the Governor's election but later became Comptroller of the Virgin Islands. In 1955-1956 he served on the President's Committee for Education and attended meetings in Washington, D.C.

Rosaline was the President of the Hartford High School PTA, the Hartford Literary Club, the Wilder PTA and the Loyal Club. She was in charge for a time of the Library collection for the Gates Memorial Library in White River Junction. She was a Gold Star Mother and served as a State Officer in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and for several years was its Hospital Chairman, serving veterans at the VA Hospital in White River Junction. She was an officer of the American Legion Auxiliary. An avid Democrat all her life she was State Delegate to the Vermont Democratic Conventions. Between 1935 and 1939, Guerino and Rosaline co-hosted a radio show sponsored by the De Nobili Cigar Company, in Italian and English, in which they discussed national and international politics.

In 1951 Guerino and Rosaline were chosen in a contest run by the Cunard Shipping Line to find the New Englander of Italian Descent who had done the most for their community. Although there must have been many worthy of the title, Guerino and Rosaline won. This included a trip by ship to Italy where they were reunited with Guerino's uncle and other relatives as well as Rosaline's father's and mother's relatives in nearby villages. They left in April 1951 on the Italia, the first passenger ship to sail out of Boston since the end of WWII. They were guests of the Italian Government and American Consulate in Rome, meeting many dignitaries in Rome, Milan, Genoa, Florence and Naples. Another great highlight of the trip was a private audience with Pope Pius XII.

Guerino kept active in all of his many activities until he was diagnosed with lung cancer in February of 1959 and died two months later at the Veterans' Hospital in White River Junction. He was buried in Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, VA where his eldest son, Michele, a casualty of WWII, had been previously buried. Upon her death in 1990, Rosaline was buried next to Guerino. Another son, Ernesto was buried with his brother Michele in 2001.

Guerino took great pride in his American citizenship and felt it was his duty to contribute tirelessly to his community while never losing his ties with his country of birth.

# L'INFORMATORE

Lo scopo di questo periodico quello di sempre piu' stringere legami tra la patria nativa

Si Pubblca il Secondo e Quarto Sabato del Mese G. FILOSA Proprietaric QUINDICINALE POLITICO. LETTERARIO UMORISTICO E NOTIZIARIO

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT

Saturday, July 17 1948

Uma Conia 5 soldi

Legion Comdr. William Smith and County Comdr. Wm. Wright were in St. Albans last week to make arrangements for housing the Hartford Post delegation to the Department Convention, to be held there later this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carusi and daughter Sandra, of Long Island City, N. Y., are visiting relatives in town and in Wilder.

Cest of Transportation
The cost of transporting all food
produces of transporting all food
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produces of transporting all food
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expense of moving fruits and vegetables rapidly enough to avoid excessive waste makes up 30 per cent
classes of foods. One of the agricultural research projects approved
for immediate action is an investigation of ways to cut food transportation cests.

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### Think of the Future

Give your life a sound mancial foundation by planning ahead towards uture security.

financial foundation by planning ahead towards future security. To aid you in wisely investing your money you often need the help of experienced financial advisers. If this is your bank you will all years you will all years to the above the steam of the words and the second the second will be a second to your problems which may make all the difference between a safe and a treacherous journey towards the future.

#### Il Futuro?

Si', il futuro ve lo potete assicurare con l'investire mente. Venite quando lo potete a consultare i no-stri uomini esperti e con !arga esperienza, che vi renderanno i loro giudizi gratuitamente.

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WHITE RIVER JUNCTION

VERMONT

#### NIX il Figlio dell'Austriaco

Dove si trova adesso la marcheas?

— Fuori d'Italia; temevatmo che si l'asclasse strappare delle confessioni. Abbiamo saputo che in comportuno, a far delle rivelazioni. — Benei proprettuno nella zona di guerra.

Mocenigo c'erano Nix il hastardo e il poliziotte Ramania sopretta delle confessioni. Abbiamo saputo che in confessioni alla sue presenta di poliziotte Ramania suone controle carante dell'amendo dell'amendo del manchea.

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— Se voi non l'avete uccisa, continuo esas, Lei sara states impiecata a Trento dove to tiel che l'amendo dell'ampiera a prossibile alla forse di ascoltano — Parliamo tanto piano.

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— Ha tutti diritti diritte di fare quello che voulez e un nipote dell'ampieratore.

— Pare si sia incapriciato del la Foscarini e che abbia, volta dell'ampieratore.

— Ne avere il diritto?

— Ha tutti diritti diritte di fare quello che voulez e un nipote di corno dell'ampieratore.

— Parliamo tanto piano.

— Ne avere il diritto?

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— Se cierto di cio?

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— Se cierto di cio?

La vece di Mayrella tremana la piazza forte, quando la vide, feen un gesto stitumo, quando annota controle dell'ampieratore.

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AIR SHOW TO BE STAGED AT BARRE SUNDAY

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Marcella o guardo con occhio marche di carbona di di

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sepileable.

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Il marchese scoppio in una risa
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Marcella bacio.

Al publicati Ches e consocia del parte del proportion del proportio

#### **GATES HOTEL**



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BRIOSCH

#### **NEWS 'N NOTES:**

- ⇒ NOTICE regarding our NEWSLETTER. As some of you know, Jim Kenison, former Newsletter Editor, is not able to continue his participation in the Society at this time. We all miss his smiling presence and the professional job he did with the newsletter [and everything else he did for us, which was much!] Pat especially misses his efforts as Chair of the Book Update and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committees! We are especially grateful for Muriel Farrington's willingness to step in to once again edit our newsletter THANK YOU MURIEL! Remember, if you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter send it to Pat Stark at pstark@hartford-vt.org or the Society's mailbox.
- ⇒ UPDATE of Arabelle Rice's Gravestone: To date we have received \$25 towards adding the death date to her stone in West Hartford. It is our hope that some of her other students will honor her memory with a donation. Just send a check with her name in the 'memo' [or attached] to the treasurer at PO Box 547, Hartford, VT 05057. Thank you!
- ⇒ Let's support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wilson Globe Geography Bee to be held Sat., Nov. 15, 1 p.m. Oxbow High School, Bradford, VT sponsored by the Bradford Historical Society. This Geography Bee is being held to assist their campaign to raise \$ 25,000 to SAVE the WILSON GLOBE owned by the Bradford Historical Society. There are only four remaining of the undated first-year globes made by James Wilson at his workshop in Bradford, Vt. c. 1800. You can form your own team or just attend to watch the fun!

Questions Contact: (802)-222-4423 or lccoffin@charter.net

- ⇒ The Hartford-Norwich Holiday Basket Helpers are once again asking for sponsors or donations to provide Holiday gifts and food for needy children in our neighborhoods. It is expected that the need will be even greater this year. If you would like more information, contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 or go to <a href="holidaybas-ketsvt.org">holidaybas-ketsvt.org</a>. Donations can be mailed to HNHBH, PO Box 4051, WRJ, VT 05001. Thank you for helping others.
- ⇒ Remember for the upcoming Holidays—a gift of a Membership with the accompanying Newsletter might be just the right gift for that out-of-town relative or friend!

Individual: \$15

Family [same address]: \$20

Senior: \$10

Senior Family: \$15

Commercial/Institutional: \$25

Junior membership—This is a **new** category! No fee but a listed 'sponsor' [Adult Member] should accompany the youth's name, etc. We hope to develop special programming for these youth in the upcoming year. Any questions contact: Dorothy Yamashita, Acting Membership Chair, at 603-228-1067.

⇒ **CORRECTION!** The Annual Membership dues are due **December 31<sup>st</sup>**, not October. They will be mailed in October. Sorry.

# 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTERING OF HARTFORD!

The year 2011 will mark our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A committee needs to be formed soon to start planning activities for this celebration - it's only two years away! There is an informal group of folks from surrounding towns also celebrating their 250<sup>th</sup> who are planning a 'joint event' and will put out joint publicity listing all towns' events. We need to have something planned to add to their lists! If you are interested in being on the Hartford 250th Committee, OR have questions, please contact Pat Stark, liaison to the Upper Valley 250<sup>th</sup> Committee at 295-3077 M-F 9-4 or pstark@hartford-vt.org. Thank you.

# **Holiday Treats**

Here are some *Holiday Treats from the Inter-State Journal* c. 1900. Cooking then took much more knowledge and experience!

#### HALLOWEEN:

**Orange Cake** Rub thoroughly to a cream two cups of sugar and two-thirds of a cup of butter, adding three eggs beaten separately. Squeeze the juice of two large oranges into a cup, adding enough water to fill it. Stir this into the mixture, together with three and a half cups of flour, two even teaspoonfuls of cream tarter, one of soda, and a little of the orange rind, grated. Bake in layer tins. For the filling, use one egg, yolk and white. Grate a little of the orange rind into this and juice of half an orange, adding sugar enough to thicken.

**Butter-Scotch.** Good butter-scotch is as rare as it is simply made. Here is an infallible receipt: Boil without stirring two cups of sugar, butter the size of an egg, and two tablespoonfuls of water, until the mixture hardens and crisps when dropped from a spoon into cold water. Remove from the fire and pour on buttered plates to cool.

#### THANKSGIVING:

**Baked Indian Pudding** Boil one quart of milk, add one-half cup of cornmeal, and stir well: add one-half cup of chopped beef suet, one-half cup of molasses, half a cup of raisins, one-half teaspoon of cinnamon and one egg. Put in a pudding dish and bake in a hot oven until brown.

**Soft Molasses Gingerbread** One cup of molasses, one teaspoonful of saleratus [baking soda – ed.], one of ginger, one tablespoonful of butter or lard, a pinch of salt, if you use lard. Stir this together, and then pour on one-half a cup of boiling water, one pint of flour. Bake about one inch deep in a sheet. This is very nice if pains are taken to have the water boiling, and to beat it well when the flour is added.

#### CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Nut Cakes Cream together two cupfuls of sifted white sugar and half a cupful of butter. Add the yolks of three eggs, one cupful of sweet milk, three cupfuls of sifted flour and three teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Stir into the beaten whites of three eggs one cupful of blanched and chopped nuts; add to the batter and bake in small tins. Ice with vanilla icing.

Christmas Pudding Ten crackers, one quart of milk, five eggs, one pint of sugar, one and a half cups of chopped suet, one cup of molasses, one cup of brandy, one spoonful of salt, one nutmeg, one tablespoonful of cinnamon, two teaspoonfuls of cloves, two of allspice, two of mace, two of currants, two of raisins, and a quarter of a pound of citron. Break the crackers up and soak in the milk over night. {Set in a cool place where it will not sour.} In the morning mix with it the sugar, molasses, suet, salt, spice, brandy and fruit. Boil or steam five hours. Serve with a rich wine sauce.

#### NEW YEAR:

**Coffee Creamed Nut Candy** Boil together without stirring half a cup of strong coffee and two cups of sugar until thick enough to spin a thread. Remove the pan to a dish of cold water, and beat the mixture rapidly until it creams. Stir in a cup of chopped nut meats, pour into a warm, flat tin and cut into squares.

**Chocolate Caramels** Dissolve over a fire one cupful of molasses and two teacupfuls of sugar. Add one-quarter of a pound of grated chocolate and a piece of butter the size of an egg. Boil for fifteen or twenty minutes. Pour into flat, buttered dishes to the depth of a quarter inch, and when cold cut into squares an inch in size.

November 2008

### **Hartford Historical Society**

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HARTFORD, VT

November Program: Wednesday, November 12, 7 pm, at the Hartford Church. Peter Lihatsh will be speaking on Mount Independence—An Historical and Archeological Legacy. Come learn how Vermonters played a vital role in the outcome of our American Revolution.

#### FRED E BRADLEY MEMORIAL FUND

The Board of Directors received a phone call asking what we will be doing to honor our 'Founding Father' – Fred Bradley. At the last board meeting some discussion was held, and a popular idea was presented to create a Memorial Fund with the intent to start on an 'annex' out back of the Garipay House. The end product is to be a three-story addition, with vault space in the basement, a large open display space on the first floor, large meeting room and perhaps even a work room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, all handicap accessible with restroom, elevator and access to the second floor of the Garipay house so everyone can view the small doctor's office there in accordance with Mrs. Garipay's wishes. The vault will be called the 'Fred E. Bradley Memorial Vault'. The other floors could be named as they are constructed as it definitely will need to be a 'long-term' project!

Here's an opportunity to honor the efforts of Fred Bradley and make way for the next generation to expand on the visions of our founders. If you have any thoughts, ideas, would be interested in serving on a committee for this project, or would like to donate to the Fred E Bradley Memorial Fund, please contact us [or send your check in, clearly marked 'Bradley Fund] Thank you.