



Hartford Historical Society

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

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

Volume 21, No. 3

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January-February 2009

The Mystery of M.L. Continues

In the July/August 2006 issue of this newsletter, I wrote an article about a small cemetery referred to as Potter's Field, located on property once owned by the Leighton/Bartlett family in Hartford. All members of that family were buried together, except for Mary, who, according to the last deed filed when the property passed out of the Leighton's hands, was referred to as the wife of Joseph Leighton, youngest son of Isaac Leighton.

In one part of Potter's Field cemetery there is a single stone, found amongst several field stones—a cut headstone with the hand-scratched initials "M.L."

Two years later, a descendant of the Leighton's, Patricia Marcotte, contacted me through the Historical Society's inquiry section. Through subsequent correspondence and a visit to the Potter's Field cemetery, including a lot of questions thrown back and forth, Pat and I came up with the following:

Mary A. Kendall Leighton, wife of Joseph Leighton, was married to, and the widow of, John Colby Leighton. They were from Brookline, Massachusetts. John died March 1905 at the age of 86 years, three months, seven days. Mary and Joseph were married December 25, 1905. What is interesting is that John was Isaac Leighton's brother, the uncle of Joseph.

Mary subsequently died April 2, 1909 at age 72 years, seven months, eleven days, according to her death certificate. However, her marriage certificate to Joseph says she was only 60. At the time of her first husband John's demise, she was 68 years. Joseph, her 2nd husband, died in 1911 at age 65, which made him age 60 when married.

To answer the M.L. mystery, it still goes on, as Mary was buried in Mt. Auburn cemetery in Brookline, Massachusetts, with her first husband John. So, who is buried beneath the stone with the lovingly carved initials "M.L."? A family by the name of Lamphere owned the property prior to the Leighton's and ran a Town Farm. Perhaps this was a Lamphere?

Photo and story by Art Peale. The photo is enhanced to show initials.



Did You Renew Your Membership for 2009?

Check your label—if it has 2008/12 on it, your renewal has not been received and/or processed.

From the Chair....

January 2009

What a wonderful way to start the New Year—by saying THANKS to all who have already renewed your memberships for 2009! If you overlooked doing that during the busy holiday season, you are still receiving THIS issue of the newsletter. But, if your renewal is not in by the first of March, your mailing label will probably disappearso please make sure you stay on our mailing list! Our next issue will include the responses to the Survey, which are still being tabulated.

Recently I came across a stack of old sheet music which included one dedicated “to the sons and daughters of Vermont who have wandered from her old green hills” entitled: Take Me Back to Old Vermont, Jones & Stafford 1907, and another one called Take Me Back to Old Vermont Before I Die, written by Wm. Lettler, undated. These reminded me of one of my father’s favorite poems: ‘No Vermonters in Heaven’ – and of course, anyone reading this must be aware that it’s because they hiked their way back to Vermont.

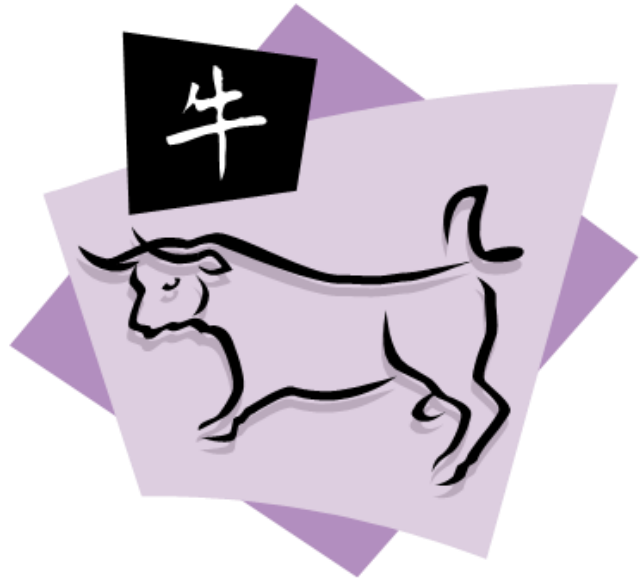
Well, I haven’t quite made it to Vermont; I’m still in

CURATOR’S CORNER

Another year is here and so are the new exhibits in the post offices [and Bugbee Center], which feature Entertainment that Came to Town. I hope you will enjoy them.

2008 brought many fine items to our collections, and I hope to list some of them for you in the next issue. Remember if you have any questions about the care and preservation of your treasures, give me a call. If I can’t answer it, I can direct you to other resources.

Pat Stark



New Hampshire at Harvest Hill, which is such a wonderful place to live that I have no intentions of moving again, but I feel privileged to work with the Hartford Historical Society to help preserve the cherished traditions and treasured artifacts so generously donated by you, our members. I’m looking forward to the Year of the Ox—We may not move fast, but we’ll keep on Moving!

Dorothy Yamashita



Hartford Historical Society

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<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

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News & Notes

The Arabelle Rice Fund has had a big donation from Ron Theriault and the lettering has been ordered. THANKS RON! Thanks to all those who contributed to this project.

From the **Vermont Historical Society** comes news that the popular History Expo at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds will not be happening this year – we will all miss it, but hopefully it will be back soon! They also report that Kevin Graffagnino has left for Michigan – his programs on Ira Allen and the St. Albans Raids were both excellent and we will miss the opportunity to hear more of his programs.

F. Jay Barrett is producing a photo book with Arcadia Publishing Company on Hartford using many of our photographs. He reports that "it settled down to five chapters almost evenly divided between 235 great historic photos! Overall, I am very pleased at how the book and story line all fit together... I expect that by early to mid spring '09 it will be out. Many thanks for the use of the HHS archives – they are acknowledged throughout the book." He tells me it focuses on the 5 villages and the rivers. I have hopes that we can schedule a public Book Signing in the early summer so we can all get signed books for next Christmas gifts!

The **Hartford Preservation Commission** is launching a Barn Inventory – in more depth than the barn census the State is doing. We are currently looking for volunteers who are willing to drive around an area and take photos of barns – just basic outdoor only shots are fine. If you are willing to help with this project or have a question please contact Pat Stark or the Hartford Planning & Zoning Dept.

The **Transportation Museum** is closed for the winter and working on new exhibits in their smaller space in the Railroad Station. They also report that Glory Days of the Railroad will be a week later this year – the same week as the Tunbridge World's Fair.

Ramblings on Change in White River Junction in 2008

By Pat Stark

As the construction on 'Taft Hill' nears completion I am reminded of all the changes in White River Junction in the past year. In June the new Dog Park opened at Watson Field, the new Saturn Auto sales went out of business, and Vermont Transit was sold to Greyhound. The Fountain of Youth got old and is no more. In November the CV Roundhouse burned and the old Miller Auto building was sold to Northern Stage. Some of these were minor changes that don't affect us much, and others are more significant. What is evident is that White River Junction is not stagnant!

One thing I really like about history is that it documents change. Considered by many to be the study of dead old stuff, it in fact can give us perspectives on the current situation and the possible future. Those of you who have been here many years can think back on our town 25 and even 50 years ago. What changes!! Who would have guessed that either the Gates Library or J J Newbury's would close? Or that the Tip Top would become a home for artist's studios? That Railroad Row/'Korn Alley' would be transformed from a warehouse district to an upscale business area? And the railroads! We thought they were 'dead and gone' 25 years ago, and although their 'health' is still tenuous, they have made a 'comeback' of sorts. I'm sure some of you are more aware than I of the many changes.

As the economy continues to slide and more businesses close, what does this mean for us? For White River Junction and the town of Hartford? How will the future remember us and our town in 2009? "History is made Today." Another thing I like about history is that it proves that although things change, there is 'nothing new under the sun'. History is the only study that will give us a good perspective from which to view the present and help us shape the future.

GENEALOGY RESOURCE CENTER

At the Hartford Library

(from Nov. 2008 – by Pat Stark]

We are pleased that Ron Heroux has stepped forward to become the new Director of the Genealogy Center and keep this valuable resource open. He is there most Monday afternoons and could use some help in staffing it. If you have any interest in genealogy and could donate a couple of hours—even once a month—please contact Ron or Pat Stark. Thanks

The GENEALOGY PROGRAM SERIES at the Hartford Library was extremely informative. Searching for one's ancestors involves many skills, from use of the computer to applying soap and water with a scrub brush to the gravestone inscriptions! At the Hartford Municipal Building, one of our members was astonished to discover her husband's death certificate filed a few feet from that of her great grandfather. Her Japanese-American husband was born in California, and her great grandfather came to Vermont from Quebec c. 1870.



[Jan 2009 by Ron Heroux]

The Hartford Genealogy Research Center at the Hartford Village Library is alive and kicking! The Center is currently staffed every Monday between 1-5pm. Other hours may be arranged by appointment. Come on down and rekindle the spark of interest in tracing your family tree. We have a growing abundance of local resources.

Tombstone photo project



Do you have a photo of a Hartford tombstone that you would be willing to donate or loan for scanning? Preferred formats include .jpg and .tif, but others will be accepted and converted. (Please indicate if photo credit is desired.) If donating by e-mail, send one photo per message to our director at jetron@comcast.net. We would also be happy to receive multiple photos on CDs. This is a sizeable project, and we would appreciate all your help. Non-e-mail photos may be dropped off at the Hartford Village Library during regular hours or to Pat Stark at the Lister's Office in the Town Hall.

Internet sites we recommend:

- Check out the History Channel video on the history of tombstones at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfpSvdvI0ZU>

- See our page on the Hartford Historical Society's website at

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org/54801.html>

HHS Calendar

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

Wednesday, April 8 – Judge Guarino through the eyes of his children, presented by Joseph Guarino followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United church of Christ, 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village.

Wednesday, June 10 – HHS Annual Meeting, followed by a presentation on Wilder by Roy Black followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village.

Ongoing Monthly Meetings

First Tuesday (May through October) - 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 (May through September) - 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.

Third Wednesday - Hartford Historic Preservation Commission Meeting - Hartford Municipal Building, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, 4:30 PM.

Fourth Tuesday - HHS Board of Directors Meeting - Garipay House, 1461 Maple Street [Route 14], Hartford Village, [or the Hartford Library from October through April] 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Dorothy Yamashita, Board Chairman.

Commercial/Institutional Members from 2008 were:

Main Street Museum - David Ford
Quechee Gorge Village - Gary Neil
Meeting House Furniture – Jonathan Schechtman
Hartford Middle School - Jennifer Boeri-Boyce
White River Paper - Jeffrey Lyford
Kibby Equipment – William & Phyllis Shambo
Clair Lovell

As memberships were still being processed at the time of preparation of this Newsletter, a 2009 list was not available.

Membership rates:

Individual: \$15
Family [same address]: \$20
Senior: \$10
Senior family: \$15
Commercial/Institutional: \$25
Junior membership – No fee but needs a sponsor [contact Dorothy Yamashita]

Hartford Historical Society
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ORGANIZATION
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HONOR ROLL

Purpose: To create a public list of citizens deemed to have had a lasting positive influence on the town and its citizens, particularly regarding our history. This is intended to be a way to permanently honor those who come to the attention and appreciation of the Society and its members. Admission to this list can be submitted to the Board of Directors by any member of the Society and will be approved by the Board. A brief biography of the honoree will be sought and published in our Newsletter. The name will be recorded in a book along with the biography and date of entry. A 'traveling' scroll or other medium of listing will be created and brought to all Meetings and events sponsored by the Society. This will be kept in public view at the Garipay House at all other times. If you wish to nominate someone for inclusion on the honor roll, contact Dorothy Yamashita or Pat Stark, or complete an application form on our website [www.hartfordhistory.org] and send it to us. It will need to include a very brief biography [dates, education, occupation]. We continue to bring you excerpts from those already on the Honor Roll.

WILLIAM HOWARD TUCKER

He wrote the first History of Hartford, devoting much time and energy to preparing this work between September 1885 and May 1889. He was born in Sharon, VT on June 19, 1826. March 1, 1849 he married Susan J Hazen of West Hartford; they divorced in December, 1873. On July 22, 1885 he married Evagene Ryder of Hartford. He lived in West Hartford most of his life and his many business experiences were varied and largely unsuccessful. He died November 12, 1895 in Brattleboro.

In Memory of Lettie Newton Morse,

Member and supporter, who died on December 6, 2008. The Hartford Historical Society Board of Directors would like to offer its condolences to the family of Lettie.