



# Hartford Historical Society

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

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

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July-August 2009

## CENTENNIAL OF THE BRICK HOUSE

HARTFORD, VERMONT

Address by Kate M. Cone, August 29, 1928

This house was built 100 years ago by Elias Lyman for his son, Wyllys. Wyllys Lyman had been educated at Dartmouth and Yale, was a budding lawyer, and engaged to marry Sarah Marsh, daughter of Charles Marsh of Woodstock, Father Lyman built the house and Father Marsh furnished it completely. Jedediah Dana, of West Lebanon, was the builder.

It was to be similar to, but better than son Lewis' house, built a few years before at the Point, with an eye to beauty of decoration and design, executed in the best fashion and of the best materials. So successfully was this done that the house remains today the admiration of all who know good woodwork when they see it, and are sensitive to fine proportions and large, simple, generous spaces. Like the Hartford church, built in the same year, by Jedediah Dana, it remains a thing of beauty and continuing joy.

It is also a witness of how the best people lived in this climate a century ago, without heat, water, light and fresh air which we consider so essential, - large rooms with shutters, and a fire place, very small sleeping rooms with one window and no source of heat, a great woodshed for cords and cords of wood, a great pantry and deep cellar for ample stores of food everywhere; and the implication of domestic service. The cooking was done at an open fireplace and in a brick oven. Even the water did not come into the house, but had to be brought in from a barrel in the woodshed.

The house has been gradually adapted in the course of the century, to modern ideas and necessities, yet without being essentially changed. Sometime early, perhaps by the Willards, a second story was added to the ell. The Hamiltons changed the windows in the main part from twenty-four panes to four, and put ground glass into the transom and upper panels of

the front door. Either the Willards or the Hamiltons painted it red, and whitewashed the granite underpinings. Inside the fireplaces were fitted with fire boards and had stove pipe holes cut therein. The partition between the two small downstairs bedrooms was taken down. For long years, people lived in it who respected it, or at least, found it well enough suited to their purposes. When the Willard dynasty had ended and for a time there were occupants who kept borders and pigs, the woman of the house said to me, "This house is too good for us." At last when it was threatened with being cut up into a double tenement, it was purchased by the present owners. At first they drew plans for modernizing it but presently settled down to adapting themselves to it, instead of it to them. Some



outbuildings were taken down, the barnyard obliterated, a bathroom made of an ell chamber, a sleeping porch on the woodshed chamber, and electricity in the service part carefully introduced. But nothing has been done to it to destroy the original design. The arrangements of the rooms are the same; the mantels, the

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## From the Chair . . .

It's June - time for our annual meeting scheduled for 10 June. In addition to the election of officers, Suzanne Abetti and Carol Haehnel have accepted nominations to serve on the Board of Directors. We look forward to having them with us. If elected, Dot Jones has agreed to serve another term as our President, with the hope that she can attend more meetings. She wants you all to know that she has missed us - as we have certainly missed her!

Our membership is about 160 at this time. Of course, our programs are always open to the public and we were delighted to welcome nearly 100 people to the Guarino program...SRO! What a great presentation from such a reluctant speaker!

The open invitation to the Book Signing event requested that people phone to sign up for the pot luck - we had 20 "reservations". Even though we ran out of hot dogs, there was plenty of food -- and fun....thanks to Ron Heroux, we could all enjoy the sounds of the "oldies"...and what a treat to hear the sound of 78 rpm records played on David Ford's turntable which used no electricity! WOW! Those who came to purchase a copy of Hartford had an opportunity to chat with au-

thor Barrett on the front porch of the Garipay House as he signed copies.....Archivist Pat Stark conducted a tour inside.....Bob Follensbee's impeccable green lawns proved irresistible to the croquet players, who were incredibly competitive - thanks to David Ford's grandmother! We pondered the meaning of "sticky wicket" - assuming that it met "a shot that is difficult to make".....and in case you are wondering where that term originated, it was originally related to the difficulty of playing cricket on the hard crust which formed over soft wet soil, and eventually became a metaphor used to describe a difficult circumstance.....and in U.S. croquet, our assumption was correct!.

It seems that most of the "sticky wickets" confronting the Board are related to building problems; we definitely need more roofers and plumbers on our Board! (You don't have to be a Director to offer suggestions!)

I have saved the good news till the end: the Fred Bradley Memorial Fund has been increased by a \$ 30,000.00 bequest from his estate. Let's continue to nurture his dreams of building expansion and encourage designated giving to this purpose.

Dorothy Yamashita



## Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

### Officers

Dot Jones, President	802-295-2701
Bill Wittik, Vice President	802-295-9683
David Ford, Secretary	802-356-2776
Rich Gallagher, Treasurer	603-727-8418

### Directors

Dorothy Yamashita, Chair	603-448-1067
Randy Dickson 280-1780	Joyce Miller 295-2025
Peggy McDerment 295-2357	Bill Wittik 295-9683
Susanne W. Abetti 295-9687	Carole Haehnel 295-3974

Newsletter Editor: Muriel Farrington 802-295-6511  
[newsletter@hartfordhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@hartfordhistory.org)

Archivist: Pat Stark 802-478-1110

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staircase, the shutters, the wide floor boards, are what they were in the beginning, uncracked, unwarped, untouched in any way by a century's use. What a house! What an example for the encouragement of classic taste and perfect workmanship!

Of the Willard family which owned and occupied the house for three generations, much of human interest might be said. It is noteworthy that for 75 years, there were no children or young people in the house. Two children were born to the Wyllys Lymans during their brief occupancy of only five years. Then the house stood vacant. Then came old Squire Willard, and after him, his daughter, Mrs. Hamilton, and her husband, and finally her niece, Mrs. Bradley. The stories about them would be of old people, studies in the peculiarities of mature characters. Their minds, their manners, their dress and furniture were of the Victorian era, early, middle and late. Let me describe this room as a sample of the rest of this house at that time and showing the kind of people who lived there: - A Brussels carpet with a large pattern of flowers; embossed white wallpaper with blue landscape insets; green rep curtains, lined and interlined, reaching to the floor; a set of furniture covered with brocade, flowered, on a brown background; an oval gilt mirror between the south windows. I cannot remember the pictures and ornaments, tho there were many. Toward the end, when friezes and dados were the fashion, a red frieze and gilt moulding were put on, above the blue and white paper. The room was sacred, open only in the summer, and never touched. Mrs. Bradley once took the heavy green curtains down, and aired and dusted them, the first time in forty years. A fire was never

lighted in the fireplace – it was not even open.

Contrast the treatment of the room by the present owners. Nothing less than in the nature of a revolution and a revelation – the beautiful casings and shutters of the windows laid bare, the wide precious floor boards uncovered, the fireplace opened and its ability to draw often demonstrated. The room is no longer sacred to furniture, but to family life. For twenty years there have been children in it, little and big, the best ornament any house can have; and friends, as witnessed by the array of silhouettes on the walls, and our gathering here today.

Of the office which was built at the same time as the house, a similar meditation might be made – of a building admirable in its proportions and details and easier to fit into than to change. And of the people who have used it for various purposes, a volume of character sketches might be written which would reflect very closely the life of the village for many years.

Even the barn which Elias Lyman built deserves a word. It has long been used as a garage, adapted like the house and office, without changing, to modern uses. How the old author of all these buildings would laugh if he knew that, plain as it is and no more beautiful than it was ever meant to be, builders of today admire and value it for the wealth of wide old-growth pine boards it contains on its sides and partitions, and are willing to pay good money for them to put in the houses of Dartmouth professors mad with the craze for the antique.

In truth no man buildeth to himself alone. Our respects to Elias Lyman whose work has lasted one century and we hope will last a century more!

## **ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

Our Annual Meeting was held June 10<sup>th</sup>. Business was an acceptance of last year's meeting minutes, the Treasurers report, and the voting on the slate of officers and directors. Other than the welcome addition of Susanne Abetti and Carole Haehnel as directors, it remained the same as last year. Thanks were given to those who have done much for us in the past year, including Woody Rothe and his students, Art Peale, Muriel Farrington and Frank J Barrett.

Our Honor Roll was 'unveiled', along with an announcement of the upcoming White River Valley historical Fair made, and the meeting adjourned and turned over to Roy Black and his wonderful illustrated talk on the History of Wilder. Roy's great knowledge of the people and little-known facts of the village made his presentation especially enjoyable to all!

## CURATORS CORNER

I recently returned from a conference for Municipal Employees where I attended a workshop on computer security. It was VERY informative and told me more than I needed to know as far as the Historical Society goes – as we do not have internet access on any of our computers. But I want to share a couple of little things with you – the most important of which, although obvious, is often overlooked. If you connect anything [camera, iPod, etc] to your system that has been connected to another system, it could be carrying a hidden virus. Hopefully your Security will isolate/delete it, but that is not a given. Ah the wonderful world of computers! They also stressed the importance of CHECKING your security system updates weekly – to be sure you are actually getting them all.

Pat Stark

## GENEALOGY RESOURCE CENTER



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. Also a continuing need for volunteers!

### 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](mailto: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=BfpSvdv10ZU>
- See our page on the Hartford Historical Society's website at <http://www.hartfordhistory.org/54801.html>

# Mount Independence: An Historical and Archeological Vermont Legacy

*This was the topic at the November 12th, 2008, Public Program presented by Peter Lehatch*

Some highlights follow:

Mount Independence is the most intact Revolutionary War Site in America due to the fact it has always been privately owned so no 'pot hunters' have been allowed on the site. When Mr. Lehatch started looking into the history of the site it was still an active farm. Mount Independence was new from the ground up in the 18th century. The natural site was said to be, the "last place made by God, and he finished it in the dark." It was, in other words, a *howling wilderness*.

The basis of our American Revolution was the ordinary men who suffered greatly to make this country what it is. The defeat of Burgoyne in 1777 was significant because it was the first British Army to surrender on the field of battle. The Battle of Bennington was fought in Hoosick, New York. Burgoyne was trying to reach Albany and they wanted to destroy everything in their path and cut off the northern colonies. The Americans ground them down all along the way by cutting off their supplies, etc. The Battle of Hubbardton slowed the British advance, depleted their supplies and forces.

Benedict Arnold hastily built a small fleet of gunboats to meet the British at the Battle of Valcour Island in 1776. This battle slowed down the British and enabled the Americans to fortify Mt. Independence in hope of stopping the British from coming down the Lake. The winter of 1776-7 shrunk the number of soldiers drastically. The men were often barefoot and 8 to 10 men froze to death each night. It was worse than Valley Forge. The numbers of

Americans went from 4,000 to perhaps as few as one thousand. In spite of the hardships, they engineered and constructed a huge chain/bridge connecting Fort Ticonderoga and Mt. Independence to stop the British Fleet. When they left, this was blown up.

The British then fortified Mt. Independence in the summer of 1777, as well as the mountain across from the fort. The British brought guns to the top of Mt. Defiance. Burgoyne's Defeat came at Saratoga, October, 1777 and the British abandoned their quest to invade, and take the northern states.

Slides were shown of the Mount Independence Visitor Center, an interesting modern architecture shaped to resemble a boat. A dig was executed in an officers quarters. They found forks, and a buttons among other domestic items. Campsites were found, foxholes full of wine bottles, and a battery in the shape of a horseshoe. Cranes and rope pullies were used for pulling supplies to the top of the cliffs at Fort Independence. At the floating bridge divers discovered Revolutionary era guns, muskets, cannon and cannonballs. A pile of flakes were found indicating this was a flint shaping area for American Indians.

There are more shipwrecks in Lake Champlain than any other lake in America. The gunboat Philadelphia was brought up and is now in the Museum of American History, Washington, DC, where it is still displayed, even after the renovation. The water here in Vermont is very cold. That helps preserve submerged wooden structures.

The Division of Historic Preservation is currently working on archeology field work in Middlebury at a Native American settlement there.

*From a 1912 Newsletter:*

## **Dolly in Dismay**

Dorothy – Mother, when I get married shall I have a husband like papa?

Mother – Certainly, my dear.

Dorothy – And if I stay single shall I be an old maid like Aunt Anna?

Mother – I think you will.

Dorothy (with a deep sign) – Well, I am in a fix!

## *News and Notes*

### **WHITE RIVER VALLEY HISTORICAL FAIR**

Saturday, August 15 – 9-3. at the Whitcomb High School in Bethel – on Route 12 heading toward Randolph. This event is free [donations gratefully accepted], inside [mostly], and will have speakers [including Euclid Farnham on Covered Bridges, Johnny Barrows on Log Drives on the White River, John Dumville on the Royalton Raid of 1780, Tom Perera on the Peavine Railroad and Julia Purdy presenting the Saga of Potash – Ashes & Pearls], music, crafts, a special stamp cancellation, display of covers from Dead Post Offices [anyone have one of Deweys Mills?], food and displays from historical societies along the White River. Of special interest to some will be the antique steam engines and the White River Valley Road Rally where you can see some of the historic sites in each town! Miss not having the Vermont History Expo this year? Come join us at this ‘mini’ historic event!

**HARTFORD** – A historic photographic review of our villages compiled by Frank J. Barrett is a great little book – perfect for Birthday presents, College students heading away from home, or just to have on your coffee table! Remember – if you purchase it from the Society [see Pat in the Listers Office, at the Town Clerk’s Office, or at the Garipay House, *members get a 10% discount – just ask for it* - \$20 [19.99] instead of the list price of \$22 [21.99]! Our thanks to ‘Jay’ for putting together this book and sharing profits with us!

**OLD MAGAZINES** – any creative ideas? Posters, history reports, collages? Please note: we have available free duplicate issues of several magazines for your use. They are on our front porch near the door. Help yourself!

### **In Memory of:**

Marion St. Croix  
Wife of Hartford Historian John St. Croix  
d. May 1, 2009 – age 85

The Hartford Historical Society Board of Directors  
would like to offer its condolences to Marion’s family.

### **Commercial/Institutional Members:**

Meeting House Furniture Restoration – Jonathan Schechtman  
Hartford Memorial Middle School – Anderson Thorpe

### **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.



## HONOR ROLL

### Annie Louise Morris Stevens

Annie was the daughter of Mill owner Ephraim Morris and the wife of a prominent Hartford Lawyer. She took a lively interest in preserving the history of Hartford and 'what life was like in earlier times' for future generations. She wrote many articles and speeches which were given at many social and civic events, including a speech for the 1941 Sesquicentennial celebration at town meeting and a 28 page article 'A History of Hartford, Vermont' which includes several first-hand accounts. This is still used by Hartford history classes. She was an active member of the Hartford Ladies Reading Club.

Annie was born on March 1, 1871 in Hartford, VT. She attended Hartford schools and graduated from Smith College in 1893.

On November 17, 1900 she married attorney Roland E. Stevens in her home now known as 'the House of Seven Gables' by Rev. Lord of the Hartford village church. She had three sons. In 1950 they had a huge 'wedding' ceremony & reception for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

She died January 14, 1951.

2005.37.01 Anne & Roland Stevens Nov. 7, 1950



## 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 will be presented at 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](http://www.hartfordhistory.org)] and send it to us. It will need to include a very brief biography [dates, education, occupation].

**Hartford Historical Society**  
POST OFFICE BOX 547  
HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047

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## HHS Calendar

### *Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events*

**Saturday, August 15 – White River Valley Historic Fair in Bethel.** This will be a great event and is designed to ‘take the place of’ the History Expo for this area this year - speakers, crafts, displays, children’s area, etc. For more info contact Pat or check out our website.

**Wednesday, September 9 – Alec Turner: A Trek from Slavery to Freedom** presented by Jane Beck followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the greater Hartford United church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

**Saturday, September 12 – Glory Days of the Railroad** in downtown White River Jct.

**Wednesday, November 11 – Vermont History through Song** presented by Linda Radtke

### *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.