



# 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

January-February 2010

## Hartford Railroad Incidents from the Landmark Newspaper

*From The Landmark, 6 May 1882:*

A young man of the name of Carrigan, who lives at Hartford village, and whose business it was to walk the track, about two miles above Hartford, was run over by Mike Sullivan's train on Thursday night of last week, at about midnight. The engineer discovered something on the track that looked like a bush, but was so near that the train could not be stopped, and ran over it. It proved to be the body of young Carrigan, whose head and one arm were completely severed. While he was generally supposed to be a temperate man, come to get the facts it turns out that he was occasionally given to drinking bouts and would become quite drunk. Of this we suppose there can be no doubt, and that he was dead drunk when he lay across the track we think there is small room for doubt. The whistle was blown, but no response was given, and there were abundant signs of vomiting all about him. He was buried here in the Catholic cemetery on Sunday last. Thus are we compelled to chronicle another of the sad works of rum; another victim of the devilish traffic gone to his account because of the tempter who held out to him that which poisons all that comes within reach of its baleful breath. Who is responsible for the murder of Carrigan - for it *is* a murder? The man who furnished him with his rum! How long shall such things be continued in a land of school-houses and churches?

*From The Landmark, 24 Oct 1929:*

### UNIDENTIFIED BODY OF MAN FOUND ON TRACK NEAR WILDER DEPOT

The body of an unidentified man was found shortly after eight o'clock Monday morning on the railroad track a short distance above the Wilder Station by section men who had just gone on duty. The authorities here were at once notified and the private ambulance of N. C. Powers was sent to the scene and the body taken to the Powers undertaking rooms where it was viewed by a number of persons Monday and Tuesday in the hope of making an identification, which proved unavailing.

Both legs of the man had been severed by a train, although it is not known when or how the accident occurred, but when found the body was cold, indicating that the death had taken place some hours previously during the night.

The man was apparently between 40 and 45 years of age, weighing about 150 pounds, and was probably about 5 feet 8 inches in height. He was smooth shaven, had dark hair sprinkled with gray and brown eyes, and wore a blue mackinaw and dark trousers, but carried nothing in his pockets by which identification could be made.

Thomas Dolan and Lawrence O'Brien special traffic officers of the local Police Department, are confident that they have seen the man in this section but know nothing of him, and no relatives appearing to claim the body the man was buried by the town in the Hartford Cemetery Wednesday afternoon.

*[NB: town death records list of death of one Murdock (so-called) Hobo, age 38, died 20 Oct 1929.]*



This photo shows the Center of Town looking NW over the White River.

## From the Chair . . .

Greetings to the members of the Hartford Historical Society—thank you for your prompt renewals- and a reminder that if you didn't use the form in the last news letter, it's not too late to mail it in.....Please check to see if the date on your label is from 2009. We're trying to cut down on postage expenses, so thank you for your help.

I'm glad I was able to serve as chair this past year, and enjoyed the privilege of representing Hartford at the 56th annual meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies, sponsored by The Vermont Historical Society. Susanne Abetti and I are still bursting with enthusiastic response to the myriad of ideas we encountered that day. Keynote speaker William Hosley presented slides of "Small Wonders" - his research on the ways communities have found to "house history", the treasures that he has discovered.....and reminded all of us that our work is important. You can all be proud of the Garipay House, and our curator, Pat Stark, who continues to implement the collection policies and procedures which help preserve Hartford's History for you.

Knowledgeable presenters provided workshops on oral history, African Americans in the Green Mountains., Vermont's Role in the Civil War, and Teaching

Vermont history, giving participants an opportunity to exchange many helpful ideas. The final session really revealed the many valuable things that are happening throughout our state as awards were presented in the areas of Exhibits/Museum Techniques, Publications/ Oral History, Society Operations, and Educational Outreach. I pass on to you, the members, the Award of Merit certificate presented to the Historical Societies of the White River Valley: Barnard, Bethel, Hartford, Pittsfield, Rochester, Sharon, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge for our participation in the White River Valley Historical Fair in Bethel, 6 November, 2009. *See picture on the next page.*

If you thought the White River Valley History Fair was fun, be sure to sign up for the Vermont History Expo 2010, June 26 and 27 at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds: BACK TO THE LAND, AGAIN - Vermont Heritage Ways for Today. Space has been reserved. Our final exhibit will depend on how many of you can assist at that time. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested.

One last word:

- Each membership is important.
- Participation is welcome, but not required.
- It's an easy way to show you care about Hartford
- Looking forward --- as we preserve our past!

Dorothy

## From the President—

I am pleased to make the following announcement:

In October, 2009 the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation rewarded Hartford Historical Society with a grant of \$6000 to repair the roof of the Garipay House which is the home of the Historical Society. The Hartford Historical Society wishes to express their sincere thanks to the Foundation for these much needed monies.

Since 1988, the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation has granted over 2 million dollars to non-profit organizations throughout the service area of the bank. As stated in the Guidelines for applying for a grant, the Foundation will "help fund activities that strengthen these organizations as they pursue their mission and to help initiate projects that improve life..." We of the Board of the Hartford Historical Society feel that many good works have been fostered and/or improved by these generous funds. Thank you to the Board of the Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation.

Dot Jones, President HHS



### Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

#### Officers

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Vermont Historical Society director Mark Hudson (far left) presents the award to (l-r) Nick Nikolandis of Bethel, Dorothy Yamashita of Hartford and Nancy Wooley of Rochester.

## Historical Societies win Award for W.R. Valley History Fair

At the recent annual meeting of the League of Local Historical Societies held in St. Albans November 6, the Vermont Historical Society presented an award of merit for educational outreach to the historical societies of Barnard, Bethel, Hartford, Pittsford, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge and Tunbridge for their White River Valley History Fair held in Bethel in August.

Each year the Vermont Historical Society recognizes the achievements of local historical societies in order to encourage collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of their communities.

This year the historical societies of White River valley filled a void left by the suspension of the 2009 Vermont History Expo by hosting a history fair in August at the Bethel School. Nine active societies, two towns, the 18th Vermont Regiment, Vermont Arts Council, US Postal Service

and the Vermont Historical Society were among the participants of this event.

The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization with a museum in Montpelier and a library in Barre, engaging both Vermonters and “Vermonters at heart” in the exploration of our state’s rich heritage. For more information call 802-479-8022.

## Past, Present and Future:

Happy 2010 – however you choose to pronounce it! This issue is dedicated to our Business Members – we appreciate their patronage!

We are also featuring businesses in our Post Office Displays this year – or, to be more precise, 6 of the families that created and ran some of the important businesses of the 1800’s that helped put our town ‘on the Map’! Take some time and stop at your local post office, the Bugbee center, or the town Hall [near the town Clerk’s office] to learn about the Cone, Dewey, Morris, Pease, Smith and Wilder families and the businesses they were responsible for.

Next year, in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Charter, we will feature 6 Founding Families: the Newton, Wright, Marsh, and other families that first braved the wilderness to create our town!

That’s right – 2011 is our 250<sup>th</sup>! Back in 1911 a huge 3-day pageant was held to commemorate the founding of our town. What will we do next year? Susanne Abetti is trying to get a group of interested folks together to plan some events. If you have any ideas or interest in helping her, please give her [or Dorothy Y. or myself] a call. Let’s not let this opportunity slip by!

Pat

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## THANKS JENNIFER!

In November, 2009 the Board voted in favor of the following award:

The Hartford Genealogy Resource Center is pleased to present this Certificate of Appreciation to Jennifer Boeri-Boyce for her contribution to furthering student awareness of and respect for Hartford history, namely her leadership in creating "Hartford and the Civil War - a Driving Tour Quest", a 2009 eighth grade class project which took students into the field to learn about Hartford historical sites as associated with the Civil War, in particular its cemeteries where students learned about the contributions made to the formation of our nation by h\Hartford citizens.

This will be presented February 2nd at the Hartford High School.

# Kibby Equipment Inc

The property on Maple Street across from the Elementary School and now the Municipal building was owned by Daniel Burrows of Woodstock VT and sold by George C. Clark, Esq. to Dutton & Fellows Tire Co on January 4, 1929. They sold it to Dale & Hazel Nelson of Ridge Investments on October 13, 1958. It was sold to Gil Kibby on July 11, 1967, and Kibby Equipment Co became a division of Trumbull Nelson Co. Gil Kibby and David Brockway worked for Noble Belisle in West Lebanon, NH and decided to sell large equipment in White River Junction. Kibby Equipment Inc was purchased by William and Phyllis Shambo on September 9, 1985. It has been a source for small equipment, parts and accessories for construction contractors, loggers and area municipalities since 1958.

Starting out in a small warehouse behind the main building, a fire destroyed it in 1963 and the main building was then renovated to expand the merchandise.

The brick building next door was owned by Adams, McNicholes & Melen who had a monument business. Then it was sold to Richard & Pamela Kilbourn who used it for their fire extinguisher business. It was purchased by Kibby Equipment Inc on January 19, 1981 and converted to an equipment repair shop. In 1988 the Stihl Chainsaw business was established. It is now a sales and service building for small equipment.

Kibby equipment addition - 1978



# Meeting House Restoration, Inc.

87 Waterman Hill, Quechee

This fine old Building has seen many uses since it was built in 1833 by the First Meeting House Society of Quechee. "Originally the front faced the river with stone steps and iron railings" on either side. The door was high and wide. Over the door in the gable was an Equilateral triangle laid in the brick wall...and can be seen from River Street [formerly Church Street]." By 1869 the church was deserted – perhaps due to internal dissension. It was later sold to the town school district and was used as a school for many years.



In 1871 – T.W. Silloway, a Boston architect who had designed the exterior of the State House in 1857, was hired to design the façade renovations and a second floor auditorium was added. In 1920 the last class graduated and the first floor became a grocery store operated by Mr. Waterman and later Mr. Holland. The second floor was used as a village hall with town meetings held here on alternate years, as well as a roller skating rink and movie theater. Meeting space for the Grange, the Modern Woodmen of America and a Catholic Mission were also accommodated here.

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1982, it was sold to Charles Schechtman, who transferred it to the current owner, Jonathan Schechtman two years later. Jonathan has run a successful furniture restoration

business on the first floor while living on the top 2 floors for many years. He and Deb have done a great job of keeping many features of the original building while renovating it for residential use.

# Main Street Museum

*The past is never dead. It's not even past.* —  
Faulkner

The Main Street Museum was founded in 1992 on South Main Street – in the old 'Lena's Lunch building. In 1996 the exhibition rooms were moved to Hartford Village for two years. In 2003 the town's old fire station in White River Junction, the Fire District One Building, was purchased and renovated. Two year later the museum opened in its new space.

The artifacts are local, and from around the world; historical, and quite recent. There is a cabinet of curiosities in the style of older European museums. The goal is to collect objects that cause one to wonder and that tell a story. Sometimes the objects themselves have no (material) value but they were saved by someone, sometime, and for some reason. These objects have stories that the museum endeavors to tell. Sometimes they are simple, sometimes outlandish and complex.

Live music at the Museum began when we were on South Main Street, a tradition that continues today, showcasing local bands and more well-known performers from Burlington to New York City and ukulele bands from Portland, Maine.

The Lena's Lunch Building in downtown White River Junction featured a "faux-brick" front and had a very funky smell when I first walked through its aluminum doors in 1992. It was a long, narrow, shot-gun retail space. There was a pile of garbage in the middle of the room. The sink had been used to mix cement in. In the 1930's it had been a bowling alley. There were feral cats roaming the place, and spraying. It was just perfect for the museum!



## The Hartford Historical Society Welcomes GeoBarns LLC as its Most Recent Business Member.



GeoBarns specializes in building artistic barns using modified post and beam structures with diagonal framing to achieve a combination of strength, versatility and beauty at reasonable prices. GeoBarns is dedicated to building quality barn structures for any use the client wishes, and its founder and creator, George Abetti lives right here on Hurricane Hill. He loves building and is sincerely interested in the people who come to him with their varied projects.

GeoBarns has been a privately owned enterprise since 1991. For a several year period in the early 2000's, GeoBarns merged with the QROE Companies—who developed the innovative concept of "Preservation Development" which uses private investment to maintain farms and to provide housing in the context of environmentally responsible land use. GeoBarns has maintained a close working relationship with Qroefarm and Celebration Associates and has already built several commercial structures for them. The buildings on his website—[www.geobarns.com](http://www.geobarns.com)--are quite impressive—but even more so is the philosophy of mutual trust which is a prerequisite for doing business with George Abetti. Clients are heavily engaged in the design and often even in the construction of their barns, homes, studios, garages and shops.



# Novel Uses for Gravestones

Nothing goes on in an uninterrupted career in this world, and even gravestones come now and then and to strange uses. In a village in Maine, for instance, a farmer, having waxed in fortune until he was able to replace the slate gravestones in his family burial lot by marble, was too thrifty to throw the old slabs away. He therefore utilized them as door stones, so that all visitors to the kitchen and the dairy [sic] trod upon inscriptions gradually fading away, which, with scriptural phrase and the cheerful overseeing of triangular-visaged cherubs, recorded the names, the virtues, and the untimely taking off of the forefathers of the thrifty farmer.

In another Maine village is, or was a boarding school for young ladies, in the kitchen of which a large white marble slab, sacred to the memory of a worthy woman, whom it described as having died in the Lord, was used as a kneading board. Now and then a loaf of bread after it was moulded would rest for a moment or two on the deeply cut inscription, and the pupils averred -- how truthfully the editor makes no pretense of being able to determine -- that they had been able to decipher bits of the words printed on the bottom of the slices of bread.

But perhaps the most remarkable fate for a tombstone was that which befell the moss-grown slab in an English churchyard. An American parvenu of the same family name as that of the man whose death the stone recorded purchased the stone of a dishonest sexton and brought it home with her. It is now set into the wall of her sumptuously appointed New York library, besides a fictitious pedigree, which lies to all beholders by tracing the family of the present owner back to that of the man whose name is on the stone. As he has been dead 170 years he is probably beyond caring for such things, else Mrs. Parvenu might have good reason to expect a call from his ghost some night, come to reclaim his gravestone. --*Boston Courier*.



(from *The Landmark*, February 11, 1888)

Here is a photo of a gravestone that was used in a foundation – a not-so-uncommon usage!

## Our cemeteries in distress:

It has been brought to the attention of the Board that during the past there has been recurrent inadvertent damage to gravestones in several local cemeteries during the process of routine mowing. The Hartford Historic Preservation Commission is also aware of this situation and is investigating ways to help rectify the situation. If you have suggestions to alleviate this problem, please contact Ron Heroux, Art Peale, or members of the HHPC.

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## HONOR ROLL

Please consider adding someone to our Honor Roll! Our Honor roll has not grown much lately and I'm sure there are plenty of folks who have an interest in our town and its history! They can be living, or not, and we only need a little information: Your name & contact information, the full name of the person you wish to honor, what they did to advance the History of our town [why you feel they should be honored], and a brief biography [date born & location, where educated, and any other information you feel is important. There is a link to a form on our web site [[hartfordhistory.org](http://hartfordhistory.org)] or contact Pat if you'd like one. Thanks

## Curator's Corner

Here is the story of another donation – the 25,000 Gifts Cash Register. Last August, Kip Miller came to me and offered the old cash register that was in the basement of 25,000 Gifts – it had to be moved in 2 weeks and weighed almost 400 lbs! He told me a little about its history, and I immediately got on the email to see what the board thought. The decision was finally made that yes, we would be able to accept it and a mover would be hired. I engaged Dana Pippin to do the work, and met the guys at the old store. By the time I arrived, it was half-way out! Dana offered to take it to his shop and try to repair the wooden drawer, which was damaged. After talking with him and deciding he really DID know what not to do to it, I was more than happy to accept his offer!



The next day Dana called asking me to see what info I could find out about it on the web, and if I could find a manual. He also told me about some paper pieces he'd found on the bottom of the drawer. The internet search was interesting – I DID find a manual, and some other info.

The results of all this is that we have a 1908 National cash register, probably nickel base, that was built for the Wheeler Brothers in White River Junction and sold by W.A. Gage. The Wheeler Brothers had a fine clothing store in the front of the hotel in White River Junction. When that store closed it evidently went into the hands of the Millers.

Pat

## "Business is the backbone of the community." EDUCATION IS OUR BUSINESS

### *2010 Goal - More commercial/ institutional memberships*

Currently we have about 30 institutional memberships - historical societies, libraries, and schools - receiving complimentary copies of our newsletters. This is part of our educational outreach program which is supported by your dues. Woody Roth and his students credited the Hartford Historical Society with providing valuable resources for their 2009 project of putting Hartford on the map - go to web site [creatinghartfordvt.com](http://creatinghartfordvt.com)

Faculty members Rich Gallagher and Randy Dickson serve on the HHS Board of Directors.

Whatever your profession, please consider joining in the name of your institution/business at the \$ 25.00 level. Many members may already have that in mind as they have been generous with extra gifts this year. It certainly strengthens the educational outreach program!

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

Meeting House Furniture Restoration  
Hartford Memorial Middle School  
Hartford Middle School

Kibby Equipment  
Main Street Museum  
GeoBarns LLC

### **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]

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## HSH Calendar

*Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events*

**Wednesday, April 14** *Vermont's Seventh Regiment in the Civil War* by David Mayhew.

Program followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple

Street, Hartford Village

**Wednesday, June 9** Annual Meeting and program featuring the *White River Junction Telephone Operators -* in their own words, followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721

Maple Street, Hartford Village

**Saturday & Sunday, June 26 & 27** – Vermont History Exposition at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds

*Ongoing Monthly Meetings*

**First Tuesday** (May through October) - Open House—Garipay House, 1461 Maple St/Rt 14, Hartford Vil-  
lage, 6-8 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 from 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 an-  
swer any questions.

**Third Wednesday**—Hartford Historic Preservation Commission Meeting—Hartford Municipal Bldg, 171  
Bridge St, White River Junction, 4:30 pm

**Fourth Tuesday**—HHS Board of Directors Meeting—Garipay House, 1461 Maple St/Rt 14, Hartford Vil-  
lage, (or the Hartford Library October—April) 7:00 pm. For more information contact Dorothy Yamashita,  
Board Chairman.

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### Hartford Historical Society

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### Renewal Time

Please check your label for your Membership  
Renewal Date. If it is 2009, your Membership  
has expired. Please renew now and continue to  
support the Hartford Historical Society.