



Hartford Historical Society

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

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

Volume 22, No. 6

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July-August 2010

MEMORIES OF THE WILDER CHURCH

by Collamer Abbott, 10 December 2009

Here's some nostalgia.

The Wilder Congo church's influence on my life is profound but not exactly in a religious sense. Forced to go to church and Sunday school every Sunday, I participated in a multitude of activities. The Bible remains a mystery despite all efforts to indoctrinate me. I remember most vividly the pagan Santa Claus and my own role at the age of about 15 when I played the jolly fellow and found myself believed to the point of tears by a little girl who buried her head in her mother's lap.

We knew our Santa Claus by a physical handicap, but when I played the role children believed – and I was dumfounded! In Mrs. Owens Hi-Y Club I distributed fruit baskets to shut-ins at Christmas. One lady had the reputation of being “weird”. I was afraid when I had to deliver the basket to her at night in her remote home behind Reservoir Hill in knee-deep snow, but she proved to be the warmest person I encountered and gave me fresh-baked cookies that went to my heart.

I collected the offering on a velvet-lined silver plate, even to my father's 25 cents in a special envelope. I pumped the organ until I lost all strength, and the organist (Mrs. Owens) ran out of air and threw up her hands in embarrassed dismay. Despite my protest, I was included in the choir until the conductor finally realized there was no hope. But I did scratch my fiddle with three other amateur

(Continued on page 3)



NEXT PROGRAM

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

WANTED:

Memories of Hartford School Days

The Hartford Historical Society is hoping to obtain copies/photos of photos, programs, memories of students, teachers, staff, etc. class trips, sports, the buildings, school calendars, program for plays, graduations, etc..... If you would like to share your school memories [do you have a scrapbook??] with us, please contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 weekdays. We can scan or copy them and return to you within a week or less.

From the Chair . . .

Dear Members, Thank you for your willingness to go electronic with this newsletter, but it will continue to be delivered to your mailing address! After much discussion, the Board voted to renew the bulk mailing permit for 2010. Slightly more than half of our members have e-mail access, and are in favor of cutting costs, but many indicated a preference for a hard copy, **If only each member could recruit ONE more**, we could qualify for that magic number of 200 required by the Postal service to use bulk mailing. Meanwhile, I will continue to send some of you an extra copy and welcome your suggestions for more effective management of newsletter circulation. In the process of entering your e-mail addresses in my computer, I have gained a little more knowledge, if not necessarily skill! Please feel free to notify me at dyama-shita@myfairpoint.net if you would like to be added to or deleted from the group mailing, which will NOT be used for the newsletter at present, but could be helpful in sharing other information.

JUNE is a wonderful month for celebrations – graduations, weddings, reunions and parades – and PICNICS!

Preparations for the Vermont History Expo have been time-consuming – but the new contacts I have

made have been so enjoyable. Thank you all for your contributions of photos and stories – and a special thank you to Tad Nunez of the Hartford Parks and Recreation Dept for his support in creating the exhibit PICNICS ARE FOREVER.... IT ALL STARTS in PARKS Hartford's exhibit to promote the Expo over-all theme: Back to the Land –Again. I hope you were able to join us for this wonderful event in Tunbridge!

Before we know it, we'll be celebrating GLORY DAYS OF THE RAILROAD right here in White River Junction. Mark September 10 on your calendar now.

You will note that new officers were elected at our annual meeting. Thanks to Rich Gallagher for serving the past two years as Treasurer and welcome to Carole Haehnel who has graciously accepted this position. Three cheers for Dot Jones as she passes the gavel to Susanne Abetti; Dot will always be an Honorary Director! We also welcome Brent Knapp to the Board of Directors, and look forward to his suggestions as a building committee member.

Meanwhile, please drop by the Garipay House on the first Tuesday or second Sunday and say hello!

Dorothy



Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

Officers

Susanne Walker-Abetti, President	802-295-9687
Bill Wittik, Vice President	802-295-9683
David Ford, Secretary	802-356-2776
Carole Haehnel, Treasurer	603-295-3974

Directors

Dorothy Yamashita, Chair	603-448-1067
Randy Dickson	802-280-1780
Martha & Brent Knapp	802-295-2713
Peggy McDerment	802-295-2357
Joyce Miller	802-295-2025

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

Archivist: Pat Stark 802-478-1110

The Mission Statement of the Hartford Historical Society: To acquire, identify and preserve information and artifacts related to Hartford's past and communicate knowledge of local history through programs, publications, and other interaction with the community.

(Continued from page 1)

musicians who butchered sacred hymns to a fare-the-well.

I waited on tables and spilled hot coffee on diners at church suppers and gorged myself on sugar-on-snow and plain doughnuts. I found sentimental novels in the Sunday School library that put me on my knees promising “God” to be a “good” boy. I remember how the water trickled and tickled my ear when I was baptized and became a member of the church. I swore off tobacco, liquor and profanity which as yet I had little experience of - and was not addicted to.

I listened to the clock Mrs. Palmer gave to the church and counted every ring of 12 midnight on cold, clear winter nights. We counted the slow toll of the age of the dead (an old custom, I believe) to see if my father got the count right. Through all this and more, I wondered who “God” was, until one day Mr. Owens, the pastor, visited our Sunday School class and I asked “Who IS God?”

The answer, I think, was the best I ever got. “God for me,” said Mr. Owens, “is a spirit that fills the whole world.”

I was there when smugglers stole Uncle Carroll’s new model T from the horse shed. I was innocent enough to wonder why God who directed everything let people do things like that. I believe the clock struck on the half-hour, making enough confusion to drive a devout Christian bananas, asking whether it was one o’clock, or one-thirty of the clock.

Sincerely,

Collamer M. Abbott



If anyone has memories you’d like to share – either in writing or orally, let us know! Your memories are important to the future! Thanks Pat

A Brief Outline of the History of the Wilder Church

1888 - The church was organized

1889 – Daniel Gillette donated land and construction of a building began

1890 – The new church was dedicated on June 13

1898 – The name changed to ‘The First Congregational Church of Wilder’

1920 – The two Wilder churches formed a federation with services alternating between the buildings and a parsonage was purchased

1960 – By now it had become the Wilder United Church of Christ

1968 – A 2-year experimental project began in which the congregations of the Hartford, Quechee and Wilder churches agreed to work together under the Greater Hartford Parish.

1971 – A Union of the Wilder United Church of Christ and the Second Congregational Church changed the name to the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Hartford.

1972 – The congregation sold the building to the Northern New England District Council Assembly of God.

1990 – Centennial celebration was held

2007 – New Years Eve the congregation closed the doors and put the building up for sale.

2008 – it was purchased by Lyme Properties, gutted, upgraded, etc. and opened in 2010 as mixed use of public space and offices.

Editor’s Note: This church is in the process of a wonderful restoration, and it must gladden the heart of anyone passing by. This church as a renewed future.

Curator's Corner . . .

In this issue I will give you updates on the various projects in which I am involved.

HISTORY OF HARTFORD BOOK UPDATE

We are in the midst of updating the History of Hartford. It will be similar to John St. Croix's book, half photographs and half text. It will be arranged in a totally different order, complete with an index. We hope to update some of the listings that are in his book, as well as new items. In conjunction, we hope to have St. Croix's book available on the web. In order to get this to print in time for our Celebrations next year, it must be completed this fall! We are very short of folks to gather information on our prominent organizations and businesses. If you can help by talking with one [or more] business owners, or giving us a brief history of any local clubs you are in, please let me know. Otherwise not everything will be included that we are hopeful of getting in the book. Thanks. Pat Stark [295-3077 M-F 9-4]

BARN CENSUS – Report by the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission

Deborah Noble has been very busy visiting all our barns [and their owners where possible]. She has also gathered some great historical information, some of which I hope to get into the Updated History Book. A public meeting is planned to present the findings, and I urge you all to keep an eye open for the meeting and make plans to attend. The presentation she gave at the beginning of the project was superb, and we have high hopes for an equally compelling program late this summer.

COLLECTIONS:

Featured in this issue are three of our MANY artifacts from businesses that are no longer in operation. Wheeler Brothers was downtown White River Junction, Stonecrest Dairy was on Christian Street, and Sanborn Auto I believe was in White River Jct. If any of you know anything about these – names, years, locations - let me know! Thanks Pat



250TH CELEBRATION

Remember this article from John St. Croix from the 200th in 1961 about the Middle Grants?

An Historical Perspective

The Middle Grants

The Upper Valley with the Connecticut River as its central focus has a regional heritage extending back to pre-Revolutionary days.

The entire territory in the Upper Valley was, for a short period of time, part of the New

Hampshire grants. Charters for Upper Valley towns along the Connecticut were issued in July, 1761 by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire. The term "Middle Grants" was adopted because these towns are situated in what is now mid-New

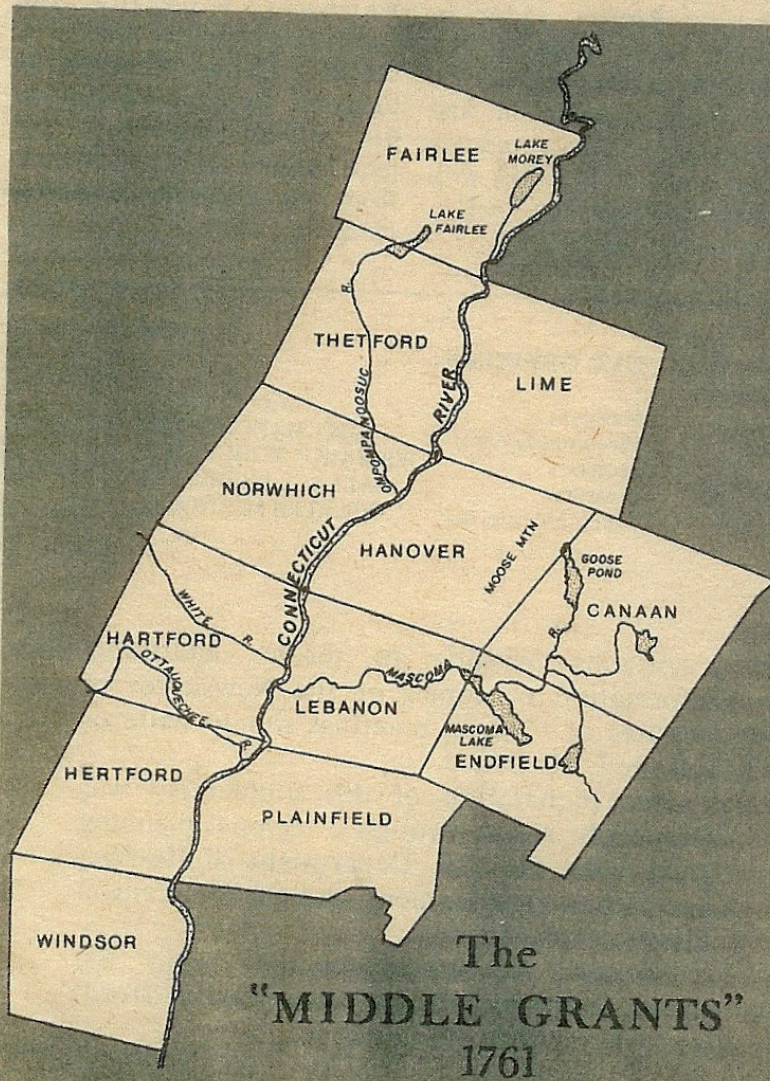
Hampshire and Vermont and because they received their charters midway in the granting period.

The New Hampshire towns of Canaan, Enfield, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme and Plainfield and the Vermont towns of Fairlee, Hartland, Hartford, Norwich, Thetford and Windsor comprise the Middle Grants.

A map prepared in 1761 by Joseph Blanchard and Samuel Langdon shows the original names and the variation from the present day spellings of these towns. Enfield was originally known as Endfield, Lyme as Lime, Hartland as Hertford and Norwich as Norwhich.

Although colonization was slow in the mid 1700's because of the French and Indian War, Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire issued 16 charters between 1750 and 1760. At the end of the war in 1761, the governor issued charters to 63 towns. The territory now known as Vermont was then part of the New Hampshire grants, although it was in dispute between New Hampshire and New York.

A decision by King George III, dated July 20, 1764, declared all lands west of the Connecticut River the property of New York and nullified the charters of the towns west of the river. This caused many disputes which were never really settled until the creation of Vermont as an independent colony in 1777.



From an August 1929 Newspaper:

Here are a few recipes for easily prepared, attractive salads, which you will enjoy using:

Mock Salmon Salad -

2 cups carrots coarsely grated or ground; 1/3 cup chopped English walnuts; ¼ cup stuffed olives chopped; 1 green pepper chopped; 1 tablespoon preserved sweet onion chopped; ½ teaspoon salt; ½ cup well seasoned salad dressing.

Mix thoroughly and serve in nests of lettuce. Garnish with slices of stuffed olive. This makes a delicious, healthful salad, also a good sandwich spread.

Kidney Bean Salad -

2 cups Baked Red Kidney Beans: 1 cup celery, cut in pieces or cup cabbage; 2 tablespoons India relish; 1/2 teaspoon salt. Mix thoroughly and serve in nests of lettuce.

Country Club Salad -

Cut cold boiled or baked ham into small dice and add equal amount of diced celery. Moisten with mayonnaise dressing. Chill thoroughly and serve in beds of lettuce; garnish with slices of stuffed olives.

Welcome to New Business Members

It's a special privilege to welcome a Commercial member who is also a neighbor; Harvey Matheson lives around the corner on Christian Street with his family Cassie, Ethan and Madylyn. and in keeping with the "Good Neighbor Policy" would like to let you know that he believes in strengthening local businesses whenever possible. You may have seen him removing snow from the porch roof of the Garipay House during this past winter! His business is known as **CEMMS FAMILY PAINTING** and, due to unfortunate errors, is not listed in the yellow pages, due to unfortunate errors, so please share this information and let people know that free estimates will be provided for commercial and residential needs. Harvey not only does interior and exterior painting, but also power washing, spraying and roof treatments, deck preservations and staining, and drywall services. You can reach Harvey at (802)-296-2616 or cemmspainting@gmail.com

History in the making..... Keep Hartford families in business today!

Our other new corporate member is **NEW ENGLAND TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE & MUSEUM**, better known locally as the Railroad Museum, represented by Phil Rentz, whom you will find at most railroad events! Located in the Depot, it is open during all special events and will be open from July 22 to Aug 29 when the White River Flyer is running.

Welcome Aboard!

Commercial/Institutional Members:

Cemms Family Painting	Hartford High School
Geo Barns	Main Street Museum
Hartford Memorial Middle School	Meeting House Furniture Restoration
Kibby Equipment	New England Transportation Institute and Museum
Lovell's Sugar House	

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]

A Report from the Annual Meeting held on June 9th

Susanne Abetti was elected to replace Dot Jones as President, and Carole Haehnel was elected Treasurer. Bill Wittik remains as Vice President and David Ford remains as Secretary. Brent Knapp was elected as a new Director.

Robert & Georgia Plattner presented us with a wonderful plaque listing our Charter Members and a brief history of our beginnings. It was a pleasure to have Irene Brockway and Janet Blood join them in representing these first members. Many thanks to them all!

Honor Roll

We are pleased to add Mary Nadeau to our honor roll:

Mary McDuffy Nadeau

REASON: Mary is a dedicated Life Member of the Hartford Historical Society and has willingly served as a volunteer in many positions from docent to Director, including participating in research for the update of the Town History book and interviews for oral history. Whatever needs to be done, Mary possesses a knack for organization and details. Currently, she is the Program Chair. Usually this committee consists of several people to contact speakers, reserve the location, plan for publicity, arrange for the refreshments, and subsequent to the event provide evaluation and express appreciation. Mary has done this single-handedly for several years and has expressed a willingness to continue in this role. She does this in addition to her many other community responsibilities.

BIOGRAPHY

Born February 16, 1944 in Nashua, N.H.

Came to Hartford in 1966 with husband Art. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. Mary taught school for a few years before becoming a clerk at the Lebanon N.H. Post Office and in 1987 was appointed as Postmaster in the Hartford Village Post Office where she served until February 2004.

HONOR ROLL

Please consider adding someone to our Honor Roll! There are so many deserving residents who have an interest in our town and it's 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] or contact Pat if you'd like one. Thanks

MYSTERY ITEM/ PHOTO

We did not receive many guesses from our last mystery item. One guess was either a gate weight or a well weight. Here is a new item - some sort of stitching implement. The two halves move back and forth. Anyone know what it was used for or anything else about it? Let us know!



HHS Calendar

Ongoing Monthly Meetings

Summer OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House (May—September) 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. We are located at 1461 Maple St/Rt 14, Hartford Village. 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.

• **1st Tuesday** of the month—6-8 pm.

• **Second Sunday** 2:00-4:00 pm.

Or by appointment (call Pat at 295-3077 M-F 9-4)

2nd Wednesday—Hartford Historic Preservation Commission Meeting—Hartford Municipal Bldg, 171 Bridge St, White River Junction, 4:30 pm

4th Tuesday—HHS Board of Directors Meeting—Garipay House May-September and the Hartford Library October—April at 7:00 pm. For more information contact Dorothy Yamashita, Board Chairman.

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

September 8, 2010 – Program features Art Peale from *Gardens in Stone* will speak on gravestone restoration, followed by a Saturday [weather permitting] field trip to examine interesting examples. The program will be followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010—Mark Pippin and friends will be telling us about some of the businesses in town and how they got started – including photos! Refreshments will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Wednesday April 13, 2011 – Frank J. Barrett will be our speaker, followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Wednesday – June 8, 2011 – Annual Meeting and program by Michael Tougas on the Indian Wars in New England – focusing on Vermont, followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

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