

## THE TRACY FAMILY STORY – England to Hartford, VT

This is the first in a series on our Founding Families researched by Mary Ann Devins, Gen Center Director.

On December 28, 1596 Stephen TRACY was born to Christopher and Agnes Fardley TRACY in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England. Sometime within the next 24 years Stephen moved to Leyden, Zuid Holland in the Netherlands where he married Tryphosa Lee, the day after New Years in 1620. Their first daughter, Jane Sarah, was born there in 1621. Little did he know at that point in history that two of his descendants would take part in the birth of a town in the new world.

Just two short years later Stephen took his wife and small daughter on the ship Ann to the new colonies of America. 1623 finds Stephen in Duxbury, Massachusetts in a time when the first English settlements formed in New Hampshire. The Dorchester Company was started to establish fishing colonies in New England. They had nine children at this place in history. Tragedy struck the family when two daughters, Jane and Apphia, died in 1638 and 1639 respectively. Stephen, himself, and wife Tryphosa joined them in death in 1654 and 1655.



Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Elisabeth, comfort to Lieut. Thomas Tracy, who died March 25, 1801, in the 73ed year of her life.

(Continued on page 4)

### **Tony Battaglia—New Board Member**

Earlier this year we welcomed Tony Battaglia to the Board of Directors. As the new owner of what was the Ottaquechee General Store, formerly also known as Al's, he has been extremely busy, but willing to assist us in many ways. With his extensive background in sales and marketing he has already proved to be a useful resource in producing and launching the banners for the Upper Valley 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Thank you, Tony.

Perhaps you have already met Tony and Margie or their son Joe who attends Hartford High School, and daughter, Holly, who is at the University of Connecticut. Tony grew up in the Detroit, Michigan, area a middle child with two sisters. He says this qualifies him to be a very good mediator in arguments! After graduating from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, with a degree in marketing, he worked in sales for NCR and Duracell Battery, progressing through sales and marketing with Loctite/Permatex and moving to Hartford, Connecticut in 1999 as Marketing Director until the company re-organized in 2009. Tony decided to take a severance package – No more corporate life! He had always wanted to have his own business and live in a small community.

# From the Chair ...

As we greet the New Year, I offer a salute to our current President, Susanne Abetti, as she guides us in launching the celebrations for the coming year.....We hope by the time you read this, the banners will be flying all over Hartford.

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL? Can you believe there is such a word? It's not in my dictionary—but the math is correct!

On behalf of the Board, thank you to all who have renewed your membership so promptly, and also for a number of very generous donations. We now have one-eighth of the desired 200 members! Check your address label; it should say Dec 2011 if you have renewed.

Thanks to the members who brought goodies to our Christmas Social, and enjoyed the Main Street Museum. In fact, thanks for providing refreshments for programs all year long! We look forward to your continued culinary contributions!

The Building Committee is in the process of developing a long-range plan for the Garipay House and would welcome additional members in preparation for accepting proposals from architects/builders who might eventually submit bids for the expansion. At

#### (Continued from page 1)

Their search led them to the Quechee area and the Route 4 Country Store. Long time residents in the area will remember the Fogg Family Farm with its open-air market. Quite a different story today...a store within a store, with a temperature controlled room for tempering chocolate and producing chocolate barks, clusters, solids, truffles, and more This doesn't sound like your average Country Store! But Tony Battaglia is not your "Average Man". Vermonters are not "average people" - right? So he has come to the right place! I would venture to guess that Chocoholics are plentiful in Vermont – and New Hampshire! I hope they all find their way to Vermont Chocolatiers at the Route 4 Country Store! Best wishes to the owners – and the customers! this point we also need more volunteers skilled in fund raising and grant writing to make our dreams come true!

Suggestions for Programs are now being scheduled for 2012—thank you Mary Nadeau! Also, thanks to Mary Nadeau for her research on the Lone Pine. I hope you all read the excellent feature in the recent issue of Upper Valley Life magazine. Hartford Historical Society is proposing to be the non-profit entity to preserve this landmark. Any member qualified to give us legal advice on this matter?

By now you must realize that the Historical Society is not only for Historians! We need accountants, builders, cooks, electricians, lawyers, plumbers, students, writers .... everything from A - Z. Let us know of your interests – or, better yet, invite your friends to assist us!

Welcome to 2011—the Year of the Rabbit—the events planned for the coming year seem to keep on multiplying according to the sign of the Zodiac.!

Have you signed up? If not, why not do so today?

Dorothy



### Hartford Historical Society

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

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Curator:	Pat Stark	802-478-1110
GenCenter Director: Mary Ann Devins 802-281-		802-281-9095

# **Dorothy Mock Jones—In Memory**

The Hartford Historical Society has lost a treasured member and our recent long-term President,

Dot Jones. Most of you have known Dot much longer than I have. and in many other relationships - my friendship was limited to our experiences in the Society. We spent quite a few hours together at the Garipay House, waiting for visitors to attend the scheduled Sunday afternoon Open House hours during the past five years! And Dot was always on hand with a welcome word --for Glory Days, programs, and

exhibits – wherever and whenever needed. It doesn't seem like very long ago that she was helping to paint the porch at the Garipay House!

Although my roots were in Hartford, I felt like a stranger in town. Dot welcomed me to the Historical Society, and we soon discovered that we had much in common, starting with childhood in rural Vermont, and then as young brides, facing the challenges of being an officer's wife! We recalled the romance; when your high school sweetheart is an Air Force pilot, there has to be a little bit of glamour, but being a "military dependent " and life in the

South was quite different for us - It didn't take Dot long to decide on pursuing a career in education. She taught gymnastics for over 25 years. Although her real love was basketball, she became aware of the personal problems of her students and because of her concern, she returned to Keene College in the 60's to earn a master's degree in guidance counseling. She often wondered if she had been able to help any of her students during those difficult years. Often, one



est memories were of coaching the Bellows Falls teams – the town basketball team and the school

> teams. It was a long time before I learned that Dot earned the honor of being inducted into the Bellows Falls Hall of Fame before she retired from teaching and prior to her returning to care her aging mother and maintain the family homestead.

In April of 2010, Dot graciously invited CATV to film the inside of her charming home, with the same furniture her mother and grandmother had used. It was

about that time that the Board of the Hartford Historical Society selected Dot for the Honor Roll, so a party was held in conjunction with the members of the Hartford Women's Club, and the film was shown to the group. What a joy to share her excitement as she recognized herself in her own home! Unfortunately, before this film was completed, it was misplaced. We are still hoping to locate it to be able to share it with you.

At Vermont Expo 2010, thanks to Lorna Ricard, Dot was on hand to take her turn at our exhibit at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds: BACK TO THE LAND



never knows! Her fond- On Dot Jones farm

with Hartford featuring "Picnics are Forever". Dot enjoyed her share of apple trees, ice cream freezers, and picnic baskets!

Whenever and wherever you knew Dot, I know you, too will miss her concern for other people , her willingness to speak up on behalf of what she thought was right, her interest in providing opportunities for the residents of Hartford to grow through services provided through the Library and other activities. May we honor her memory by continuing those projects for decades to come!

Courtesy Dee Aher for decades to come!

#### (Continued from page 1)

Son, John, married Mary Jane PRENCE in Plymouth, MA in 1660 where they stayed and had 5 children. After the close of King Philip's War and around the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century they removed to Windham, Connecticut. By this time this reader can surmise that this was, truly, a family of early American adventurers. Stephen Tracy, son of John and Mary Jane, was born a year before the beginning of the French and Indian Wars in Duxbury, Massachusetts where the TRACY family stayed. Next Stephen is found in Windham, Connecticut having married Deborah BINGHAM on 6/26/1707. They had 9 children and lived in Connecticut all their lives. Their son, Prince (Prence) TRACY was born to them around 1710 and Thomas was born in 1725.

Thomas TRACY married Elizabeth WARNER in Windham, CT on 10/28/1751 where their 8 children were born. With the true TRACY adventurous spirit Thomas became involved with a Land Grant made, in 1761 by Governor Benning Wentworth to 62 Grantees from the Lebanon, Connecticut area. This Land Grant was situated beside the Connecticut River and bordering on the White River. It was named Hartford in the province of New Hampshire. At that time in our history Thomas TRACY and his brother, Prince were two of those grantees.

Thomas TRACY moved his family from Windham, Connecticut to Hartford, in the colony of New Hampshire in 1778 and settled in to help build a town. In 1780 he bought the whole right of Nathaniel Holbrook, another Grantee, and that of Daniel Newcomb. This gave him 1,400 acres of land. His original grant was Lot #16 (59 ¼ acres) and was directly bordering the Connecticut River and south of the White River. He was prominent in town affairs and was a Lieutenant in the militia doing frontier service and was a highly esteemed citizen of the town says William Howard Tucker in his Tucker's History of Hartford, VT. Thomas and Elizabeth Warner TRACY lived in the Town of Hartford, Vermont most of their lives. Elizabeth died on 3/25/1801. Thomas lived without his wife for 20 years until 1/28/1821 when he followed her in death. They are buried side by side at the Center of Town Cemetery, on the Center of Town Road in White River Junction, Vermont.



In Memory of Thomas Tracy He died January 28, 1821 at the age of 95.

### **Historic recipes**

A reader suggested we print some old-time recipes for the 250<sup>th</sup>. Please think about your grandmothers best recipes and send them in to us for future issues! Thanks.

#### **Mock Cherry Pie**

Mix one cup of cranberries, cut in halves, one -half cup of raisins seeded and cut in pieces, three-fourths cup sugar, and one tablespoon flour. Dot over with one teaspoon butter. Bake between crusts.

The Boston Cooking-School Cook Book Fannie Merritt Farmer First printed 1896 (This edition copy-righted in 1918)

# The Semiquincentennial Committee

A bank account has been opened with a loan of \$5000 from the Society. The design for the banner, etc. has been completed. The banners and schedule have met with enthusiastic response by the Select Board and Chamber of Commerce. We are soliciting tax-deductible donations [\$150 to cover a banner sponsorship and any amount to cover other expenses such as Re-enactors for July 4<sup>th</sup>]. 48 street banners have been ordered along with supporting hardware – Look for them if you haven't seen them up yet!

### **SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS:**

- January 7, 5-7pm FIRST FRIDAY/12<sup>th</sup> NIGHT & KICK-OFF PARTY at the Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St, White River Junction, sponsored by the MSM
- **February 2** [snow date 9<sup>th</sup>] 7pm GREAT TRAIN WRECK OF 1887 and the RR's of Hartford at the West Hartford Library sponsored by New England Transportation Museum

• March 26 [exact date & place TBA] MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL in the Jericho District sponsored by the Hartford Maple Sugar Makers

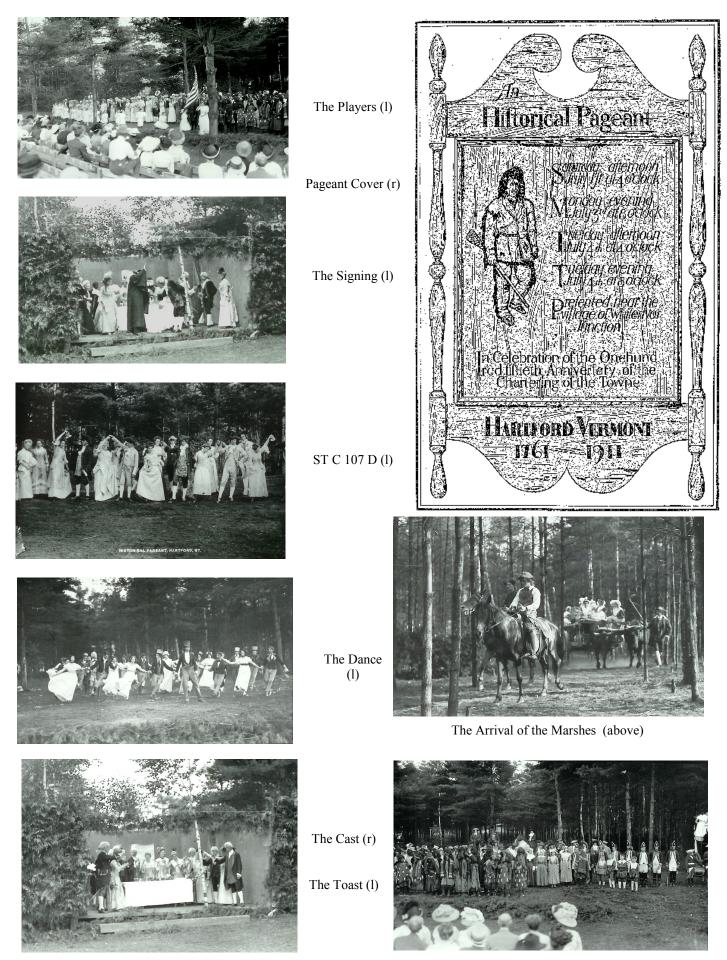
- April ICE OUT CONTEST on Dewey's Pond [?] sponsored by the Hartford Rod & Gun Club
- April 15, 7pm CHARTERING & EARLY HISTORY OF HARTFORD by J Barrett at the Greater Hartford UCC sponsored by the Historical Society
- May 14 1-5pm AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE & Barn Census Wrap-up at the Theron Boyd House sponsored by the HHPC, H Historical Society & Vermont HP
- May 28 + 29 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND CEREMONIES & ENCAMPMENT on the Town Green [Meetinghouse Green] Center or Town Sponsored by the Hartford Veterans Council
- June 17+18 QUECHEE BALLOON FESTIVAL with Reenactments at the Quechee Green sponsored by the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce.
- June 25 ALUIMNI DAY PARADE & Festivities Downtown White River Junction, VT
- July 4 BIRTHDAY BASH & ANNUAL FIREWORKS at Kilowatt Park & Wilder Club & Library Sponsored by the Hartford Parks & Recreation. Department & Hartford Historical Society.
- August 6 OLD HOME DAY FIELD DAY & FUN RUN at Watson Park & Hartford village sites sponsored by the Hartford Historical Society and Hartford Parks & Recreation Dept
- Sept 10 9am ?- GLORY DAYS OF THE RAILROAD with expansion of a STREET DANCE after
- Sept 10 5-7 SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL TURKEY DINNER at the Methodist Church, sponsored by the church
- Oct 31 GORY DAZE HALLOWEEN PARADE AND BALL sponsored by the MSM

**Nov 9** 7pm – Jere Daniels speaks on the INTERNATIONAL POLITICS & CERCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE CHARTERING OF HARTFORD and CLOSING CEREMONY at the Greater Hartford UCC sponsored by the Historical Society



Regional Logo (above) Creator Ashleigh Merrill of Lebanon High School working with local graphic artist Doug Harp. —-->





Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

# **ABENAKI and the SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL**

#### By Martha Knapp

I joined the Hartford Historical Society about a year ago after my retirement to see if I could be of some use to the society because I love this place. I was born in Lebanon, NH but through circumstance, my mother married Bill Hazen who totally convinced me that Vermont and especially the town of Hartford was the best place on earth. I live in an historical house, "the Bugbee House" in the historic district of Hartford Village. I have lived in Hartford for 32 years.

When I learned that the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our town charter was coming up, I was looking at the historical pamphlet published during the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There was an Indian on the cover and several scenes in the program that related to the Indians. I asked about the Indians and I learned that all of the portrayers in 1911 of the Native people were actors from the village of Wilder. I asked further if we had much history about the Abenaki people and the town of Hartford and learned that we didn't have much. I felt that this time around we should include the Abenaki themselves but the thought was that they might not be interested. After more discussions, I was invited to do the research and see what I could come up with.

As fate would have it, within the next few days, I spotted John Moody at the Hartford Mini mart. I quickly went up to him and told him of my plans and he said he would help me. John Moody is an ethnohistorian who has dedicated his life to finding out the truth about Abenaki and Native American history and his research could fill a tractor trailer truck. We exchanged contact info and planned to meet soon.

My research began immediately. I didn't want to go empty handed or empty headed when I met with John. Our curator, Pat Stark gave me a large stack of books on the subject that were from our collection. A wealth of information that I discovered in them found its way into my essay.

Four more books were ordered on line, including one by Gordon M. Day, who in 1948 began researching the history of the Abenaki people. Day is credited for bringing about a revolution in the way we view the native history of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. With his background in forest ecology, he could see evidence in the forests. In 1965, he wrote an article called the "Indian Occupation of Vermont". His study of the Abenaki language contributed immensely in the preservation of the language spoken in these parts for at least the last 3000 years.

Other valuable purchases were books by Colin G. Calloway, who has written many books on this subject as well. Calloway is Professor of History and Native American Studies at Dartmouth College, and a very good writer who can relay much information using few words. He recently wrote a book on Dartmouth and the Indians and I attended his recent lecture at the College. I am very thankful for his work. I will be quoting him a lot in my upcoming article. I have to say here, that every good book I have found on this subject thanks John Moody for his contributions.

After developing my first draft, I met with John and his kind assistance let me know I still have some more work to do, but he gave me five good historical facts about the Abenaki presence in the town of Hartford as well as an astonishingly pleasant point of view I was missing on the topic.

So with all of this in mind, my goal is, as Colin Galloway put it, to retell the story that incorporates all of the actors in the drama.

I hope all of you readers out there are panting for the very interesting details coming up soon and we can collectively learn more about our lovely town of Hartford.

### **CURATORS CORNER**

We have been very lucky to have a volunteer – Joe Leo - do community service with us in December. He put in over 40 hours scanning many of our photographs [3 binders and most of the RR collection!] that I have not had the time to do. We have many more waiting, but this has taken care of over half of the collection that was not done yet. He and Martha have scanned St. Croix's book and we hope to get that on our website before you read this, too.

As Susanne & I are co-coordinators of the Semiquincentennial Celebrations, we have both been VERY busy and probably will continue to be this year. The schedule is not 'carved in granite' and if you know of anyone who wants to add festivities we would be happy to include them. Susanne has been especially busy in Nov & Dec getting our Banners designed, permitted, and hopefully up by the time this is in your mailbox.

# **NEWS 'N NOTES**

#### Hartford Historic Preservation Commission

The results of the Barn Census are being printed and a wrap-up program is planned for the May 14<sup>th</sup> event at the Theron Boyd House – Mark your calendars! We are preparing to hire a consultant to list our 8<sup>th</sup> Historic District in town – the White River Junction Terraces. We are planning our next project - to take oral interviews of some of our long-term farmers to complement the Barn Census. If you have any interest in any of these, there is space available on the Commission! Contact Pat for more information.

### Notes from the November Speaker's Meeting featuring Mark Pippin & John Clerkin

Mark's family has long roots in town. He brought with him [in the parking lot] an old Pippin backhoe, purchased on the side of the road in Maine, originally purchased from the Pippins in 1949.

He presented a list of the families in town who have done business here, and are still doing business here after several generations: Allard (rentals, insurance), Barwood (insurance), Bettis (transportation and construction), Black (lawyers), Blood (catering, sales), Briggs (hospitality, retail), Clay (farming construction), Clerkin (doctors, insurance, management), Davis (construction real estate, development), Fellows (real estate, service and sales), Fogg (farming, management), Gilman (manufacturing, real estate), Hall (Automotive, real estate), Hazen (farming, management), Henderson (trees), Jasmin (manufacturing real estate), Johnson (pianos, hospitality), Josler (trucking auto sales), Knight (funeral home), Laro, Miller (farming), Miller (automotive sales and service and retail), Milne (doctors), Nichols (wholesale), Nott (farming contractors), Rice (medical), Rice (sales, flowers), Richard (contractors, electricians), Schaal (farming, contractors, electricians, real estate), Shephard (farming hospitality) Wright (farming).

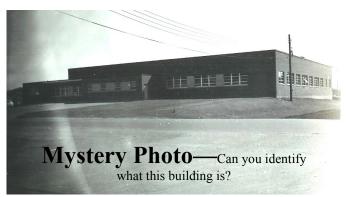
Slides shown included the parts truck for Gateway Motors, "Pippin and Miller Express Trucking", and the Gateway Motor building. The brick building had a fine, ornate awning at some point. In 1943 they didn't have cars to sell so they sold cattle and horses. The Bridge Street location had a 'state of the art' repair and alignment section in the rear. It was remodeled in 1961. The Pippin family also opened a Ford Dealership in Keene, New Hampshire. They have a patent for the cam shaft for the hydraulic winch on the backhoe, but the Pippin backhoe itself never had a patent. The family also built log cabins. Mark's Dad was on the Hartford basketball team in 1923-4. Mark was on the team in 1959.

Dave Briggs, his grandfather (Cassius "Cashie" O. Briggs) ran the Briggs bus business. John Clerkin talked



about the businesses in town, the doctors' and other offices in the Greydon Freeman building. The Young family's Royal Grill was a steak house in Wilder. Their French name *Dion* was sometimes changed to *Young*. John described how he got into business and some of the other realtors in town when he was a young man.

He described the feeling of being in town and how necessary it is to get to know one another and to engage in the kind of public spirit without which businesses cannot succeed. And without businesses in town we don't have the kind of support we need for our town to function. David Briggs and Dennis Brown added some memories. Mr. Brown spoke up and said that the prevailing attitude of most business people, neighbors and friends was: "We have to treat each other right because we rely on each other."



Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

### Mira Davis, Teacher and Mentor

A letter from a former student, Edwina 'Drene' Countryman.

The Palms, 10/4/10

#### Hi, Commendations!

I have just read your Mira Davis article. Memories have come flooding into a first grader of this wonderful woman and teacher. My first recollection of her was as a neighbor, not a teacher.

We lived in the Steward house, and Mira was our dear friend until we moved. This Brookfield episode just reinforces what you have already said regarding Mira. Thought it might interest you.

My name is Edwina Cushing Gifford Countryman. We lived on School Street in the house opposite Maud Watson's home. I recall Mira stopping for afternoon tea with my Mother and two neighbors. As a retired teacher, I know now that this must have been a very welcome change after an eight-hour working day.

I, of course, grew up and I, too, became a teacher. My mother and then-current minister, Jay Howard Smith, took me to South East Hill, Brookfield, Vermont. A good boarding house was found. At \$5.00 a day, I had a home for the next nine months. A home and a disease called home sickness, and now I come to the reason for this letter.

I soon knew that I had chosen well. Teaching little children was such a joy. Friday rolled around and my third grader had a note inviting me to dinner. His mother introduced herself and said, "You will be happy to know that your Mira Davis and I are very good friends". Indeed I was happy, very happy. Her name was Gladys Farr, and she also had taught in the Hartford School, probably under a maiden name.

Soon Mira came often to spend the weekend with her old friend. The three of us spent many hours together, and soon I realized that I wasn't homesick any more—all because of the kindness of Mira Davis.

We asked Edwina to supply us with some family history, and she kindly replied with the following [edited].

The family moved to Hartford village in 1917 after checking into the school system and Mira Davis. Her father Edwin died in 1921 leaving her mother [Emma] with six children to raise and send to college.

We are so grateful to Edwina for sharing her family history and these reflections on Mira.

# **MISSION STATEMENT**

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.

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

CEMMS Family Painting Hartford Memorial Middle School Kibby Equipment Lovell's Sugar House

Geo Barns e School Hartford High School Main Street Museum Meeting House Furniture Restoration New England Transportation Institute and Museum

#### **Membership rates:**

Individual: \$15 Family [same address]: \$20 Senior: \$10 Senior family: \$15 Commercial/Institutional: \$25

Return Service Requested

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# HHS Calendar

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#### Summer OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House - May - September:

Ist Tues of the month 6-8pm—The 2nd Sunday of the month 2-4pm—Or by Appointment [call pat at 295-3077 M-F 9-4]
<sup>a</sup> Wed – Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Municipal Building, 171 Bridge street, WRJ at 4:30
<sup>a</sup>t<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House May – Oct and the Hartford Library Nov – Apr. at 7pm
<sup>a</sup>t<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House May – Oct and the Hartford Library Nov – Apr. at 7pm
<sup>a</sup>t<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House May – Oct and the Hartford Library Nov – Apr. at 7pm

Wednesday April 13 – Frank J. Barrett will speak on the early chartering & settlement of Hartford, followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Wednesday – June 8 – Annual Meeting and program by Michael Tougias 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

Wednesday, Sept. 14 – A History of the Hartford Fire Dept. by Chief Locke followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Wednesday, Nov. 9 – Jere Daniel will let us know the FULL story of our Charter! Refreshments will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

Wednesday, June – 2012 - Karen Dean is going to do a program on her grandfather, Frank Gilman. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford Village

Don't forget the Genealogy Center, upstairs in the Hartford Library is open Wednesday afternoons

Please see the schedule for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations elsewhere in this Newsletter. Hope to see you there!