



# Hartford Historical Society

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

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

Volume 23, No. 4

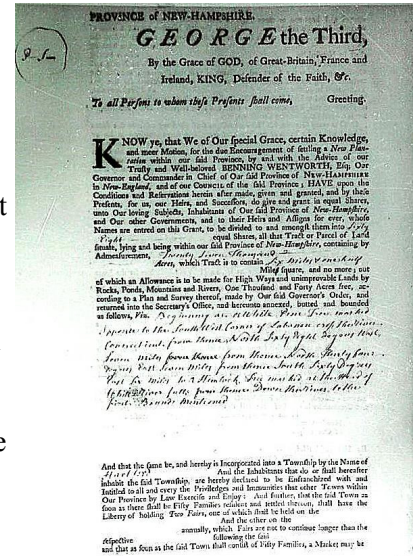
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March-April 2011

## HISTORY OF THE CHARTER—TOWN OF HARTFORD, VT

1761 - The Charter was issued by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire under George the Third of England for 6 ½ square miles incorporated into Hartford township. It was signed the Fourth of July and recorded July 5<sup>th</sup> by B. Wentworth and 63 Proprietors.

According to a paper written by Mrs. Roland Stevens around 1940, “The Grant of this land in our town was made to 61 men living in Windham and Lebanon, Conn. And this is how the lots were selected. Each Proprietor’s name was written on separate slips of paper and the description of the lots into another; then some disinterested person drew one slip from each box, and the lot drawn at the same time as a proprietor’s name decided the ownership. The first share of land in Hartford was number 22 on the north side of the White River, containing 60 acres. The price paid per acre was about forty-seven cents. The date was Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, 1761. The next sale made was share No. 13 up White River on the north side, of fifty-nine acres at four cents per acre.”



1776 - “The written copy of the Charter was procured by Stephen Tilden and Amos Robinson as per vote of the proprietors May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1776. The original charter was taken to New York by Jonathan Burch in 1776, at which time a petition was made for Letters Patent from Sir Henry Moore, Gov. of N. York. The original charter was never returned from New York. This copy was in possession of the Tilden family for many years. W.H.T”

(Continued on page 4)

## SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS:

- **March 4** [TBA] talk & book signing by Dave Norman at the Hotel Coolidge with his new book *White River Junctions – Empires of Flour, Steel & Ambition*.
- **March 19** [exact times TBA] MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL at the Jericho Community building, sponsored by the Hartford Maple Sugar Makers.
- **April 15**, 7 pm HARTFORD IN THE UPPER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY – the exploration, chartering and settlement to 1770 by Jay Barrett at the Greater Hartford UCC sponsored by the Historical Society.
- **May 14** 1-5 pm AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE & Barn Census Wrap-up at the Theron Boyd House sponsored by the HHP, Hartford Historical Society & Vermont Historical Preservation.
- **Spring** – watch for the Colonial Valley Quest designed by our school students.
- **May 18** 7 pm – John Moody will speak on the Abnaki Presence in the Upper Valley at the Greater Hartford Church by the Hartford Historical Society.
- **May 28 + 29** – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – A LIVING MILITARY TIMELINE on the Town Green [Meetinghouse Green] Center of Town, sponsored by the Hartford Veterans Council and Hartford Parks & Recreation Department.

## From the Chair . . .

March and April are two of my favorite months, and as I write this during a February blizzard, I'm really looking forward to the daffodil season! If you're still shoveling snow as you read this, somewhere in the area the maple trees have been tapped and the evaporators are producing that liquid gold we all treasure --along with equally valuable memories of participating in the process of sugaring. With all the changes, I've noticed that the joy of trickling that gooey syrup on the hard packed snow, leisurely dissolving it in one's mouth, intermingled with the sour pickle and a raised doughnut is still as "sweet" an experience as when I was a kid! Hope to see you in Jericho on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate this traditional treat!

Thank you all for your prompt membership renewals. There are only about 20 names in the "membership expired" file. If your mailing label doesn't indicate **Dec 11**, you're one of them..... (Or I've made an error, and you should contact us).

CATV8 has been filming our quarterly programs, so if you missed either Joe Collea's talk on the Civil War or the Pippin/Clerkin presentation, they have been aired on Ch 8 or 10, and will continue to show. Since these programs are not regularly scheduled, it takes a bit of searching (or luck) to view them! Check [www.catv8.org](http://www.catv8.org) for Hartford Historical Society programs.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of you for your tremendous support in launching the fabulous activities planned for the semiquincentennial celebration. Every resident of Hartford is making history every day of every year, but 2011 may well become the best documented of all time! Make sure your organization, your business, you and your family are part of the activities which will become treasured memories in years to come! More information about a Memory Book in the next issue..... with sincere appreciation

*Dorothy*  
Dorothy Yamashita

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is truly a "banner" year for Hartford (no pun intended!)—and it should be the same for the Hartford Historical Society! People are responding enthusiastically to the beautiful banners around town. Please help get the word out by mentioning that the Hartford Historical Society took the lead in this – and that you are a member! Let's do our best to bring in lots of new members this year as our town's 250th takes center stage in the Upper Valley celebrations. And please do let us know of any business people or residents who might support our fund raising efforts.

Thank you so much my fellow members!  
Susanne Abetti



### 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	802-295-3974

#### Directors

Dorothy Yamashita, Chair	603-448-1067
Peggy McDerment, Acting Treasurer	802-295-2357
Tony Battaglia	802-295-7563
Martha & Brent Knapp	802-295-2713
Joyce Miller	802-295-2025

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

**Curator:** Pat Stark 802-478-1110

**GenCenter Director:** Mary Ann Devins 802-281-9095

# THE GILLETT FAMILY of Hartford, Vermont

**EBENEZER GILLETT** was born on 5 June 1705, in Lebanon, Connecticut, to John GILLETT and Experience DEWEY. Ebenezer, aged 25, married Mary ORDWAY, aged 18, on 23 September 1730.

They had seven children:

- Israel GILLETT** in 1738
- Rhoda GILLETT in 1743
- John GILLETT** in 1745
- Isaac GILLETT in 1749
- Rebecca GILLETT in 1749
- Ebenezer GILLETT in 1751
- Jacob GILLETT in 1753

Ebenezer was an original grantee of the Town of Hartford, Vermont having drawn Lot #16 on the Connecticut River and north of the White River. Soon after the first division of land for the grantees he purchased the right of Gideon Hebard which was Lot #18 in the same area.

In all probability Ebenezer never came to Hartford but he gave his son John, on Dec. 23, 1767, one whole share of his original grant, and on the same day he gave his son Israel the whole right purchased of Gideon Hebard, excepting a few acres located in what is now Quechee.

His wife, **MARY ORDWAY GILLETT** was born on 16 August 1712, in Lebanon, Connecticut and died on 4 September 1791, aged 79 in Lebanon, Connecticut. He died on 19 October 1776, aged 71, in Lebanon, Connecticut.

Their son, **ISRAEL GILLETT**, was born on 17 September 1738, in Ct. Israel's first wife, **MARTHA THROOPE**, was born in Lebanon, Connecticut on 17 May 1739. She died on 4 July 1763, at the young age of 24, in Connecticut, leaving Israel with a 16 month old son.

Around 1768 Israel, with his second wife and his brother John, migrated from Lebanon, Connecticut to Hartford, Vermont in the province of New Hampshire.

"**SUSANNAH DURKEE**, second



Lieut. Israel Gillett b Sep 17, 1738,  
d Jul 8, 1829  
Susannah *Durkee* Gillett b 1743,  
d Jul 26, 1821  
Christian Street Cemetery

wife of Israel, rode on horseback to Hartford, bringing her infant child, Martha, in her arms, with a pail of applesauce on the horn of the side-saddle" (from the Gillett family Bible)

Israel first settled in the immediate vicinity of White River Falls, soon to be Olcott and now Wilder. He soon became an extensive land-owner in the town and participated largely in the affairs of the town. He was a selectman for three years, 1769-71; on the Committee of Safety in 1777.

Susannah died on 26 July 1821 in Hartford, Windsor, Vermont. and Israel died in 1829, aged about 90 in the home of his oldest son, David O. on Christian Street.

**JOHN GILLETT** was an original grantee of Royalton, Vermont but, in all probability, was never a resident. He settled in Hartford, on the right given to him by his father and soon sold his lots in Royalton. He married, in 1773, Jemima Smalley. Their daughter Jemima was the first native-born white child to die in Hartford.

He came from Lebanon, Connecticut, to Hartford with his brother Israel, in 1768, and with him erected a log house, near White River Falls in which they lived for several years. Later, John built, and removed to, a house on Christian Street.

Jemima, his wife d. 21 January 1835. John died in 1829, aged about 84, in Hartford, Vermont.

John and Israel were enterprising, progressive men, and were the incumbents of many offices of honor and trust in the town of Hartford for nearly half a century. On the 5th of March, 1772, John donated to Dartmouth College, to promote the cause of education, sixty acres of land lying in Hartford.



JOHN GILLETT.



B 1745, d 1829; Christian St Cemetery



JEMIMA GILLETT,  
WIFE.

B 1747, d Jan 21, 1835

*(Continued from page 1)*

1811 – Levi Hazen copied the original Map.....

1886 - Another note on the envelope states “pasted up and put in this envelope Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 1886 by W.H.T”

1954 - May 16 correspondence on town letterhead giving Mrs. Alson Mills permission to “take the original Hartford Land Grant for purposes of having a copy made for the use of the Hartford Historical Society”. It was returned 5/19/1954 as per R. R. Wilmot, Treasurer, who evidently was its keeper.

1993 - This envelope and Charter Copy were found in the Bank Box in 1993 by Treasurer Evelyn Stevens and turned over to the Town Clerk.

In 199? The Town Clerk had it framed and hung in her office, where it is on display today.

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## CURATORS CORNER

### Recent Donations:

We have been given the two large paintings from the former Gates Library, as well as one of the tables. One of the paintings is of Mr. Gates, the other is of a boy with rifle and we know nothing about it! It looks like it is a portrait painting, but of whom we are clueless! If anyone has any ideas please let me know!

Carleton ‘Jake’ O’Connor has loaned us a wonderful report on the town he wrote in 1950, several photographs of the HHS Sports Teams c. 1942-3, and a copy of the Newspaper article & photograph of the Hartford Indians Men’s basketball team [see elsewhere in this paper].

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## IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret we note the passing of Wendell Barwood. Judy has been a long time supporter of our Society.

We also note the passing of David Santaw. The Santaws have been members for many years.

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## Oatmeal Gems (Muffins)

This Issue’s Old Fashioned Recipe was submitted by Priscilla Gadzinski from her grandmother’s recipe file [Blanche (Judd) Roberts, (Mrs. Baxter) born 1883 in Sharon, lived in Wilder after 1927]

### Oatmeal Gems (Muffins)

2 cups rolled oats

1+1/2 cups sour milk

1 egg

1/4 cup sugar

1 cup flour

1 tsp soda

Mix oatmeal and sour milk Let soak overnight

Add other ingredients, bake in gem pans\*.  
.....

Using today’s ingredients:

Quaker’s Old Fashioned quick oatmeal

Buttermilk for sour milk

King Arthur All Purpose Flour has more protein

Gold Medal All Purpose Flour makes a softer muffin.

Bake in gem pans 20 minutes at 400 degrees

Makes a moist, not sweet, muffin. Not a bad way to get your daily dose of oatmeal.

\***note:** if using gem pans they should be heated in the oven before the batter is put in.



# REMEMBER THE HARTFORD INDIANS?

*The following is a reprint of a newspaper article given to us by C. Jake O'Connor. Unfortunately it does not include the paper's name.*

## **HARTFORD INDIANS WIN TOURNEY Redskins Defeat Admirals 55-53 to Become First Two-time Winner** By Pete Hall

White River Junction, Vt, Feb. 27 [1950] – twenty points by Jake O'Connor, and the all-ground play of Frank DePalo from a forecourt position paced the Hartford Indians to a 55-53 upset win over the Springfield Admirals in the title contest of the fifth annual lions twin-State championship basketball tournament last night at Hartford High Gym.

By winning, the Hartford team became the first two-time winner of the twin-State crown, having won the laurels in the inaugural tourney in 1946. The win also reversed the tables on the 1948 finish when the Admirals topped the Redskins for the title.

### **Close Championship Game**

Following the red-hot Claremont A.C. – Springfield Ads semi-final battle in the afternoon, which the Admirals took by 56-51 count, the championship context merely carried on from the standpoint of excitement, as the teams battled at close quarters right to the wire.

The Indians jumped into an early lead on hoops by Jim and Jake O'Connor, but Birsky, Aumond and Clark put Springfield back in the running. A 10-point underdog, the Redskins kept pace with the Ads throughout the first period and with a minute to go Jim O'Connor dropped a push shot and DePalo a rebound from scrimmage to give the tribe a 21-17 margin. So closely did the teams fight it out during the opening canto that the lead changed hands seven times during the 10-minute session.

Two baskets by DePalo, a hoop by Jake O'Connor and foul tries by each Warrior offset the efforts of Dexter and Aumond, to move the Indians into a commanding 29-23 lead as the second period neared the closing mark. Buddy Caswell's layup made it 31-23, but Springfield found the range at this point, with Eddie Abrahamovich making good on two straight cracks to cut down the margin. At the intermission, Stu Young was fouled and made both tries good to give the Tribe a 33-27 period lead.

### **Springfield Goes Ahead**

Jim O'Connor's one-hand shot from the side put Hartford eight points up as the second half got

under way, but the Admirals put together Clark's rebound and one-hand shots, Aumond's free throw and hook shot, and Eddie Abrahamovich's charity toss to knot the count at 35-All.

Aumond hooked in a two-pointer to put the Ads ahead, and added a free throw for a 38-35 lead. Jake O'Connor tossed in a one-hander and Clark and Abernathy traded foul tries to leave Springfield ahead 39-35. Frank DePalo drove in for a layup at the 8-minute mark to again give Hartford the lead, but Clark popped a jump shot to turn the tables. Buddy Caswell took a pass under the hoop and dropped a shot after a quick pivot to put Hartford in front, with Young's free throw making it 43-41 at the quarter.

### **Hartford Moves Ahead**

The lead was short-lived, as Percy Clark bounced a shot in and followed Abernathy's free throw with another two-pointer to give Springfield a 45-44 lead. Billy Kontos rushed into the game at this point and laid one in to put Hartford ahead, only to have Aumond drop a basket to switch the lead again. Jake O'Connor tallied on a one-hander to give the Indians a 48-47 margin and from there in they never lost the lead.

Stu Young dropped two more free throws, running his count to five for five for the night, and Kontos again came though with a hoop to move the Redskins ahead 52-47 with four minutes left. Birsky's basket was offset by a one-hander from Jake O'Connor but with less than two minutes to go, Veech Koledo dropped a one-hander from the corner to cut the count to 54-51, Hartford.

With time growing short, Jake O'Connor dropped a free throw and the Indians proceeded to guard their four-point lead with all the care possible. Only Percy Clark's layup broke through their efforts, to make the final count 55-53 for the Warriors.

### **All-Tourney Game**

Immediately following the final whistle, tournament Director Eugene Byron, Jr. awarded prizes to the top contenders and announcement was made of the All-Tourney tea.

Selected as captain of the All-tourney team and winner of the Most Outstanding Player award was Frank DePalo of the winning Hartford Indians. With him on the six-man roster of top players were Percy Clark and Eddie Abrahamovich of the Springfield Admirals, Gene Martin of the Bethel Legion, Jack Smith of the Claremont A.C. and Jake O'Connor of the Hart-

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)  
ford Indians.

### Tourney Tid-bits

By taking the 1950 title, the Hartford Indians can well be compared with last year's New York Yankees. Certainly on a per capita basis, the Indians have suffered as many injuries during this season. In yesterday's semi-final Dan Lockyear suffered a dislocated ankle which kept him out of the finale, while Chuck Abernathy hobbled in the title contest with a wrenched knee.

Added to these tournament injuries, the Tribe had Jim O'Connor playing with a badly cut scalp resulting from an auto accident last week, while Buddy Caswell still wore the bandage on a broken hand. During the season Lou Sacco had back troubles, and Bun. Connelley had a broken hand, all of which added to manager Francis Hathorn's woes.

In addition to DePalo's operation last night from a fore-court spot, the Indians pulled another surprise by having Joe Cottone, Hartford High coach, master-minding the tribe very capable from the bench.



1<sup>st</sup> row: Dick Mock, Bromo Seclza, Fran DePalo, Julu Regione, Ralph Regione  
2<sup>nd</sup> row: Coach Minnie Regione, Jake O'Connor, Jess Lyman, Bruce Campbell, Babe Falzarano, Jim O'Connor, Rip Hathorn



Mystery Photo –  
do you recognize  
this house?  
Please let us  
know about it.  
Thanks! Pat

## 250th Banner Sponsors

We hope you have by now seen all the banners around town. Here is a list of Banner Sponsors so far – there is still time for you to sponsor one, too. If interested contact Pat or Susanne.

- ◇ Allan's Vending Service –Scott Allan
- ◇ Bonnie Latham, Selectman
- ◇ CCV Upper Valley—Tricia Kent
- ◇ Community Payment Services—Dan Hillard
- ◇ Creative Framing—Greg Cook
- ◇ Fat Hat Clothing—Joan Ecker
- ◇ Gateway Motors—Allen & Charlie Hall
- ◇ Geobarns—George Abetti
- ◇ Golden Acres Photography—Judy Lombardi
- ◇ Green Mtn. Children's Center—Gerard Thompson
- ◇ Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce—Mollie Martin
- ◇ Hotel Coolidge—David Briggs
- ◇ Kibby Equipment
- ◇ Lisa O'Neil (The Clerkin Agency)
- ◇ Mascoma Savings Bank
- ◇ Meeting House Furniture Restoration—Jonathan Schechtman
- ◇ Northmac Inc. (Comfort Inn)—Kalleen Kilfeather
- ◇ Parker Insurance—Ken Parker, Selectman
- ◇ Randolph National Bank—Bill Blaiklock
- ◇ Seventh Heaven Farm
- ◇ Transcanada—Ken Alton
- ◇ Upper Valley Aquatic Center—Lisa Sorensen
- ◇ White River Family Eyecare
- ◇ William & Phyllis Shambo

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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

## 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	Geo Barns
Hartford Memorial Middle School	Hartford High School
Kibby Equipment	Main Street Museum
Lovell's Sugar House	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

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## HHS Calendar

*Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events* : [Correction: the September program will be presented by Captain Bushey, not the Fire Chief as reported last issue - apologies]

**Summer OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House** – May - September:

The 1st Tuesday 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]

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Municipal Building, 171 Bridge street, White River Junction, at 4:30

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House May – Oct and the Hartford Library Nov – Apr at 7 pm. For more information contact Dorothy Yamashita, Board Chairman.

**Wednesday April 13, 2011** – Frank J. Barrett will speak on Hartford in the Upper Connecticut River Valley - exploration, chartering and settlement to 1770, 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 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 Captain Bushey followed by refreshments. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village.

**Wednesday, Nov. 9** – Jere Daniels 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 United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village.

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

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### **Hartford Historical Society**

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HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047

Return Service Requested

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