



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

September-October 2011

FINDING THE ABENAKI IN 1979

By Martha Knapp

The Abenaki in Vermont emerged in the 1970's from nearly 200 years of hiding. One of the first major events to hit the mainstream media came in January of 1979. First came the issue of Rock Dunder: Word was that some real estate developers were looking to commercialize an area of Lake Champlain. Some Abenaki people surfaced in protest. A newspaper article reported that the area contained a rock that, according to Abenaki belief, is a manifestation of Odzihozo a person who created himself and then created The Green Mountains and Lake Champlain.

Soon after, the Norwich Library asked some scholars and tradition keepers to come and give public talks, one of which I attended. It turns out to have been Joseph Bruchac, well-known author of many Abenaki stories and books, and John Moody, the same ethno historian whom we just had come speak to the Hartford Historical Society this spring.

When I arrived, I was looking for the Abenaki, and I just saw "white people". When the spokesman introduced himself and began his talk, I could tell he was not a "white person" and I began to listen and learn things I had never heard of before.

Special Gift to the Abenaki People by the Creator

The first story told at the library was about the Abenaki's special gift; the gift of being chameleons. The speaker said that when the white man first came here, they couldn't quite pin point where the Indians were, because their traditional homes and villages fit in with the environment. Much like the beavers' homes and the birds' nests, the Abenaki could blend in

with their surroundings undetected. They walked with moccasined feet through the trails in the forests or beside the rivers—in the winter on snowshoes on the trails and on the rivers—and paddled their canoes quietly up and down the waterways which connected the native people to the best fishing spots, trading villages, relatives, hunting grounds, and sources of materials to support their way of life.



TRAVELING ON SNOW SHOES.

Early sketch of Abenaki man pulling a toboggan with a chest strap, walking on snowshoes; all Abenaki inventions. Transporting a moose to the village from the forest was done in this fashion.

The speaker was very kind to fast forward through the wars, disease, logging, eugenics and so forth and he brought us up to date relating that in time, the

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UPCOMING PROGRAM:

Captain Ray Bushey of the Hartford Fire Department will present an illustrated program on the history of the HFD at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford. Since 1893, the members and equipment of The Town of Hartford's Fire Department(s) have protected their neighbors' lives and property from the ravages of fire. All Hartford Historical Society programs are open to the public free of charge and are handicap accessible.

From the Chair . . .

Our President, Susanne Abetti, may appear to have boundless energy, but in confidence, she has admitted to becoming slightly overwhelmed by the demands of the plethora of activities in observance of our sesquicentennial celebration! It was probably that game of croquet with Abby Hemenway at the Garipay House on Old Home Day that "did her in"...or maybe it was playing cat's cradle with our intern, Megan! Whatever the reason, she has asked me to thank all of you for your ongoing support as we continue to make this a memorable year throughout Hartford!

Do you have photos or stories of 250th events? Send them to HHS, PO Box 547, Hartford, VT [or pstark@hartford-vt.org] to be included in the fabulous Memory Book which is being created to pre-

serve a record of the 250th activities. If for some reason, you have not yet participated, it's not too late! Check the calendar for coming Fall events.

September 6 and 11 will be the last scheduled days for the Garipay Open House, though arrangements may be made with Pat Stark for special tours.

Next month I'll be reminding you that your membership expires in December, 2011. Didn't I just do that for 2010?

Enjoy the heat of these last days of summer; all too soon we'll be shoveling snow!

The Board joins me in thanking each of you for your interest in preserving Hartford history.

Dorothy

THIS 'N THAT

THANK YOU! To Megan Lallier, our Student intern for August from Simmons College who has willingly assisted with a variety of tasks during her short time with us. We are especially grateful for all her hours spent working with our photographs!

WANTED: Someone to update our website from time to time! Please contact Pat at pstark@hartford-vt.org if you are interested – or know someone who might be. This is a volunteer position, but is not very time consuming! Thank you.

RARE FIND: The opportunity to purchase a large number of diaries at a cost of \$300 recently came our way. They are from a Mr. Harvey, a local lawyer, and his son while at college. It was decided they were important to the town, especially as they give a great 'picture' of life here in the early 1900's. As we don't have a budget to cover these purchases we are looking for 10 benefactors at \$30 each to help pay for this [or 20 at \$5!]. To date we have 4 benefactors – would you consider helping out also? Thank you for your consideration and I hope you'll join me in supporting this very interesting acquisition.

OLD SAWMILL: We are looking for information about and photos of the old sawmill in Wilder. It was called the Demers Mill earlier, then the Trumbull Nelson Sawmill. The dam is still visible along Hartford Avenue just above the Melendy House [former mill]. If you have any photos, or even just remember it, please contact Pat [295-3077 M-F 9-4]. Thanks



Hartford Historical Society

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<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

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dominant English speaking culture prevailed. That does not mean the Abenaki disappeared. In fact the Abenaki didn't go anywhere. Instead they used their chameleon gift, and today, they might live across the street or around the corner. Surprise!

Now, 250 years later, we are finding that the Abenaki are very much still here with us. They look like us, speak like us, live in homes like us, work like us and they dress like us and they know they are Abenaki. They also know that Vermont is their homeland.

For many years they didn't talk about it. Even Governor Shumlin has a great, great, great, great grandfather who was an Indian who couldn't talk about his heritage. Anyone whose family has been here for a long time could very possibly find some Native people in their family tree. (As I later learned, an Abenaki even started my town's historical society; i.e. Fred Bradley). So those of us who feel such strong connections to Vermont, perhaps we have some Abenaki heritage ourselves. It might be interesting to see and learn what that could mean to us.

Odzihozo

Joe Bruchac told the story of Odzihozo at the library that night after someone from the audience asked the question regarding the story.

One of the oldest stories from Ancient Vermont tells of how Odzihozo, "The Man who made himself," dragged himself around before he had legs and formed the river valleys and great Champlain Valley between New York and Vermont. That was, to the scientist and archeologist, the time of the last ice age when we now know, to our satisfaction, Indian people were indeed living throughout the area.

And Odzihozo, Odzihosqua (Woman who made herself), and their children still live today by other names as rocks and islands on Lake Champlain. They are silent now not gone. They turned to stone here so they could remain here always and view the beauty of their work, made for the Abenaki people to live on these many thousands of years. And they remained, so the story goes, to protect the Abenaki in

the place given them to live by the Owner, Tabaldak.

So when certain Abenaki heard that real estate speculators were thinking of developing, possibly in a destructive way on Lake Champlain, they decided to make some noise and Vermonters began to learn about our native population, the Abenaki. We began to learn things we were unaware of.

Also, Chief Homer St. Francis, (1935-2001), of the Missisquoi Band, had begun rather loudly to fight for the rights of the Abenaki in the 70's. This was when we all learned that our history classes were incomplete. I am amazed that this one man united so many Abenakis. His cause was a good one; to be able to provide food for their families according to their traditional ways. He held 3 fish-ins in 1979, 1983, and 1987. The Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi actually won the court case in 1987 when Vermont District Judge Joseph Wolchik ruled in 1989 that the tribe had never ceded aboriginal rights-- including the right to hunt and fish on their ancestral lands. In 1992 however the Vermont Supreme Court reversed the decision. Always called fiery and uncompromising, Homer St. Francis put the Abenaki Nation back on the map.

The French and ENGLISH Wars

The final lesson learned that evening was about what the Abenaki call "the French and English War", (1753-1760). Some Abenaki and other Indians from other tribes participated in all of these battles, some on each side for all kinds of reasons. For the most part, the Abenaki people did not participate. They liked peace. They said that the British would come by their villages asking if they had seen the French army

and the people would say: "Yes about two hours ago." and they would point them towards the west. Then a little later the French would come by and ask them if they had seen the British soldiers. The Abenaki would say: "Yes about two hours ago." and point them towards the east. The Abenaki tried to avoid conflict.

There's always two sides, (at least) to every story. Wars get the attention. Peace efforts? Not so much. There were many years of peace during this



Calvin Coolidge visiting the Pine Ridge reservation, where the Sioux made him an honorary chief. Until Bill Clinton, Coolidge was the only president to visit the Sioux Nation.

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SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS:

The White River School children have created a nice **Colonial Quest** for White River Junction – it can be picked up in the recreation Dept office. Vital Communities has a Super Quest which takes you to each of the ‘Middle Grant’ towns. This one is found on their web page. These Quests can be done at your leisure this summer.

- **Spring – Winter** – daylight – COLONIAL QUEST
- **Sept 10** – GLORY DAYS OF THE RAILROAD
- **Sept 10 5-7** – SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL TURKEY DINNER at the Methodist Church, sponsored by the church
- **Oct 1 1-5** – QUECHEE GORGE BRIDGE CENTENNIAL at the Visitor Center
- **Oct 31** – GORY DAZE HALLOWEEN PARADE AND BALL sponsored by the MSM
- **Nov 9 7pm** – Jere Daniels speaks on the INTERNATIONAL POLITICS & CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE CHARTERING OF HARTFORD and CLOSING CEREMONY at the Greater Hartford UCC sponsored by the Historical Society

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coexistence, like nowadays for instance. Old Indian saying: “Don’t judge a man until you have walked a mile in his moccasins.” The Abenaki were caught in the middle trying to survive on their homelands. The English won the battle, and the settlers won the war, and the melting pot began. Actually, it began 500 years ago. We are the results! They call us the whitest state in the Union. We look white but...even our Governor, Peter Shumlin has Abenaki ancestry! And Calvin Coolidge has a hidden, Indian grandmother as well.

Next chapter, Abenaki: Master’s of Sustainability

Mystery Photo

Last issue’s photo was not identified. Here is another one. This one is believed to be in Hartford Village and may or may not still be in existence.



Commercial/Institutional Members:

Baker’s Pottery
CEMMS Family Painting
Geo Barns
Hartford High School
Hartford Memorial Middle School

Kibby Equipment
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
Junior membership – No fee but needs a sponsor [contact Dorothy Yamashita]

First Settlers of Hartford, Vermont Series

The Thomas Hazen Story

As is true of the vast majority of the first settlers in the town of Hartford, Vermont, Thomas Hazen's family were descendants of early colonial people who emigrated from England to the new world in the 1600's. Edward Hazen, the first immigrant in America of the Hazen family, first settled in Rowley, Massachusetts. His descendants migrated to the colony of Connecticut around Norwich which was newly formed in the late 17th century. The reason for this migration we do not know, but it must have been a fearful move for them into a completely unknown, new life. They must have been an adventurous and courageous people. This note was found in an old account book, found among the effects of the late Deacon Philemon Hazen, the following: "The first Hazen in America had three sons, Richard, Thomas and Edward..."

Thomas Hazen was the son of Thomas and the grandson of Thomas and the great grandson of Edward and was born in Norwich, Connecticut on September 30, 1719. He lived in Norwich until his marriage to Ann Tenney, who was also from Norwich and where all of their 16 children were born.

Thomas bought an undivided tract of land from the original proprietors of Hartford, to which he and his sons later added other land purchased from individuals – 3560 acres in all.

Joshua, his oldest son, was the first to arrive, it is thought, around 1771. He built his log cabin and a barn and by 1775 he built a more elaborate home, sometimes used as a tavern which was torn down in 1900.

When the family first came from Connecticut, three of Thomas Hazen's other sons started with their oxen, going as far as Dothan, where they found a beaver's dam, and concluded it would be a good grass country, so Hezekiah, Thomas, Jr., and Solomon, settled in Dothan... His other sons, Elijah, Daniel, and Philemon settled in Jericho, and Reuben in West Hartford. The village of West Hartford is located on the land thus acquired by Mr. Hazen.

Thomas Hazen took two journeys from Connecticut before settling in Hartford. His wife came with him on horseback bringing with her their youngest daughter,

Ann, about four years old. Though she came only for a visit, she found so many old friends here and liked the region so well that she never went back.

On Thomas Hazen's second visit to see his son, Joshua, he and another son, Asa, who accompanied him cut down some trees in the yard thinking to build a house there for themselves to stay. Joshua came home and was very disturbed as he had intended to use that land for his own farm. They told him they had done no harm and would go back to Connecticut if he so wished, but he did not. It was decided to go on with their building. Thus, peacefully ended the first quarrel spoken of in the family. It is recorded that Joshua's daughter, 'Aunt Mason' told this to C.D. Hazen in the 19th century.

There were other settlers in the town, though few in number, between 1771 and 1778, the following names, among others, appear in the lists of town officers: Joshua and Thomas Hazen, Asa Hazen, Silas Hazen, all of whom held offices in the town.

Early on the proprietors made an effort to obtain a grant of the town from the governor of New York, and employed as their agent Oliver Willard of Hartland, Vt. For some

unknown reason the venture could not be accomplished. In order to settle with Willard for his services, the proprietors applied to Joshua Hazen for the money and he borrowed the required sum from his father, Thomas Hazen III. On the 12th of May, 1773, the proprietors voted to give Thomas Hazen 3d, one thousand acres of land lying in a square body at the north-west corner of the town for the money his son Joshua hired for them.

Thomas built, in 1775, the first two-story house in the town, in which he lived with his son, Asa, their home farm being afterwards the home farm of his grandson, Allen Hazen, and "now the home farm of his great grandson, Charles D. Hazen." (Tucker 1889) [see below]

On the 20th of August, 1781, Thomas gave to each of twelve of his children 120 acres of land in the North-



west corner of Hartford, and reserved the same quantity for himself: total, 1,560 acres.

Thomas Hazen - b. 30 Sep 1719 in Connecticut, d. Aug 19, 1782 in Hartford, VT In his 63rd year & Ann Tenney Hazen d. July 29, 1802 In her 76th year . They are buried together in the Christian Street cemetery

Thomas's oldest son, Joshua was born Oct. 19, 1745 and married Mercy Hazen in Connecticut. He moved from Woodbury, Ct., to Hartford, Vermont about 1771, and settled in the northeastern part of the town on a farm previously given to him by his father.

"He became actively connected with the political and religious interests of the town and in the management of its affairs, both civil and military, he displayed superior executive abilities, discretion, tact and energy. He was especially conspicuous in military life, and during the period of the Revolution he won enviable distinction." (Tucker's History 1889) "

"He was an officer of the militia detailed to de-

fend the frontier against the invasions of the French and Indians. His name, with that of other citizens of the town employed in scouting service, building forts, etc., may be found in that portion of this history (Tucker's History 1889) relating to events during the Revolution."

He died April 19, 1796 at age 51 and he and his wife Mercy died August 12, 1824, after surviving him for 28 years, are buried in the Christian Street Cemetery.

Space prohibits commenting on all of Thomas Hazen's family here. Suffice it to say that there are over 150 Hazen descendants in our Hartford cemeteries; over 120 of them being on Christian Street. The Christian Street cemetery was a part of Thomas Hazen's land, and was intended for his descendants.

In 2011 Hazen descendants still live in town and, in fact, still reside in the home on Christian Street which is pictured on the previous page.



L-R, Cake Prizes—1st Traditional/ Peggy McDermott, Creative 1st/Casia Folsom, Under 16 1st/Evan Brown

250th REPORT

June and early July were filled with 250th events – we hope you enjoyed some of them! The Hartford Rod & Gun Club's pond was busy with youth Fishing Derbies, and the Quechee Balloon Festival, the most successful ever {so we've heard}, provided us with a great location for our new tent and the weather fully cooperated.

The Alumni Parade was wonderful and we thank all those who helped with it. A big thanks to Steve Arkwright who brought out his newly restored 1915 Ford Model T Speedster for the first time, emblazoned with our new HHS sign. His 1923 Ford model T Peddler's Wagon, with this wife Kathy at the wheel for the first time, was embellished with our beautiful 250th banners, and Jerry Pendleton generously let some of us ride with him in his vintage red 1965 Mustang convertible. We believe this is the first time in recent memory the Historical Society has participated – and we thank the Alumni Association for the opportunity and privilege. The Class of 1961 had an awesome giant 50th Birthday cake which was later moved to the Wilder Club & Library laws for the July 4th [with a 250 to replace the 50] celebration – a great welcome sign there! {We are still looking for any photos folks might like to share with us of the parade}.

July 4th was a full day, starting out at the Wilder Club & Library with the library book sale, displays by the Hartford Conservation Commission and Linking Lands Alliance celebrating wildlife in the Upper Valley, and displays and demonstrations by the Hartford Garden Club. The HHS exhibits were enhanced by our 3 new A/V modules thanks to a generous donation from TransCanada, showing videos of Rogers' Rangers, the film way down East, and historic photos of the Wilder dams.

The Birthday Cake Contest was a real crowd-pleaser and many awesome cakes were made [and eaten!] The following participated in the contest:



- Creative Category – 5 cakes – 1st prize to Casia Folsom, 2nd to Dolly Brandie-Lajoie, 3rd to Paul Davidson.
- Traditional Category – 7 cakes – 1st prize to Peggy McDerment, 2nd to Christine Wood, 3rd to Joyce Miller
- Cooks Under 16 Category - 7 entries – 1st prize to Evan Brown, 2nd to Hermione Malia, 3rd to Rachel Rathburn

Many Thanks to our cake judges extraordinaire Carmen Allen, Esther Lopez-Mesler & Terre Mesler, and to King Arthur Flour for their generosity in providing the wonderful prizes: 1st place - \$50 Gift Certificate to their Bakers Store, 2nd place – a KAF Cook Book, and 3rd place was a KAF cooks Apron. It was a fun time.

The afternoon events at Kilowatt Field were highlighted by Jon Soule's reenactment of bringing the Town Charter across the river with a dramatic booming of the cannon when they reached the half-way point, and then proceeding to deliver the charter to the anxious hands of Select board



members Sonja Knight and Alex DeFelice, dressed in period costume! The wonderful Ed Larkin Contra Dancers put on their usual fine performance in full period finery--in spite of the heat. White River Rotary Club members were on hand to pass out goody bags to the first 250 through the gate (a goody bag is now in our archives)! Field games were provided by Hartford P&R Dept's Ventures staff included a popular tug-of-war on the field throughout the afternoon. The Boys and Girls Clubs, with Kevin Christie at the BBQ, provided delicious hamburgers and hot dogs. Facepainting and games were provided by Ventures staff and Hartford Student council Members. DJ Lou Fucci of Lou's Mobile Music as well as a live band Hank's Theory delighted the crowd with great music. Jon Soule and fellow re-enactors provided a wonderful living history display with two tents where they had special permission to camp overnight. As the sun went down, we packed up the HHS tent and got ready for the fireworks which would follow the national anthem. Extra long this year, a half-hour in duration, the fireworks were absolutely spectacular. A big thanks to the Hartford Parks & Rec for expanding the July 4th celebrations this year on account of the 250th. Bravo!

Hartford Old Home and Field Day on August 6th was a busy day – humid but otherwise dry. Activities enjoyed ranged from the Fun Run [35 participants] to the Bel Canto Singers wonderful concert of historic songs. The Garipay House was jumping with lawn croquet, Tea on the front porch and tours of the House. The Library was busy with Bake & Book sale and Dave Norman speaking on Dot Jones and the history of White River Junction. The Greater Hartford UCC was decorated with many beautiful quilts – both old & new, the Field Day games at Watson Field were enjoyed by many.

HHS Calendar

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

Summer OPEN HOUSE at the Garpay 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]

2nd Wednesday – Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting at the Municipal Building, 171 Bridge street, White

River Junction at 4:30

4th Tuesday – HHS Board of Directors Meeting – Garipay House May – Oct and the Hartford Library Nov – Apr. at 7pm

For more information contact Dorothy Yamashita, Board Chairman.

Wednesday, Sept. 14 – A History of the Hartford Fire Dept. by Captain Ray Bushey 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, April 11, 2012 – Donald Dickman will speak on George Houghton, Civil War Photographer. Refreshments

will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village {not locked

in yet – check/marty}

Wednesday, June 13, 2012 – Carol Dewey Davidson will speak on Dewey's Mills. Refreshments will follow. 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 Monday afternoons Please see the schedule for the 250th Anniversary Celebrations elsewhere in this Newsletter. Hope to see you there!

Hartford Historical Society

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