



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Garipay House
1461 Maple Street
Hartford Village, Vermont

o Hartford

o Quechee

o West Hartford

o White River Junction

o Wilder

Volume 13, No 4

Society Newsletter

April 2001

April Meeting

Wednesday, April 11, 2001

United Church of Christ in Hartford Village

7:00 pm

Downtown White River Junction: History Is All Around Us

Hartford Historical Society member and former director Jonathan Schechtman will present a two-projector slide presentation he created which compares and contrasts the architecture of Downtown White River Junction over the last 90 years. By combining turn-of-the century postcard images and historic photographs chosen from the Society's collection by Archivist Pat Stark, with photographs taken by member David Briggs in 1979, and his own slides taken last year, Jonathan illustrates how the vast inventory of unaltered historic buildings that comprise our unique Downtown have withstood the ravages of time. In addition, Pat Stark will be displaying historic photographic images of the Downtown recently acquired from the estate of John St. Croix and other sources, that have never been seen by the public before. Join us for these exciting presentations and celebrate the architecture of White River Junction!!

Annual Meeting on May 10: Save the date now. Bring a dish for pot luck, along with your plate and eating utensils. Dinner will be served at 6 pm, followed by the annual business meeting and a show and tell session. Nominees for office for next year are listed on page 4 in this newsletter. If you have names of other nominees you wish to submit, contact Dot Jones at 295-2701. Nominees will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

Historical Society Fundraiser

In an ongoing effort to raise capital for future repairs and expansion at the Garipay House, the Fundraising committee has come up with new raffle items. The raffle items from last year, a doll and a basket, brought in \$180.00. Additionally, \$105.00 was added to the fund from the annual Flea Market. This year the Society will be raffling two items at the Annual Meeting in May and two items at the Christmas Tea. One raffle ticket for each item is enclosed in the newsletter, more are available at the meetings. Please buy some and help sell them to others. Support your historical society.

To be Raffled at the Annual Meeting:

- o An antique Bavarian serving bowl (8" round with roses & daisies) with the markings Schwarze H. Mammer.
- o Coffee table book on "History of 20th Century".

To be Raffled at the Christmas Tea:

- o An antique folding maple wash-tub stand (minus wringer) - Alpine Bench Wringer.
- o Fresh Christmas Fir Tree from Tom Ostler.

THE LOST CHURCHES OF HARTFORD

Churches were an important aspect of life in New England villages, and the changes in them closely reflect the changes in the population and culture. Hartford is no exception and our 'absent' or 'lost' church buildings have much to tell of the population shifts in the growth of our town. Here is a brief review of them. Photographs of these buildings will be on display at the Hartford and Wilder Post Offices at various times in 2001.

CENTER OF TOWN In May of 1774 the citizens of the Town of Hartford, numbering approximately 225, voted "to build a meeting-house as near the center of town as convenient for a building spot and the house to be thirty-five feet by fifty, and two-story high". Scheduled to be completed by September 1775, it was delayed by the events in this frontier area until 1783. It was a "plain unpainted structure, without a steeple or chimney. It had a gallery running around three sides, square pews, a high pulpit approached by two flights of steps, and a sounding-board. There were two stories of windows, and two doors, one on the east and one on the south." This was the only church south of the White River for a long time. "In the interval between the morning and afternoon services the congregation usually repaired to Deacon Leavitt's nearby tavern where even the minister joined with his congregation in a social glass of flip, sling or toddy."* In 1805 the town ceased to support a minister, and a Congregational Society was formed which met here until 1829. Town Meetings were held here for over 75 years, and Freegrace Leavitt was the Town Clerk until 1840. "The building remained unchanged until 1848, when it was built over and continued in use as a town-house until November 5, 1872." It was torn down some 12 years later. In 1911 the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a marker here - the geographic center of the town and the site of the first church in Hartford.

* Weston Cate, Jr. - otherwise quotes are from John St. Croix

DOTHAN From 1779 until 1796 church services for those folks north of the White River were held in Thomas Hazen's kitchen. [Before that time they traveled to Hanover to worship.] In 1795-96 they erected a building - plain with no steeple, much like the Center of Town building - which they fondly called "God's Barn". The formal title was The Church of Christ of Dartmouth College in its North Hartford Branch. In 1805 the congregation formed a Presbyterian Society. Services were held here until 1844 when it was closed due to lack of membership. Most folks transferred to the church in White River Village. The building remained vacant for many years and was finally torn down.

ST. ANTHONY'S FIRST CHURCH The parish was established in 1869, after the railroad brought a significant number of Irish Catholics to town. From 1853 until then masses were held on a somewhat regular basis by traveling missionaries. In 1870 a parcel of land was purchased on South Main Street beside the old cemetery from Henry Mosely which included 2 buildings, one was converted into a chapel, the other a rectory. In 1873 a larger chapel was needed so both buildings were torn down and a new wooden frame church constructed. With 128 pews it could accommodate 400 persons. An organ was purchased in 1874. In 1876 a school was built along side the church. The South Main Street property was sold in 1899 after the school had closed and the new church building was erected on Church Street.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Organized in 1868, the first church building was constructed in 1874 on Gates Street. The first resident clergyman started service in 1882, and the church was consecrated on November 18, 1894. This building served the congregation until 1964 when a new building was constructed on Taft Flat.

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH The Universalist Society was formed in 1878 and soon started construction of a church building on a lot donated by Asaph Taft. This was located on Maple Street between Union and Cascadnac Streets. It was used for services until 1945 when it was transferred to the Myrtle Lodge I.O.O.F., remodeled and used for meetings for many years. There was a plaque on the wall inside giving a brief history of the church.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OLCOTT Daniel O. Gillette deeded land to the church in 1890, a building was soon up and the church was dedicated later that year. About 3 years later the two Wilder churches formed a federation with services alternating between buildings. In 1923 it was voted to hold all services in the church at the north end of the village, this church was closed and transferred by deed in 1931 to individuals who removed the steeple and remodeled it into a residence still in use today.

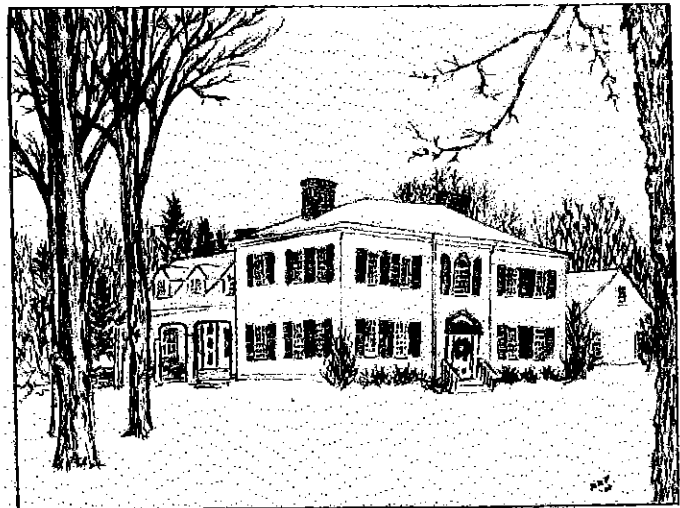
EARLY INNS & TAVERNS OF HARTFORD

TILDEN'S TAVERN - Stephen Tilden owned an inn "on the river road about four miles from White River" [now Hartford] on the north bank of the river. "There men used to gather to play cards, some coming from the south side of the river, fording in summer and crossing the ice in winter." It was from here the alarm gun was fired on October 16, 1780 calling the men to the aid of the residents of Royalton after the wounded Phineas Parkhurst rode by with his warning shout of "Indians - burning - Royalton."

The Sons of the Revolution have placed a marker near this site, made from a stone slab which was once part of the hearth in the tavern, with a bronze tablet attached.

THE HALF-WAY HOUSE - so called because of it's location between Hanover and Woodstock. It was built by Major David Wright and contained the Masonic Hall. It eventually burned to the ground.

FREEGRACE LEAVITT TAVERN - modeled after the Half-way House, and built near the Town Green at the Center of Town in 1794. It accommodated much of the congregation between Sunday services at the church on the Green, and during the War of 1812 a successful potato whiskey distillery was operated here. From 1802 until 1836 the Town Clerk was Mr. Leavitt. There was also a dance hall upstairs. *(Drawing by Muriel Farrington)*



Freegrace Leavitt Tavern

BODWELLS TAVERN - Stood on the 'Point' and was opened by Consider Bardwell in 1811. It had several owners, the last of record in 1825.

BURCH'S INN - Little is know of this inn except it's name and date - 1784 - and its probable location in the "Burch Neighborhood" between Quechee and West Hartford.

QUECHEE - Tucker also refers to a hotel in Quechee Village c. 1840.

WEST HARTFORD - Originally a tavern, in 1838 Alvan Tucker opened a hotel here. It was located between the road and the river, north of the bridge. For most of the 19th century a stage ran between here and Pomfret. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1924 - 2 years before it would have been swept down river in the 1927 flood.

VARIOUS HOTELS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGES mentioned in Tucker's:

- * George Udall kept a hotel for some time on the old Woodstock road west of the James Udall place.
- * Zebulon Delano kept a hotel for a number of years at the junction of the White River turnpike and the Jericho road.
- * Joshua Ryder kept a hotel 2 miles from White River village on the hill road to Windsor.

Sources:

Sketch of Elias Lyman 3rd by L. H. Lyman
Old Tavern of Hartford by Mrs. Roland Stevens
The Old and the New
The History of Hartford, Vermont by J. St. Croix
History of Hartford, Vermont by W, Tucker

Priscilla Gadzinski, Curator

Requests

Pat Stark has the following requests; can you help?

- o Still looking for glass or ceramic pie plates, cake pans, or bread pans. These are to be filled with water and placed on the radiators to add moisture to the air in the winter time.
- o Need a flag pole 1 3/4" diameter - wood preferred.
- o Need help moving a 150-200 year old wooden cabinet from upstairs in a local barn to the Garipay House.

Elections to be held at the May Meeting

The following people have been nominated for positions within the Hartford Historical Society and are to be voted upon at the May Meeting:

President: Dot Jones **Vice President:** Muriel Farrington **Treasurer:** Peggy McDerment **Secretary:** David Ford

Board of Directors

Fred Bradley (3 yrs) Bob Follensbee (3 Yrs) Everett Smith (3 yrs) Betty Mills (3 yrs)
Barbara Folsom (2 yrs) Alice Hazen (3 yrs) Sue Ellen Shambo (3 yrs)

CORRECTION: Rita Morris was incorrectly listed as the donor of "Teddys Vest and Pants" - she actually delivered them to us for Ronald Terriault, who kindly donated them; he lives in Florida.

SPECIAL THANKS to the anonymous donor who has offered to have the trees pruned and the dead elm removed from the Garipay House lot. The cost would have been between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00 if we had to have it done!

HARTFORD TOWN "MEATINGS"

[When Spelling was a Personal Freedom]

From History of Hartford, Vermont by W. H. Tucker

Excerpts from "the pamphlet-book entitled, A Book of Town Votes for the Town of Hartford in the Province of New Hampshear": the records of town meetings prior to 1779.

The date of the first town meeting was when the town was organized, August 26, 1761. It was held in Windham in the Colony of Connecticut. In 1764 some of the inhabitants of the town requested a transfer of the meetings to the town of Hartford, "in the Province of New Hampshire" and it was so voted in 1765 "that for the future the Town Meating shall be held by the Inhabetants of said Hartford Within said Town and that a Worning in Wrihting under the hands of the Selectmen of said Town, apoint Time Place and Buiseness of such meating, Set up in said Town on the Signpost or Some other Publick Place, six Days before said Meating shall be a Legal Worning for to hold such Meating untill the Town shall agree otherwise"

There are no records for 1766 and 1767. In 1768, among other duties, voters elected "tighing men" [tithing] and Dear Reafs. They voted to "bild a brig over warter quechy river nere the sawmill ...Abiil Marsh should be oversere about giting the timber and bulding said Bryge". They voted that the "Rode from the contry Rode that goes up and down Connecticut River Begining nere White river, and Runing ... to Pomfret shold be four Rods wide."

In 1772 the meeting was "...Legally warned and Holden on the 10 day of March A D 1772 att the Dweling hous of Elijah Strong n Hartford, in the Conty of Cumberland and Province of New York".

The town meetings were held in "dwelling houses" ...Christopher Pease, Benajah Strong, Elijah Strong, Widow Ruth Strong, Solomon Strong.

1775 the annual meeting was held at the house of Widow Ruth Strong. Two weeks later a legal meeting was held there to "choose Amos Robinson a delegate to go to Westminster, VT. Voted that each man pay his equal proportion of the expenses of sending Delegates to Westminster. Voted to treat any man with Neglect and Contempt that refuses to pay his proportion of said expenses".

In addition to the usual offices to be filled in 1776 were: Overseers of the Poor, Fence Viewers, Sealer of Weights and Measures, Sealer of Leather, Committee of Safety, "Voted - for the commissioners to lay out a road to meet with Lebanon at the Potash so-called".

In July of that year the Town " voted to take the ammunion that the committee purchased at Connecticut, into their care as Town Stock, and Capt. Abel Marsh to take care of the ammunion... Voted to proportion an assessment on the inhabitants for the payment of the ammunion, and give a bill to the constables to collect... Voted that Capt. Marsh deal out one pound of powder to each soldier belonging to this town that is gone or going to Royalton, and lead and flints proportional to the stock, and half pound powder and flints proportional to the stock, to each man in town that has a gun.

"Voted, that if any man wastes or any disposes of any of his ammunion drawn or to be drawn out of the town stock he shall pay after the rate of two dollars per pound, and shall be held up to public view as an enemy to his country." (continued on back page)

Hartford Historical Society
 PO Box 547
 Hartford, Vermont 05047



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(cont'd from page 5) The two delegates to Windsor attending the General Convention on July 3, 1777, Joseph Marsh and Joshua Hazen, were authorized to "join with the other delegates...to draw the outlines of Government", and the town voted "unanimously that we will join to be a New State on the New Hampshire Grants".

In 1778 voters elected a "Brander of horses", a "Hog howard," and two "deer reafs" [About 125 different ear marks are listed, used on cattle, sheep and hogs, all of which were permitted to roam at large. ...i.e., David Newton, ...a slanting crop at the underside of each ear.]

They also voted to purchase a town book of records...paid out of the town treasury...and to "procure a parchment to Draw a plan of the Town upon".

Note: There are only about seventeen years of records covering a space of nearly forty years in the "pamplet-book". No one knows what happened to the rest. Priscilla Gadzinski, Curator - March 4, 2001

Officers					
Chairman:	Roy Black	295-0608	Treasurer:	Peggy McDerment	295-2357
President:	Dot Jones	295-2701	Secretary:	David Ford	295-7105
Vice President:	Muriel Farrington	295-6511			
Your Board of Directors					
Peggy Adams	295-3118	Alice Hazen	295-2481	Sue Ellen Shambo	296-2230
Roy Black	295-0608	Norman Lyman	295-2061	Mary Nadeau	295-2123
Fred Bradley	295-3819	Bob Follensbee	295-3649	Betty Mills	295-6246
Newsletter: Muriel Farrington, Editor			John Lutz, Publisher		