

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

January/February 2012

AN EARLY HISTORY OF THE WEST HARTFORD TOWN LIBRARY

by Arthur S. Peale

The following is gleaned from pages of the Landmark newspaper starting in November 1927 and ending in December 1928.

The flood of Nov 3, 1927 left West Hartford, Vt. in a devastated state. One of the buildings that were washed away was the town library located along the banks of the White River about where the church is now. At this same time the barn belonging to Wilkinson and Place was washed away and the house was damaged beyond repair.

As with many towns in Vermont, 28 in all, Hartford was named after the City of Hartford, Ct. where many of the early settlers originated. Actually Waterbury, Ct. was one of the first to start a fund to assist the residents for its namesake in VT. followed shortly after by Hartford.

Some of the money raised was donated to the Red Cross relief fund, and the Chamber of Commerce started a "Hartford to Hartford" fund with a joint committee working together with the following members: Atty. Roland E. Stevens, Chairman; Chas. L. LeBourveau, treasurer; Garfield H. Miller, President of the Miller Automobile Company; James F. Dewey, superintendent of the A. G. Dewey, Co., Quechee and vice-president of the Hartford Savings Bank and Trust Company, and Thomas J. Adams president of the local Rotary Club.

The December 22, 1927 Landmark reported that over \$9,000 had been raised for relief work and turned over to Charles L. LeBourveau of the Hartford to Hartford Committee. This fund was to be spent sepa-

rate from the American Red Cross work.

During the next few days a Christmas dinner was made possible at the West Hartford church for about 200 residents who enjoyed "mashed potatoes, chicken pie, cabbage salad, mince pie, soft pies and cream cakes". And gifts from Santa Claus were "contributed by the American Red Cross, Literary club of White River Jct., Quechee Sunday School, Chicago and Boston each doing a share".



West Hartford Library on the right before 1927 flood

The January 5, 1928 Landmark reports the Hartford to Hartford fund is being raised and passed in Hartford, CT. to \$13,000 and is "still growing". The local committee is making a very careful survey of the towns whole needs and are "competent to disburse this money in the channels where it is most needed".

The February 2, 1928 Landmark reported that "the Trustees of West Hartford Library Association have received another consignment of books from the Woman's Club in Hartford, Conn. The weight of this consignment was twelve hundred pounds and the valuation was placed at five hundred dollars".

In May 1928 members of the Hartford to Hartford Committee met with four members of the West Hartford Library trustees to discuss the relative advantages of the sites under consideration and decide on a site for the new library. Three of the five trustees decidedly favor the site next the post office (at that time in the village store) generously being offered by Mr. and Mrs. Alson Place and Mrs. Place's brother, Mr. Wilkinson. "For it is understood that competent engineers

(Continued on page 3)

From the Chair . . .

On behalf of the Board, welcome to a New Year - 2012.....the Year of the Dragon . Although a bit later than usual, you should read this well in advance of the Lunar New Year.

February marks six months since Irene hit our area; there have been phenomenal accomplishments by the residents of the Upper Valleyand there is still so much work ahead. Thank you all for the documentation of the damages you have already contributed. Keep those pictures coming!

The Garipay House is closed for the winter, but it won't be long before we can meet there again for re-organization, repairs, and reminiscing. Renovation of

the basement is incredible! Martha Knapp and the Building committee have ideas for even more improvement. The much appreciated funding from the Mascoma Bank Foundation didn't quite cover expenses to date, so future contributions will be welcome!

Are you ready for winter?

"Snow - Ice- and more snow
MUD! Wind -windy - windier!
When will Summer come?"
(Haiku Greeting: Yama)

Happy New Year!
Happy Valentine's Day!

Dorothy

FROM OUR MEMBERS

The notes you send with your memberships are fascinating and provocative. Why not take time to write more to share with other readers?

Steve Wang writes from Oregon that he joined because he is researching the Richards family who lived for years in Jericho. (1767). He appreciated meeting Pat Stark when he was in town and would love to hear from anyone who might have known about the Chester Richards family or the property " way back when"....Although his paternal roots are in Wang, Norway, he has a spot in his heart for Hartford.

Thanks for joining us, Steve!

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.



Hartford Historical Society

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<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

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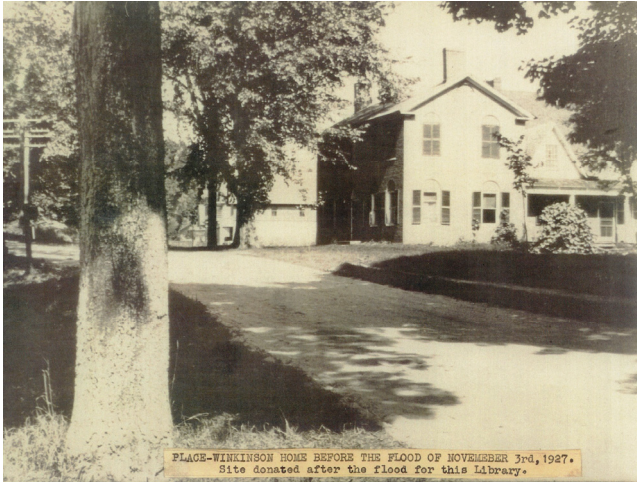
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Genealogist Mary Ann Devins 802-281-9095

(Continued from page 1)

give assurance that with a good foundation, such as is proposed for the new library, there is very little risk to any building on that site from any flood waters". The most desirable location is obviously in the most central spot. One other spot considered was between the church and the school. However that spot would leave no room for expansion and the building would be overshadowed by the church and school and is not so central. As of this date nearly 2,000 books have already been sent from various sources.

The Landmark for June 14, 1928 reports that the



PLACE-WILKINSON HOME BEFORE THE FLOOD OF NOVEMBER 3rd, 1927. Site donated after the flood for this Library.

building committee has accepted the site offered by Alison Place and Byron Wilkinson south of the Worthley store.

In November 1928 it was reported that "the carpenter work on the new library is now completed and Edward McAllister who stayed to finish the job started for his home in Wheeling, Va. The library is now ready for the interior decorating".

December 6, 1928 West Hartford's new library is now a reality and soon will be ready for use. The final coat of paint will be put on next spring. Arrangement and sorting of the 2,000 plus books began at once with aid of Miss Mildred C. Cook, secretary

of the Vermont Free Library Department at Montpelier who is giving a free weeks time to help in the task of cataloguing the books.

On December 20, 1928 it was reported that the Children's books are now catalogued and circulation began last week. Library hours will be daily (except Sunday) 10 to 5:30.

"A commodious desk and four new oak tables arrived last week, all furnished by the Hartford to Hartford Committee. Mr. Newton, of the Yawman and Erbe Library furniture house, who furnished the new Dartmouth College Library, interested himself to give the solid oak tables, built to hold heavy loads of books, and when chairs come and finishing touches are added, we shall have a very attractive room".

"An effective granite slab has been erected in front of the library, with the happy wording, "Memorial Library, given by the people of Hartford, Conn., after the flood of 1927" "

According to the 1928 Annual Town Report, between Dec and Feb circulation was 711 books, 75 games and 70 magazines and the number of patrons within a five mile radius will soon reach 200, including a great number of children.



West Hartford Library before the 2011 Flood

Curator's Corner

The beginning of a new year is upon us and personally I hope it is a little less 'History Making'! The Post Office Displays this year feature various aspects of public life in the decades around the Civil War. Our town was just 100 years old at the outbreak of the Conflict, but we still sent several of our sons off to war. The Civil War will be the focus of the Bi-annual History Expo at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds this year. Due to changes [ie, a charge of \$50] and all the energy spent on the 250th celebrations, the Board has decided not to participate this time around.

Pat Stark

Garipay House-- Past Present Future

By Martha Knapp

The Hartford Historical Society's home and museum is the focus of our Board of Directors as we approach our 25th Anniversary. We feel very fortunate to have this handsome building to house our objects of history. The citizens of the town have donated many objects, large and small, to us to share with the public and our future generations. It's easy to come here and get the "feel" of our past. It's location couldn't be better as we tell the story of Hartford.

In June of last year, the building committee did a thorough inspection of the Garipay House and identified the maintenance issues from top to bottom giving priority to immediate problems such as the leaking roof over the porch and the rotted wood underneath. We are happy to report that that leak is fixed! However, the boards on the porch floor still need to be replaced in that area. We hope to do that in the spring as we want to have tea, cakes and lemonade on the porch in the summer and invite people in to take a tour.



The basement which houses objects was also in need of repairs. There was an old boiler covered with asbestos and a lot of piping covered with asbestos. The windows were leaking and rotting away. It needed much cleaning. We decided to concentrate on this area and see if we could tackle some of these problems ourselves. I

had some time to donate and when I looked at the space and the objects, I tried to think of ways to make it doable. I informed the board that I would need two men for this basement job—hard workers, as this was hard work and, of course, I would need my husband Brent's advice, assistance and tools, i.e. the plumber, electrician, mechanical expert, carpenter, and boiler buster. Pat Stark informed me that the Justice Center had workers available for a reasonable fee and soon Matt Manning and Eddie Boisvert were on the team. The Board also voted to supply materials as we worked to correct the problems. We began in July and, on a part-time basis, we managed to scrape and put Driloc on the walls to prevent seepage; We also

scraped, cleaned, and painted the floors in the big room.

The board applied for and received a grant for the asbestos removal. The team prepared the objects by putting everything on dollies and moving them away from the piping so the asbestos removal team could build a room around these objects while they did their task. The board hired a Vermont-certified asbestos removal firm Catamount Environmental, and in less than a week we had the house back without asbestos in the basement. We did still have the huge cast iron furnace, but it was in pieces—huge heavy pieces. Matt and Eddie carried one of the huge pieces out, (see last issue of the newsletter) but we decided they were too heavy to bring the rest out that way.



Eddie began masonry work on the windows in the basement area. There were holes to the outdoors around the window frames. One win-

dow and frame had to be replaced completely. For the final phase for the year, Brent brought his sledge hammer over and began breaking up the cast iron boiler. He left some for Matt, and before I knew it, the cast iron furnace was gone as well as the cement block it stood on. Matt found a way to transport it to the recycling center.



On November 16th, there was a pizza party in the basement of the Garipay House—about 25 people attended including friends and members of our Board and a group from the Restorative Justice Center. We all came to see the improvements and celebrate the progress. We also came to thank the Justice Center and to recognize and honor Matt and Eddie for their fine work. Everyone agreed that we've only just begun, but great steps have been taken. At that time, the

(Continued on page 5)

THANK YOU

Memberships and renewals received for 2012 :

Abetti
Barwood
Berezin
Faith
Farrington
Flinn
Haenel
Henderson
Kelton
Kemon
Lake
LeBrun
Lerner
Logan
Lyman
Matthewson

Mayhew
McKinley
Miller
Moody
O'Connor
Renehan
Shambo
Spydell
Symancyk
Tonkovich
Tuson
Yamashita
Wang
Young
Zacharski

This list does not include Life memberships.

(Continued from page 4)

funding for materials had run out, and we shut down the Garipay House for this winter.

It is our hope for someday in the future to stay open year round and become a great community space to focus on exhibitions and themed programs, sharing all of our collections and research with the public. We now offer events, guest speakers and commemorations of all things historic, but in “our house”, we all get the sense of the lack of space as we squeeze ourselves through the collections in the rooms.

The unique feature of the Garipay House is the preservation of Dr. Garipay's office, located on the second floor, but many patients who consulted him as a doctor can no longer climb the stairs! We need an elevator so that everyone can visit the upstairs and the basement.

Many have envisioned expansion. Fred Bradley's generous contribution enabled the Historical Society to establish a fund for that purpose. We welcome your suggestions as we initiate plans to make these hopes and dreams a reality as we celebrate the New Year!



Boiler parts before demolition



Boiler parts on truck before hauling away

Back to the Fourth Grade

By Martha Knapp

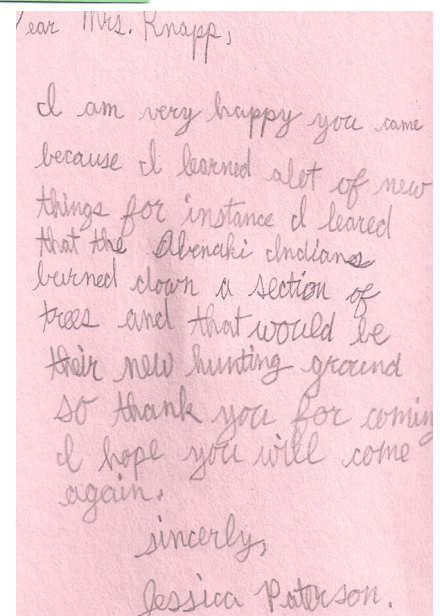
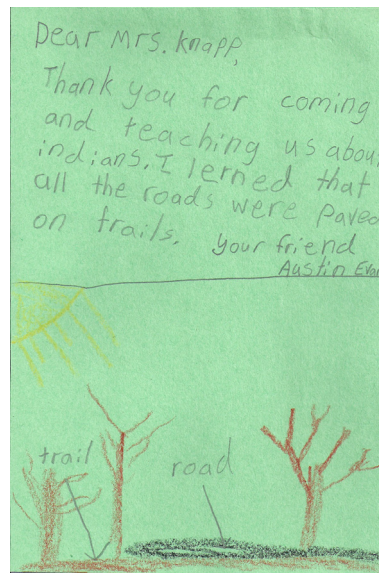
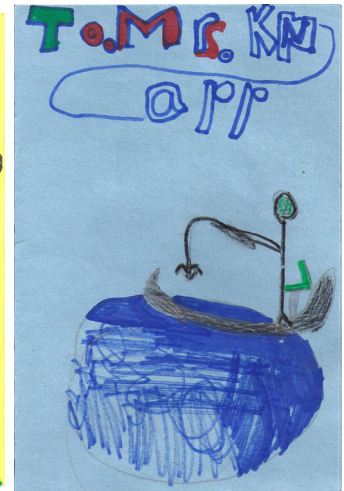
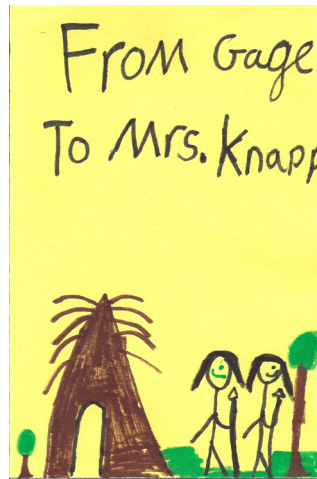
Researching the Abenaki People of Vermont became my purpose when I recalled that I had learned in my Vermont history classes that there were no Indians in Vermont. I graduated in 1961. My granddaughter who graduated just last June from Hartford High School, (fifty years later), told me that she also had only been taught about Plymouth Rock and the first Thanksgiving between the Pilgrims and the Indians in 1620 but had never specifically been taught about the Abenaki Nation whose territory was Vermont, New Hampshire, Western Maine, northern Massachusetts, and southern Canada. That represents a lot of information deleted from our state's history books.

It has now become my purpose to share with the present and future generations of Vermonters the very rich, colorful and interesting information about our own native population and to show the influence it has on our own Vermont principles and way of life.

After my series of articles in our newsletter, I was invited to speak for various groups and I mentioned that I wanted to get this story to our schools. Phyllis Bettis offered to work on that for me, and soon I was invited to give my program to the fourth grade classes at Dothan Brook School by fourth grade teacher, Linda Gilbert. I was very nervous, but warmly greeted and as soon as I began, the students became very engaged and asked many very good questions. I had several things to pass around and I had my panel boards to draw from for my subject matter and all too soon, it was time to move to the next class.

The next class was also very interested and engaged and towards the end of my session, I asked the question; "Is anyone an Abenaki in this classroom?" A teacher named Mr. Murray said "I am. My grandmother was full blooded and I visited her burial site in Canada and studied and researched our family history." Soon after, four students said they were Abenaki as well and two more said they thought they might be. This verified for me the very real fact of life that the Abenaki are very much still here with us and we need to cultivate that in our Vermont culture and history classes. I believe we shall all become richer from these teachings.

Recently, I received thank-you notes from the students. They made me very happy as they recalled the things they learned, drew beautiful pictures and even invited me back! I think it is a wonderful partnership, the Hartford School System and the Hartford Historical Society and I am looking forward to my next visit!



FOUNDING FAMILIES:

Dutton Family

Thomas Dutton was born March 6, 1707 in East Haddam, Connecticut. As a man he was celebrated as a church builder and carver. He built churches at Waterbury, Connecticut and in other places, being well known over a large section of Connecticut. He was distinguished for his personal piety and reared his 10 children [all born in Connecticut] with such care that all of his sons who lived to manhood were church members and four of them held official positions. The Dutton families were prominent in the settling of the Town of Hartford, Vermont.

After the death of his wife, Abigail Merriam Dutton, Thomas journeyed to Hartford, Vermont to visit some of his children and he died there on April 16, 1799. He was the first of a long line of Dutton descendants to be buried in the Christian Street Cemetery in White River Junction.

Samuel Dutton, son of Thomas, married Rachel Benedict and in 1778 bought the home farm of Abraham Powers, which he occupied until 1796 when he removed to Royalton, Vermont where his brother, Amasa, had already settled. He was a carpenter and house-joiner by trade. While in Woodstock he carried on farming, and was quite prominent in town affairs. On the 6th of April 1802, Mr. Dutton bought a 100-acre lot of land in Hartford, from Elias Lawrence, and moved into this town prior to April, 1803. Samuel Dutton died in Hartford, Vermont on July 21, 1828.

John Dutton, son of Thomas, was born in

1743 and died in 1791. He was known as Deacon John Dutton and served in the Revolution, being sent out as a scout by Captain Hazen in August, 1778; and in the alarm of 1780 was in Captain Joshua Hazen's company, Colonel Woods' regiment. He married Martha Savage and had a son Asahel Dutton who was born March 8, 1768 in Hartford, Vermont; so the family must have been in residence in the town of Hartford, Vermont at that time. He later married Susannah Goodwin in Hartford, Vermont.

Nathaniel Dutton, son of Thomas, was born on June 18, 1747. He was a farmer in Hartford, Vermont and died there, August 22, 1823. His wife died there on March 14, 1825. He married, about 1770, Sarah Hazen, daughter of Joseph Hazen of Grand Isle, Vermont.

An excerpt found states:

... In the decline of life he (Thomas) lived ten or twelve years with his son, Thomas, in Watertown, Connecticut, and at the age of 85 or 86 visited his younger sons in Vermont where his death occurred. There is some discrepancy as to whether he died in Hartford or Royalton. Manuscript notes in the handwriting of his grandson Aaron Dutton, written in 1844, describe him as a man "distinguished for his piety and his faithfulness to his children."

And, so it appears, that the Dutton family came to Hartford, Vermont in the 1760's according to birth records, etc.

Commercial/Institutional Members:

Baker 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]

HHS Calendar

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

The Garipay House is closed for the winter – come visit us when it's is warmer!

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]

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, April 11, 2012 – Donald Dwickman, noted Vermont historian, will speak on George Hough-

ton, Civil War photographer from Vermont. Refreshments will follow. 7:00 pm at the Greater Hartford United

Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

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

Hartford Historical Society

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