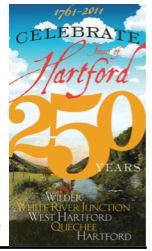




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 29, No. 1

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January-February 2016

Hartford Historical Society Earns Award of Merit for Recent Publication

The Hartford Historical Society was recently presented with an Award of Merit for the booklet, “The History of the White River Paper Company 1881-2014”, written by Tammy Ladd, a member of the Society’s Board of Directors. Tammy also serves as the Board’s secretary.

The presentation was made in Burlington on October 30th by former Vermont Governor Jim Douglas on behalf of the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums, which recognizes exceptional work done throughout the state in collecting, preserving and sharing Vermont’s history.

Tammy’s 45-page book chronicles the history of a long-time Hartford enterprise, a story that had never before been researched and documented. Published by the Society, the book contains twenty historic photos showing the company at its various physical locations in the community, its founders and a number of its past and present employees. White River Paper Company is the fourth oldest corporation in the State of Vermont.

She was impressed that the business spanned four generations of local family ownership before being

acquired by a Canadian competitor, Swish Maintenance Ltd., in 2014. Originally located in downtown White River Junction before moving to its present location on

Route 14, the business had been a visible part of the local community and employed 30 to 60 people at any given time. By using sound business practices, White River Paper prospered, and she notes that during the Great Depression, rather than laying off employees, it kept everyone working, but with reduced hours so that each employee brought home at

least a meager paycheck. It isn’t unusual to find people living in the area who worked for White River Paper for 40 years or longer.

In compiling information for the book, Tammy scoured company records, the archives of the Hartford Historical Society and did on-line searches. Her favorite part of the process, though, was conducting interviews with former owners and people who worked there, some of them going back as far as the 1940s.

The booklet may be purchased from the Hartford Historical Society for \$10.



Tammy Ladd receiving her award, with Martha Knapp and interim director of the Vermont Historical Society, Ex-Governor Jim Douglas

From the Chair . . .

The Hartford Historical Society offers many opportunities for volunteering. Heartfelt thanks go to all those who generously share their time and talents to make our organization the success that it is today.

I especially appreciate the efforts of our museum director, Martha Knapp, and recognize the many hours that she puts into her position, including twenty hours each week directing activities at the Garipay House, the time spent bringing historical information to schools and other interested groups and the untold hours that she spends working behind the scenes, seeking grants, organizing fundraisers, preparing displays, etc. Having retired after a lengthy career at the Saint Gaudens Historical Site in Cornish, she brings a wealth of museum expertise as well as a passion for preserving and displaying information and objects that help us to better understand our community's past. All of this is offered as an unpaid labor of love. Martha, indeed, is the Society's MVP!

One of Martha's greatest concerns is the pressing need to gather oral histories, and volunteers are urgently needed. Interviewing involves visiting a town resident who can add to the fabric of our knowledge about Hartford's past, tape recorder in hand, and allowing that person to share his or her recollections. These interviews are then transcribed so that they are preserved for future reference. The Society supplies the tape recorder and is happy to offer training to those interested in helping with this monumental task. All too often we regret that a Hartford resident has passed away before being interviewed, and the historical information that may have been gathered is lost to us forever.

Please consider helping the Society to gather oral histories. If you would like to participate in this effort, contact Martha during regular business hours at the Garipay House or send her an email (contact information is provided on this page). She would be happy to answer any questions you might have.



Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

Note our new email address:

info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

802-296-3132

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Susanne Abetti—President	802-295-9687
Bill Wittik—Vice President	802-295-9683
Dorothea White—Recording Secretary	603-443-1217
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Pat Stark	802-295-3077

Curator/Archivist	Pat Stark	802-295-3077
Newsletter	Susanne Abetti	802-295-9687
Membership	Martha Knapp	802-295-2713



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.

AN OLD-FASHIONED VILLAGE CELEBRATION

By Martha Knapp

The Hartford Historical Society, the Hartford Library, the House of Seven Gables and the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ joined forces to present an old-fashioned Christmas celebration in historic Hartford Village on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The event was a resounding success.

Each venue offered a unique way to celebrate the holiday. At the Garipay House, visitors were invited to create arrangements made with greenery generously donated to us from Henderson's Tree and Garden Services on Route 14. The Historical Society supplied the containers and vases, pine cones, ornaments, ribbons and bows and other materials from which to choose, and Martha and Kristy were on hand to offer pointers. A table in the Garipay dining room was covered with homemade treats and beverages. Handmade mittens were also offered. About thirty people of all ages joined us, and a good time was had by all!

Hartford Librarian Nadine Hodgdon reported a packed house for much of their two hours of activity. The children's room was filled with happy children, busily making Victorian crafts, stringing popcorn and cranberry garlands and enjoying holiday snacks. The library's Christmas tree, also generously donated by Henderson's, was

decorated by eight-year-old volunteer Quinn Chartier. The White River Co-op donated funds for the bakers to use for the purchase of ingredients for the refreshments.

All of the promised activities took place without a hitch and many of us old-timers found a tear in our eyes as we were all touched by this occasion

At the House of Seven Gables, guests were greeted by Kathy Janisse, beautifully costumed in a Victorian dress and setting the mood for wonderful tours of the "grande maison" built by Ephraim Morris. The home was fabulously decorated for Christmas with a Victorian theme.

At the ringing of the church bells, a crowd from all three places headed to the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ where Lester Gibbs played the pipe organ and a chorus of delightful children led us in Christmas carols.

To all those who participated in our Old Fashioned Christmas event, thank you for attending and for making the afternoon a huge success. Your comments have convinced us that we should try to make this an annual event.

Ann Newcity took many photos of the day and you can find them on the Hartford Historical Society

Facebook page. (Please see more photos on the next page)



The beautiful tree at the Library generously provided by Henderson's Tree & Garden Services decorated by young volunteer Quinn Chartier



Some of the 100 visitors at the Hartford Library enjoying the crafts and activities offered at this venue (Photos by Ann Newcity)

What an array of beautiful arrangements made by these young artists at the Garipay House during Hartford Village's Christmas celebration!



Rebekah



Alyssa



Violet



Kaelyn



Thea



Eleia



Sophia



Coen



Thank you Henderson's Tree & Garden Services for providing the greenery!

Scenes from the old-fashioned
Christmas celebration in historic
Hartford Village on Saturday,
December 12, 2015



*Kathy Janissee in period costume
leading one of three tours through the
House of Seven Gables*



The formal dining room of the House of Seven Gables



Creating greenery arrangements at the Garipay House



*The children's choir leading us in song
Photo by Ann Newcity*



*Caroling at the GHU Church of Christ
Lester Gibbs at the organ*

November Program Featured History of Jericho District

Our November program meeting drew a capacity crowd as Leo Zacharski, a long-time resident of this unique neighborhood, gave an informative presentation on its history since it was first settled in 1771. Leo illustrated his talk with a PowerPoint slide show that featured vintage photos, maps and documents from his extensive personal collection.

We learned that both Jericho and Dothan were named in 1774 by Aaron Hutchinson, minister of the local First Congregational Church. The first settler, Thomas Hazen (a real estate dealer and land trader from Connecticut), was given 1,562 acres in the “western part of town” as a reward for putting up funds to settle the

conundrum as to whether the area was part of New Hampshire or New York, both of which lay claim to it as part of their respective territories.

Thomas later deeded parcels of his land to his twelve

surviving children, who established their families there. We are incredibly fortunate that the District has retained the historical integrity of many of its original

buildings. Leo showed fine examples of late Georgian style architecture and early Federal style architecture, which were popular during this era. Some of them still retain their cooking fireplaces and bee hive ovens.

In the early days, the principal livelihood was centered around crop farming and raising livestock. In 1812, Merino sheep were introduced to keep the local woolen mills supplied with raw materials. Drinking cider was a significant part of the diet, and Philemon Hazen, in whose former home Leo and Pat reside, was the official cider monger for the

Jericho District. The dairy industry eventually replaced sheep farming.

The Jericho School District was established in 1807, and the first school house was constructed in 1814.



Jericho landscape looking north c. 1880 after the land was cleared for farming. Right: Daniel Hazen Homestead (1788) Left: Philemon Hazen Homestead (1789)



Leo Zacharski, residing in an historic Jericho District home for 45 years, has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and many vintage photographs to document the history of this unique local community. Following Leo's presentation, people shared their recollections of living in the Jericho District with Leo (in green cardigan) and with one another

The current one-room school house was built in 1849 and remained in use until 1947. Today it houses the Jericho Community Center and is used for events of all kinds. The foundation has deteriorated, and funds are being raised to restore it. The work is slated to begin next summer. Tax-deductible donations earmarked for this project are greatly appreciated and may be sent c/o the Hartford Historical Society. (Checks should be made out to the Hartford Historical Society, with "Jericho Schoolhouse" noted on the memo line.)

The many residents and former residents of the Jericho District in attendance added their recollections and personal stories, making the evening entertaining as well as historically informative. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this program by adding a personal perspective. We deeply appreciate the effort that Leo put into researching and organizing his presentation.

The Jericho District retains its rural Vermont character, and sleigh rides can still be enjoyed during the winter.



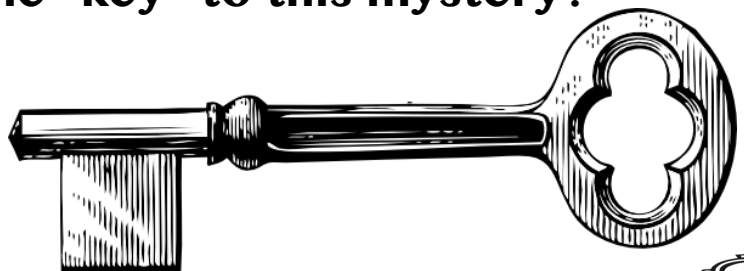
The intersection of Jericho Rd. and Jericho St., 1914. The carriage pushed by Aunt Millie carries baby Alberta "Bunny" Lyman. The house built by Philemon Hazen is in the foreground, and that of Daniel Hazen is in the distance



Can you provide the "key" to this mystery?

Does anyone know the origin of the name "Tigertown", long associated with a section of West Hartford?

We have received an inquiry but are unable to solve the mystery.



Garipay Garage Renovation Project Moving Forward to Accommodate Hartford Jail Exhibit

By Martha Knapp

My husband Brent and I attended a seminar at Grand Isle entitled, “Libraries, Nonprofit Owned and Public Buildings Retreat”, which was hosted by the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Representatives from the Vermont Arts Council, the Vermont Community Development Program and the Vermont Division for Historic Places were there to offer guidance and information about funding opportunities for projects proposed by groups like our Historical Society.

Brent and I had previously participated in one of these retreats three years ago when the Society was trying to figure out what to do with our barn loom, which was languishing in the former dining room of the Garipay House. Many useful suggestions were given to us, and as a result, the loom was restored, repaired and eventually put into use. (A detailed story about the loom appeared in the previous newsletter.)

This time, Brent and I brought a new project for consideration: What to do with the jail cell that the Town of Hartford donated to us when the old Municipal Building was stripped to the bare bones in anticipation of the massive renovation project that transformed it into our modern Town Hall. Our goal was to display it in the Garipay garage as a focal point for researching the early history of jails in our town.

We described our plans, passed around photos of the garage and the parts of the jail cell that were given to us and asked if anyone thought this was a “sexy” enough project to attract the needed funding. Everyone appeared to be exchanging looks with one another and nodding “yes,” especially since I told the group that I view this project as an opportunity to teach the history of using confinement as a corrective tool. A lengthy discussion followed, and I learned of organizations that have the potential to give us financial assistance. It was also recommended that I get in touch with the Folklife Center and perhaps eventually develop a book.

The retreat was a valuable experience because it offered useful information and potential sources of funding. Brent and I found it to be a very enlightening and positive experience.

Within a few days, Lisa Ryan of the Preservation Trust made a trip to our Historical Society, and visited our garage. After viewing our jail cell artifacts, she suggested that I apply for a matching grant from the Preservation Trust to be used to hire an architect/engineer who would examine the garage and determine the cost of stabilizing it to accommodate the exhibit.

I immediately wrote that letter, and within two weeks we were awarded a \$250.00 matching grant. Sandy



Jail cell in the former basement of the Hartford Municipal Building

Vitzthum, an architect from Montpelier arrived to take photographs and measurements, and she is currently working on her assessment. We are eager to receive her report, after which I will spread the word to contractors for estimates of the cost so that we can determine how much money we will need to raise in order to make this project a reality. The renovated garage would be used to house other exhibits in

addition to the jail cell, utilizing more of the Society’s fascinating historical objects to create interesting displays. So, stay tuned!

In the meantime, we are conducting research into the history of Poor Farms and of the early jails in the Town of Hartford. Rumor has it that a Poor Farm was located near Tigertown Road and another on the River Road leading to West Hartford. We were surprised to learn that one of the earliest jails in town was located downstairs in a White River Junction bank. It amused me that offenders would be locked up beside bank vaults. The more I delve into this topic, the more it piques my curiosity.

If any of our newsletter readers have information and stories about the Poor Farms and Hartford’s jails, we would love to hear from you.

It's Time to Pay Our Dues!



Unless you are a Life Member or have paid ahead, your membership expired on 12/31/15. Please note the expiration date of your membership on the address label affixed to this newsletter.



Thank You for your continued support!



Oops! We forgot to identify Brian Smith (in the red jacket) who also volunteered to help install the Hartford Woolen Mill bell beside the Garipay House. Brian is interested in restoring the World War I Monument so that it can once again be displayed in a public spot.



“Hats Off” to our Local Business Supporters!

Patrons:

Cloverleaf Jewelers

Kibby Equipment

Merchants Bank

Benefactors:

Geobarns



Hartford Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Individual \$20.00 per year
 Family (same address) \$25.00 per year
 Senior \$15.00 per year
 Senior Family (same address) \$20.00 per year
 Institutional \$30.00 per year
 Special Gift of Support \$ _____

Name: _____ Additional Names: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____
 e-mail: _____
 Comments: _____

*The Hartford Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
 Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to:
 Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547*

THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Contact Name: _____
 Business Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____
 e-mail: _____

Corporate/Business: \$50 ___ Patron: \$100 ___ Benefactor: \$250 ___ Other: _____

Special Opportunities for Higher Levels of Support

Silver Sponsor: \$500 ___ Gold Sponsor: \$1000 ___ Platinum Sponsor: \$2500 ___

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THANK YOU!

LET OUR
BUSINESS
MEMBERS KNOW
YOU APPRECIATE
THEIR SUPPORT OF
OUR HISTORICAL
SOCIETY!

C&G Creative Catering

**Charlie Brown's Outdoor
Equipment**

**Faith Bible Book Store/
WVFA Radio**

**John Sherman
Photography, Inc.**

Main Street Museum

**Meeting House Furniture
Restoration**

Route 4 Country Store

Schaal Electric

**The Strong House Spa &
Muscular Therapy Clinic**

Studio Nexus

White River Toyota

CURATOR'S CORNER

by Pat Stark

Happy New Year! It's a good time of year to contemplate last year, and plan for this coming year. If your plans include making room for new items, cleaning out that closet, etc., please keep us in mind for any objects that reflect life in Hartford, especially items with business names/logos. Some of our most interesting documents & artifacts are

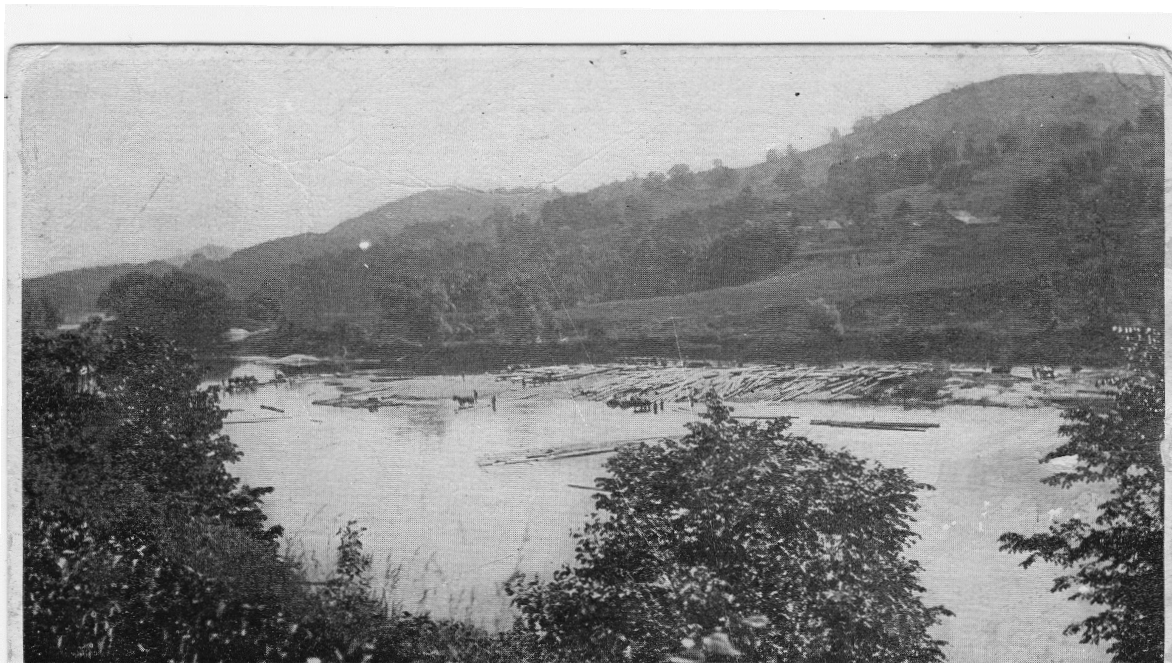
from former businesses like the box from Hartford Rubber & Truss Co. and the Smith & Sons receipts.

Due to all the media attention lately, the Posters in the Post Offices, Bugbee Center & Town Hall this year are on our churches – past & present. Stop by and check them out!

MYSTERY PHOTO

Here is a post card we received this year from the Charlestown Historical Society. Can anyone identify the exact location of this photo? If so – please contact us! Thanks, Pat

Post card caption: "The Rear End of the Drive. Logging Crew Removing Stranded Logs, near White River Junction, Vt."



The Rear End of the Drive. Logging Crew Removing Stranded Logs, near White River Junction, Vt.

Please Notice This



Information Being Sought on the Town's "Poor Houses"

Scattered throughout the Town of Hartford, "poor houses" were established to shelter indigent individuals and those who broke the law. Where were they located and what information about them is still remembered?

Please contact Pat Stark or Martha Knapp if you have information to share.

Hartford Historical Society

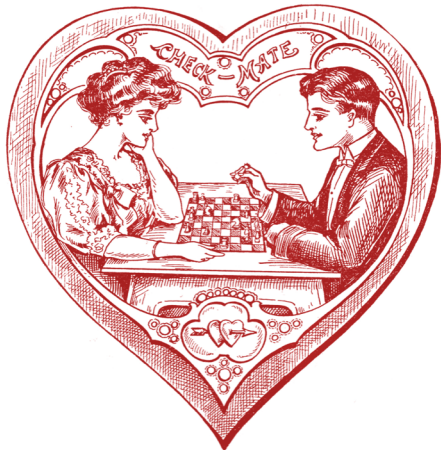
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This newsletter is
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**Lebanon Sewing
& Vacuum Center**



HHS Calendar

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

(excepting Holidays and inclement weather) M-F 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by appointment. To be sure we are open, check for the flag outside the building or contact us mornings at 296-3132 or email us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com. For an appointment, call or email us or contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 M-F from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETINGS open to the public:

2nd Monday of each month – **The Hartford Historical Society Discussion Group** at the Bugbee Center at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

2nd Wednesday – **Hartford Historic Preservation Commission** meeting at the Municipal Offices, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction at 4:30 p.m.

4th Thursday – **HHS Board of Directors Meeting** – at the Garipay House, 6:30 p.m. (Please check for exact date.) For more information, contact Mary Nadeau at 295-2123.

Wednesday, April 13th, 2016 – **Remembering Ralph Lehman** by John Clerkin. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Wednesday, June 8th, 2016 – **History of West Hartford** by Cameron Clifford. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Refreshments.

The Genealogy Center, located upstairs in the Hartford Library, is open Monday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Carole Haehnel and Ray Field will be happy to assist you in exploring the resources we have.