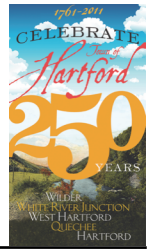




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 30, No. 1

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January-February 2017



Remembering Horace Pease

By Mary Ann Devins

At a time when the Hartford Historical Society is considering the purchase of Horace Pease's former home on Maple Street, which in more recent memory was the home of the Hartford Elks Club, it seems fitting to discover who he was and what mark he left on the Town of Hartford during his lifetime.

Horace Pease was a distant relative of Christopher Pease, one of the first settlers of the Town of Hartford. Horace was born some 50 years after Christopher died, and one might wonder if Horace knew that one of his relatives was a founding father. (For more information, please see the Christopher Pease story on our Facebook page: HHS Hartford Historical Society.)

Horace's great grandfather was Edward Pease, who was born in 1763 in Enfield, Connecticut, just two years after Governor Benning Wentworth granted the charter for the Town of Hartford in the New

Hampshire Grants. We find Edward with his wife and 12 children in Enfield during the 1790 Census Report. He was the first Pease ancestor to move to the North Country and settle in Brookfield, Vermont.

Walter Pease was the third child of Edward and Hannah. He was born in Enfield, Connecticut in 1787, just a few years after the Revolutionary War and just before Vermont became the fourteenth state. He must have moved north to Brookfield at the turn of the Nineteenth Century with his parents, since we find him in the 1800 Census Reports living in Brookfield, Vermont. He would have been about 13 years old.

The White River Tavern, or Pease Hotel, was owned by Horace Pease and stood in Hartford near the present site of the Garipay House until destroyed by fire in 1889. Pease also built the mansion that became the Hartford Elks Club.

Continued on page 4.

From the Chair . . .



The Hartford Historical Society is actively collecting the names of seniors who have lived in our community for many years and are interested in sharing their stories of people, places, and events from Hartford's past. The Society's job is to preserve as much information as

possible for the historical record, and there is so much more to be discovered and recorded.

As a nice bonus, we get the opportunity to become acquainted with these older residents and to thank them for the unique contributions that each has made to the fabric of our town.

We are fortunate to have a number of experienced interviewers who enjoy talking with our seniors at their homes or in facilities where they reside. If you

would like to recommend someone for an interview, please let us know. Our contact information is listed below.

For anyone wishing to help us with this on-going project, training is available. We can provide you with a tape recorder so that you don't develop writer's cramp!

Have a happy and healthy 2017.

Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board

Please note: Membership dues are payable in January unless you have a life membership or have paid ahead for 2017. When in doubt, look at the address label on this newsletter. Your dues are current through the end of the year printed to the right of your name. Thanks!



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Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

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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.

“Growing Up in Wilder” Program Draws Large Audience

By Mary Nadeau

Roy Black’s PowerPoint presentation on November 9 attracted about sixty “Wilderites,” past and present, who gathered to learn about their village’s history and to reminisce about “the good old days.” Roy illustrated his talk with maps and vintage photos and brought along a number of display items and documents.

Joyce Napolitano, who lived in Wilder from 1948 to 1966, sent a letter for Roy to read to the group. Among her recollections were that Halloween was a two-night event, beginning with “Beggar’s Night” on Halloween Eve and of a drawing called the “Witch Wagon,” a ploy to get kids to go directly home after trick-or-treating because you had to be there if your phone number was called in order for you to claim a prize.

With the lunch recess, students had two opportunities each day to be late for school!

and she recalled participating in skits on the stage. Ballet and tap dancing classes were held, the nuns from St. Anthony’s Church came once a week to teach catechism and there was a bowling alley. Of course, she added, the facility included an actual library where you could take out books to read.

Many members of the audience chuckled when Joyce mentioned “Joe Banana’s Store,” so-named because there were always a lot of bananas hanging from the ceiling. (His real name was John Sciappa.) Then there were the two bridges with wooden rails over the railroad tracks, and some daring kids used them as balance beams, hoping to make it all the way across without falling. (Thankfully, there were no reports of casualties.) Everyone attended the Wilder School, and in an era where mothers worked in the home, students went home for lunch (unless they lived



She remembered the Wilder Clubhouse/Library as the venue for many activities. Her Girl Scout Troup met there,

Mary Nadeau, top right, introduces Roy Black. Above, members of the audience remain after the programs to mingle, share memories, ask questions, and enjoy homemade desserts provided by some of the Society’s finest cooks.

too far away or were bused to school). She noted that with the lunch recess, students had two opportunities each day to be late for school! Joyce’s father, Edward Bebeau, built a wooden traverse that could hold twelve kids, and it would quickly fill up before navigating the long hill going down to the railroad tracks by the factory.

Roy encouraged audience participation, so many stories were shared, questions asked and “remember whens” offered. We thank everyone who came and contributed to the success of the program.

Remembering Horace Pease. Continued from page 1.

In 1810, Walter met and married Eunice Durkee, who was also born in Enfield, Connecticut. They remained in Brookfield for some time before moving to Hartford, Vermont, where Walter and his family played a significant role in the early growth of our town. Walter died in 1870 and is buried on the lower tier of the Hartford Point Cemetery on Maple Street in White River Junction.

In 1877, at the age of 33, Horace married the love of his life, Seraph (Sarah) Eliza Spaulding. In the years following Horace and Seraph's marriage, they had a child who was either stillborn or died in infancy.

Seven years after their marriage, Horace Pease built a new home for Seraph. They named it Sunnyacre, and it was located at the northwest corner of Main (today called Maple Street) and Pleasant Streets (renamed Elks Street) in Hartford Village. Horace, an affluent resident who by then owned the Pease Hotel, lumber and grist mills and a farm tool business, paid Catherine McCracken \$2,800 in 1883 for the property. The two-story Queen Anne-style wood frame house replaced a c.1801 house that was moved to Summer Street in 1884 so that a new house could be built. Sunnyacre was reportedly built as a showplace for Horace's bride. The Peases had a house christening in 1884, attended by 150 people.

The design of Sunnyacre is credited to Col. Ferdinand Davis. Davis also designed two prominent structures in Lebanon, New Hampshire—the Whipple Block and the Soldiers Memorial Building.

The land on which the Hartford Library was built was donated by Horace and Seraph Pease when they subdivided their adjacent residential lot. Prominent local residents, including Edward W. Morris, Horace Cone Pease, Charles M. Cone, Ephraim Morris and Samuel Pingree founded the library and served as trustees. Ephraim Morris donated \$10,000 for the construction of the library, reading room and social hall. The dedication was held on September 16, 1893, with the President of Dartmouth College, Rev. William Tucker, as the featured speaker. The library is reportedly one of Vermont's earliest examples of a building specifically dedicated for use as a permanent and free repository of circulating printed materials.

Horace Pease's many accomplishments also included the presidency of the Hartford Water Company, president of the Quechee Woolen Company, membership in the Hartford Cemetery Association, musician in the Hartford Cornet Band, and he was the driving force behind bringing electricity to Hartford Village.



Postcards of the White River Tavern, also known as the Pease Hotel.

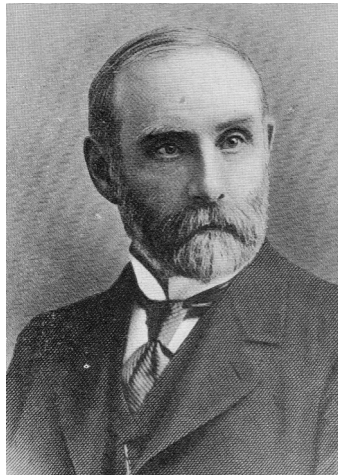
Luther Pease was born the fourth son of Walter and Eunice in 1814 in Brookfield, Vermont. He was married in 1842 in Hartford to Harriet Cone, who was a member of two very prominent families in Hartford, the Cone family and the Morris family. The United States Federal Census Reports reveal that Mr. and Mrs. Luther Pease were residents of the Town of Hartford in 1850 and 1860.

Luther operated two prosperous businesses in Hartford Village, L. Pease and Son, dealing in hardware, stoves, tinware, wallpaper, shades, paints and oils and the Pease Hotel, located just across Main Street. (The former store building served as Hartford Village's fire station from 1915 to 1961.) Luther died in 1876, and he and his wife are buried on the lower level of the Hartford Point Cemetery. Many members of the Cone and Morris family are buried around them.

Horace Cone Pease was born December 11, 1844, to Luther and Harriet Pease. He was their second son. (Their first son was Allen Luther Pease who died in 1899.) Horace's younger brother, Charles Warren Pease, died in Hartford in 1890.

In 1928, Horace's beloved Seraph died at the age of 81. Even though we might think of this as a long, full life, it must have left Horace empty after a marriage of 51 years. On December 7, 1932, Horace Pease passed away at his home following a bout with jaundice.

The following is an excerpt (*The Landmark* – December 15, 1932)



Horace Cone Pease.

of a eulogy given at the time of his death by Reverend E. D. Harvey, Pastor from the Congregational Church in Hartford.

“His life was such an achievement that it is well for us to meet here so to do. But we meet in joy and in strength, rather than in sadness. As we think of him in his essential spirit, it is only right that we thank God and take courage.

“Horace Cone Pease was born in Hartford, Vermont, on December 11, 1844. He was the son of Luther and Harriet Cone Pease. Another five days would have seen the completion of the eighty-eighth year of his life.

“I remember that he always left church just after the collection, which was just before the sermon. He apparently felt he should pay his respects to God, but didn't need to listen to the minister.”

education and self-discipline to the hardness of life was more meaningful than the formal education of the schools. Yet he himself constantly expressed his appreciation of his early training in the schools he attended.

“Mr. Pease became a man of many-sided interests. Up to the year 1871, he managed his father's farm. Thereafter, he successfully acquired junior and senior partnerships in, and finally sole ownership of French, Watson & Company (1889 to 1902), manufacturers of

farm implements.” (French, Watson & Co., established by J.W. French, E.C. Watson and H.C. Pease in 1835, manufactured hay and manure forks, garden rakes, shovels, spades, etc., as well as hard and soft lumber and shingles and were dealers in lumber, clapboards and shingles.)

Horace's father, Luther Pease, had purchased the hotel in Hartford Village, which then became known as the Pease Hotel. Upon his death, the hotel went to Horace. Horace, in turn, passed it on to his younger brother, Charles Warren Pease. On January 24, 1889, it burned to the ground, along with Mark Cone's old store next door. Charles moved the hotel to his home on School Street until a new one was built.

Eventually, the new hotel was owned by Allen L. Pease. It, too, suffered a fire and only the back section was left. (The Pease Hotel was situated where the convenience store and the Garipay House sit today.)

Upon Horace Pease's death, the homestead was acquired by his nephew, Charles W. Pease of Buffalo, New York. It was subsequently sold by Maude Pease to Alfred Watson in 1938. In 1945, the property was acquired by the Hartford Elks Club, and a single-story addition was added in 1990.

The following is from a letter written by John Dutton of Newton, Massachusetts: “I do remember Horace Pease (Hockey as he was sometimes called) and heard about the buying of ice cream cones for the village children on hot summer nights, and at other times diligently chasing kids off his lawn, the most spacious in the village.

“Also intriguing to a child were his missing fingers. I believe they said he had some sort of accident and was suspended on high tension electrical wires. I remember that he always left church just after the collection, which was just before the sermon. He apparently felt he should pay his respects to God, but didn't need to listen to the minister.”

Laurette Woodward, one of the twelve Vincent “kids” that grew up on Pleasant Street directly opposite Sunnyacre, shared these memories: “I remember that he was very kind to us. On hot summer days, he'd let us come and sit under his tree to cool off as long as we didn't run around. At the end of the day, if we were good, he'd give us each a penny so that we could buy a little bag of candy at Mrs. Coutermarsh's store. He would also let my father pick up the butternuts that fell off his tree so that we could use them in candy and cakes.”

Horace Pease was a memorable citizen of Hartford and we encourage you to share any recollections you have with the Hartford Historical Society.

A Community Celebration of Christmas

By Martha Knapp



We call this, "An Old Fashioned Christmas in Historic Hartford Village." Nadine Hodgdon, the Hartford Librarian, proposed that we partner for this event. We then added wonderful venues that shared our vision. Now it gifts us all with such tidings of good cheer that we wish it to become an annual event for our historic village. A picture is worth a thousand words, so please enjoy these photographs by Kristy O'Meara and Ann Newcity.

The event was presented by the Hartford Historical Society, Hartford Library, Hartford United Church of Christ, and the House of Seven Gables. The House of Seven Gables had a festive mantel, top. Hartford Librarian Nadine Hodgdon reads to children, middle left. Soup's on at the Hartford United Church of Christ, middle right. The Garipay House was a workshop for holiday decorations, bottom.



Before a soup and sandwich supper, Northern Stage actors performed music and scenes from A Christmas Carol at the Hartford United Church of Christ.

Clockwise from top left. Nativity scene at the House of Seven Gables. Mother and daughter holiday arrangements at the Garipay House. Goodies at the Hartford Library. More Holiday creations. Boys also enjoyed this event. A musical evening at the Hartford United Church of Christ.

Recollections of Growing Up in Hartford

By Clementina Filosa-Morton

I am a first-generation Italian-American like so many of my Hartford High School classmates. My grandfather, Domenico Falzarano, came to the U.S. as a small boy at the end of the Nineteenth Century and eventually became a union organizer in Pennsylvania. He returned to Italy for a wife and brought back my grandmother from the Izzo family.

Over the next few years, her two brothers and a sister came to the States. Domenico remained in White River Junction as a small business owner, and his brother Luigi went to Burlington and also began his own grocery business. Both families are still a presence through their grandchildren and great grandchildren. They intermarried into other Italian families as well as other nationalities.

My father, Guerino Filosa, came over in 1912. Father had a literary bent and began publishing an Italian language newspaper, *L'informatore*, *The Informer*, six months after the 1929 stock market crash, two months after my brother Francis' birth. *L'informatore* served the Italian-American community in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine for more than thirty years.



The majority of the Italians located to Vermont for two reasons: the railroads and the marble quarries.

The majority of the Italians located to Vermont for two reasons: the railroads and the marble quarries. White River

Junction was a major train depot in the country, and who better to quarry and sculpt in marble than the descendants of Michelangelo? I can still feel the coolness of the marble now that I felt every time I entered the post office in White River Junction.

The Italians, along with other citizens, representing all of Europe and French Canadians who had come across the border to live in the U.S., worked hard and reaped the benefits of large homes, large families, good jobs, and small businesses. Their sons and daughters attended college and university.

Everyone got along well. This was especially true during the war. Almost every family had a male relative called up to serve. I was only three when the Pearl Harbor bombing

Top: Mr. and Mrs. Guerino Filosa in 1938. Above: Famed aviator Amelia Earhart visited White River Junction in 1933. As publisher of an Italian language newspaper, Guerino Filosa (in a suit and tie) was among those present.

Continued on page 11.

People and Their Memories

By John Gates

(Reprinted from a vintage Hartford High yearbook)

Connie Johnson, Class of 1923, remembers being very active in sports while attending the high school. He played both basketball and baseball for his 4 years there. He also took part in an informal track team. People remember Connie as a long ball hitter. Rumor has it that Connie hit a ball through one of the high school windows during a ball game.

One story about the high school boys playing baseball in the early 1900's was that they never knew how much of an audience they would have. When they played in Sharon, their spectators would be a few cows and horses who had taken a sudden interest in baseball.

Alfred Guarino, Class of 1932, remembers that he was the first Hartford High School cheerleader. He was in the seventh grade when he started to bring his megaphone to the Gates Opera House and arouse the crowd to cheering Hartford on to victory. He says that his megaphone was larger than he was.

During a parents' visitation night, the lights went out during Latin class. Alfred Guarino, Louis Fucci and Frank Napolitano went along with the recitation as if the lights were on.

Miss Martina van Duesen, who taught Latin and French at the high school for many years, had a favorite story that she often told. During a parents' visitation night, the lights went out while she was conducting Latin class. Alfred Guarino, Louis Fucci and Frank Napolitano went along with the recitation as if

the lights were on. That pleased her no end.

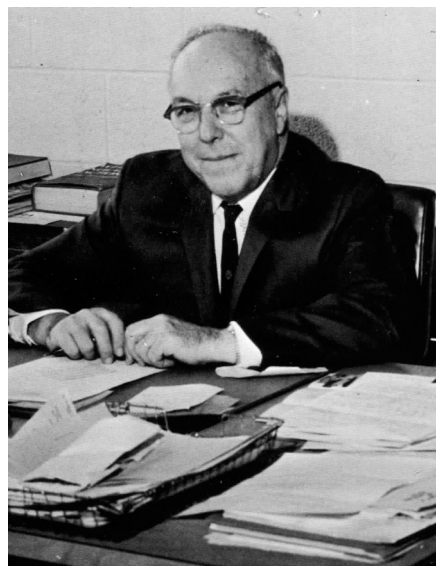
Ralph Falzarano, Class of 1936, remembers well the year 1929 when the Hartford Boys' Basketball Team won the State Championship Tournament. Everyone in town was excited. The boys had travelled on trains for two days to reach Chicago. They had little time to prepare for the game against Kentucky. Many people had gathered in the Gates Opera House. A telephone line from Chicago to the Opera House had been installed. One person listened to the report from Chicago and then reported to the assembled crowd. Kentucky built an early lead, then Hartford began to move up, but the boys were never quite able to overtake Kentucky's early lead.

Bob Blanchard, Class of 1935, has many pleasant memories of his high school days and his participation in high school sports. He recalls the aggressiveness of some players on the girls' basketball team that won the New England Championship in 1927.

Mary Mock Rogers, Class of 1943, remembers with great pleasure the trips to away basketball games such as the ones at Orleans when they rode with Coach John Freitas. The trips were long, but Coach Freitas made them enjoyable.

The present Hartford Village was originally named White River Village. The present Wilder was called Olcott Falls. Dewey's Mills was first named Pine Woods. The present Hartland was originally named Hertford, but the confusion with the name Hartford caused its name to be changed.

The names that the news reports have given the athletic teams of Hartford High School have gone through a number of changes. The earliest references found referred the Hartford players as, "The Flying Dutchmen." That was later shortened to "The Dutchmen." Because the Hartford boys were so small and quick, the papers in the 1930s called them, "The Mighty Midgets." This was later shortened to, "The Midgets."



John P. Gates was born in Ludlow, Vermont, and received his Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a master's degree from the University of Vermont. He served as principal of Hartford High School for sixteen years, until 1969. He then taught math for another five years before retiring to Florida. Mr. Gates passed away in 2000.

Reminder, dues for calendar year 2017 are payable in January!



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THANK YOU!

occurred but Hitler had already occupied Belgium and France and was bombing the United Kingdom. My mother and I, along with other women in town, went to the basement of Gates Library, which in happier times was the site of many Italian weddings.

We would do Bundles for Britain. We would then take our ration books and buy our allotment of coffee, sugar, flour and cocoa and send a part of those items to relatives in Italy. Mussolini, having joined forces with Hitler, made life very difficult for his own people.

The young men torn out of high school by the draft were anxious to make up for the years at war by going to university as soon as possible.

My three older brothers were drafted and served in the Pacific on Okinawa. Only two came home; my oldest brother, Michele was the first of five members of my immediate family to be buried at Arlington oldest brother, Michele was the first of five members of my immediate family to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

When these young men came home, the older ones already with families started businesses, like my uncles. Ponzi's was a favorite Italian restaurant for the Dartmouth students, just up the street and across the border. My Uncle Larry's Town House was also a favorite.

Life after the war was peaceful. Vermonters are stoic folks, but occasionally the Ozzie and Harriet veneer would burst and there would be a divorce, or Chief Connie Johnson or his deputies would be called to Quechee Gorge to find some fellows drunk and hanging one of their pals by the heels over the Gorge!

The young men torn out of high school by the draft were anxious to make up for the years at war by going to university as soon as possible. Many attended UVM, Middlebury, Castleton or other Vermont Colleges. Some, like my brothers, left to go to college out of the state and moved throughout the U.S., starting businesses and families. They always returned home to visit friends and family. Vermont was always on their minds.

In 1959 I left Wilder to finish my college education in New York City and Los Angeles. I was a lecturer in



Guerino Filosa, right, campaigned for the election of Vermont's Governor Gibson.

psychology and a career counselor. I first followed that career in California and then West Africa for many years.

When I married my British husband, Bill, we traveled all over the U.S. while he fulfilled contracts for his company. I had the experience of working with many young people, and I hope that my counseling suggestions helped them to determine their own life work.

The author Thomas Wolfe said that you can't go home again. I know what he meant, but I have a different take. As long as you can remember, you can travel down memory lane any time and as many times as you like, and the event that first spawned your memory will be as fresh as the new day.

While Bill and I are in line at a favorite restaurant, waiting to be seated at our table, we chat with the others also in line. When I am asked where I am from, I say proudly that I was born and raised in Vermont, in a little village called Wilder.

Hartford Historical Society

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HHS Calendar

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

For the months of January through March (excepting holidays) W-F 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. To be sure we are open, check for the flag outside the building or contact us at 296-3132 or at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com. For an appointment, contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 M-F from 9 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETINGS open to the public

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

Second Wednesday of the month - **Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting** at the Town Hall, 4:30 p.m., 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction.

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – “From Straw to Gold,” presented by Susan Cain, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 – Vermont Folk Songs with Dick MacCormack, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Saturday, August 12, 2017 - 7th Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day, 11 a.m-5 p.m. at Lyman Point Park.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 – “The Jericho Community” presented by Sue Camp, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – “Vermont’s Poor Houses” presented by Stephen Taylor, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

The Genealogy Center in the Hartford Library is open Tuesday afternoons from 1-3. Carole Haehnel will be happy to assist you in exploring the resources we have and in accessing information from The Landmark, which we have on microfiche. Ray Fifield is returning, by appointment only, to assist researchers. Just call the library to set it up.