

6th Annual Abenaki and Indigenous People's Honoring Day, August 13 By Martha Knapp

We are holding this event on August 13 this year on the site of an ancient Abenaki village ground, which was a transportation hub and canoeing village even in the 1760's during the first decade of early, non-Native settlement in the Hartford region.

I looked back and the very first one was held on August 13th as well in 2011. Every year, we add something new to our normal Native people's offerings of parts of their traditional culture to share.

I was honored to attend a language class during the winter months, and I learned how to say hello (kwai kwai) and that there is really no word for goodbye. There's only "see you later." It's comforting to understand that when you deal with the death of your

loved ones. We are hoping that this year Abenaki speakers will share more of the language with us. It is such a gift that this ancient language that named the White River (Wôbitekw), the Connecticut River (Kwanitekw), Mount Ascutney (Kaskadenak), Coos (Koes) County in New Hampshire, and so many of our rivers, towns, and special places is being spoken again.

We will have good teachers speaking, drummers singing in the Abenaki language, master bead workers, master basket makers, and masters of ceremony. We will have traders and the Historical Society booth, Main Street Museum table, and a huge potluck feast Abenaki style. I've heard it's bear meat on the grill.



Left, Brent Knapp slicing moose meat in 2015. Top right, sampling Bobbie Noyes' medicinal teas. Above right, display of beadworker Rhonda Besaw.

We're hoping for a sunny day, a big crowd, and for it to be the best one yet! Many people have written the date down on their calendars throughout the year and we especially like to see children at this event. So don't forget, you are invited! It's at Lyman Point Park, from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm. Free and open to the public and donations are greatly appreciated. This is a potluck gathering, so please bring a dish or food to share if possible.



Society to Host Yard and Bake Sale, July 2&3 Garipay House Lawn

Donations may be left at the Garipay House from June 10-30. Please ensure that all items are in clean, salable condition. No clothing or electronics, please. Receipts will go toward the purchase of winter fuel. Volunteers are desperately needed to sort and price the items! Yard sale hours will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday.

From the Chair ...



A Society member gave me an article from a recent issue of the *Manchester Union Leader*, and I thought I'd share these words of advice with our readers.

Today's trend is to go digital with photos and documents. It's convenient, saves space and

provides a convenient way of sharing pictures and information on-line with friends and relatives. However, after you have stored these items digitally, don't toss the originals! Instead, store them in a safe manner to ensure that they will always be available.

As we know all too well, technology is changing at a breathtakingly rapid rate. so what seems new, wonderful and practical today could easily become obsolete a few years down the road. (Think about the



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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. former popularity of eight-track stereo tapes. cassettes and of the computers we've discarded.)

Storing digitally is perfect for viewing items without the necessity of touching them, which could cause damage (oil and dirt from our skin, wrinkling or creasing of paper). Just remember to hang on to those originals to ensure that none of these precious items will be lost to you forever.

The Hartford Historical Society extends deep sympathy to the family of Irene Brockway, who passed away in February. Irene was among the Society's original active members and she will be greatly missed.

See you at the yard sale on July 2 and 3!

Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board



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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Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

Annual Business Meeting and Potluck By Mary Nadeau

Our annual meeting was held on Saturday, May 28 on the back lawn of the Garipay House under the cool shade of the oaks and maples. As with any potluck, there was an amazing variety of delicious food for sharing, and Art Nadeau served up grilled hot dogs while Gaylord Newcity squeezed fresh lemons for lemonade.

We introduced our temporarily appointed officers to the membership. When vacancies occurred, these board members had kindly stepped forward to assume their positions until regular elections could be held. They include Denise McCabe as our Treasurer, Dottie White as our Secretary and Scott Fletcher as editor of the

Society's newsletter. We deeply appreciate the work they do and the value each adds to the Society.

There was a review of the Society's activities over the past year, and the list was quite impressive! Starting with last year's yard sale for the benefit of our winter fuel fund, we moved forward with participation in the Hartford Alumni Day celebration, the Fifth Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day, Glory Days of the Railroad and the first-ever Hartford Village Old Fashioned Christmas event for the young and young at heart.

There were four programs open to the public, each of which was well attended by members of the community and beyond. Our museum director, Martha Knapp, hosted a number of tours for classes from the Hartford elementary schools and the Boy Scouts, and she brought her traveling Abenaki exhibit to classes who were unable to make a field trip to the Garipay House. She also addressed a number of adult groups.

Among our acquisitions were the bell that once hung at the Hartford Woolen Mill and a jail cell removed from the Municipal Building before it was gutted. Our first batch of rag rugs was taken from the 150-year old barn loom on display in the Garipay House basement. The Society received an Award of Merit from the League of Local Historical Societies and Museums, presented by former Governor Jim Douglas, in recognition of "exceptional work done throughout the state in collecting, preserving and sharing Vermont's History." The award was made for the booklet, "The



History of White River Paper Company 1881-2014," by Tammy Ladd. The Society's traveling exhibit on local architect Louis



Sheldon Newton, is currently at the South Royalton Library and will be the focus of the Society's open house on July 10.

We thanked our wonderful volunteers who so generously donate their time and efforts. Every hour of labor is appreciated and contributes to the overall success of the Society.

The following were elected (or re-elected) to the Board of Directors: Denise McCabe, Dottie White, Judy Barwood, Pat Stark and Roy Black. Society officers elected were: President–Susanne Abetti, Vice President–Dan George, Secretary–Dottie White and Treasurer–Denise McCabe.

The name of Brent M. Knapp has been placed on the Society's Honor Roll. Recipients include individuals who have made significant contributions to the Town of Hartford or have intensively contributed to the accomplishment of the goals of the Hartford Historical Society. Brent passed away in March so the presentation of the Honor Roll Certificate was made to his wife, Martha (*at left, above*).

Thank you to all who attended and helped make our annual business meeting a success.

Open House at the Theron Boyd House, July 23 By Mary Nadeau

In response to your many requests, the Hartford Historical Society will sponsor an open house event at the Theron Boyd homestead in Quechee on July 23, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Originally known as the Burtch-Udall Homestead, this unique historic site provides insight into 200 years of Vermont life. The Town of Hartford was still very much on the frontier in 1765 when Benjamin Burtch arrived with his family from Stonington, Connecticut. He acquired a considerable amount of land in what is now Quechee, where he built a log cabin in 1768, soon replaced by a frame house that he ran as a tavern.

William Burtch, Benjamin's son, built what we now locally call the Theron Boyd Homestead. William was a successful merchant, selling among other things medicinal ginseng. In addition to operating a pottery and several potash works and a brickyard, in 1800 he was one of the largest taxpayers in Hartford and had twenty-two people staying at his house. But hard times fell on the Burtch family, and by 1805 the entire farm (about 500 acres) passed to William's prosperous uncle, Samuel Udall. William died that same year, deeding it to his son James, making arrangements for his widow to stay there. James and his wife had ten children over a period of 24 years. He bred Merino sheep, Durham cattle and Morgan horses, plus tried to turn the brickyard into a more prosperous business. He also taught at local schools. Still, he was forced to take out a series of heavy mortgages, and by 1845, the farm was reduced to 200 acres. In 1862 his youngest son, Henry, took it over, selling some of the acreage to local mill owner J. D. Parker.

Henry sold the farm (by then reduced to 35 acres) to his widowed sister Sophia and his sister Lydia's husband, sculptor Henry Kirk Brown. Sophia ran the farm until her death in 1893. In 1898, it was sold at auction to neighbors Mary and Albert Cowdray and their daughter Florence. Theron Boyd (1901-1989) was born in the house; he was Florence's son. Theron was raised by his grandmother, Mary Cowdray and his great uncle, Charles Morgan. After Florence's marriage to Willis Bagley, the couple moved to Lebanon, New Hampshire. Theron continued to live in the house until the 1980s, when, after refusing to sell to the Quechee Lakes Corp., he engaged in a complicated arrangement in exchange for his elderly care that eventually brought the property to the Vermont Land Trust for preservation.



On principle, Theron Boyd, right, never added central heat, electricity or plumbing to the structure.



The two-story timber frame house is in the transitional Georgian/Federal style, one of the few of its kind in the Upper Valley. It was constructed of

local materials, using the bricks made by the Burtches, lumber from their sawmill and imported glass for its 12/12 windows. The only known layer of paint, ochre with white trim, was probably added during William Burch's tenure between 1805 and 1810. James Udall completed the interior, adding transoms and decorative detailing to the exterior doorways and two five-plate stoves to heat the east and west parlors. The brick ell, in Federal Period style, was added in the 1830s, the upper floor of which was burned in a major fire caused by lightning in 1936.

The Cowdrays added a Colonial Revival entry porch on the front of the house, built a picket fence and installed a kitchen sink and a gravity fed water line. Theron Boyd built a sugar house on the property in 1920, but it was destroyed by fire in 2006. The entry porch rotted and fell down in 1942. The barn, constructed around 1786, had partially fallen in by 1989. The Vermont Land Trust hired Jan Lewandoski of Greensboro to dismantle the barn, restore the deteriorated wood and re-erect the barn.

We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to tour the house and obtain a greater understanding of 19th Century construction techniques and lifestyles. The event is free of charge.

West Hartford Program Well Attended By Mary Nadeau

The Society's public program on the history of West Hartford brought in a large, enthusiastic audience to hear historian/author Cameron Clifford. A life-long resident of the village, Cameron has collected an impressive array of historical photographs and maps, some of which had been incorporated into a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate his remarks.

He began by relating the community's 18th Century roots, which began when Thomas Hazen, the first proprietory land owner, received a grant of 1,000 square acres. Upon his death, the land was divided among his 10 children, causing the Hazen name to appear prominently in the early history and development of West Hartford.

During the War of 1812, the nation's protective tariffs helped shift the country from trade to domestic manufacture, and West Hartford grew to become a thriving business community. Those earliest local business

enterprises included a tannery, a cooperage, a general store, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill, a distillery (for making apple brandy) and a facility for the manufacture of potash from wood ashes. The first bridge across the White River was erected in 1820 to replace a fordway near today's Clifford Park. 1830 saw the establishment of the Congregational Church.

The coming of the railroad in 1845 introduced significant changes. Manufacture in the community had faulted during the Panic of 1837, but now farmers could ship their products to the outside world via the railroad and receive the consumer goods that they needed. Two tracks were laid parallel to the White River, and a depot constructed (behind the present general store). Farms prospered, and Cameron sited instances of 104 hogs being shipped out of West Hartford in a single day and 153 rail cars of lumber over a two-week period. However, railroad accidents became commonplace with incidents that involved passengers falling beneath the trains, collisions at railroad crossings and workers hit by on-coming trains, causing a significant number of deaths and injuries.

In 1880, a second general store was built to accommodate the needs of the growing community. A village improvement effort was launched about that time to fight public drinking and drunkenness. Street



Denise McCabe was one of several audience members who sought additional information from speaker Cameron Clifford after the conclusion of the program. Cameron's stepson, who put together the PowerPoint presentation, is in the background. Photo by Chris McKinley.

lights (fueled with oil) were added, a village band was established, a new elementary school was built and the church was raised up and a hall and kitchen added to the new ground floor. In 1882, the State of Vermont prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcohol, and the local distillery was converted into a hotel.

1910 saw the beginning of an influx of displaced people who traveled the roads (the homeless, Civil War Veterans and the foreign born). That period also saw an increase in crime, and special justice courts were set up in the West Hartford hotel.

With the advent of "scientific dairy farming," Jersey cattle were introduced, and records of milk production and testing with an eye to quality became the norm. West Hartford became a dairying neighborhood, and a creamery (located behind the present Arkwright home on Route 14) was established. Operated as a co-op, by 1921 it produced 70,000 pounds of butter a month.

"But," Cameron added, "a new era was dawning, and West Hartford was on the brink of yet another transformation." That subject, will be the topic of a future program. Because he is currently working on a third book, we don't anticipate that the next program will be held in the foreseeable future, but in response to the intense interest expressed in hearing Part II of this story, we have invited Cameron to return at his earliest convenience.

West Hartford Community News As Reported in *The Landmark* By Mary Nadeau

The Landmark was a weekly newspaper published in White River Junction from 1882 through 1952. Many issues are preserved in the society's collection and on microfiche at the Hartford Library.

March 8, 1951

Most retail merchants are complaining about business being slow, but there is one phase of it that is picking up fast and that is the sale of fine-tooth combs and insecticides, with special emphasis on preparations used for the elimination of lice from children's heads. During the past couple of weeks there have been constant reports of head lice

found in the hair of children in this village, and the alleged source of these lice is the old Grammar School in White River Junction. Some of the people who wanted the West Hartford school (*above right*) kept open are loudly proclaiming their belief that the children of this village would not have picked up the head lice and many of the other ailments from which they have suffered had they been allowed to attend the local school.



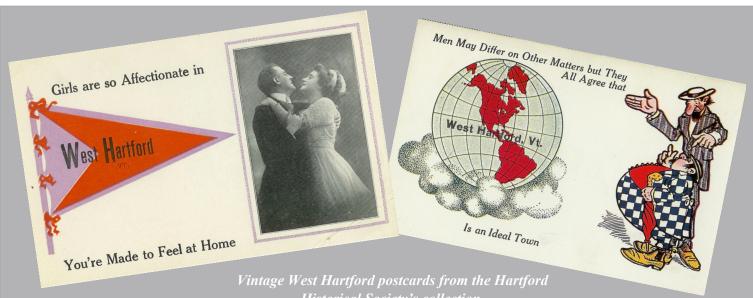
Last Thursday was a busy day at the Clifford Garage with two accidents and the apprehension of a couple of men trying to sell a stolen car, in addition to all the regular activities around the premises. It seems that two Burlington men stopped at the garage and offered



to sell Erwin Clifford a car in remarkably good condition at a suspiciously low price. The driver of the car showed a registration card bearing a name which he said was his own, but when Mr. Clifford asked for his driver's license and other papers showing his identification, he said he had left his wallet containing all his papers at a hotel in White River Junction.

Under the pretext of going to his home to see what was on the menu for dinner, Mr. Clifford phoned the hotel from there and inquired if the man was registered, and he was told that he was not. With his suspicions thus strengthened, Mr. Clifford then called up Burlington and learned that the car had been stolen the night before, then returned to the garage where he found the two men nervously awaiting his decision. It was accentuated by the recent arrival of a member of the State Police to investigate an accident which had happened in front of the garage within the past half hour.

Before Mr. Clifford was able to call the officer's attention to the two men with the stolen car, they drove away rapidly. However, the officer radioed to White River Junction and instructed one of his men to stop the stolen car on its arrival there. The two men were arrested. The moral of the story is this: If you want to sell a stolen car, don't try to interest Erwin Clifford.



Historical Society's collection.

More from *The Landmark*

June 14, 1951

you have any wooden nickels or Confederate bills you

possession of a badly blacked and bloodshot eye, he

October 11. 1951

find out.



Fire Destroys West Hartford Hotel

Former Hartford Town Manager Ralph Lehman Honored By Mary Nadeau

Town Treasurer John Clerkin's presentation, "Remembering Former Hartford Town Manager Ralph Lehman," attracted a large, enthusiastic audience. A gifted speaker, storyteller and humorist, John had everyone listening in rapt attention as he related the details of Ralph's life and of his career as Hartford's Town Manager for thirty-five years. Some of the other hats he wore included "overseer of the poor," the precursor to our welfare system, and in 1971, the Town Manager became responsible for the distribution of food stamps. In 1966 he not only oversaw the construction of the Hartford Pool, but Ralph physically helped to build it after buying and reading a book entitled *Cement*. John pointed out that



the pool, now 45 years old, has survived all this time with only minor repairs. Ralph, according to John, was not only self-taught, but he was fearless and never hesitated to take on a new challenge.

When the interstate system came through, the federal government took land from homeowners, and many existing town staff other than a

Above left, Ralph Lehman. Right, Hiram Allen, former Hartland Town Manager, shares memories after the program with our speaker, John Clerkin. Photo by Chris McKinley.

While sitting in a foxhole in Korea, Ralph chanced upon a discarded copy of *The Reader's Digest*. In it was an article describing a new four-year course offered at the University of Maine on becoming a Town Manager. After reading the article (with bullets whizzing over his head?), Ralph decided that he'd like to pursue that career path when he left the army. A native of Lewiston, Maine, he eventually took the course and earned his bachelor's degree at the university. There happened to be a vacant position in Hartford at the time, and Ralph applied for the job.

Selectmen Joe Reed, Fred Briggs and Byron Hathorn hired Ralph in 1959, and the rest of the story is fascinating history. Ralph oversaw many transitions during his tenure. Urban renewal didn't fly with the voters, nor did the addition of building codes, but by 1968, zoning had started to "come in." Up to the late 1960s, there was no sewage treatment in town; the effluent was simply piped into the river or into a homeowner's septic system. A master "grant getter," Ralph secured funds to build the Wilder sewage plant, our primary facility at the time. roads were cut off. With no staff other than a secretary, Ralph handled all the land transfer negotiations himself. Around 1970 when a corporation wanted to acquire 5,000-6,000 acres to build Quechee Lakes (even though there was no lake in Quechee at the time), Ralph, with no planner or zoning administrator, acted alone to make it happen. Later Ralph founded the League of Vermont Cities and Towns and served as its president.

In the meantime, he earned a master's degree in environmental science from Antioch College. By 1971, he recognized the pressing need for an Assistant Town Manager, and John Clerkin, newly graduated from UVM, was hired. John recalled that Ralph's philosophy of management included: Don't lie. Don't judge other people. Don't ask somebody to do what you wouldn't do yourself. Don't speak ill of others. Let it rest (don't be hasty in making decisions).

After retiring as Hartford's Town Manager, Ralph Lehman went on to represent Hartford in the Vermont legislature. He passed away earlier this year.



Progress on the Jericho Schoolhouse Project By Robert Fraser, President of the Jericho Community Club

The restoration project for the Jericho Schoolhouse is quickly taking shape after a long, but successful, fund raising campaign. The Jericho Community Club has contracted with Knob Hill Joinery of Plainfield, Vermont, to begin work this summer to restore the foundation and flooring system of the former oneroom schoolhouse.

Detailed restoration will bring the foundation, sill and floor timbers safely back to life so we can take on the next phases of the rejuvenation such as exterior painting, appropriate entry stairs, electrical updates and interior detail work. In coordination with the structural work will be a local excavating company updating the drainage system.

Starting in July, 2016, this one-room schoolhouse will again become the focal point of the Jericho District. The ball is rolling toward much needed repairs and restoration, but we still need help and support. Donations toward the restoration are very much appreciated and can be made through the Hartford Historical Society.

Hartford Historical Society Honor Roll

Collamer Martin Abbott Harry A. Black Henry F. Black Fred E. Bradley Guerino Filosa Rosaline Falzarano Filosa John W. St. Croix Annie Morris Stevens William Howard Tucker Alfonso Guarino Alfred Guarino Dorothy Mock Jones Ralph Lehman Frank Mahady Mary E. Nadeau

Dorothy Whitney Yamashita Deborah Doyle-Schectman Helen Aher Robert and Georgia Plattner Brent M. Knapp



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Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

Curator's Corner

By Pat Stark

It's summer vacation, wedding, graduation and reunion time. Undoubtedly you will be taking a lot of photos. Are they worth keeping? Will you enjoy looking at them 20 years from now? Will your children ask what Grandma looked like when she was younger? Whatever the reason we take photos, some of them are important enough to preserve by printing them out. Here are some valuable "Dos and Don'ts."

To be useful, all pictures should have as much information connected with them as possible. Consider every photo a "who, what, when, where and why" story. The more information that is attached, the more useful such material will be in the future.

Writing on the back of pictures can be dangerous! Ink can bleed through to the front or transfer to the

The more information that is attached, the more useful such material will be leave visible in the future.

face of another photo. Pencil or ballpoint pen pressure can ridges on the face of the picture.

Sometimes putting information on an outside, labeled envelope (preferably acid-free) and placing the photo inside is a good way to prevent damage or separation of the picture from the information. Paper clips, staples and rubber bands are also dangerous to use with photographs. And never use tape on the face of a photo. If damaged, place a photo in a see-through envelope or zip-bag to avoid further damage.

But the most dangerous thing is to NOT print and label these photos! Whether you put them into an album or in a shoebox, if they are labeled, they can be enjoyed for many years to come.

Remember, too, that if you have labeled photos of Hartford residents, places and events, we would love to have them (or scan them and return them to you) for our collections.

At right are photos from our collection showing the Barwood Farm in the 1920s.

Stories About Horace Cone Pease?

Does anyone have personal recollections or stories handed down from parents about Horace Cone Pease, whose home became the location for the Hartford Elks Club? If you have information to share, please contact Mary Nadeau at 295-2123 or vtgram3@gmail.com.

July-August 2016







Is Your Mailing Label Yellow?

If so, it's time to renew your membership in the Hartford Historical Society. Your support is vital to us. Please take care of this at your earliest convenience and help us celebrate the past, present, and future of the Hartford community.

Hartford Historical Society

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This newsletter is in color thanks to **Susan and Don Foster**

HHS Calendar

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

(excepting holidays) M-F 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. <u>or by appointment</u>. 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. Note special summer open house events listed below.

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.

Saturday & Sunday, July 2-3, 2016 – Hartford Historical Society Yard Sale at the Garipay House, 10-3 on Saturday, 10-1 on Sunday.

Sunday, July 10, 2016 – Open House at the Garipay House, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Exhibit and presentation, **"Louis Sheldon Newton: Architect Extraordinaire of Vermont"** by Martha Knapp.

Saturday, July 23, 2016 – Open House at the Theron Boyd Home in Quechee, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 13, 2016 – Sixth Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day at The Point in White River Junction from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Potluck donations appreciated.

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – Arming America: Vermont Gunmakers and the Technology that Shaped America by Carrie Brown (sponsored by the Vermont Speakers Bureau) 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Saturday, September 17, 2016 – Glory Days of the Railroad in White River Junction.

Wednesday, November 8, 2016 – Growing Up in Wilder by Roy Black, 7:00 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.