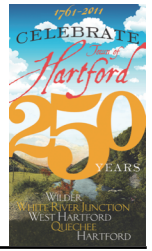




# Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 30, No. 4

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July-August 2017

## Women's Organizations Connected with the Hartford Library, Part 3

*By Mary Nadeau*

By 1938, the Hartford Woman's Club continued to meet during the afternoon hours, since most women of the era didn't work outside the home. The club constitution provided for four committees (Program, Social, Library, and Finance) and stated that, "The object of the club is to meet together for mutual pleasure and profit and to make and keep the local library a community asset." Annual dues were \$1.50.

Members were identified according to whom they had married. So we read about the activities of Mrs. John Smith, rather than Jane Smith. This trend continued in the secretaries' accounts until the 1950s. It's a safe bet that this wouldn't fly today!

Kate Morris Cone, founder of the original women's group to meet at the Hartford Library back in 1893, still came on occasion to give piano concerts. Music appears to have been a popular option, and the minutes mention frequent "vocal numbers" and violin, cello and saxophone solos.

Program themes in 1939 included, "The Golden Rule," "Self-Improvement," "Social Conscience," "Spiritual Growth," and "International Relations." The rise of Nazi German had become a frequent focus of



*The Hartford Library was dedicated in 1893.*

concern. Community improvement was emphasized, and one program topic was, "The Relative Merits of Local Methods of Garbage Disposal." Thrift was encouraged, and during one meeting the women explored, "things that can be made out of flour sacks." Another program that year featured a "Then and Now" fashion show with models showing costumes dating from 1700 through 1939 with style trends that

*Continued on page 4.*



## Seventh Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day

*Celebrate the culture of Hartford's first inhabitants*

Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Lyman Point Park.  
Experience the culture of Hartford's original residents.

## Editor's Note . . .

Summer Greetings to the Hartford Historical Society members and all those who thrive on history! I am pleased to introduce myself as the new editor of the Hartford Historical Society's bimonthly newsletter, so in that vein I will let you know a little about who I am.

I moved to the Upper Valley in 1996 for a work opportunity at one of our well-known non-profit organizations. History has been a recreational pursuit and an academic interest of mine since childhood; I remember many historical sites my family visited on our journey to our new home in New Hampshire when I was four years old, some I never saw again until adulthood. I completed a minor in history as part of my undergraduate degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

I often relate with a chuckle that if I like history, then I sure married into the correct family. I married a native Vermonter whose late mother's family moved

to Hartford in the 1770's and whose late father is a native Vermonter like his son. I joined the Hartford Historical Society soon after joining my spouse's family, but enough about me.

A heartfelt note of gratefulness I extend on behalf of all our newsletter readers to Mary Nadeau who has stepped down from editing the Society's newsletter after many years.

Summer is an active time at our Society. Be sure not to miss our grand Yard Sale, the Ice Cream Social, and the Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day all taking place when the days are long! We look forward to visiting with you at one of our events and be sure to bring items to us at the Garipay House for the annual Yard Sale before Saturday, July 8.

*Gwen L. Tuson, Editor*



## Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

[info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com)

802-296-3132

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Mary Nadeau—Recording Secretary	802-295-2123
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Gwen Tuson	802-296-8233

<b>Curator/Archivist</b>	Pat Stark	802-295-3077
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Gwen Tuson	802-296-8233
<b>Graphic Design</b>	Scott Fletcher	310-227-3147
<b>Membership</b>	Martha Knapp	802-295-2713
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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.

# Historical Society Holds its Annual Business Meeting and Honors Museum Director Martha Knapp

By Mary Nadeau

The Society's annual meeting was held on Saturday, May 27, on the back lawn of the Garipay House. As a change of pace, the board had decided to make it a "dessert pot luck," and members arrived bearing an impressive array of homemade treats. Everyone tried to sample at least a small portion of each dessert before casting a vote for his or her favorite dish. Bridget Baker's mile-high apple pie won the contest hands' down, and she was presented with the prize of a basket heaped with donated King Arthur baking products and other gift items.

In recognition of countless hours of dedicated service to the Society, Board Directors were proud to add the name Martha Knapp to the Hartford Historical Society's Honor Roll. Martha was inducted into the

**Martha has graciously put her time and professional expertise to good use transforming the Garipay House into the wonderful museum that we have today.**

Society's Honor Roll with a special presentation by Chairwoman of the Board Mary Nadeau.

Martha, without question, has been the backbone of the Society for many years. She came to us after retiring from a lengthy career with the National Park Service at the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish,

New Hampshire. Since becoming a Society member, Martha has graciously donated her time and put her professional expertise to good use and transformed the Garipay House into the wonderful museum that we have today. The Board of Directors surprised Martha with this honor presentation after the business meeting.

Martha has obtained grants over a number of years. The grant funds resulted in the repair of the building's slate roof and the installation of extensive upgrades to the electrical and plumbing systems, the renovation of the first-floor bathroom, the replacement of the antiquated heating system with a modern, energy efficient one, and the expansion of the museum into formerly wasted space in the basement.

Martha's enthusiasm knows no bounds. She works with museum volunteers, creates displays, adds appropriate signage to explain a display's significance to our town's history, and conducts tours for both adults and children who come to visit. She arranges the Society's participation in the Vermont History Expo, Hartford's Community Day, Glory Days of the Railroad, Hartford Alumni Day, open house events held periodically at the Therron Boyd Homestead in Quechee, and she volunteers to attend seminars and workshops on a variety of museum-related topics. Martha plays a major role in organizing the annual Hartford Village Old Fashioned Christmas, and she partners with the



Director Martha Knapp (top) received induction into the Hartford Historical Society's Honor Roll at the 2017 Annual Meeting for her time and expertise. An award-winning apple pie can't go uneaten! The pie was enjoyed by members present at the Society's 2017 Annual Meeting.

Continued on page 8.

included the “bell, bustle and tubular designs.” The modeling was accompanied by piano selections of music popular during the historical periods represented.

For a period of years after 1940, the club secretaries recorded the month and day of the meetings, but not the year. Much of the handwriting was difficult to decipher, and some of the ink has started to fade. Several years are missing from the Historical Society’s collection, so we skip ahead to 1958.

The years 1958 and 1959 brought an increased concern for the disadvantaged. Fundraising activities were held to send CARE packages overseas and to donate to Radio Free Europe. A clothing drive was

held for children in Appalachia. Support for the library became a high priority, and fundraisers were held to pay for upgrades to

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***When the librarian resigned, club members took over the task of running the library.***

the library’s lighting and to have additional electric outlets installed.

During the 1960s, members took on the task of cataloging the library’s book collection with help and guidance from Baker Library in Hanover. The sum of \$400 was appropriated to have the library floors sanded and refinished. A special fundraiser called for each member to bring in a penny representing each year of her life, and proceeds went to the Children’s Aid Drive. Other activities included knitting mittens to be distributed by the school nurse to disadvantaged children and visits to the residents at Hillside Manor Nursing Home in Hartford Village. Occasional joint activities were held with the Wilder Woman’s Club, the White River Junction Loyal Club, and the Fortnightly Club of West Lebanon.

Again, there is a gap in our records, so we jump ahead to the year 1979. That year the club began holding its evening meetings on the first floor to conserve heat, and funds were raised for storm windows. When the librarian resigned, club members took over the task of running the library.

By the 1980s, the club was stressing environmental awareness, and members looked for ways to conserve water and energy. (At some point, meetings were

moved back upstairs.) Members were encouraged to write letters to their state legislators to protest “welfare cuts.” Programs were held on topics such as “The Basics of Child CPR” and “The Use of Child Restraints and Seatbelts.” They partnered with the Cascadnac Grange to have a sign made to put on the library lawn (apparently people had a difficult time finding the unmarked library building). Cookbooks containing 200 recipes from members and friends were printed with financial assistance from local businesses that purchased ads to offset the cost. The fundraiser was successful, and copies of this and another Woman’s Club cookbook are included in the Society’s permanent collection. Also during the 1980s, the club established a children’s reading corner in the front room of the library at a cost of \$300 and purchased and donated a TV and a VCR.

The main project for 1989 was “Sprucing Up the Library” in partnership with the newly formed group, Friends of the Hartford Library. (Unfortunately, the latter group lasted for only a few years before disbanding.) During this period the Woman’s Club continued its philanthropic activities, making donations to the Special Olympics, The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, The Haven, the Hartford Community Meals Program, and various other causes.

Some of the Hartford club members were very active on the state level, and several served as state officers. Unfortunately, during this period rumblings of a decline in membership appear repeatedly in the minutes. Some long-time members had to resign because they were no longer able to negotiate the long staircase leading to the second floor of the library. In addition, more and more women had begun working outside the home, and their evenings were taken up with the preparation of family meals, supervising their children’s homework, and attending sports and other school events, leaving little time and energy for outside activities.

The club remained very active during the 1990s, although the number of club members continued to decrease. Yet, the good works continued. In 1991, \$500 was donated for the repair of the porch floor. When the library commemorated its 100th anniversary in 1993, members acted as event hostesses, serving homemade cookies and lemonade. In 1996, each member was asked to raise \$32 to cover the cost of sending one underprivileged child to the Hartford Recreation Department’s summer day camp program

*Continued on page 8.*



## 7th Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day, August 12, 2017

*By Martha Knapp*

All are invited to join our family event for fun, culture and sharing on Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Lyman Point Park. There will be stories from the Abenaki elders and lessons from the drum. Many native craftspeople will be demonstrating and teaching their skills. Come savor the big barbecue feast, and pot luck banquet for all. The Historical Society brings the corn and beverages. Generally many people bring food for the pot luck. Everyone gets a chance to visit with one another and enjoy this special day.

Mark the date on your calendar. (Rain date would be Sunday, if necessary.) Lyman Point Park is located beside the Town Hall in White River Junction. This Hartford town park is located at the historic site of an Abenaki Canoe Village from the 1760s.

Supporting this event are The Hartford Historical Society, the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department, the Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions (with support from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation), and the Vermont Fish and Game Department. Hope you plan to spend time at this pleasant learning experience where the Abenaki people share their culture with everyone who wants to learn more about it. Native traditions, although sometimes overlooked, are a rich and inspiring part of our local history.

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from the Abenaki elders  
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teaching their skills.***

*The event will take place at Lyman Point Park, which was the site of an Abenaki canoe village in the 1760s.*

# Discovering Quechee's Secret Treasures

By Mary Nadeau

Gary Neil, owner of Quechee Gorge Village on Route 4, recently invited members of the Hartford Historical Society's board of directors for a special private tour of his antique toy museum located on the second floor above the emporium. It was quite a voyage of discovery!

Tall glass fronted cases display some of the thousands of toys by decade, while others are arranged according to genre. We began our tour by viewing some early toys, such as 1870s cap guns and banks (commonly presented to children at birth by their



***We began our tour by viewing some early toys, such as 1870s cap guns and banks (commonly presented to children at birth by their parents' banking institutions).***

parents' banking institutions). While most of us barely remembered the 1940s era toys, fond memories came flooding back as we

discovered later treasures from our childhoods and those of our children.

Some of the categories represented in Gary's displays include magic sets, matchbox cars, cooking toys, dolls of all eras, cars and trucks, home arcade games, robots, Star Trek and other space toys, wind-up toys, battery-operated toys (which first appeared after World War II), bath toys, yo-yos, tops, GI Joes, and toy guns (including water guns, cap guns, rifles, rubber band guns and BB guns).

There are collections of toys including board games, comic books, the Halloween costumes that our mothers bought for us at Woolworths and even an extensive collection of PEZ dispensers. Collector



*Gary Neil (top) delights in giving board members a comprehensive tour of the Quechee Gorge Toy Museum. Art Nadeau (above) took particular delight in the toy guns, recalling that he and his brother used to "shoot at each other with BB guns"! Gary's collection includes a number of hobby horses (above right) powered by kids and their imagination in a simpler time. Gary has recreated this view of Rutland (below right) with railroad tracks running through the city.*



***In the center of the hall sits a huge glass-enclosed model with sections representing Killington, Pico, Rutland and Proctor. Twenty-four thousand tiny trees were painstakingly installed to construct the model.***



card displays include baseball teams, movie stars and Pokémon.

Other collection genres include toys obtained inside cereal boxes, inside Cracker Jack, and by mailing in box tops. There is an amazing display of 1,100 themed lunch boxes, often with their matching thermos containers.

Soon Gary plans to add videos showing TV commercials from the 1950s and 1960s featuring their familiar catchy jingles.

In the center of the hall sits a huge glass-enclosed model with sections representing Killington, Pico, Rutland and Proctor. Twenty four thousand tiny trees were painstakingly installed to construct the model. A miniature working railroad winds its way through the display.

After fifteen years of researching and collecting toys that American kids played with for over a hundred years, Gary is nearly ready to open the museum to the general public. The tours will be self-guided with the aid of explanatory signage. The toy museum will be open seven days a week with a modest entry fee when it has its opening. Gary's motivation in creating the museum is to help us find joy in recalling a "simpler time."



Member Bridget Baker won our Dessert Pot Luck for her "Mile High Apple Pie" at our Society's Annual Meeting May 27, 2017.

Hartford Library to put on other public service events throughout the year. Her illustrated program on architect Louis Sheldon Newton has been presented at a number of venues.

A recognized expert on all things Abenaki, she has assembled an informative display about Vermont's earliest inhabitants. Local classroom teachers are invited to bring their students to the museum on field trips, and for the benefit of those who

can't travel to the Garipay House, Martha made a portable display that enables her to bring the story of the Abenaki people to their classrooms. She is also a

principal organizer of the Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day held in White River Junction every August.

Several years ago, Martha supervised the moving of our barn loom into a dedicated space in the basement, had it reassembled and the missing or broken parts rebuilt. She then invited a professional weaver to teach staff member Kristy O'Meara how to make rugs on it.

In addition, she regularly contributes articles to the Society's newsletter and has written several educational booklets, including a history of the Abenaki in Vermont. They are offered for sale in the museum's gift shop.

The Annual Meeting business agenda included the election the Society's officers: Chairman - Pat Stark, President - Martha Knapp, Vice President - Susanne Abetti, Secretary - Mary Nadeau, Treasurer - Donna Youngman, Assistant Treasurer - Peggy McDerment. Gwen Tuson and Robin Adair Logan were elected to serve on the board, and current board members Dan George, Peggy McDerment and Gaylord Newcity were re-elected to their positions.

Special recognition was given to retiring board members Carole Haehnel, Secretary Lorna Ricard, Dottie White, and Treasurer Denise McCabe. Thanks to everyone who spent the afternoon with us!

### *Women's Organizations Connected with the Hartford Library. Continued from page 1.*

by participating in a club-sponsored walk-a-thon. Every December, members gathered before Christmas to decorate shoe boxes with Christmas wrap. The boxes were then filled with baked goods, candy, and fruit and delivered to shut-ins or people who appeared to have a weak support system of family and friends.

By 2012, our local Woman's Club was one of only twelve remaining in Vermont and attempts to attract new members by offering a variety of quality programs at the meetings met with little success. With so few participating, long-time fundraisers such as the annual pie sale held at the Grand Union the day before Thanksgiving had to be abandoned and replaced with activities as food sales and occasional raffles.

After some often contentious debate, members voted to withdraw from the state organization and form an independent club. The principal reason for this move was that two-thirds of the money raised through dues and fundraisers was owed to the Vermont Federation, and the majority of members wanted the flexibility of deciding how club money was to be used. A new set

of bylaws was written, and the name was changed to the Hartford Women's Club. Its primary goal was the support of the Hartford Library with consideration given to other worthy local causes.

The Women's Club limped along for several years, but eventually declining membership had become a major issue. At some monthly meetings, only two or three women were present. In 2014, a fundraising project was launched for the purpose of making badly needed repairs to the library's doors and surrounding framework. It was met with apparent enthusiasm. The necessary funds were quickly raised and the work completed. However, in the aftermath, none of the library's patrons showed any interest in actually joining the new organization, so the difficult decision to abandon the effort was made. After 121 years of operating under various names, the women's clubs meeting at the Hartford Library had succumbed to the times. In 2015, funds remaining in the treasury were handed over to the Hartford Library's trustees, and the club's artifacts, which consisted largely of club records, dishes and lovely serving pieces, were donated to the Hartford Historical Society.



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## Second Annual Ice Cream Social, August 19

*By Martha Knapp*

Remember lawn croquet as a child? How about three-legged races and sack races? Well, relive your childhood and bring your children, grandchildren, even your neighbors' children! We are happy to announce that we are holding the second annual Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 19 from 1-4 p.m. at the Garipay House. Please let the children know about it and squeeze them, legally, into your automobile or horse-drawn cart and bring 'em to the games!

The Ice Cream Social will be chock full of games; modern and historical at the beautiful Garipay House lawn area. Croquet and Corn Hole will return from 2016, as well as sack races, three legged races, and jump roping events all instructed by Nadine Hodgdon. Look for bubbles, checkers, hula hoops, and more.

Nadine Hodgdon called me last year and told me of an idea. We had just had a very successful partnership with our Old Fashioned Village Christmas in December 2015, so I was all ears. She called this new event idea The Ice Cream Social, and told me it was a summer event for the kids. We offered Croquet which turned out to be the most popular game that day. A Corn Hole set, provided by Dan George, gave us the opportunity to teach the kids a new game. From the young to the elders, we all had so much fun!

Nadine named this new event "the Ice Cream Social" and suggested that it could be our summer event for the children and we could hold it on the beautiful back yard at the Garipay House. It turned out to be the perfect location. We had enough room for all of the events and the ice cream and lemonade table. The day was stifling hot but our lovely trees provided delightful shade.



*Nadine Hodgdon holds the rope steady for children to complete the steps to perform the Chinese Jump Rope activity.*



## What Event Attracts Hundreds of People Each Year?

*It's the annual Hartford Historical Society Yard Sale on July 8-9!*

Plan now to visit the Garipay House and help support your favorite repository of local history, culture, and good cheer. Hours for the sale are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday. Donations for the sale can be dropped off any time on the back porch (No clothing or electronics, please.) We are seeking clean, salable items. We could use volunteers to help sort and price. Thanks!

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



## “Hats Off” to Our Local Business Supporters!

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*Hartford Historical Society*  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

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Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

THANK YOU!

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*Hartford Historical Society*  
**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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THANK YOU!

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## Curator's Corner

*By Pat Stark*

As we continue to pursue obtaining a larger space to accommodate our growing collections, I am very pleased that Judy Barwood has been able to obtain some metal shelving from the Vermont Historical Society for use in our future home. Whatever happens, this will be invaluable for housing our collections in an appropriate manner.

Recently we received two vintage dolls that had belonged to Caroline Latham Wallace. They are in wonderful condition and a great addition to our collections. Thanks to Denise Choquette for donating these family heirlooms!

Donations continue to come in that enhance our knowledge of Hartford's History and her citizens. These include an early 1800's account book from the Newton Family, dolls from the same era, photographs of the former Miller farm, and Martha Knapp's library of books pertaining to Native Americans. Thanks to you we are able to grow and expand the collection for the benefit of future generations!

*This doll belonged to Caroline Latham Wallace and was donated to the Hartford Historical Society by Denise Choquette.*



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## Update from the Capital Campaign Committee

*By Judy Barwood*

The Historical Society is still in the negotiation phase of purchasing the former Horace Pease House/Elks property at 14 Elk Street, in Hartford Village. The property would be used to house and preserve our extensive collections, provide spaces for exhibits and our museum, as well as serving as a community center for the village of Hartford and the entire Town of Hartford.

The Capital Campaign is in the "Quiet Phase" with potential donors being contacted by members of the committee and the Board. Bob Barr of Barr Associates LLC in Enfield, NH, has been retained to assist in making this campaign a success. The Jack & Dorothy Bryne Foundation has pledged \$100,000 after the initial \$400,000 is raised.

Richard Daniels has asked that we give him an indication as to the success of the campaign by mid-July so that he can market the property if we are unable to purchase it. It is hoped that a partnership with the Hartford Library is possible and is being pursued. Local prominent families in the history of the Town of Hartford are being contacted in hopes that they are interested in preserving the history of their families and businesses. Several naming opportunities are available such as exhibit rooms, garden, reception areas, and even the entire building would be named for a large donor!

We welcome your assistance and input in this exciting project. Please contact me or Martha Knapp at the Historical Society. See the contact information on page two of the newsletter.



## Hartford Historical Society

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## HHS Calendar

### **OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House**

Until further notice, the Garipay House Museum is open to the public Wednesday through Friday each week from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. To be sure that we are open, look for the flag outside the building or contact us at 802 296-3132. For an appointment, contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 M-F from 9 a.m.–4 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 Pat Stark at 295-3077.

### **PROGRAMS**

**Saturday, July 8 & Sunday, July 9, 2017** – Annual Yard Sale at the Garipay House 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

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

**Saturday, August 19, 2017** - 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social, 1-4 p.m. at the Garipay House.

**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 p.m.. 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 can assist researchers. Just call the library to set it up.