

The Hazen Family Settles in Hartford By Barbara Hazen

What would you say if your spouse sent word that he or she was setting up housekeeping in another state and you could close up and sell the house and move the family—the ten children who were still at home ranging in age from three to 22 years—by ferry and horse cart 175 miles to the new home? Family tradition has it that Ann Tenney Hazen did this to her husband Thomas Hazen III in the early 1770s.

The Hazen's oldest son Joshua had moved to Hartford to settle land his father had given him in 1770. Joshua's second child was born in Hartford in 1772. His mother Ann went for a visit and declared she wasn't returning to Connecticut. She had long feared that one of her sons might choose a sea faring career, so settling in this wilderness was definitely preferable. It is thought that Joshua's younger brother Asa also moved to Hartford prior to the arrival of the rest of the family.

In the pre-Revolutionary War days, the provinces of New Hampshire and New York both claimed the territory that would eventually become Vermont. New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth started laying out plots for townships west of the Connecticut River while Governor Cadwallader Colden of New York asked King George III to grant New York's claim to this same land, which he did.

Into this discord came a group of settlers from Lebanon and Windham, Connecticut, encouraged by the Strong brothers and lead by John Baldwin who



The Hazen homestead on Christian Street, built in 1775, is still in the Hazen family. Originally a sheep farm, generations of Hazens later raised dairy cows and beef cattle. The property was rebuilt after a fire in 1963 and is now an equestrian facility.

undertook to establish and settle the town of Hartford. In 1768, Thomas Hazen III, a landowner in Connecticut, purchased some land in the township from one of the original proprietors, most likely as a land speculation. This is the land he later gave to Joshua.

Continued on page 6.



Devil's Cabinet: The Eddy Family of Spirit Mediums *Presented by Jason Smiley*

Wednesday April 8, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

From the Editor . . .

Wondering what to do with a pile of wood ash from the fireplace? Many early Hartford residents soaked it in water, poured off and boiled the liquid, and sold the residue known as potash. This was a cash crop in frontier America—used to make soap, dye, glass, gunpowder, and other things. Still widely used as fertilizer, potash was exported as America's first industrial chemical. Remnants of potash production can be seen at the Theron Boyd house in Quechee.

This issue we welcome an article from Barb Hazen who is helping to preserve her family's notable history in Hartford. Barb was raised on the Hazen homestead on Christian Street, which is currently owned by her brother. This issue, she looks back at family patriarch Thomas Hazen III who brought his family here in 1774. Thomas gave each of his children 120 acres in Hartford, which we plotted on a map on page 6.

We also take a look back at November's fascinating program on Quechee and look ahead to a spooky April program on the Eddy family of Chittenden.

Hartford Notes

• Former President Herbert Hoover paid a brief visit to Hartford in 1935 as part of a four-day trip to Vermont and New Hampshire. Automobile dealer Garfield Miller of White River Junction took Hoover to Lake Lakota near Barnard where the avid angler caught his limit—including a 15-inch trout over two pounds. The next morning, Hoover caught 22 brook trout. In the afternoon, they fished at Lake Mitchell Trout Club in Sharon where Hoover caught 18 trout.

• Leonard Hazen was born in Hartford in 1819 and Lois Crandall was born here the following year. They married in 1842 and lived on the farm where Leonard was born for 57 years. Leonard and Lois were active in the Dothan Church until it disbanded and they joined the Hartford Congregational Church. In 1899, they became ill and Lois died on February 11. Leonard died two days later and they share a grave in the Christian Street Cemetery.

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. Our thanks to Cub Scout Pack #232 Wolf Den and their families who descended on the Garipay House on November 5 to rake and bag ALL the leaves in our yard. Refreshments were served when the work



was done and everyone seemed to have a great time. We are very happy to once again see grass in the yard!

We are happy to announce that the HHS Yard Sale will return this year on July 18. Please keep us in mind if you have any nice, clean items to contribute.

Finally, please check your mailing label to see if it's time to renew your membership. If so, please use the convenient PayPal form on our website.

Scott Fletcher, Editor



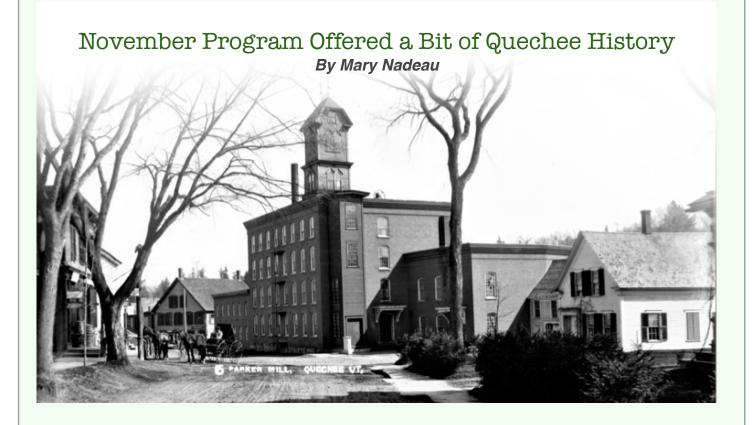
Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547 http://www.hartfordhistory.org info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com 802-296-3132

Board Members and Officers

board Members a	nd Officers	
Judy Barwood-Preside	ent	802-295-2435
Roy Black-Vice-Presi	dent	802-295-0608
Pat Stark—Secretary		802-280-2221
Peggy McDerment-Tr	easurer	802-295-2357
Gaylord Newcity-Boa	rd Chairman	802-296-2269
Lannie Collins-Board	Member	802-356-3883
Pat Rondeau-Board M	Iember	603-675-6612
Program Director	Mary Nadeau	802-295-2123
Museum Director	Vacant	
Curator/Archivist	Pat Stark	802-280-2221
Newsletter Editor	Scott Fletcher	310-227-3147
Print & Web Design	Scott Fletcher	310-227-3147
Volunteer	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974
Long Range Planning	Judy Barwood	802-295-2435
Cemetery/Snow Plow	Art Peale	802-295-6100
GenCenter Director	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974
Genealogist	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974

Hartford Historical Society Newsletter



On November 13, 2019, Jay Barrett, local architect, historian and author, gave a richly-illustrated presentation entitled, "A Bit of Quechee History, Including Dewey's Mills and the Woodstock Railway," for one of our regularly scheduled quarterly programs. Quechee, one of the six original villages in the Town of Hartford (including the once prosperous Dewey's Mills), was one of the earliest areas of Hartford to be settled due to the abundance of waterpower provided by the Ottauquechee River.

Because of the length of the program and the vast amount of information presented, only a brief overview appears below. Those who were unable to attend may wish to purchase one of the books that Jay put together, containing all the photos and their accompanying captions. The cost is \$20. In addition, DVDs of the program may be ordered through the Society for \$10. There are still a few puzzles depicting the original Quechee Railroad Bridge for sale at \$15 each. Call or email the society to make arrangements for pickup.

Many of the photographs in Jay's presentation were taken from glass negatives stored at Dartmouth College; the majority of which had never before been viewed by the general public. The photographer was George Fellows, who had a studio in White River Junction. Between 1905 and the "late teens," Mr. Fellows took numerous photographs of the area during the weekends and published them as postcards. During this era, sending postcards was widely popular. The remaining images came from Jay's personal collection or from the archives of the Hartford Historical Society.

Because the Ottauquechee River offers a good source of waterpower at the falls, Quechee Village was settled early in Hartford's history. The narrowing of the river at this point permitted the construction in 1769 of the first covered wooden bridge connecting the northern and southern portions of the village. By 1769, Quechee had a sawmill, and in 1774 a gristmill was added at the falls. Between 1807 and 1813, Elisha Marsh and Eleazar Harwood developed what would later become a substantial textile mill complex. However, a spring freshet in 1869 collapsed some of the buildings into the river.

The large mill building in the center of Quechee was built by Joseph C. Parker in 1858 and demolished in 1964. The photographer was George Fellows who opened a studio in White River Junction in 1905.

Continued on page 4.

Quechee History continued from page 3.

In 1858, Joseph C. Parker developed a second mill complex on the site. Jay included many photos of the mill's expansion and added some interesting interior shots showing both men and women at work. Changing hands in later years, the property became known as the Harris-Emery Mill. After the owners closed the mill in 1951, the property fell into a state of rapid disrepair. In 1962, John Cone and William Dewey purchased the property, but nothing was ever done with it so, in 1964, most of the buildings were demolished due to safety concerns. Jay noted with regret that these events occurred just "a couple of years" before the dawning of an era of saving and repurposing old buildings.

Joseph Parker's mansion still sits beside his former mill complex. Designed in the French Second Empire Style, no expense was spared to create an elegant home. However, as ownership changed and years passed, neglect set in, and during the mid-1960s, the

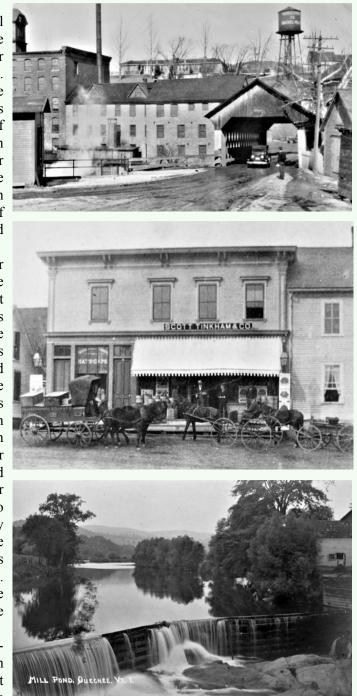
The Italianate-style Tinkham Block was constructed about 1875 across the street from the mill complex to provide space for a village store and post office. Restoration is being planned, and the planning committee was greatly encouraged by the discovery that the building still contains its original woodwork and leaded glass windows.

structure was heavily damaged by fire. The Ouechee Lakes Corporation purchased it in 1968 for \$20,000 and then put another \$100,000 into painstakingly restoring the house to its former glory. Today it's the Parker House Restaurant.

The Italianatestyle Tinkham

Block was constructed about 1875 across the street from the mill complex to provide space for a village store and post office. A major restoration is being planned, and the planning committee was greatly encouraged by the discovery that the building still contains its original woodwork and leaded glass windows.

Dewey's Mills were constructed downstream on the Ottauquechee River by Albert Galatin Dewey, who was born in Hartford in 1815. His first mill, built at the head of Quechee Gulf in 1836, produced a material known as "shoddy" out of repurposed wool.



The first mill in Quechee was built by Elisha Marsh and Eleazar Harwood between 1803 and 1813. Early in the Twentieth Century, the complex was known as the Harris-Emery Mill. Middle, the Tinkham Block across from the mill as it appeared in about 1880. Bottom, Quechee Mill Pond. An open bridge was built at this location in 1769. It was replaced with Quechee's first covered bridge in 1803.



Dewey's Mills, above, flourished with the demand for uniforms during the Civil War. At right, passengers at the Quechee Station of the Woodstock Railroad.

During the early years of operation, the mill struggled, but during the Civil War Era, production boomed and the site expanded with the desperate need for Union Soldier uniforms. The area surrounding the mill was transformed into a local community, complete with a post office and housing for the mill workers. Dewey's Mills continued in operation until 1957, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced plans to construct a flood control dam in Hartland. Operations were moved to the Baltic Mills in Enfield, New Hampshire, and the demolition of Dewey's Mills began in 1962. Most of the area is now under water.

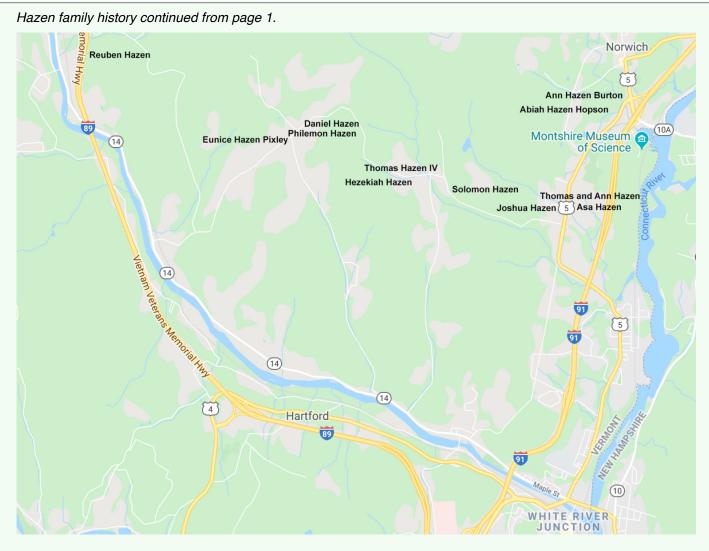
The Woodstock Railway Company was organized in 1863 to connect Woodstock and White River Junction. In 1875 after stone abutments were built on either side of the gorge, the remainder of the bridge went up in just three weeks! In its day, the 163-foot long wooden span was the highest in Vermont. To test the bridge, a heavy locomotive, the "Winooski," was borrowed from the Central Vermont Railroad. Approximately 2,000 onlookers came to observe as the engine slowly crept cross the structure. To everyone's satisfaction, the bridge settled only a quarter inch under the load, and the 13.88 mile stretch was then opened for rail service. A spur connecting the White River Junction station and the Vermont State Fairgrounds (off today's Sykes-Mountain Avenue) had the distinction of being the shortest railway in the state. In 1890, it was reorganized as the Woodstock Railway.

Several locomotives served the route, beginning with the A. G. Dewey Locomotive No. 1, built by the Manchester (New Hampshire) Locomotive Works in 1875. It was later traded with the Passumpsic Railway for a smaller locomotive, the A.G. Dewey No. 2. In its heyday, the railroad made five runs back and forth between Woodstock and White River Junction daily, each trip lasting from 37 to 45 minutes, depending on the number of stops it made. There were photographs of the various stations along the route, including a rare one of the station in Hartford Village.

By 1911, it was clear that a new railroad bridge was needed. Cars and their freights had become heavier, and the reinforcement of the bridge completed in 1906 was no longer adequate. A new steel bridge was constructed at a cost of \$26,000. Interestingly, the old wooden bridge was simply cut up and allowed to drop into the river below (shades of Act 250!).

With the increased popularity of the automobile by the 1920s, the railroad was no longer profitable. Its last run occurred on April 15, 1953. The train left Woodstock at 11 a.m. that morning, but pranksters had greased the hills at Shallie's Hill in Quechee. After three unproductive attempts to climb the hill, cars were uncoupled to lighten the load, and the engine was then able to ascend with a couple of cars at a time before continuing its journey with everything in tow. Fourteen of the 350 passengers on that last run had been on the first run 58 years earlier.

The track was dismantled in 1933 and the right of way sold to the State of Vermont for the relocation of Route 4. In its place, a modern concrete road was constructed and the steel bridge across the gorge widened and stiffened to withstand heavy automobile traffic. Before long, hotels, restaurants and gift shops sprang up along the corridor. Today, Route 4 is a heavily traveled east-west corridor.



Thomas Hazen was instrumental in securing a charter for the town of Hartford from the Governor of New York. In return, he received 1,560 acres of land stretching from the Connecticut River to West Hartford and north to the Norwich town line. In 1782, he gave each of his twelve children 120 acres on which to build a farm. Sources suggest the approximate locations above. Ann and Abiah Hazen married residents of Norwich and sold or traded their land in Hartford. Silas Hazen, who died in 1778 before the land division, is thought to be the first person buried in the Christian Street Cemetery. Another child, Elijah, chose to stay in Connecticut. Some of the original homes still stand, including the home of Thomas and Ann Hazen on Christian Street.

To ensure their ownership of the town of Hartford, the proprietors decided to send an agent to New York to request a charter from Governor Colden. Thomas Hazen loaned the proprietors the funds needed to pay for this agent and, in return, he was given one thousand acres of land in Hartford that had been set aside during the initial land division.

In 1772, the town was still not in possession of a charter so the proprietors sent Thomas Hazen and Stephen Tilden to once again request a charter from Governor Colden. For this service, Thomas received an additional five hundred and sixty acres. In 1773, Thomas sold his land in Connecticut and, in the spring

of 1774, he and his family moved to Hartford. Thomas' son Elijah started north with the family but returned to Connecticut where he remained.

The land that Thomas was granted as his thousand acres was the northwest corner of the town. When he was awarded the additional 560 acres, he selected the land east to the Connecticut River. For his own home he chose the acreage bounded on the east by the Connecticut River and on the north by border with the town of Norwich. There he built a log cabin and later the first two-story house in Hartford.

Family tradition, corroborated by Dartmouth College President Eleazar Wheelock in Hanover, has it that the



Top, the home of Philemon Hazen in Jericho. The year 1789 is written on a wall inside the house. Philemon Hazen was the cider monger in the Jericho District and old apple trees still grace Jericho and Dothan. Philemon lived next door to his brother Daniel and across the street from his sister Eunice. Above, a spark in the workshop ignited a blaze at the Hazen homestead on Christian Street in 1963. The house, at left, was severely damaged, barns and silos

were destroyed, and many historic items were lost.

men roofing the house in June 1775 heard cannon fire from the Battle of Bunker Hill. The land and house on his homestead site have remained in Hazen hands-passing from father to son to the current generation. His sons also bought land and, at one time, the family owned some 3,500 acres in the town.

According to *The Hazen Family in America* by Tracy Elliott Hazen, Thomas Hazen III served in the Revolution with five of his sons. A sixth son, Elijah Hazen who had remained in Connecticut, also fought in the Revolution.

The Hazens were also active in the government and politics of the town. Joshua was path-master, surveyor of highways, assessor, and captain of the militia. He also served in the legislature and was both a selectman and justice of the peace. Asa was a constable, lister, and town clerk. Thomas Hazen IV held church services at his home for many years and summoned worshippers by blowing on a conch shell. Daniel Hazen was a selectman and Reuben Hazen hosted the first school in West Hartford in his home in 1795.

When he died in 1782, Thomas Hazen III willed one hundred and twenty acres of land to each of his surviving twelve children. Most of them had farms in the Dothan and Jericho regions. Joshua built his house across the road from his father's house at the current site of the Hemlock Ridge's red barn around 1775. Abiah married John Hopson and moved to Norwich. Asa shared the homestead with his father and later bought part of Elijah's share. Hezekiah built his farm in Dothan; in 1947 it was owned by Frank Smith.

The home of Thomas Hazen IV was also in Dothan across from the old Dothan church, which was built in 1795 and dissolved in 1847. Solomon's farm was in Dothan on the road leading to Christian Street. Daniel's farm was in Jericho next to his brother Philemon. Eunice Hazen married William Pixley and had a farm in Jericho. Ann married Henry Burton and swapped the farm her father gave her in Jericho for one in Norwich.

The Hazen homestead evolved with the times. They first raised sheep--pasturing them across the road in the nearby hills called Moseley. The fourth generation to live on the homestead turned from wool to dairy, developing a herd of purebred Jersey cows. Dairy cows were succeeded by beef cattle and, today, the farm boards horses.

The house underwent many changes—each generation leaving its mark. Old photos show the house with and without a front porch. The interior of the house underwent a major remodel around 1875 when hand-hewn beams were covered with wood paneling and the staircase going to the central part of the second floor was moved. In 1930, a bedroom was remodeled into the bathroom. By 1963, there was a house, garage, two barns, four silos, a shop, and a machine shed.

In May 1963, fire destroyed everything but the garage, the machine shed, and the western part of the house. The house was rebuilt on the original site and since then three barns, an indoor riding arena, a shop, and a garage have been added to the site. During this generation's remodeling, the beautifully crafted wood joints of the original structure of the house were briefly revealed--still holding strongly after 243 years.

Author's note: I used William Tucker's History of the Town of Hartford, and The Hazen Family in America by Tracy Hazen as resources. I must say that the dates don't always reconcile.

If Windom Lang Didn't Have It, You Didn't Need It

In 1918, Windom Lang opened the Lang Hardware Store in Hartford on the first floor of the old Village Hall. Over the years, Lang came to understand his customers and developed a reputation for having anything they may need. He continued to provide this service until retiring in 1964. In addition to basic hardware items, Lang's Hardware Store supplied a variety of old, useful, and unusual items. When movie director D.W. Griffith came to Hartford to film Way Down East in 1920, he found Lang's Hardware indispensible for props, equipment, and hard-to-get items.

Hartford resident Ken Parker patronized Lang Hardware as a young man. "Windom Lang was one of the more interesting characters in town," he says. "I think he had everything that a farmer could need in that store," he recalls. "Mr. Lang had been blinded by being hit in the head with a baseball when he was a young man," Parker says. "He was a pitcher. The story has it that he was destined for the major leagues



until he got hit." Parker remembers Lang as being a bit crusty, but he had an amazing knowledge of his merchandise. "It didn't matter what you needed, he could find it," says Parker. The building, built in 1872, showed its age. "It never had a coat of paint," says Parker.

"It was a good, old-fashioned hardware store," says Hartford resident David Brown. "If he didn't have it--you didn't need it. The thing that we particularly went there for was halter snaps, which were like a heavy-duty dog leash clip that we used on cattle. One time, my father sent me to Lang's to get some leash snaps so I went in and spoke to Mr. Lang. By the way, he was very nearly totally blind and his store had a single light bulb, which didn't allow an ordinary person to see things very well. Anyway I told him my father sent me for some leash snaps so he immediately walked to the back of the store, opened the right drawer, and produced the snaps I was looking for. It was so dark I could barely follow him. When I got home, my father explained how a blind person learns their territory very well. It always amazed me as a youngster."

Windom Lang enjoyed a few years of retirement and died in 1969. His wife Ruth survived until 1992.

Historic Lyman Building Hiding in Plain Sight

A map of Hartford from 1855 shows a row of mercantile buildings along a now vacant stretch of Maple Street between the Connecticut River and the railroad tracks. Then, the road was known as Ferry Lane since it led to a river crossing operated by Elias Lyman and his descendants. Before the railroad came to town, Ferry Lane was a hub of commerce and some of the buildings were likely built soon after Lyman's arrival in about 1793.

Howard Tucker says that Elias Lyman, "by a life of energy and enterprise, attained a handsome fortune." In addition to the ferry, Elias built a storehouse, meatpacking plant, cotton mill, brick factory, and a toll bridge across the Connecticut. He also built a substantial home that no longer stands, but is marked by a plaque at the corner of Maple and Pine streets.

Today, one of these commercial buildings from Ferry Lane stands on the immediate right of the Vermont Antique Mall in Quechee. Now a retail store, the building was disassembled and each plank was numbered so it could be put back in its proper place. Coins from the 1700s were found during the move.



Elias Lyman built several commercial buildings near the Connecticut River along what is now Maple Street after he moved to Hartford in about 1793. This building was disassembled, its planks were numbered, and it was rebuilt on Route 4 in Quechee.

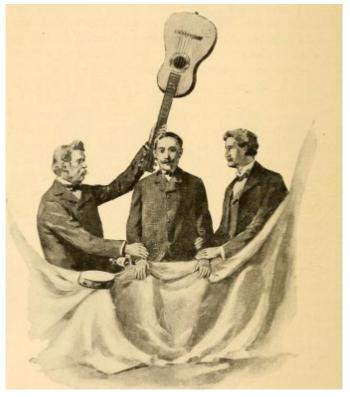
April Program to Spotlight the Eddy Family of Chittenden, Vermont

On April 8, the Hartford Historical Society will present Jason Smiley speaking on, "The Devil's Cabinet: The Eddy Family of Spirit Mediums." The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ.

During the mid-to-late 1800s, the Eddy family became world-renown as spirit mediums with the alleged ability of generating full-bodied spirit manifestations or "materialisms" of the departed. People traveled from all over the world to Chittenden to witness these phenomena for themselves. Some came with the hope of seeing and speaking to their own departed family members. Others came as skeptics, hoping to debunk the family's alleged powers as "humbug."

By 1874, the Eddy family was so well-known that Chittenden started being referred to as "Spirit Vale." To this day, there are many who believe that the family had genuine supernatural abilities. The family and the story have ties to P.T. Barnum, Mark Twain, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Harry Houdini, Queen Victoria, and President Lincoln.

Jason Smiley was born and educated in Vermont. He has been researching the Eddy family for over a decade and plans to release a book containing his research in late 2020.



Eddy brothers performing a seance. People traveled from all over the world to witness these events. Jason Smiley has been researching the Eddy family for over a decade and plans to release a book this year.

Barbara Bellavance recalls that it was around the middle of last century when she first saw Eddie's Taxi Diner. "I'm sure I was probably in grade school," she says.

The venture was owned by Barbara's uncle, Edward LaBelle. The menu on the side of the little custom convertible said Silex coffee, sandwiches,

doughnuts, cold drinks, ice cream, potato chips, popcorn, and pretzels. "I remember him going around and selling stuff like this," Barbara says. "He made a living."

Barbara says this photo of Eddie's Taxi Diner was taken in the driveway of her parent's former home on Route 5 in Wilder. "My father ran the Texaco station



Eddie's Taxi Diner

across the street on the corner of Route 5 and Horseshoe Street," she says. "My father was Edgar LaBelle and he was Edward LaBelle."

Edward LaBelle often parked Eddie's Taxi Diner on Depot St. in Wilder in front of a small grocery store operated by Eddie St. Jean. As customers left the store with

meats, vegetables, and canned goods, some stopped for a snack.

"I don't remember a lot about my uncle," Barbara says. Neither does the Internet, except that he was born in 1911 and died in 1970. This rare photo of Eddie's Taxi Diner was given to the Hartford Historical Society in 2008.



"Hats Off" to Our Local Business Supporters!

Benefactors Geobarns

Patrons Cloverleaf Jewelers Merchants Bank Schaal Electric

Society dues are payable after January 1 each year. Please return this form or use the PalPal form at hartfordhistory.org. Thanks!

LET OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT!

Heart to Home LLC

Sabil & Sons Inc.

Studio Nexus

Bailey/Howe Library at UVM

Meeting House Furniture Restoration

Please contact us to learn about promoting your business by supporting the Hartford Historical Society.

,	MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).
(Regular - \$25 [individual & family] Non-Profit - \$30
Ć) Senior - \$20 [individual & family all over age 55] 🔘 Business - \$50
Ċ	Life - \$250 [any individual over age 60] O Patron - \$100
Name:	Additional Names:
Address:	City:
State:	ZIP Code: Phone:
e-mail:	
Comments	
	Hartford Historical Society BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).
	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).
	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name:
Address:	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name:
	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name: City:
State:	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name: City: ZIP Code: Phone:
State: e-mail:	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name: City:
State: e-mail:	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name: City: ZIP Code: Phone:
State: e-mail:	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name:
State: e-mail:	Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec). Contact Name: Business Name: City: ZIP Code: Phone: Special Opportunities for Higher Levels of Support Silver Sponsor: \$500 Gold Sponsor: \$1000 Platinum Sponsor: \$2500

Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

Update on the Vincent Family of Hartford Village By Alice Vincent

Editor's note: When we ended a two-part tale of the Vincent family of Hartford Village in our May-June 2016 newsletter, it was 1950 and Alice Vincent was entering a convent in Chicago to begin training as a nun. Alice was one of fifteen children born to Albondius and Adrienne Vincent of Hartford Village, all of whom became successful and respected members of the community.

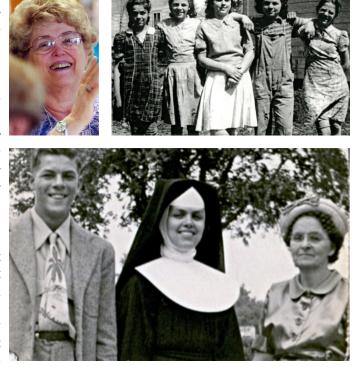
After seeing the story about her family, prepared by her sister Lucille Vincent Follensbee with memories from another sister, Laurette Vincent Woodward, Alice sent us the following update. Unfortunately, we recently learned that Alice passed away on January 3 at the age of 87.

The story ends with Alice entering the convent, however many of you probably wondered what happened to me. I was working at Twinstate Fruit Corp. waiting for my summons to the convent to begin my life as a sister of St. Joseph. On September 4, while I was working, a letter arrived telling me they wanted me as a member and wanted me in Chicago at 7 p.m. on September 7. I quit my job and went to Canada to say goodbye to my oldest sister who was also a nun, as well as my 94 year-old grandmother. I

The story ends with Alice entering the convent, however you probably wondered what happened to me. I was working at Twinstate Fruit Corp. waiting for a summons to begin my life as a sister of St. Joseph. took a plane after saying my farewells to all my siblings and arrived at 7 p.m. as directed. The sisters met me at the airport.

Life in the convent began with learning the rules and practices as a sister of St. Joseph, and

doing menial jobs such as serving the sisters at table, helping to prepare meals, going to classes in religion, and religious life. After three years, I was ready to make my first vows for one year. I continued my college studies and started teaching first, second, and third grades. After three years of taking vows for one year, I finally took my final vows for life. This was a day to celebrate for me. And did I ever celebrate that I was now well on my way to my new life!



Alice Vincent was one of fifteen children of Albondius and Adrienne Vincent of Hartford Village. She is at left in the photo with her sisters above. Alice graduated from Hartford High School in 1950 and moved to Chicago to become a nun. On her way to the convent, she is shown with her brother Andy and her mother. Alice Vincent passed away on January 3, 2020 at age 87.

After teaching for 38 years, I felt a calling to be a hospital chaplain so I spent two and a half years taking CPE, which means Clinical Pastoral Education. (In other words, being trained while I was a hospital chaplain.)

I was hired at St. John Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri. I found that I was well trained for every area of the hospital. I especially loved working in intensive care units. Some weeks I was assigned to work the whole weekend, which meant I had responsibility for the whole hospital. I found this very challenging.

I was a chaplain for about 18 years, which is where I found my greatest satisfaction. However my age caught up with me and I needed heart surgery for five bypasses and am now retired and recovered. I find retirement as a sister very peaceful with plenty of ministries that I am able to do.

Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547 Hartford, VT 05047-0547

Return Service Requested



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 15

HHS Calendar

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM is open by appointment only until May 1, 2020. Please call 802/296-3132 or email us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.org.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS are open to the public on the last Monday of the month at the Garipay House at 6 p.m. (Please check for exact date.)

Saturday, February 22, 2020 - "White River Junction Trivia Night." 1 p.m., Bugbee Senior Center. Come test your knowledge of WRJ history! Bring friends, form a team, and pick your prize.

Saturday, March 14, 2020 - "Presentation of the Hartford Cane to Bonnie Briggs, Hartford's Oldest Resident." 2-4 p.m. at the Hotel Coolidge. Refreshments from Bonnie's personal cookbook. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring stories about Bonnie to share.

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 - "The Devil's Cabinet: The Eddy Family of Spirit Mediums." Presented by Jason Smiley. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Sunday, May 31, 2020 - "Hartford Historical Society Annual Meeting." Garipay House. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 - "Memories of South Main Street." Presented by Pat Rondeau. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Saturday, July 18, 2020 - "Yard Sale at the Garipay House."

The **Genealogy Center** on the second floor of the Hartford Library is open Fridays from 2-6 p.m. or by appointment. Please call Carole Haehnel at 802/295-3974.