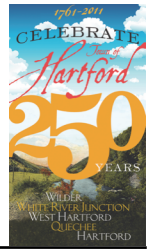




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 34, No. 1

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March-April 2021

Community Efforts Built Hartford's Victory Circle

World War I ended in November 1918 and soldiers began heading home in search of jobs, housing, and the way of life for which they had fought. Hartford offered a variety of jobs in manufacturing, professional offices, the railroad, retail, and agriculture--but housing was another story. Few homes were available to recently discharged veterans in Hartford or other Vermont towns.

In July 1919, *The Landmark* opined, "No industry is going to prosper unless there are comfortable homes for the workers, as they will go elsewhere, and the business will have to be constantly breaking in new help." They concluded that, "it was for the interest of the town to take this up as a community and see that there is a comfortable home for every industrious worker who wants to live here."

That same month, the White River Junction Board of Trade held a public meeting to discuss the problem and see what could be done. Guest speaker George Almon of the Montpelier Board of Trade urged Hartford's business leaders to take action, and they did.

Following this meeting, the Housing Committee of the White River Junction Board of Trade formed the Hartford Building Associates led by George W. Smith, Howard R. Miller, Jr., Everett Eaton, and M.J. Harvey. The purpose of the organization was, "to increase the housing facilities of the town of Hartford," and "to buy, sell, rent and develop real estate in said town and to build houses and other buildings."

The new committee meant business. George W. Smith owned three of the town's largest firms. Smith, Miller, and Eaton were officers of the Inter-State Trust Company, which was a Hartford-based real estate lender. Smith and Eaton were also directors of the White River Board of Trade. They



Victory Circle was a neighborhood of five houses built by the newly formed Hartford Building Associates to provide affordable housing for the local workforce after World War I. The houses had identical floorplans but different exteriors. Prices started at \$3,630. Buyers included a postal worker, a teamster, and a lawyer who later became Attorney General of Vermont. Today, Victory Circle still has a feeling of community.

Continued on page 4.

From the Editor . . .

One thing about our local history is that many residents only left fragments in the historical record. In preparing this issue, I saw that Howard Tucker mentioned a free African man named Thomas Dunkin in his *History of Hartford*. Dunkin was described as a well-to-do man who owned fifty-two acres along the Connecticut River in the town's earliest years.

Tucker also says that Thomas Dunkin had a daughter named Lurana Dunkin and notes that, after Thomas died in 1777, she was declared *non compos mentis*, meaning she was unable to care for herself and her son Sam and so became a charge of the town.

In 1779, records show Lurana and Sam living in the household of Benjamin Pixley. Tucker also notes that the Hartford Select Board sold Thomas Dunkin's land for \$242 in 1791 to pay for the support of Lurana and Sam. Finally, it is recorded that Joseph Marsh Jr. received \$39 from the Select Board in 1800, "for keeping the black gal."

There is also an online record of a Hartford resident named Thomas Dunkin who served in a militia unit formed in Enfield, NH during the Revolution. He served for three years starting in 1777, but I have been unable to learn whether he left family in Hartford. Thomas, Lurana, and Sam Dunkin are like many who faded from our history.

Life goes on at the Garipay House. Volunteers monitor the phone and email, and the museum is open by appointment. Please visit the membership form on our website to send your 2021 dues or catch up if your address is highlighted in yellow. Our thanks to everyone who paid dues recently or sent a gift to support our work. You will also find links to past newsletters, oral histories, and historical resources.

Finally, thanks to Jeff Arnold who provided material for our piece on the Stone family last issue. Cheers!

Scott Fletcher, Editor

From The Landmark

Among the laws passed at our last legislature is No. 133 - An act in relation to Sabbath-breaking. "A person who between twelve o'clock Saturday night and twelve o'clock the following Sunday night, exercises any business or employment, except such only as works of necessity and charity, or holds, or resorts to any ball or dance, or exercises any game, sport or play, or resorts to any house of entertainment for amusement or recreation, shall be fined not more than two dollars. Skating comes clearly within the compass of the law. We hope never to see again a repetition of last Sabbath on the ice of our village. Great care also should be taken by all employers of labor both in our factories and stores, and by all people in their conduct on their own premises, to keep within the spirit of the law of the commonwealth and maintain the good order and the good name of the place. *December 20, 1895*

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.



Hartford Historical Society

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<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

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Col. James Marsden Wilson's Career of Service

At St. Johnsbury Academy in 1849, James Marsden Wilson of Derry, NH met fellow student Mary Lucy Latham from Lyme, NH. Mary Lucy, as she was known, was the great great great aunt of Hartford Historical Society president Judy Barwood. James and Mary Lucy would meet again years later in St. Louis and were married there in 1859.

Judy explains that, "When my grandmother died in the early 'Sixties, I inherited a wooden box of papers, which I put in the attic and never opened. Later we were doing some remodeling so I opened the box and, lo and behold, it contained his original papers." These detailed and historic documents allowed Judy to piece together an outline of his life.

James Wilson was born in 1829. He lost his father at an early age and his mother was left with a large family--but his obituary notes that she, "was a woman of remarkable energy of character, of great strength of mind, of calm but indomitable will, and of the most exemplary piety." James often spoke of her with affection and she wrote endearing letters to him every week until she died.

By the time he reached adulthood, James demonstrated abilities and character that led to a series of important civil and political appointments. The discovery of gold drew him to California in 1851 and he was soon elected constable of Tuolumne County. In 1852, at age twenty-three, he was elected to the California Legislature.

In 1854, Wilson was chosen secretary to the Board of Pilot Commissioners in San Francisco, a quasi-judicial body entrusted with the oversight of shipping in San Francisco harbor. He held this position with distinction for eighteen months. In 1856, he was appointed alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Cincinnati where James Buchanan was chosen the presidential nominee.

For the next four years, James Wilson served as confidential clerk to the superintendant and purchasing agent for the United States Branch Mint at San Francisco. In 1860, however, he suffered a stroke that left him partially paralyzed. Though given little chance of recovery, Wilson moved east and worked to regain his mobility.

In 1862, he was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to be paymaster of a unit of U.S. volunteers. He held this position through the Civil War and his papers include accounts of travels and battles. He left the service as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1866.

In 1869, Wilson became Adjutant and Quartermaster General of the Territory of New Mexico but his health failed and he resigned. In 1871, however, he began a diplomatic career with an appointment by President Ulysses Grant as U.S. Consul at Nuremburg Bavaria. He served nine years and, in 1880, President Rutherford B. Hayes appointed him Consul to Hamburg. After resigning this post, Wilson was appointed Consul at Three Rivers in the Province of Quebec by President Chester A. Arthur. After two years, he was posted to Milan, Italy.

James Wilson always struggled with his health. One obituary notes that he was "physically a wreck" when he retired from his post in Italy in the early 1880s and moved to Hartford where he and Mary Lucy lived with her parents.

In Hartford, Colonel James Marsden Wilson walked around town every day to visit friends and maintain his strength. On Sunday, September 18, 1887 he walked a mile to church and back, but died at home the next Saturday at age 58. James and Mary Lucy Wilson now rest in the Hartford Cemetery. Colonel Wilson's Civil War records are preserved in the Missouri State Archives and his letters are kept by the Vermont Historical Society.

An obituary describes James Wilson as, "Gentle and courteous in manner, full of sparkling humor, of infinite generosity and kindly sympathy, clear and practical in his judgment, his public career without reproach, his private life without a stain, in principle and in profession a Christian man, he has left a gap in the community not easy to fill." (*Derry News*, October 7, 1887)



James and Mary Lucy were presented to Queen Victoria and her dress from that event is in the collection of the Shelburne Museum.

quickly raised \$50,000 in capital from stockholders with the understanding that the goal was not to make a profit. Rather, "the sole purpose of this organization is to improve the housing problem in the town of Hartford."

That same month, the committee purchased a plot of land on a bluff east of the White River for the purpose of building five affordable homes. By the end of July, the Hartford Select Board had approved the housing plan and accepted the committee's proposal to add sewer access.

Floorplans were identical but each home was designed with a distinctive appearance. Buyers were invited to select their own electrical fixtures and wallpaper.

Homes would be twenty-four by twenty-six feet on ninety by ninety foot lots. Floorplans were identical but each home was designed with a distinctive appearance. They would be set back from the road and some had panoramic views of the town. Placid E. Adams of White River

Junction was hired to build the homes and members of the community provided some of the specialized labor. Newspapers in Lebanon, Bennington, Brattleboro, and Rutland reported on the project and debated its chances of success.

By November, the first homes were nearing completion but winter weather intervened and it took until summer for the first home to be completed. Two more were finished that summer. They had, "all the modern conveniences, including electric lights, bath, and hardwood floors throughout." Buyers were invited to select their own electrical fixtures and wallpaper.

The five homes on Victory Circle were completed in 1920 but only the home at 102 Victory Circle sold that first year. It was priced at \$3,630. The last home, at 92 Victory Circle, was purchased in 1925 after which Hartford Building Associates was dissolved.

Victory Circle was intended to suit a cross section of Hartford residents, and it did. One buyer worked as a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service while another worked for the telephone company. One buyer was a teamster for Smith & Company and one was an attorney who later served as Vermont Attorney General.

Today, Victory Circle lies adjacent to the Hartford Middle School. The houses have since been updated and newer homes have been added. Trees have matured, obscuring views somewhat, but the neighborhood has a feeling of both openness and community.

This article is based on, "A Survey of Five Taft's Flats Neighborhoods," prepared by Brian Knight Research for the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission.



102 Victory Circle was the first home to sell.

Have you any intention of EVER owning your own home? If so, can you afford to let this chance go by?

Four Houses at Last Year's Cost To Build

Private real estate for sale in White River Junction is advancing in price every day. Your rents are jumping. You can not build at anywhere near last year's cost—and today's costs are lower than tomorrow's will be.

The same type house which we are offering is being built today in Springfield, Vt., to sell for \$4000.00 and up. Perhaps you don't feel that a really substantial house, built right and built to stand up, could be got up to sell at \$3000.00 to \$3700.00. If you don't believe that you would get value received, dollar for dollar, on your investment go up to Highland Park. Look these houses all over. Ask the local plumbers and contractors what each house, with its fixtures, could be duplicated for today. Compare each house with any house in White River Junction offered for sale today at the same price. You will find you have answered your own question.

These houses were not built to sell at a profit. They are backed by the business men of White River Junction. And all they ask is six per cent return on their money for the length of time it is invested in these houses. The following prices include 1920 taxes and are good up to May 15th only.

No. 1, \$3630.00	No. 2, \$3630.00	No. 3, \$3730.00	No. 4, 3725.00
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It will cost \$25.00 per month per house to carry them after May 15th, and that carrying price must be added to the selling price. If you have even THOUGHT about the proposition, see L. S. DARTY. Match your time against his. We don't want you to buy if you can get better value for the same money on some other property in White River Junction. BUT CAN YOU?

HARTFORD BUILDING ASSOCIATES, Inc.
White River Junction, Vermont.

An Unusual Opportunity For Only 4 Men

There is offered now here in White River Junction, to just four men (it may be you and three others) a chance to own your own home at cost to build, a home of which you may justly be proud, containing six rooms, fitted with bath, furnace, electrically wired, connected with town sewer, hardwood floors throughout, painted inside and out, (if you see immediately, the outside painting may be varied to suit your fancy), each house has a piazza and a good garden plot, located in a fine 2 to 3 acre, overlooking the village, as can be desired.

These houses will be ready to move into May 1. They were contracted for before the very great advances in building material went into effect, and are offered you today at their cost to build, plus interest and taxes. They are located on Victory Circle and all we can say to you is "Go up and look them over."

The prices if decided before May 15, 1920, are as follows:

House No. 1	\$3630
House No. 2	\$3630
House No. 3	\$3730
House No. 5	\$3725

Remember 1920 taxes are included in above figures. These have been placed in charge for immediate sale of L. S. Darty, White River Jct., Vt. Mr. Darty will show you every courtesy and has full authority to make the sale of all this property for us.

Hartford Building Associates, Inc.
White River Junction, Vt.
Dated April 15th, 1920.

Burlington Home Renovation Reveals Graves From the War of 1812

During the War of 1812, the United States built a large army base at Burlington with barracks and a hospital. Some 4,000 soldiers were stationed there. Howard Tucker lists seventeen Hartford residents who formed a company of cavalry and twenty-nine who served in the infantry during the war, and records suggest that many went to Burlington.

The battle of Burlington caused few casualties, but military records indicate that some 550 Americans died of various causes, mostly illness, during the war.

British ships attacked Burlington on August 2, 1813. The American Lake Fleet was anchored in Burlington Harbor and cannon were placed along the waterfront area

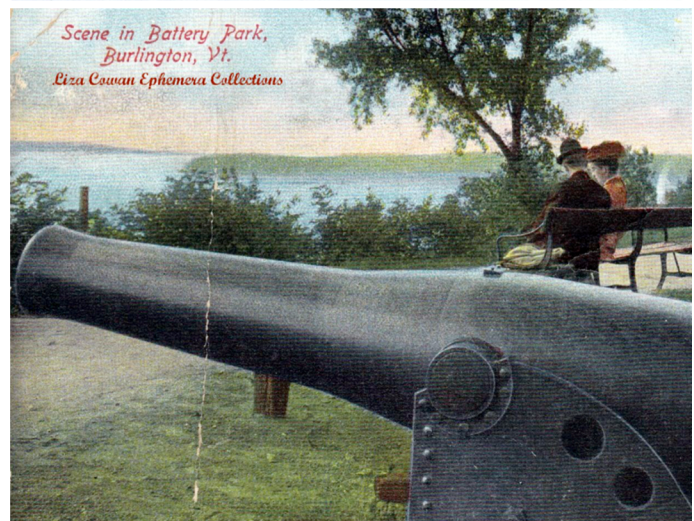
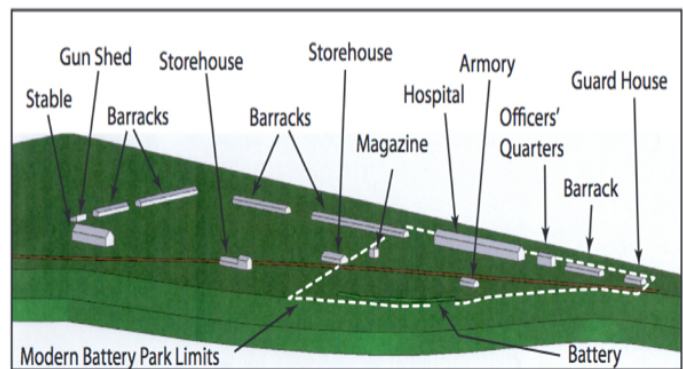
now known as Battery Park. A cannon duel lasted a half hour, no ships were sunk, and the British withdrew. The war moved on from Burlington but continued until 1815.

The battle of Burlington caused few casualties, but military records indicate that some 550 Americans died there of various causes, mostly illness, during the war. Locations of their graves were not recorded.

During a recent renovation project, Burlington residents found signs of burials on their property, prompting excavation during the summer by a team of students and faculty from UVM's Archaeology Program. They found seven wooden coffins containing skeletons and ten coffins that were empty. The excavation was completed in October.

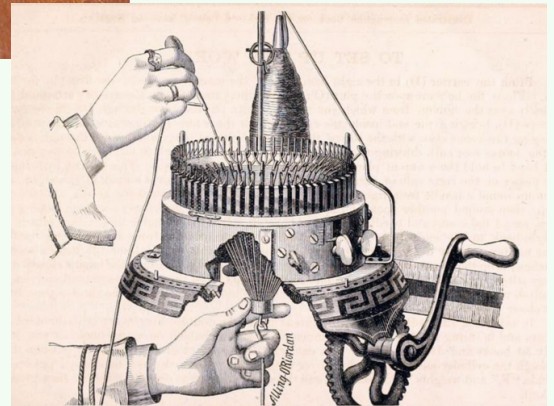
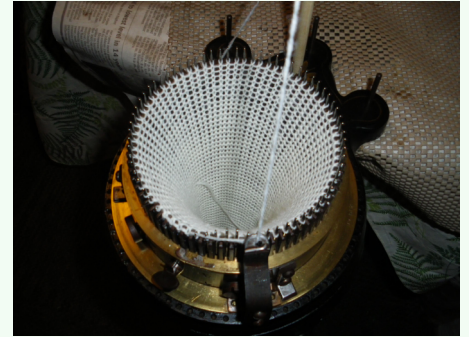
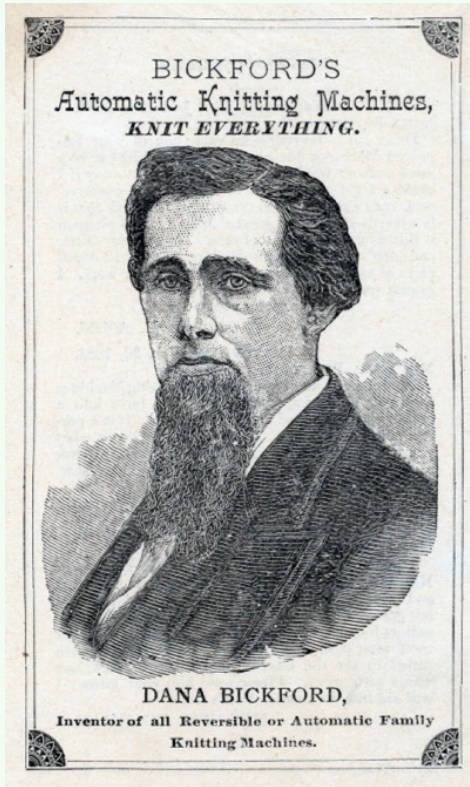
Human remains were carefully exhumed and will be placed in an aboveground mausoleum being built by the State of Vermont. Remains will be stored so they are available for further research if needed. The mausoleum is scheduled for completion in May.

Tucker does not report that any Hartford soldiers died during the War of 1812 but at least one Pomfret resident, Jonathan Ware Jr., gave his life.



Top, UVM students excavate a grave found by Burlington homeowners. An archaeology team located seven coffins with skeletons and ten graves that were mysteriously empty. Remains will be placed in a mausoleum being built by the State of Vermont. Hartford residents formed cavalry and infantry units during the war and many were stationed in Burlington. The Army base spread well beyond the limits of today's Battery Park.

The Inventive Mind of Quechee's Dana Bickford



Dana Bickford was an inventor in the 1800s—a period of budding commerce and industrialization across the country. Bickford was born in 1834 and is thought to have hailed from Quechee although there are few references concerning his early life.

Bickford is best known for the Bickford Automatic Knitting Machine, which was one of the first devices to knit socks. The machine was clamped to a table and featured a round hub from which one hundred and fifty needles pointed upward. It was intended for American households, or housewives, and was priced at \$30. Bickford patented the machine in 1867.

In his instruction manual, Bickford notes that it took six years to develop the product. He was, “determined all the while to succeed in presenting every household with one of the most useful and complete pieces of mechanism in the world; something that would enable the weary housewife to have a few hours of rest and recreation, as well as the matrons and young ladies of leisure and fashion to have a never failing fountain of pleasure as well as solid enjoyment.

“And feeling that no lady would object to spend her leisure moments in constructing something beautiful as well as useful, if she had a neat, handy article to do it on; and knowing that articles entirely improvised

and completed by some dear friend are more highly prized than the most expensive articles made by others, I have kept pushing on until I have brought my machine to that perfection that the public demand before they are willing to spend their own money and recommend their friends to do so.”

Bickford manufactured the machines in New York and worked vigorously to develop a sales network while struggling to enforce his patents. An ad for the machine says, “It will knit all kinds of fancy work as well as stockings, leggings, socks and mittens.”

In 1867, Bickford patented a bucket and hose device with a pump-driven piston that sprayed water up to ninety feet. Intended to douse fires and water gardens, Bickford produced the New Garden and Fire Pump alongside his knitting machines in his New York factory.

Bickford was traveling in Europe in 1873 when he conceived of a coin that could be recognized as a universal currency. Returning home, Bickford called on Henry Linderman at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia

**DANA BICKFORD'S
NEW GARDEN and FIRE PUMP.**



This novel and extraordinary machine is invaluable at the outbreak of fire, and for watering gardens &c. Its construction dispenses with both Piston and Stuffing Box, doing away with all Friction, Leakage, &c. It is worked so easily that with it, a lady or child can throw a steady stream of water over an area of ninety feet. Patented January 14 and 15, 1867, March 11, 1873. Send for Circular.

PRICE, \$6 AND \$8.

Agents wanted everywhere.
THE DANA BICKFORD CO.,
689 Broadway, New York.

Office of Dana Bickford's,
Family Knitting Machine.
doe 28-3m

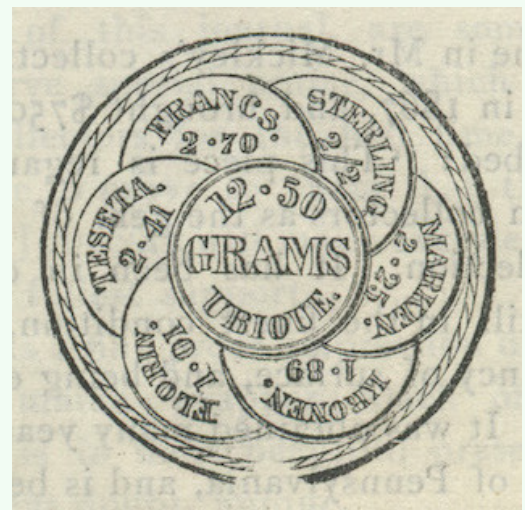


and convinced him to issue some sample coins. The first samples were struck in copper but versions were also produced in aluminum, silver, and gold.

Bickford's idea was that the exact value of a coin in mineral content and exchange value would appear on one side, and countries could use their own design on the reverse. Adoption of the coin was complicated, however, because some countries were on a gold standard while others were based on silver. Further, the value of silver dropped during the 1870s causing fluctuations in exchange rates that made a shared currency impractical.

In 1879, Bickford lost a lawsuit for infringement of the patent for his knitting machine and at some point thereafter, he closed his firm and left New York City. He seems to have kept pursuing a universal currency, however, as samples have survived from 1897. Dana Bickford died in 1909 in Epping, NH.

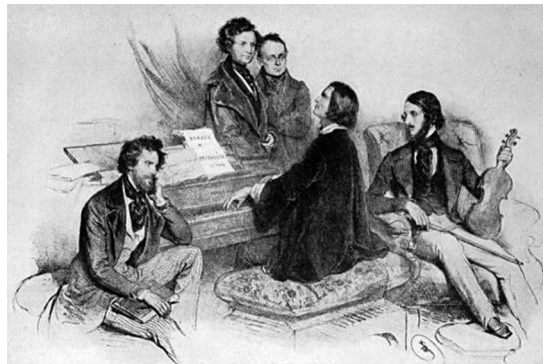
Dana Bickford conceived of international coinage while traveling in Europe in 1873. The idea was embraced by the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia and samples were issued but the idea was not implemented due to fluctuations in the values of gold, silver, and global currencies.



How Franz Liszt Fed His Audience

From The Landmark, November 1, 1884

The composer Franz Liszt was making a tour in France during which he came to a provincial town in which he was to give a performance; but when all was ready to begin, the audience was found to consist of seven individuals only. Liszt, nothing daunted, mounted the platform with a bland smile on his face and, bowing suavely to the almost empty benches, said, "Ladies and gentlemen, this is a most uncomfortable hall; therefore, if it will be agreeable to you, I will have the piano taken to the hotel where I am staying and there, where we shall all be much more at our ease, I will play through the programme.

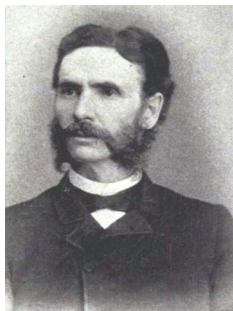


The proposal was cheerfully accepted by the seven guests who adjourned to the hotel where Liszt not only went through the entire programme, but afterward pressed his audience to partake of a supper he had ordered for them. Next evening, on the occasion of a second concert, the hall was overflowing to suffocation, and many had to be turned away at the doors.

More From the Landmark

March 24, 1899

Ex-governor Samuel E. Pingree has been invited to deliver the Memorial Day address at Brandon this year. He has already been the orator on these occasions twenty-seven times, and his services are still in demand.



Samuel E. Pingree

Wenona Chapter 43 Order of the Easter Star gave their supper at the home of Mrs. G.F. Flanders on last Friday evening as announced and it was one of the best the company present ever enjoyed. We venture to say that \$18 will express the net receipts.

John McCree's family received on Sunday an addition—a young miss.

A.E. Doubleday was in *the Landmark* office Saturday and showed a double-barreled shotgun with a hole in it near the breech say about three inches long. On the Thursday previous, his son Leon thought he would try a charge of smokeless powder in shooting at crows. The powder was too powerful for the gun and burst the barrel, sending a jagged piece close to the head of Leon, who declines making any more experiments with that kind of powder. It was a close call for him.

Maple sugar makers in town are doing very little at present. They are waiting until the ice goes out of the river before commencing their work in earnest. Until the thaw is sufficient to bring about that change in the stream the time is not opportune for making sugar—At least that is the traditionary belief (*sic*).

Speaking of business at the Junction, a prominent contractor and builder recently expressed his wonder that a manufactory of doors, windows, and other building furnishings had never been started here. To get even a window sash, a resident must send to Hartland or Lebanon. The Junction is unequalled as a distributing point and a factory of the kind spoken of could supply a large field.

Alfred E. Watson attended a meeting of the state railroad commissioners in Burlington Tuesday to examine new models of fenders for street cars.

Whereas my wife, Mary A. Joyce, has left my bed and board without just cause or provocation, I forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account after this date. E.H. Joyce.

Hartford Celebrates the Long Life of Harold Wright

Harold Burns Wright, 94, died peacefully at his home in White River Junction on February 12. He was born in 1926 at Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, NH, son of Seaver David and Helen (Gillette) Wright. Harold was a direct descendant of original Hartford settlers on both sides of his family.

Harold was widely known and loved in Hartford. He attended Hartford schools, was an active member of the WRJ United Methodist Church, the White River Rotary, the United Brethren Lodge #21 Masons, the Vermont and New England Jersey Breeders Associations, and numerous volunteer organizations.

He married Maxine Harford in 1950. They moved into his grandparents' house on Maplerow Farm where Harold continued working on the family farm and started as a Rural Route Carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. In August 1958, Harold was appointed Postmaster in Hartford. In the following years, he oversaw the building of the facility on Sykes Avenue (*at right*) and managed over 200 post offices in Vermont and New Hampshire. He retired in 1988 and returned to farming full time.

Harold Wright remained active in retirement and was very proud to win Best Pair Overall Show Steer and Oxen at the 2019 Fryeburg Fair with his milking shorthorns, Jake and Gus. He will be remembered for his love of family, curious mind, excellent memory, and amazing work ethic.

Harold is survived by his children, Gail Wright, Harold Wright Jr., Richard Wright, Ann Cerasoli, and Donna Wright, all of White River Jct. Grandchildren Richard Wright II (Wendie), Abby Benoit (Joseph), Hannah Cerasoli and Alicia Cerasoli; Great grandchildren Ezra and Ethan Benoit and Molly and Weston Wright. Harold is predeceased by his wife, Maxine; their son, Bruce; and siblings David, Edward, and Donald Wright.

Due to COVID restrictions, there will be a private service followed by a Celebration of Life on June 19 at Maplerow Farm in White River Junction from 1-4 pm with a sharing time at 2 pm. Donations in memory of Harold Wright may be made to the WRJ United Methodist Church, 106 Gates St., White River Jct., VT 05001, or to VT Jersey Breeders c/o Tom Pyle, 651 Rte. 22A North, Fair Haven, VT 05743.

Harold loved people. In his memory, his family invites readers to share a story, call a friend, eat some ice cream, or wave to a stranger. Condolences may be offered in an online guestbook at knightfuneralhomes.com.



Harold Wright Shared Memories of Hartford in Numerous Interviews

On farming. “I’m real happy and proud that I am a farmer. Some people seem to be sort of ashamed. I think farming is a noble occupation. Farmers should be real proud that they came here, settled here, and developed the state.” (From the *Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project*, 2012)

Growing up on the farm. “In the morning before we went to school, we had to go out and help with the chores around the barn--cleaning the stables and feeding the cattle. We didn’t do much milking. My father was fussy about the cows. Then we’d come home in the afternoon and take off our school clothes, put on our barn clothes and do chores again. We always had chickens to feed and turkeys to take care of and things like that.” (*Ibid.*)

On party lines. “My grandmother had two sisters and they all married farmers. Well they had a party line so once a day, say nine o’clock, the three of them would get on and visit and hash over the things of the day. Jessie was the oldest and I remember she used to say, ‘Well that’s it for today, goodbye!’ And it was over.” (*Ibid.*)

Going to see the Boston Braves. “We could go to Boston on the train, get off at North Station, and take the subway up to Braves Field. We could go to the game for a dollar, get a hot dog and a soda for another dollar, and the whole trip would cost about ten dollars. We liked the St. Louis Cardinals who had the Gashouse Gang with Johnny Mize and Ducky Medwick, so we’d go down maybe once a summer. We’d take a lunch with us because a hot dog wouldn’t hold us the whole day.”

Describing how his brother Donald brought the cows in despite being blind. “Out in the barn we had about sixty cows and he’d turn ’em all out and get them all in by himself. For years, the cows had horns and he could recognize them by the shape of their horns to get them back in the right stall. After we dehorned them, they had neck straps with a number and he could identify them that way.”

“Hats Off” to Our Local Business Supporters!



Patrons

Schaal Electric

Meeting House Furniture Restoration

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

Cloverleaf Jewelers & Gifts

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

Hartford Historical Society
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Regular - \$25 [individual & family]
 Non-Profit - \$30
 Senior - \$20 [individual & family all over age 55]
 Business - \$50
 Life - \$250 [any individual over age 60]
 Patron - \$100

Name: _____ Additional Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Comments: _____

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

THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Contact Name: _____

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

THANK YOU!

Hartford's Lone Pine Sheds Its Last Needles

A solitary pine on the hillside above Hartford village has watched over the town almost from the beginning. Hartford residents in the mid-1800s recall the lone pine as a place to sit and gaze across the White River Valley down to the Connecticut River. It was a towering landmark on the trail across the formerly barren hillside to the boulder with depressions where Native Americans ground nuts and grains.

For Charles Cone and Kate Morris, the lone pine brought fond memories of their youth and courtship. When Charles proposed to Kate and her father objected that his prospects were not sufficient, Kate's younger sister Annie would carry notes to Cone arranging times for them to meet secretly at the base of the tree.

It was a towering landmark on the trail across the formerly barren hillside to the boulder with depressions where Native Americans ground nuts and grains.

Eventually, Charles Cone completed a college degree and proved to Kate's family that he had exceptional determination and mettle. So the couple married in 1884 and Charles was soon established as the manager of the Hartford Woolen Mill. In 1903, Charles and Kate purchased the forty-acre site of their assignments.

Kate wrote, "It makes me happy that while I live, no axe shall touch it or sawmill tear it into boards...I used to go there as a little girl, and when we were courting, and my children go there now...The whole prospect is full of memories of early settlers from Connecticut and of sturdy New England life."

Kate Morris Cone died in 1929 and after Charles followed in 1935, the land was passed to their daughter, Mrs. Alice Cone Perry. In 1940, Mrs. Perry sold most of this property for the value of the lumber, but reserved the half acre on which the tree stood.

Mrs. Perry described the tree as, "16-18 feet in circumference, 5-6 feet in diameter and standing 60 feet before a limb appears."

Because of burdensome property taxes, Mrs. Perry eventually offered the half acre of land on which the tree stood to American Legion Post No. 26, the State of Vermont, the Outing Club of Dartmouth College, and the Hartford Select Board, but all declined.

The lone pine continued to move through Mrs. Perry's family until 2015 when the 120-foot circle of land beneath the tree was given to the Hartford Historical Society, which has kept its memory alive.

Today, the lone pine sits in a grove of younger trees that have gathered on the hillside over the years. But recently, it has lost its last needles and its future is uncertain.

The Hartford Historical Society invites the community to share memories of the lone pine as well as suggestions for what might be done with the storied hillside on which it stands.



Top, the Hartford Lone Pine in the early 1900s. Below, the Lone Pine in 2004.

Hartford Historical Society

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HHS Calendar

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM is open by appointment only during winter months, October 1-May 1. Please call 802/296-3132 or email us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.org. Phones/email are checked twice a week, weather permitting.

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.)

The **Genealogy Center** on the second floor of the Hartford Library is open by appointment. Please call Carole Haehnel at 802/295-3974 or email her at: chaehnel151@comcast.net.

Websites

Hartford Historical Society: <http://www.hartfordhistory.org/>

Hartford History Timeline: <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1456118/History-of-Hartford-Vermont/>

Very Vermont - Stories from the Green Mountains: <https://veryvermont.exposure.co/very-vermont>