



Hartford Historical Society

The Garipay House
1461 Maple Street
Hartford Village, Vermont

o Hartford o Quechee o West Hartford
o White River Junction o Wilder

Volume 14, No 5

Society Newsletter

May 2002

Clifford to Speak About Joe Ranger

Cameron Clifford will give a presentation entitled "The Hermit: Joe Ranger and the Making of a Vermont Character" on Wednesday May 8 at 7:00 pm at the Hartford United Church of Christ in Hartford Village.

Joe Ranger was a well-known local resident who lived close to the Hartford Town line in Pomfret until his death in 1964 at the age of 89. Cameron has spent the past year researching the life, memories, and myths of Joe Ranger and will present his findings. Joe Ranger's stove is on display at the Garipay House.

There will also be a short meeting and election of officers and directors for the upcoming year. The list of nominees is found on page 3 of this newsletter. This is the last meeting of the Historical Society until fall, so do make an extra effort to attend. Cameron's talk will be very interesting.



Society Conducts Tour for Special Needs Children

David Ford, on behalf of the Hartford Historical Society, conducted a tour along with Steve Gagliardone and the folks at Vital Communities of Vermont (they have offices in the depot now) for the special-needs kids at Hartford High School. The group

passed by the Garipay House, the Lyman House, and the Pingree Law Office. David said he learned more about Hartford himself as you always learn more than your pupils.

Some of the kids didn't know that 140 years ago, there was a VT governor in town. The site of the Hartford Bridge proved interesting when

they discovered that the foundation, where the bridge used to slope down to Hartford village, is still visible. Extensions on the bridge foundation brought it up to the present day Route 14.

British Ballad Traditions

By David Ford

The April meeting of the Hartford Historical Society was sponsored by the Vermont Council on the Humanities. Pastor Jim Olson had a few kind words of welcome for us, as guests in his church. Mary Nadeau introduced Burt Porter of Glover, VT, the evening's speaker.

Mr. Porter gave a brief history of the British Ballad Traditions: Francis James Childs, the first serious student of the ballad tradition, was professor at Harvard University in the 19th century. His studies focused on the Great Migration in the 18th century. For those interested in more information, Mr. Porter recommended *Albion's Seas* by David Fisher. The different cultures of this continent can be understood by understanding the different parts of England from which our early settlers came. Mostly the East Anglia part of England. New England was settled by middle-class people—they were successful tradesmen and carpenters, and they were literate.

Folk traditions are passed on verbally. The North Carolina hills are an example of a more rural tradition. New England's literacy is reflected in its musical culture. Variations do occur however, as songs are written down again and again.

New Englanders were quite conservative and didn't like the changes in England. The left their homeland in an effort to preserve the old ways in the New World. Some of the old songs were preserved as well.

Helen Hartness Flanders, from Springfield, Vermont, collected ballads from the 1930's through the 1950's. She collected hundreds of old songs, right here in Vermont. There is probably at least one fiddle player in each town in Vermont today. The same was

true of ballad singers of Vermont in the past.

Ballads are usually tragic tales of love and death, because people in the old days thought that sex and violence were interesting. "Billy Boy", a favorite of many in the audience, was the first number Mr. Porter sang for us while playing his mandolin. Most people don't know how they learned songs like these, but they are there, part of our mental furniture. The old ballads were very much like this, learned through a combination of oral and written history.

Ballads tell stories. A dialog between people is the usual means of telling the ballad story. A song about Randal, a boy who was poisoned, and his last conversation with his mother, is very typical of this.

Nowadays if you are unlucky in love, you get on the internet and "get another," but this was not possible in the past. Back then, you would simply die

of a broken heart. Death by broken heart was very common in the old days, according to Mr. Porter. It is not known what was the cause of this, but "Barbara Allen" is a song of the tale of a broken heart, a song that was very familiar song for many of those in the



audience.

The last song Mr. Porter sang was "The Man Who Thought He Could Do More Work Than His Wife." Very humorous, and most in the audience agreed with the wife by the song's conclusion.

An encore was requested, several were granted, including a humorous sketch with fiddling.

2002/2003 Elections

The Hartford Historical Society's Nominating Committee, consisting of Dot Jones, Betty Mills, Alice Hazen, and Mary Nadeau, has presented the following slate to fill officer and director positions. Two positions remain open, and nominations will be accepted from the floor at the May Meeting during a brief election. Please consider running for office. The Society needs your help.

President: Dot Jones
 Vice President: (open)
 Secretary: David Ford
 Treasurer: Peggy McDerment
 Directors (3 positions):
 John Clerkin
 Tom Houghton
 3rd position open

Treasurer's Report

HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 PROFIT & LOSS
 January-December 2001

Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Dues		
Family	320.00	
Individual	450.00	
Senior	270.00	
Sr. Family	405.00	
Business/Inst.	<u>75.00</u>	
Total Dues		1580.00
Gifts		4523.95
Sales		
Books	285.00	
Puzz	95.00	
Postcards	<u>57.00</u>	
Total Sales		437.00
Town Subsidy		3000.00
Total Income		<u>6541.95</u>
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Sales	70.90	
Total Cost of Goods Sold		-70.90
Gross Profit		<u>6470.55</u>
Expense		
Administrative Expenses		
Archival Supplies	465.93	
Bank Service Charges	68.35	
Dues/Subscriptions	60.00	
Miscellaneous	50.00	
Office Supplies	471.84	
Postage	570.80	
Printing	18.84	
Professional Acct's Fees	212.50	
Rent	150.00	
Telephone	<u>392.74</u>	
Total Administrative Expenses		2962.00
Building Operation & Maintenance Exp.		
Building	5101.73	
Grounds	1495.00	
Liability Insurance	962.50	
Security System	<u>423.00</u>	
Total Building Oper. & Maint. Expenses		7982.23
Depreciation		4446.28
Total Expenses		<u>14890.51</u>
Net Ordinary Loss		5419.9
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income	444.50	
Interest	<u>286.31</u>	
Total Other Income		<u>730.8</u>
Net Loss		<u>3989.1</u>

Information Needed

The Town of Hartford is attempting to gather the names of all the streams & brooks in town. We have the ones labeled on the Topographical maps, but many are not labeled. For instance, we have deeds referring to Creamery Brook in West Hartford, but we don't know where that brook is! If you know of a stream name, please let Pat Stark know. Thank you. [295-3077]

Interesting Discovery

April 23, 2002 - while digging parallel to the sidewalk in front of the Municipal Building, a set of granite steps were found. Located at the end of the present front walkway, they were about 10' wide, 3 steps up with curving sides. The bottom step was left in place because to remove it would destroy much of the present sidewalk. The two top steps turned into rubble during removal. This was related to Pat Stark by Tom Coutermarsh at noon. Does anyone have any pictures of the building that existed before the Municipal Building was constructed?

Historical Society Sponsors Coffee Break

As a fundraiser, the Hartford Historical Society will sponsor a Coffee Break at the northbound rest area (south of the WRJ interchange) on I-91 on Saturday, June 29th from 8:00 - 3:00. Please help out by donating home baked items such as cookies, muffins or brownies. They may be dropped off at the Garipay House on Friday, June 29th from 4-7. Volunteers are needed to serve the refreshments. Please contact Fred Bradley at 295-3819.

Author Identified

Mystery solved. Several people contacted us to say that the person who gave the speech for the Rotary Clubs 50th Anniversary was John St. Croix.

Thanks to all who took the time to let us know.

Vermont History Expo 2002

The Hartford Historical Society is one of 100 local Vermont Societies featured in the Vermont History Expo 2002, June 22-23, from 10:00 am.-5:00 pm at the Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds. Now in its third year, the History Expo has again been recognized by the State Chamber of Commerce as one of "Vermont's Top Ten Summer Events."

All of the local historical societies participating in the Expo are invited to tell a story about their community through a creative exhibit of artifacts from their collection. Taken collectively, the community stories, in combination with the re-enactors, crafts people, performers, historians, musicians, and genealogists, create a tapestry of Vermont that is as fascinating as it is fun.

Others have described the event as "magical, inspiring, sheer genius, and profoundly democratic." Another term to describe the Vermont History Expo is "not to be missed".

Admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children (6-18). Children 5 and under are admitted free. Put this great event on your calendar now.

NEW MEMBERS REPORT JANUARY - APRIL 2002

Welcome to the following new Members:

Pauline Bartlett of Wilder
Nancy Blood of Woodstock
Raymond and Rebecca Book of West Lebanon
John J. Clerkin of White River Junction
Jay Diedzie of Williamsburg, VA
John and Patti Johnson of White River Junction
Lorraine R. Murphy of North Hartland
Peter O'Donnell of Wilder
Charles C. Perry of Hendersonville, NC
Jeres S. Smith of Wilder
Marvin & Nancy Weinberg of Quechee

Submitted by Betty Mills
Membership Chair

Hartford Historical Society
PO Box 547
Hartford, Vermont 05047



Governor Samuel E. Pingree 1832-1922

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit 15
 Hartford, VT
 05047

Partial List of Gifts

Photo of Miller Auto Bldg with Employees id'd on back, 1910
 Tip Top/Ward Foods napkins w/ad slogan, c 1965
 Judge Henry Black (1906-1977) articles from his career
 Black Family History, compiled by R.S. Black
 Judge Henry F. Black Material compiled by R.S. Black
 Numerous local postcards, envelopes, letters
 Pictures of Quechee School Children, 1948
 Bromo Paper for the Water Closet
 Leavitt's Farmers Almanac, Concord, NH, 1913
 Dusty Miller: A Fifty-Year GM Dealer, from Life Magazine, 1958

Oruel Brown
 Matt Bucy
 Roy Black
 Roy Black
 Roy Black
 Fred Bradley
 Phyllis Paquet
 Jeannette Gould
 David Ford
 David Ford

Officers

Chairman:
 Mary Nadeau 295-2123
Vice Chairman:
 Dot Jones 295-2701
Secretary:
 David Ford 295-7105
Treasurer:
 Peggy McDerment 295-2357

Your Board of Directors

Fred Bradley: 295-3819
 Bob Follensbee: 295-3649
 Alice Hazen: 295-2481
 Norm Lyman 295-2123
 Betty Mills: 436-1379
 Mary Nadeau: 295-2123
 Everett Smith: 295-3277
 Sue Ellen Shambo: 296-2230

Newsletter: Muriel Farrington, Editor John Lutz, Publisher