



# HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047 •

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HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER

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Volume 7, Issue 4 • SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • November 1994

## *November Meeting . . .*

Our November meeting will feature a talk and slide presentation by Leo and Pat Zacharski on the history of Hartford's Jericho District. The Zacharskis have lived in Jericho over twenty years and have become acquainted with its history through oral traditions and their own research. They will illuminate several aspects of Jericho's past dealing with early landholding patterns, farmhouse architecture, and community change.

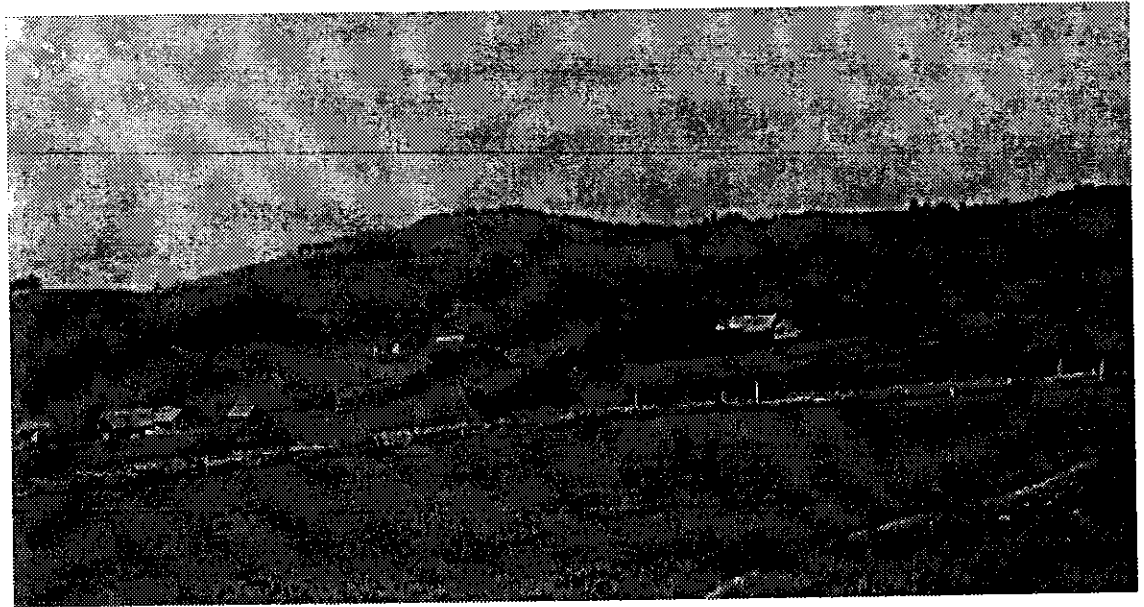
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The Meeting will be

**Wednesday, November 9, at 7:00 PM**

at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ  
Route 14, Hartford Village.

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*A 19th century photo of open land in Jericho.*

### ***From The President:***

The trustees of the Quechee Library have generously offered us unlimited use of a large vault in the basement of the building. The purchase of a new door for the vault will give excellent security and fire protection for the Historical Society's collection.

There is still a limited supply of mugs (depicting Engine 494 on one side and the Hartford Historical Society's emblem on the other) which members may purchase for \$5 plus tax. These are available at the Town Clerk's Office and they will also be offered at our meeting on November 9th.

Each year we get a number of requests from students and teachers seeking information on the history of Hartford. It would be helpful if we had volunteers who were willing to visit the schools to assist with these projects or to make presentations. If you enjoy working with children, please consider sharing your time and knowledge.

Mary Nadeau

### ***Thanks:***

The Society wishes to thank Andersen Thorp for her presentation of New England gravestone folk art at our September meeting and the Saturday morning cemetery tour. At both events Andersen generously shared her knowledge and findings in why different styles of gravestone carvings developed, the time periods these styles were used, and the types of stone used for gravestones. The cemetery tour also included a demonstration of gravestone rubbing techniques which all who were present participated in.

We also wish to thank all who planned and volunteered at the display the Society had at the Glory Days of the Railroad Festival in White River Jct. September 16-17. Among the items on display were a collection of railroad memorabilia, a railroad photograph album, photograph albums of the town's villages, maps, and other items of interest.

The Society made sales of 3 books, a poster, and 21 mugs during the festival as well as receiving \$39 in donations. Thanks to all who participated and attended.

### ***Notice:***

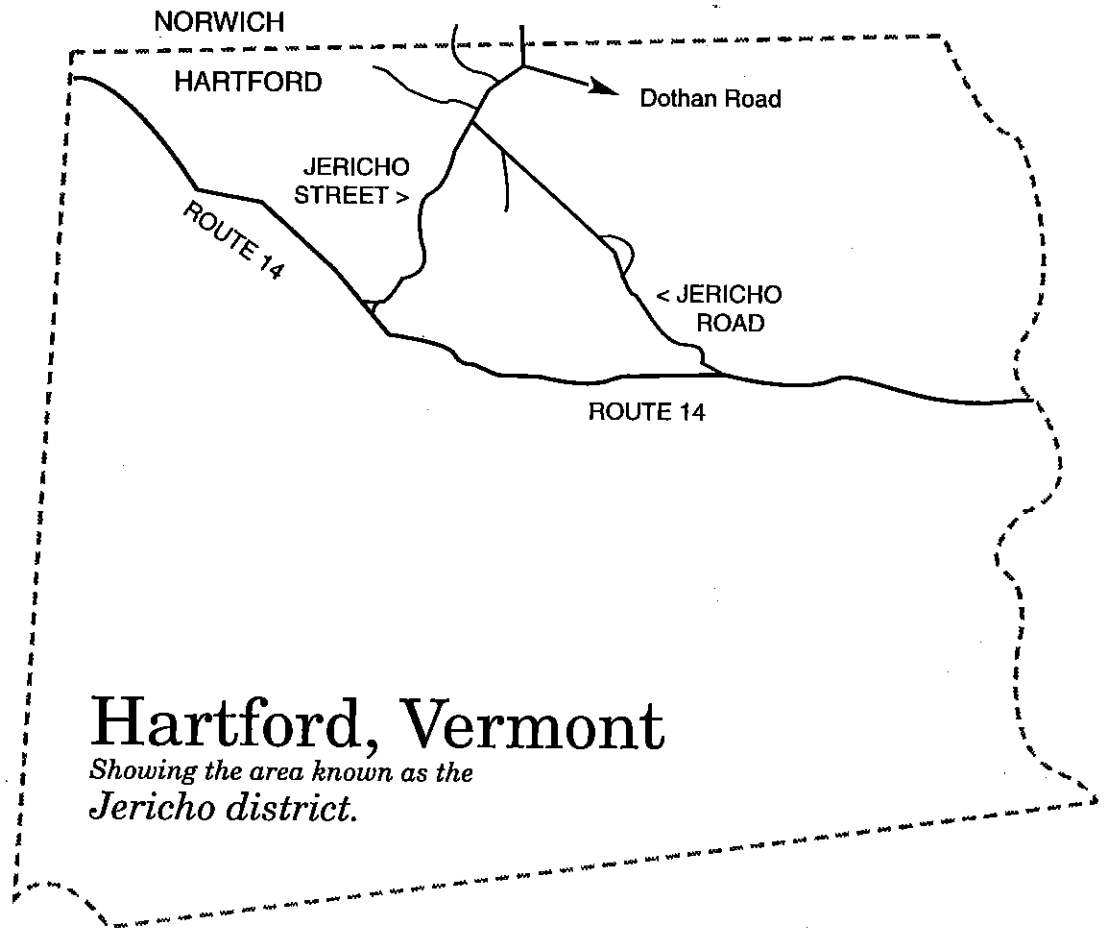
At our November meeting there will be a discussion relating to possible future changes to the Society newsletter. We request that members evaluate our present newsletter and make suggestions on how they would like to see it improved.

## The Jericho District

In the late eighteenth century the Rev. Aaron Hutchinson reportedly gave the name Jericho to a 576 acre square block of land centered where the present Jericho Road and Jericho Streets now intersect.

From that time the unofficial bounds of Jericho have expanded. Up through the early nineteenth century the southern half of Jericho Road was known as Goshen before being integrated as a part of the Jericho community. A small contiguous portion of Norwich also became associated with Jericho before the twentieth century.

Presently the Jericho district includes those areas accessible from Jericho Street and Jericho Roads so that the district includes a major portion of the town of Hartford and a very small portion of Norwich.

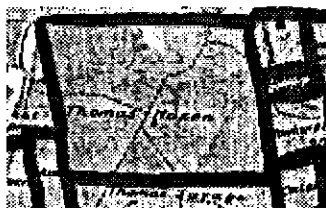


## The Hazen family in early Jericho

by Leo Zacharski

The early history of the Jericho community was shaped to a great extent by the Hazen family who originally settled the area. Thomas Hazen, the first of the family to come to Hartford, was born in Norwich, Connecticut in 1719. Thomas married Ann Tenney in 1742 and between 1743 and 1771 they had 16 children. When the Hazens moved to Hartford in the early 1770s, the youngest child, Ann, traveled as a babe in arms. Thomas Hazen began construction of a two-story house on Christian Street in 1775. It has been documented that workers on the roof of this house heard the cannon blasts from the Battle of Bunker Hill (This house remains occupied by Thomas' descendants).

The upper Jericho region came into Thomas Hazen's ownership as a result and part of his activities as a proprietor of Hartford. Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire had granted the charter for "Hartford" in 1761. New York successfully disputed New Hampshire's



*Thomas Hazen lot, part of future Jericho.*

claim to the area of present-day Vermont; receiving a favorable judgment in 1764. As a result proprietors who were the owners of the New Hampshire granted towns subsequently had to repurchase their title from New York authorities. The proprietors of Hartford secured sufficient funds for this repurchase from fellow proprietor Thomas Hazen. In return for the "loan" Thomas Hazen received 1000 acres of land in the northwest corner of town in May of 1773.

Also in May of 1773 Hazen acquired 560 acres from the proprietors for an effort he had made to acquire a new title by traveling to New York to personally meet with authorities. This block of land was contiguous to the 1000 acres Hazen formally acquired and was located at the opposite side of town from Hazen's homestead. Between these two extremities Hazen acquired additional land so that his family held title to much of the northern part of Hartford.

Much of the present-day Jericho region came into Hazen's ownership as a part of his consolidation of land in northern Hartford. Tucker's "History of Hartford" states that "Thomas Hazen pitched 650 acres of land, of which 576 acres was in one body, and constituted what is now known as Jericho...." The center of this 576 acre piece was near where the present intersection of Jericho Street and Jericho Road is.

Most of the children of Thomas and Ann Hazen remained in Hartford. Three of the Hazen children had died in Connecticut. Of the 13 who accompanied their parents to Vermont ten were boys. Silas Hazen died in the Revolutionary war. Elijah Hazen returned to Connecticut where he made his permanent home. The remaining eleven children all lived in the northern Hartford/Norwich area. Nine of these made their homes on family land in Hartford.



*Nineteenth century photo of the Daniel Hazen House.*

The records of the transfer of deeds in the Hartford Town Offices carry an entry for August 8, 1781 in which Thomas Hazen deeded the 1560 acres of land in the northwest corner of town to his children together "in return for their love and good will." Only one of the Hazen siblings settled on this land: the youngest, Reuben. The two eldest sons lived in the Christian Street neighborhood. Three sons settled in Dothan. Two daughters married Norwich residents and made their homes there. Three Hazen children settled in Jericho: Eunice, Daniel, and Philemon.

The Hazen siblings who settled in Jericho all established farms in close proximity to each other before 1800. Daniel Hazen's family settled in the northern part of the district in the house now owned by the Gifford family. The family of Philemon Hazen lived where the Zacharskis now live; south of Daniel. Eunice Hazen and her husband William Pixley lived at the site of the present Jeffe property south of where Philemon Hazen lived.

The land in Jericho produced an abundance of timber, wheat, potatoes, and apples for cider. Farms established by Daniel and Philemon Hazen remained in the family for several generations. While agriculture has declined in the Jericho district in the last 30 years, a rich architectural heritage remains from the farm era which provides a glimpse of life as it once was. Thus a small vestige remains of the activity of the Hazen family in the Jericho district.

*Leo Zacharski is a physician at the V.A. Hospital, teaches at the Dartmouth Medical School, and lives in Jericho.*

# The Jericho District

1869-1870

by Cameron Clifford

A snapshot of the Jericho District based on the *1869 Beers Atlas of Windsor County* and the 1870 Federal Census reveals that the district was a farming community.

Apparent from the atlas is the sense that the twenty-five households were fairly well dispersed throughout the district. This dispersal indicates that farming was going on. Since most people who lived outside of villages farmed for a living in the later half of the nineteenth century one can safely assume that most of the households shown on the map were involved in farming. The atlas also shows the locations of institutions within the district normally associated with nineteenth century farm communities: a church and a school.

Looking at the 1869 atlas hints that most households were farming in Jericho; looking at the 1870 Federal Census confirms it. In fact, the census records reveal that every single household within the district farmed. All twenty-five households were "headed" by a "Farmer".

All those who headed households were not only farmers but they were all men. Traditionally men were considered the "Farmer" who took charge of the outdoor farm work of plowing, planting, harvesting, and animal husbandry. In actuality, woman probably also had a hand in the decision making to some extent and in the cases of those women who never married or were widowed and chose not to remarry; they were the ones who were the "Farmers".

In Jericho's case no woman headed a household, nor were any listed as farmers in the census. Their husbands, fathers, and employers were. Jane Merchant's husband James farmed near the White River. Their married younger neighbor across the road C.M. Chessman was listed as a "Farmer". Up the hill at the Dutton farm Ursula's father Thaddeus was the farmer of the family. Over the line in Norwich Aurilla Lyman's husband and Susan Nott's son both were the ones considered as farmers. At the intersection of the present Jericho Street and Jericho Roads; Mary Walbridge was the "house keeper" while her employer George Hazen was the farmer.

While the men who headed the households were all farmers, the other members of each household who had their occupations listed all did work associated with the farm. This is not surprising given the fact that all the households were engaged in farming and if someone lived on a farm he also worked there. Most generally the women were listed as "house keeper" and the men as "farm laborer". The only exception to this in Jericho is the case of thirteen year old Hiram Nott who was listed as "keeping house" - doing the indoor house-work- apparently because his mother had died and his grandmother was too feeble to.

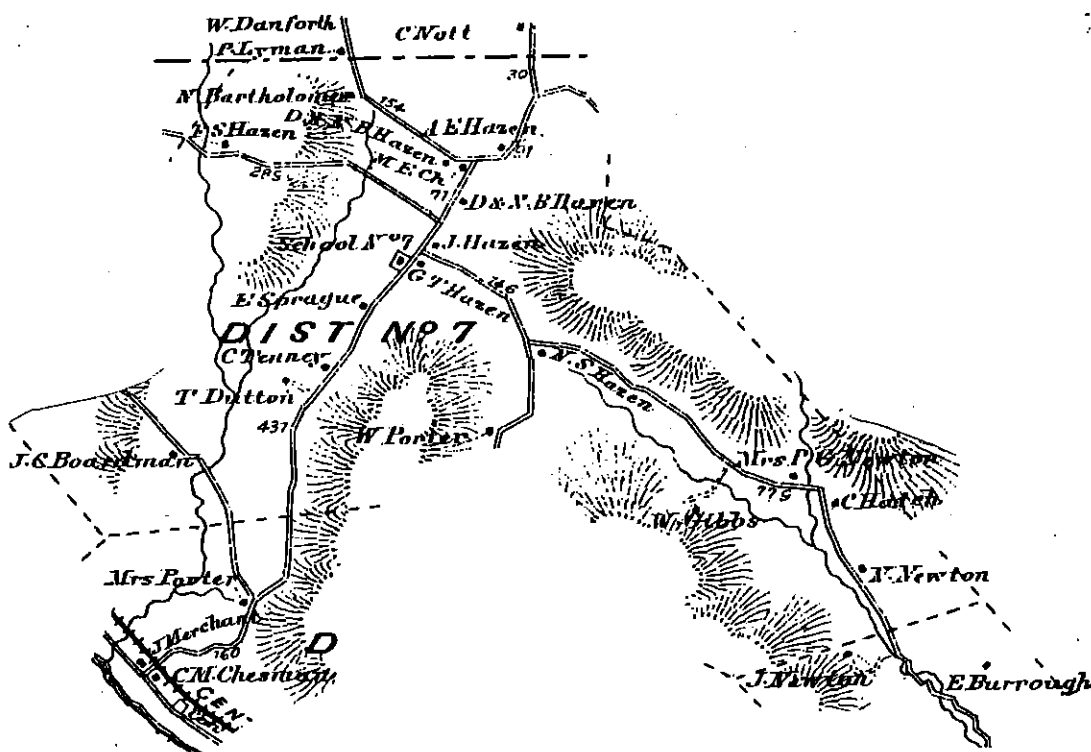
Usually the women listed in the census as "keeping house" were wives of the "farmers". Keeping house was the other half of a farm family's duties along with the outside farm chores.

Almost all the women who kept house in Jericho did so without a live-in helper other than their children.

One might get the sense that sons generally worked for their fathers on the family's farm in Jericho during 1869-1870. One can envision sons growing up doing farmwork with their fathers. But according to the 1870 census, there weren't many sons available to do much farmwork. Either the sons were too young or they had already left the household. Julius Hazens son Julius Jr. was listed in the census as a farm laborer in his father's household the same as William Merchant and Noah Hazen were in theirs, but this was rare.

Most farm laborers in the Jericho district lived with their employers. These farm laborers were generally young men from other families of the region; some though were from Canada and Ireland.

As with any resource a wealth of information can be effectively gleaned with care and attention to detail. What helps to make resources more valuable is when they are combined; making a richer picture than any one resource by itself can. The 1869 Beers Atlas and the 1870 Federal Census complement each other well in giving us a view of the agricultural nature of the Jericho District.



Jericho District. Detail from Beers 1869 Atlas of Windsor, Co. Vt.

# Orris Bushway's Work at the Hazen Farm

1933-1934

by Cameron Clifford

In July of 1930 Charles Herbert Hazen mailed a note to Orris Bushway stating that he and his wife Laura "may want...help" on their farm in Hartford's Jericho district. The farm had been Laura's parents. Laura took over the property around 1920 after her brother Edwin opted out of farming there. Charles, a first cousin of Laura, had also been raised in the Jericho district, growing up on the farm of his father George Hazen. Charles moved to Bethlehem, N.H. in 1895 and remained there until the death of his first wife in 1922. He came back to Hartford and married Laura Hazen in 1925. They operated the farm jointly and like many farmers they made use of hired help. It is unclear whether Orris Bushway worked for the Hazens in the summer of 1930, but he was working for them in 1933 and 1934 as his extant letters home reveal.



*Orris Bushway & Lyman Herriman*

Bushway was from the region having been raised in North Pomfret and West Hartford. In working for the Hazens he was like many single men in rural northern New England at the time. Many boarded and worked on farms. On farms young men engaged in many types of outdoor activity. They cut firewood, made maple sugar, tended crops and animals, did haying, and odd jobs as needed. Bushway's duties at the Hazen farm were different though; his were domestic.

Much has been written about how gender determined the specific duties assigned to men and women on farms during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many claim that men only did outdoor farmwork while the indoor work was accomplished exclusively by women. Orris Bushway's letters to his mother's companion Lyman Herriman show that this was not always the case.

Orris Bushway's duties at the Hazen farm were domestic: cooking and cleaning. Excerpts from his letters make that clear. "I have made molasses drop cookies...and Rhubarb sauce.... Have cleaned the rooms upstairs and the stairs this afternoon.... Have made 3 pies and bread.... I have just put a bread a going.... I ironed this afternoon and tomorrow I expect I'll be cooking most of the time. I have swept and mopped all the rooms upstairs. Have been cleaning in the dining room so far this week.... done most of the family washing.... Guess I shall iron tomorrow." I worked on a quilt "a good share of yesterday afternoon. Also cleaned

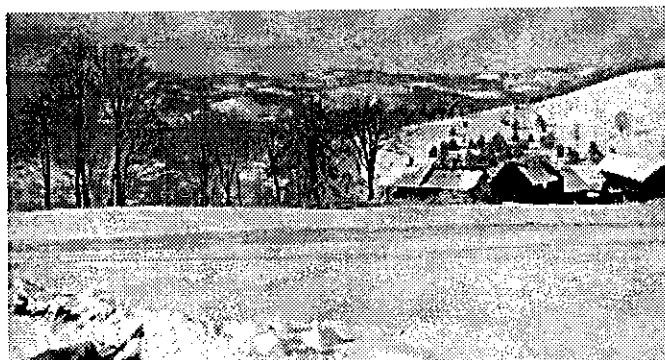


the stairs and lower hall and made graham bread. Today, I guess I clean the bath room fixtures ect.... Want to shave after I get the dishes done."

In his letters home, Bushway never mentions working doing outdoor farm work. In his letter of June 27, 1933, Bushway states that "the boys" were "making hay" during the week. During the same time Bushway had "cleaned a pantry shelf...made 2 pies...graham bread..." did the inside "general work" and "cleaned the bathroom and Joe's room." In August Bushway related that Milford had been "mowing rowing" while Bushway had been "cooking most of the time..." Another time Bushway wrote that the day before "they" butchered a veal whereas he "made corn fritters". While the other hired help was shoveling out after a February snowstorm Bushway and Mrs. Hazen cleaned the stove pipe in the dining room.

As opposed to the other Hazen farm help, Bushway's duties at first do not appear to have varied with the seasons. "Am doing the same things as usual - cooking, washing dishes and cleaning." Domestic duties changed little. Everyone had to eat. Clothes needed washing. Rooms needed cleaning according to the standards set by the Hazens.

Even though Bushway's duties of cooking, washing, and cleaning appear to be mundane and never ending he did experience variations through the year even though the basic tasks did not change. In June rhubarb was ready to pull and he made rhubarb sauce. The Summer found Bushway very busy with cooking and laundry as there were extra



*Laura Hazen farm, 1930s*

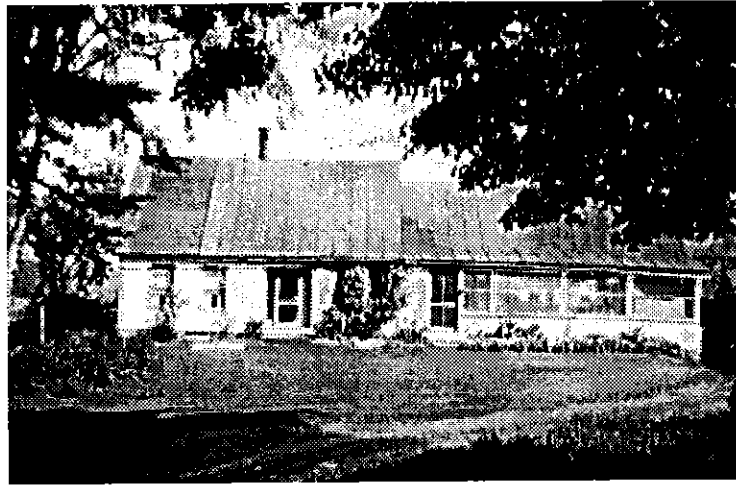
farm help working for the Hazens. January found him having time to spend in the time consuming task of cleaning out apparently full drawers and cupboards. Winter also found the stovepipes needing disassembling and cleaning occasionally. It also gave time for spending time making a quilt for a present of a friend of the Hazens. May found asparagus and dandelions to cook for meals and can for later use and also for sale. The following June ended the spring cleaning with the windows and curtains being washed. Thus within a year Bushway's domestic duties varied as the seasons demanded.

Bushway's domestic duties were considered very important by the Hazens. Keeping the household fed and clean was a constant chore. Meals evidently were not the same when Bushway wasn't there cooking. In one letter home Bushway related how after returning to the Hazens farm after a visit home, he found that they had "bought some bread" because they ran short and Bushway wasn't there to make any. Also hired man Milford Illsley said that "it seemed good to see the old cook back again." If one was to keep a farm operating and the help happy, good food had to be provided.

*Continued next page . . .*

## Orris Bushway's Work at the Hazen Farm *(concluded)*

Bushway was considered valuable not only for the sake of keeping hired help fed and clean but apparently the Hazens also. The Hazens kept Bushway throughout the normally slow winter months when much of the other hired help had been let go. Whereas in August there



*House at the Hazen farm, 1930s*

were ten to feed, in January there were only three. Winter was slow workwise, but the Hazens expected Bushway to try and keep busy. He hints how this was accomplished; slowing the work pace. In a letter to Lyman Herriman dated January 9, Bushway says that he does "Manage to keep busy most of the time, even if the family is small." He later related that it was "rather quiet" except for the radio at the Hazens during the winter months.

It is unclear how long Bushway worked for the Hazens, but we can be sure that the whole time he did his duties remained domestic. Although men usually did the outdoor work on farms, Bushway's case shows that some men did domestic work and were valued for doing so. In one of Bushway's last extant letters from the Hazen farm written during the Summer of 1934 he acknowledged his importance: "I'll have some cooking to do tomorrow. There's a piece of cake and 3 potatoes in the cupboard." Bushway was needed and he knew it.



*Milford Illsley left, Joe Robinson right.  
Taken at the Hazen farm, 1930s.*

# The Transformation of the Jericho District 1950-1994

by Cameron Clifford

The Jericho district went through a transformation after 1950. The combination of agricultural decline and the ability to live in one area and work in another because of the mobility created by the automobile resulted in Jericho becoming a very attractive place to live after 1950. The result was the sale of farms to those who wanted to live in former farmhouses, but not farm for a living and the construction of new housing unassociated with farming.

Farmhouses became available for purchase. With the number of farms in the district decreasing to two by 1994; almost all the farmhouses were sold by former farm families. The Adams, Sonberger, Coutermarsh, Robinson, Lyman, and Merton Nott farms all ceased operation and were bought by people who did not farm. A few farmhouses were sold to people originally from the Upper Valley region of Vermont and New Hampshire such as the Bettis family who bought the old Savage farm at the foot of Jericho Street. Other farmhouses were retained by farm families such as the Lymans and Millers for junior family members. Most former farmhouses though were bought by professionals originally from outside of the region who increasingly came to view rural areas such as the Jericho District as a very desirable place to reside or retreat to.

Another result of the combination of fewer farms in Jericho and the district becoming an attractive place to live was the building of new houses on former farmland. Every single farm in the district had new housing built upon its land after 1950 whereas before then only the Adams family had sold a piece of their farm for new housing. Some farms which remained in operation after 1950 had pieces of land subdivided for family members to build upon as in the case of the Miller, Lyman, and Gauthier families.



*Haying equipment at work with new home on hillside.*

While some new houses came about because farm families gave family members a piece of land to build upon, most did not. Most of the district's new housing after 1950 came about after farmers sold their lands to individuals and companies who saw the growing opportunity in providing land to prospective buyers. The exception was Merton Nott who had his farm subdivided and sold building lots himself.

Companies such as Northland of Vermont and J.P. Ware and individuals like Charles Baker and Russell McCormack bought all or parts of the former Coutermarsh, Savage, Robinson, and Adams farms, subdivided the lands into smaller building lots, and sold them. As a result of their and other's activities in buying, subdividing, and selling real estate in Jericho after 1950; the district has sixty-seven more houses in 1994 than it did in 1950.

Jericho is a much different place in 1994 than it was in 1950; different not better. Some compare the present with the past and selectively long for once was. The Jericho District once was a farming area. The district now supports people in a different way, residents can live there while making their living elsewhere.

**In Sympathy:**

We would like to extend our sympathy to  
the family of Loretta Garipay.

***Recent Gifts***

The Society thanks the following individuals for their recent gifts:

**Esther Beckett;** 1913 Boston & Maine Railroad 500 mile tickets with revenue stamp.

**Roy Black;** 1963 photograph taken in Woodstock, Vt. of Judge Henry F. Black with Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and Laurance Rockefeller.

**Fred Bradley;** Receipts from several Hartford businesses dating from the 1970s.

**Mrs. Evelyn B. Cameron;** 1889 History of Hartford, Vermont by William H. Tucker.

**Drew Gordon;** 113 Photographs and Postcards mostly of the White River Jct. area dating from the first half of the twentieth century.

**Margurite Hogg;** 1978 Yearbook & Manual by the Vermont Plantsmen's Association.

**Philip Spillane;** 1936 Report by the Vermont State Highway Board with maps.

**Pat Stark;** Eight 1994 colored photographs of libraries, churches, and Post Offices in Wilder and West Hartford.

**Richard Steward;** Several Hartford Fire District #2 Tax Books dating from the 1940s & 1950s.

**Anonymous;** 1977 Poster of the Hartford Bicentennial Committee's "Dime-A-Dip Supper."

**Town Of Hartford;** 1963 Topographical & Highway Wall Map by Albert Schaal.

**Town of Hartford Fire Department;** 1993 Colored T-Shirt celebrating the Fire Department's centennial.

*Photo credits for this issue:*

*Leo Zacharski Collection, Pages 1 and 5; Cameron Clifford Collection, Pages 8, 9, 10 and 11.*

**HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Office: Room 110, Municipal Building, White River Jct., VT 05001

Hours: By Appointment

Mary Nadeau, *President*, 802 295-2123 • Dorothy Jones, *Vice President*, 802 295-2701

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of March, May, September and November at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Route 14 in Hartford Village.