

# HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Garipay House  
1461 Maple Street  
Hartford Village, Vermont

- 
- Hartford
  - Quechee
  - West Hartford
  - White River Junction
  - Wilder
- 

Vol. 11, No. 4

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 1998



*Howard Coffin*  
*guest speaker*

## NEXT MEETING

# Vermont at Gettysburg

a talk by Howard Coffin

Sponsored by this Society and the Vermont Council on the Humanities, Woodstock native, Howard Coffin's talk will be drawn from the research that has already produced two books, *Full Duty*, and, his newest one: *Nine Months to Gettysburg*. The meeting is free and open to the public. The site is handicap accessible. So come and learn about Vermont in the Civil War from an expert. (See p.5 for a bit more about Howard.)

## Vermont at Gettysburg

November 11, 7 PM

Greater Hartford United Church of Christ on Route 14  
in Hartford village

Sponsored by the Vermont Council on the Humanities  
&  
the Hartford Historical Society



A red mark on your address label! See page 7 to find out why.

## Hartford Historical Society

### Officers 1998-1999

Chairman: Bob Durkee  
President: Herb Adams  
Vice President: Dot Jones  
Treasurer: Peggy McDerment  
Secretary: David Ford

### Board of Directors:

Fred Bradley, Bob Follensbee, Betty Mills, terms expires 2001  
Bob Durkee, Alice Hazen, Evelyn Stevens, terms expires 2000  
Roy Black, Jeanette Gould, Norman Lyman, terms expires 1999

### Volunteer Staff

Archivist: Pat Stark, Curator: Priscilla Gadzinski, Correspondence and Membership Secretary: Betty Mills, Facilities Coordinator: Pat Stark, Program Coordinator: Evelyn Stevens, Newsletter Editor: Kathy Wendling

You are invited to our  
*Annual Christmas Tea*  
at the Garipay House  
Main Street  
Hartford Village

Saturday, December 5th, 1998  
1:30 PM to 4 PM  
Come, bring the family



The Hartford Historical Society collection is growing rapidly. Here are just a few of the recent additions.

Tap shoes of Teddy Thereault from Margaret Briggs who also gave a minstrel show poster and a photograph of Terry Sr. and Jr.

George Smith gave a photograph of the Hartford High School Basketball team of 1907-8 while Judy Barwood came up with the Hartford School Baseball team for 1928 with all the players identified! Judy gave a number of pictures including two stereoptican photographs: one of the Pease hotel stables and one of Hartford Main Street.

Look for a more definitive list in our next newsletter. Be assured that your donations are duly registered and properly stored or displayed by our archivist, Pat Stark.

Your gifts are always welcome: photographs, artifacts, anything pertaining to Hartford and all its many villages and the residents therein.

The HHS house itself could use such useful and modern items as: a computer and a vacuum cleaner.



## White River Jct. Italian History Night a big Success



*Marion and 3 Ralphs: Terino, Guarino and Falzarano*

Fifty-one people came to our September meeting. After enjoying a delightful pot luck dinner featuring Italian food, the guest panel of four (pictured above) discussed growing up in White River Junction. Marion Schettino Levesque was joined by Rafaele (Italian for Ralph) Terino, Ralph Guarino and Ralph Falzarano. All were children (or in Falzarano's case, a grandchild) of immigrants who came to this country from Italy late in the nineteenth century or early in the present century. Actually they all were cousins. For instance, Ralph Guarino's mother and Rafaele's mother were sisters. Society secretary David Ford took extensive notes which he is checking with the panel members and creating a genealogy of our speakers. It will become a part of the permanent record of this meeting. Although the many White River immigrants did not know one another before arriving in Vermont, they came from the area around Naples, Italy. Some of the men worked briefly in the Boston area but ultimately they all wound up in White River Jct., working on the railroad and living nearby on South Main, South Elm, and Nutt Lane. (When the railroad expanded it bought all the houses on South Elm Street and moved them to Nutt Lane.)

Today many of their descendants are living in Wilder, fairly close to one another as had the earlier generations been in WRJ. Their number include members of many professions including lawyers, entrepreneurs and storekeepers. The panelist reminisced at great length about the White River Junction of their youth. The audience loved it. If you missed that evening do look for David's report. In the meantime, at right: a photograph of Marion Levesque who is proud of her more than 90 years.



### **Looking ahead:**

Jeanette Gould is working on a special program to keep us all busy this winter. Look for her announcement in our next newsletter.

### **1999 already? Save these dates:**

**April 14, 1999:** Henry Bissex from Montpelier will present: "The Schoolmaster and his School—1791." Kathy Wendling has caught this act and says its truly fun and enlightening.

**May 12, 1999:** We hope to explore the history of a local landmark with its landlord. The institution and the speaker to be announced.

### **High Jinx on the Farm**

#### **Flatlanders' Farming**

In the 40s Ed, a patent attorney in New York and wife Margaret Taylor whom we called Mugget, moved down the hill from us on Hillcrest Road. After the first summer gardening, they confessed that didn't have one good tomato. My husband Howard said, "Now you know how hard it is to farm." That night we went down and hung cans of tomatoes, tomato soup, and ketchup on the vines.

#### **Taylor's Pond**

Ed Taylor decided to have a pond dug by the road just down from us. When my husband saw it, he said that it looked as though a prehistoric monster should live in it. The whole family decided we should make one. We used a plastic tablecloth for the body, stuffed it with hay, a KAFF-A pail was the head. I sewed fins on the back. We painted it yellow with green spots on the body. In the middle of the night, we put it in the pond. Next morning Ed called. Tell Howard to get down here there's something awful in the pond. The head hung in Taylor's garage for years.

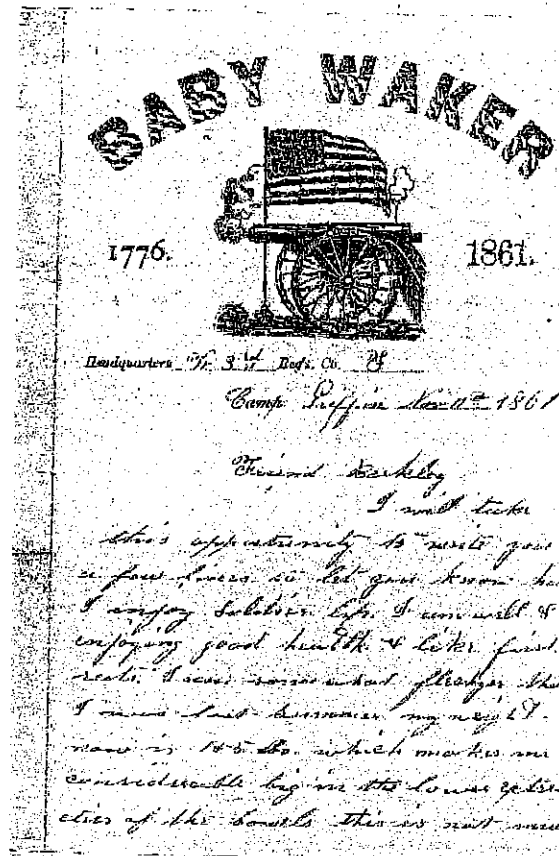
Janet Blood  
RR1 Box 610  
Woodstock, VT 05091  
457-1547

## A Civil War Letter from the HHS Collection

The motif at the top of the letter at the right is in red, white and blue. Dated November 11, 1861, Camp Griffin, the letter is from Edgar Ordway of South Pomfret to "Friend Berkley." In it, Ordway notes that, "I enjoy soldier's life and am enjoying good health and like first rate." Later on he mentions that Sgt. Phillip V. Thomas has gone back to White River to get some recruits. He adds, "I think you and John had better come out here with him and (.....) into this Co."

Edgar Ordway's address was:  
Co. F. 3rd Regt.

Vt Volunteers, Washington, D. C.  
We do not know if Berkley and John joined up. However, upon checking Vail's *History of Pomfret*, we found that Ordway enlisted September 17, 1861; was discharged for disability Nov. 30, 1862; re-enlisted Dec. 25, 1863; died June 14, 1864, from wounds received May 12, 1864. Archivist Pat Stark will have a copy of this letter at our November 11th meeting featuring Howard Coffin talking on the Civil War.



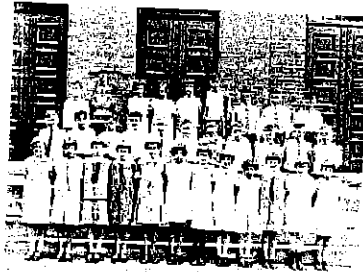
Do we assume a "baby waker" was the canon depicted above? No doubt Howard Coffin will have the answer to this any many other questions about the war. He has been interested in "the war between the states" for years and currently serves on the National Civil War Sites Advisory Commission.

Also interested in Vermont history, he is a trustee of the Vermont Historical Society and of the Coolidge Foundation.

## Mystery Photo



November Mystery Photo offers a river, a village, or at least a number of houses and a road. Does anyone recognize this scene? The picture is from our collection but remains unidentified.



Do drop by the Hartford Historical Society's headquarters in the former Garipay house on Main Street in Hartford village or call Pat Stark at 296-2192, if you can identify this mystery scene. Our mystery photo in our last issue is no longer a mystery!

The picture above was the mystery photo in our September issue. Nathaniel Perry from Hillcrest Manor on the VA Cutoff told us that the three handsome doors were on the Grammar School gym (across from Stern's today) in what later became Hartford High School.

**THE HARTFORD HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

At The Garipay House  
1461 Maple Street (Route 14)\*  
Hartford Village, Vermont

**1999 APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM**

Type of Membership (please circle):

Individual	\$15 per year
Family (same address)	)\$20 per year
Senior \$	10 per year
Senior Family (same address)	\$15 per year
Commercial/Institutional	\$25 per year
Special Gift of Support	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names (Family Memberships)

Mailing Address

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Questions :

(\*) 911 address.

**YOUR DUES COVER ONE  
YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP.  
YOUR NEWSLETTER  
LABEL  
WILL GIVE THE DATE  
YOUR DUES ARE DUE.**

Please send this form and your  
check to:

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



**The "NUFANGL" Trousers**

is one of the newest and most successful creations in  
Gents' wearing apparel. They give you a perfect fit  
at your fingers' end. **WHEELER BROS.** have  
them in huge variety. Call and see our stock. We  
have many good things we want to show you.

**WHEELER BROS.** Gents' Tailors,  
and Outfitters.  
White River Junction, Vt. Store in Gates Block.

*Above: Nufangle pants from ad  
in a 1902 Inter-State Journal  
published in White River Jct.*