



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Garipay House
1461 Maple Street
Hartford Village, Vermont

•Hartford •Quechee •West Hartford
•White River Junction •Wilder

Vol. 12, No. 4

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 1999

NEXT MEETING: NOV. 17

LEO TUCKER

will speak on
Historic Re-enactments

You can't go back in time—or can you? Leo Tucker thinks you can. A member of the Living History Association based in Marlboro, Leo will share his experiences re-enacting key moments in American history and the many insights he has gained by his participation.

Pictured in his Revolutionary uniform (at right) Leo will tell us how exacting the requirements and how rewarding the efforts to go back in time.



Historic Re-enactments by Leo Tucker

November 17th, 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



Hartford Historical Society

Officers 1999-2000

Chairman: Bob Durkee
President: Dot Jones
Vice President: Muriel Farrington
Treasurer: Peggy McDerment
Secretary: David Ford

Board of Directors

Terms expire 2002:
Roy Black, Mary Nadeau, Norman Lyman
Terms expire 2001:
Fred Bradley, Bob Follensbee, Betty Mills
Terms expire 2000:
Bob Durkee, Alice Hazen, Evelyn Stevens

Volunteer Staff

Archivist, Pat Stark
Curator, Priscilla Gadzinski
Correspondence & 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 4th, 1999
1:30 PM to 4 PM
Come, bring the family



Archivist Pat Stark's Report

Special thanks to:

Janet Blood for the wonderful antique rack we are now using to display our brochures.
—to David Ford for his extensive work on our new brochure—due out soon.
—to an anonymous donor of a table top easel and display rack.

Regular Open House at the Garipay House continues on the first Tuesday 6 - 8 pm and the first Saturday 1:30 - 4pm. of each month until January.

The Garipay House will be closed for the month of January.

In the meantime, don't miss our Christmas Tea (see below left.)

Our computer is up and running!

Soon you will be able to access our entire collection.

Recent Donations

There isn't room this issue to list all our recent donations, so let me share a recent event. A gentleman phoned to ask if I had ever heard of Quechee High School. [Of course I hadn't but as a non-native this wasn't surprising. It did however, gain my immediate interest.] He said he had attended this school. A week later he donated several interesting items—including class photos. It seems that for several years [in the 1930s and 40s] students could take their freshman and sophomore years at Quechee before finishing at White River. Thanks, Mr. Stone for sharing your artifacts and memories with us.



How Electricity Came to Vermont:
a report on another successful HHS
Meeting last September,
by David Fairbanks Ford, Secretary

In recent months, Hartford Historical Society meetings have consistently garnered an attendance of about 50 people. Our September meeting was one of those.

Evelyn Stevens introduced the speaker Jack Moore. He is an employee of Central Vermont Public Service from Rutland, Vermont. His talk included a timeline of how electricity came to our state:

Timeline: **1879** Thomas Edison invents incandescent light bulb. **1882** New York City's Pearl St. station serves 25 customers. **1886:** St. Albans had electricity, Bennington was electrified in the same year with 15 street lights. **1889:** Rutland Electric Company switched from horse drawn to electric cars. **1890:** Middlebury in 1890 had a general Jubilee, with the firing of rockets **1893:** Woodstock got its power. while insisting that it be just a demonstration and that the lights be turned out when there was bright moonlight. Before that, Woodstock had a privately operated gas company which made its own gas to be used in gas street lights. **By 1890** 13 Vermont community had electric lights. **1894:** Barton electrified. **1905:** Burlington, ditto.

As with many other Vermont towns, Springfield's power came from a cotton mill that turned its water power to electricity.



President Dot Jones and guest speaker, Jack Moore at the September 99 meeting

Bridgewater Mills had electric power in 1908 installed by a Lowell, Massachusetts, Company and two years later Bridgewater Electric using the dam at the Mill served that facility and 23 homes. The electricity was rationed to better serve the Mill's need for power. However, on Tuesday, ironing day the private homes received daytime power instead of just evenings.

In 1963 Victory and Granby were the last towns in Vermont to get power. High costs of installation and few customers made the project untenable even to the rural Electrification Administration of the 1930's.

1929 through 1950 was a period of expansion. This was the period when thousands of new lines and customers were added. Hydro power was the most popular energy source, but wind power was also used during WWII, due to federal rationing of oil. Wind power was to be revived in the 1980's.

Everything from mangle irons to dishwashers to microwaves and lights were sold through the cvps showrooms around the state.

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Redi-Kilowatt was the mascot from the 1950's on. Washing machine promotion through midnight madness appliance sales took place in the 1950's and 1960's. An advertising campaign was conducted to relieve the "guilt" associated with dish-washer use (and of course, purchasing.)


The Power Authority of New York brought 100,000 kilowatts to Vermont in the 1950's. Vermont Nuclear, in Vernon, was constructed in 1968 and in 1972 was producing power.

Small power sources came on in the 1970's. As did Hydro-Quebec. Thirty years of power were purchased, which cause, today, our power rates to be the second highest in the nation. The 1980's brought conservation vs. consumption. Cvp's went public in 1981. Catamount electric is a non-regulated subsidiary that invests in out of state power plants.

Comments from the audience revealed that there was electricity in 1906 in the Congregational Church Building here in Hartford Village.

Respectfully Submitted,
D.F. Ford, Secretary.

**Don't miss
our
November 17th
Meeting
History can
be fun.
See page 1
for details!**



Hartford Historic Preservation Commission News

The Society has been working on establishing Historic Districts for our villages. In 1997 the National Park Service approved the Quechee Historic Mill District, in 1998 the Hartford Village Historic District was approved, and the Wilder Historic District approval is pending. We have started work on the Jericho Rural Historic District—one of the first rural historic districts in the state. There is a book for each district including a map of each, in the Alma Bradley Memorial Library at the Garipay House as well as at the Municipal Building. If you have questions, or wish to see these books, contact Pat Stark.

Long Range Planning Committee Report due soon

It is expected that a final draft of this important document, now under review by the HHS Board, will be approved before the end of the year. Once the final plan is in place it should be easier to apply for and get grants to help us with many needed projects including the upgrading of the electricity at the Garipay House.

The board is seeking volunteers to assist on a Fundraising Committee. If you are interesting in helping us, contact any board member.

There is a lot going on at our headquarters. Do volunteer to help:

Your historical society needs YOU.

THE HARTFORD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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

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

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

Every year the Hartford Historical Society provides programs of interest to all who would like to know about the history of the town, the region, the state.

This past year, in addition to learning more about how **Vermont was electrified** as reported by David Ford in this issue, we also had programs that featured:

The history of the Coolidge/Landmark Hotel by its current owner, David Briggs

Historic Spas of the 19th Century with David Wright from Middletown Springs

In 1998 we heard from the author, Howard Coffin on

Vermonters at Gettysburg

From a panel of townspeople of Italian descent on how their ancestors came to Hartford

Your dues go to meet the expenses of these and other valuable events as well as

maintaining our Garipay House headquarters on Main Street in

Hartford. Immerse yourself in Hartford history—

JOIN US

or, if already a member, check with Betty Mills 295-6246 to see if its time to renew.



Elias Lyman House on left and the Wyllys Lyman House below. Almost invisible is the separate, smaller brick building that house Wyllys' law office. He and his family lived in the larger building on Hartford's Main Street. Wyllys wife was Sarah Marsh, sister of George Perkins Marsh, author of *Man and Nature*.

The house on the left is no longer extant. It was built at the Point by entrepreneur and early Hartford settler, Elias Lyman who moved up river from Northampton, Massachusetts and built his house in 1796.

These photographs illustrate the Society's need for such delineations of present and former buildings as well people from this town. All our buildings are subject to removal by fire, neglect or the forces of change. Anyone who has such valuable artifacts is invited to share them with your Society. If you cannot bear to part with them, do let the Society copy them for their archives so that historians of the future can tell what Hartford was like in earlier days.



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