



# HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Garipay House  
1462 Maple Street  
Hartford Village, Vermont

o Hartford

o Quechee

o West Hartford

o White River Junction

o Wilder

Volume 14, No 2

Society Newsletter

November 2001

## October Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2001

United Church of Christ in Hartford Village

7:00 PM

## CALVIN COOLIDGE

1872 - 1933

### Portrayed by Jim Cooke

**BACKGROUND:** President Calvin Coolidge was born on the 4th of July, 1872, in Plymouth, Vermont. Our only president with Native American blood, he never said nor believed: *"The Business of America is Business!"* However, he did believe and say, *"I am for Economy; after that I am for more Economy."* Coolidge favored the vote for women long before it was politically fashionable. Known as "Silent Cal", yet he held more press conferences than any other president and his speeches (which he wrote himself) fill three volumes. He frequently spoke on radio; more people heard his voice than heard the combined voices of the 28 presidents who preceded him. In retirement he remarked: *"I made more speeches and caught fewer fish than any other man who held the office."*

As Massachusetts' Governor in 1919, Coolidge's handling of the Boston Police Strike brought him to national attention and the Vice Presidency under Warren G. Harding. He became President upon the death of Harding and was elected to his own term. Quietly presiding over

the "Roaring Twenties", he surprised the nation by announcing: *"I do not choose to run in 1928."* He left office in 1929, just months before the Stock Market crash.

Calvin Coolidge graduated from Amherst College in 1895. He was blessed with a charming wife, uncanny political intuition, and a wry sense of humor. His stoic responses masked personal tragedies that followed him into the



Jim Cooke as Calvin Coolidge.

Photo by Jon Chase.

White House where his 16 year old son died of blood poisoning. When asked his "greatest accomplishment" as President? "Silent Cal" replied: *"Minding my own business."*

Jim Cooke as Calvin Coolidge can address a group of almost any size; an ideal luncheon or dinner guest, he has delivered formal and informal remarks to business meetings, national conventions, church, school and college groups, libraries, theaters, historical societies and Elderhostles.

The play "Calvin Coolidge: More Than Two Words" can be varied from thirty to ninety minutes; opening and closing at a press conference. (see Coolidge - pg 2)

Coolidge (continued from page 1)

President Coolidge will be pleased to take your questions at the end.

Recently heard on National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation", Jim Cooke, as President Coolidge, has been a featured speaker at the Libraries of Presidents Eisenhower, Hoover, Johnson, Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. He has returned to Mount Rushmore to view the completion of the great project he dedicated in 1927. He has spoken at the Harvard Club in New York City; in Washington, D.C. at the National Archives and at the National Aviation Club, the Cosmos Club; at the St. Botolph and Union Clubs and at the Old South Meeting House in Boston.

And he will be here in Hartford on November 14th. Mark your calendars now for a very exciting presentation.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Dot Jones who was recently elected to Bellows Falls' Terrier Hall of Fame. Dot spent many years as both a teacher and a coach in the Bellows Falls school system.

**NOTES FROM THE BOARD:**

- o The Historical Society brought in \$149.50 from Glory Days of the Railroad.
- o The Herb Adams Fund now has \$550.00
- o We still have Raffle Tickets Available for the drawing which will be held at the Christmas Tea. The prizes are an Antique Folding Maple Wash-Tub Stand (minus wringer) and a fresh-cut Christmas Tree. Raffle tickets are enclosed in the Newsletter.

**The Hartford Historic Society**

---Application and 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/EMail \_\_\_\_\_

Questions/Comments \_\_\_\_\_

*Your dues cover a one year's membership*

Mail to Treasurer, Hartford Historical Society,  
PO Box 546, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

The Hartford Historical Society

Invites

all

Members and Guests

to attend

the

Annual Christmas Tea

to be held on

Sunday, December 2

from 1:30 - 4:00

at the

Garipay House

## RECENT DONATIONS

**Wooden insulated shipping barrel** for 20 lbs. of ice cream from the General Ice Cream Corp. - Philip Porter

**Old post cards** - Alice Hazen

**Photograph of the interior of the Universalist Church** on Maple Street - Richard Runnals

**Photographs, correspondence, etc. of the Martin Family** [house was where the P+C is] - Dorothy Yamashita

**Photographs featuring Bruce Campbell** in several settings - Dorothy Campbell

**Old wooden kitchen cabinet** - Dorothy Jones

**Glass negatives** - Robert & Judy Bettis

**Photographs and other records from Hartford Schools** - Helen Homan

### Corrections :

vol 13 no 4 - April 2001 page 4 - The articles on the Lost Churches and Early Inns & Taverns of Hartford was not written by Priscilla Gadzinski, but by Pat Stark.

vol 14 no 1 - Sept 2001 page 2 - 1st paragraph 'By 1893 [not 1983] they were meeting regularly'.

### Welcome To:

**Gabriel Q** of Hartford, VT, who recently joined our Society.

**West Hartford** (alt. 420) 43 m., is a small and rather faded hamlet, with most of its business section lying east of the highway.

Right from the southern end of West Hartford on a gravel road through tree-shaded hill country is NORTH POMFRET (alt 880), 4 m., sprawled along the curving roadway in a narrow valley, rural in aspect.

Beyond North Pomfret on an uphill road through a region of smooth-rolling hills, sparsely shaded and curiously lawnlike is POMFRET CENTER (alt 1220, pop township 728), 6.8 m., named after Pomfret, Connecticut, from where the settlers came in 1770. Scarcely any evidence of a settlement is left here at the central village buried high in the hills. The first pioneers to penetrate these mountain wilds found evidences of a terrific hurricane which had ravaged the slopes long before the coming of the white man.

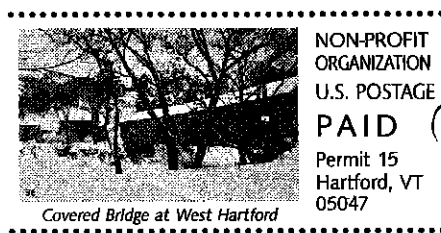
Beyond Pomfret on a downhill road is SOUTH POMFRET, 9.8 m., the chief village of the township, a sleepy but pleasant little community resting in a small valley. One of the finest *Taxidermy Exhibits* in the state is displayed at the Potter Garage. *The Abbott Memorial Library* (R), a neat little building of unusual style, contains a museum collection including interesting relics from early times.

South of West Hartford, the highway continues to swing along between river and railway. At 43.7 m. is a trestle (L) supporting a branch road over the railway to a farmhouse. Here the *Narrows* begin, with abrupt rock ledges (L) closing in with craggy walls to force the narrowed highway nearer the stream. In floodtime the water courses well over the roadbed in this sharp defile. South of the Narrows the valley broadens.

Between the Narrow and Hartford, State 14 passes through CENTERVILLE, a community of farmsteads strung along both sides of the road in the valley that has widened to fertile beauty.

Reprinted from "American Guide Series - VERMONT - A Guide to the Green Mountain State", Written by Workers of the Federal Writer's Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Vermont, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937.

**Hartford Historical Society**  
**PO Box 547**  
**Hartford, Vermont 05047**



---

**In Gratitude and Sincere Appreciation:** To Priscilla Gadzinski who has spent an enormous number of hours researching local history, followed by many additional hours in reporting numerous articles for publication in this newsletter. Thank you Priscilla.

---

**Officers**

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

**Your Board of Directors**

Fred Bradley:	295-3819	Barbara Folsom:	296-8121
Bob Follensbee:	295-3649	Alice Hazen:	295-2481
Betty Mills:	295-6246	Sue Ellen Shambo:	296-2230
Everett Smith:	295-3277	Roy Black:	296-0608
Peggy Adams:	295-3118	Norman Lyman:	295-2123
Mary Nadeau:	295-2123		

---

**NEWSLETTER:** Muriel Farrington, Editor John Lutz, Publisher

---