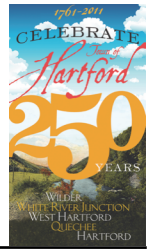




Hartford Historical Society

The Garipay House • 1461 Maple Street
Hartford Village, Vermont 05047

HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD • WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER



Volume 29, No. 6

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November-December 2016

Hartford Historical Society Seeks New Home

By Judy Barwood, Long Range Planning Committee

In February of this year, a Long Range Planning Committee was formed to explore the possibility of finding a larger and more suitable space for the Hartford Historical Society. The Garipay House, donated to us by Mrs. Loretta Garipay twenty years ago, has served us well, but we are currently bursting at the seams. We are in desperate need for more space to accommodate the continually growing collection of historical artifacts and documents that chronicle the history of the Town of Hartford as well as more exhibit space, storage space, meeting space and adequate on-site parking.

The Committee began by researching the feasibility of building an addition to the Garipay House. However, this option was ruled out because of the narrow one-way driveway which opens at a busy and dangerous intersection, along with other restrictive zoning regulations.

We then looked at the former Horace Pease House, a lovely Victorian home built in 1883, which until recently had been the location of the Hartford Elks



The Pease Mansion was the site of many Hartford social events.

Club. The Pease House has all the elements that we need and is centrally located on Route 14 in Hartford Village. It is next door to the Hartford Library and shares the neighborhood with the Cornerstone Community Center. In addition, we would have the advantage of income from leased space.

The Hartford Select Board and our Town Manager have recently written a letter of support, and it will be of assistance to us as we seek grants. We are also launching a Capital Campaign to reach out to our members and friends who wish to help with this endeavor through substantial or matching gifts, but donations in any amount would help to move us forward and would be greatly appreciated. It's vital that we demonstrate to the bank that we can raise the funds needed and that we are deserving of a loan.

This is a valuable opportunity for our Society to further its goals of preserving the history of our town and providing educational opportunities for residents of all ages. We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Growing Up in Wilder

By Roy Black

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ in Hartford Village. Free and open to the general public. Handicapped accessible.

From the Chair . . .



As 2016 draws to a close, some of our members may be looking for ways to ramp up their charitable donations in advance of tax season. If you are among them, may I suggest that you keep the Hartford Historical Society in mind. We hold 501 (c) (3) non-profit status, so all

donations (and your annual dues as well) may be included on your income tax form. Your gifts are always put to good use and are greatly appreciated.

The Society can assist you with your Christmas shopping! Have you considered presenting someone on your list with a gift membership? It's guaranteed to please, doesn't require gift wrapping, and keeps on giving six times a year in the form of our 12-page newsletter. How convenient is that?

Something to keep in mind is that your HHS dues are payable by calendar year. So, unless you are a lifetime member, your membership dues come due annually during the month of January as you toss your old calendar and replace it with a new one. We will print a handy reminder in the January-February issue of our newsletter. This saves us the time and expense of mailing out 200 individual dues notices and eliminates the need to spend nearly \$100 in postage. If you are ever in doubt as to whether your dues for the current year have been paid, look to the right of your name on the address label of your newsletter. You are paid through December 31 of the year printed there. On behalf of the Board of Directors, may I wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board



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The Mission Statement of the Hartford Historical Society

To acquire, identify and preserve information and artifacts related to Hartford's past and communicate knowledge of local history through programs, publications, and other interaction with the community.



Hartford Historical Society

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Hartford Fire Chief Walt Morancy (left) with his Fire Department crew.

Hartford Loses Beloved Citizen Walt Morancy

By Mary Nadeau

On August 23, 2016, former Hartford Fire Chief Walter O. Morancy, aged 96, died peacefully at his home.

After joining the Hartford Fire Department in 1951, he served in various capacities over a span of 34 years, including the position of Fire Chief, to which he was appointed in 1975. Walt is remembered for his role in modernizing the department, guiding it through many substantial changes over the decades and taking an active role in the relocation of the department to its present site on the VA Cutoff Road.

His other accomplishments included transforming the town's ambulance service, guiding the department through the unionization process and hiring Hartford's first female fire fighter. In addition, he was an active teacher and served as an instructor with the State Firefighters' Association and the Vermont Fire Service Training Academy.

On July 4 of this year, Walt became the first recipient of the Hartford Historical Society's official Hartford Cane at a special ceremony held on the lawn of the Garipay House. Surrounded by family, friends,

former co-workers and residents who came to pay tribute to this remarkable man, he accepted the award with a smile and a lively twinkle in his eye.

When the engine started, the truck's air horn let out a mighty blast, startling everyone but Walt, who was sitting in the front seat, smiling, with his foot down on the air horn pedal.

Following the presentation, Walt had the opportunity to take one final ride in one of the town's modern fire engines. With minimal assistance, he climbed into the front passenger seat and happily settled in. When the engine started, the truck's air horn let out a mighty blast, startling everyone but Walt, who was sitting in the front seat, smiling, with his foot down on the air horn pedal.

Walt's was a life well lived, and his many contributions to our community will be long remembered.

September Program: Technology that Shaped America By Susanne Abetti

On September 14, we were treated to a fascinating program titled, “Arming the Union: Vermont Gunmakers and the Technology that Shaped America,” by historian Carrie Brown. The talk explored the critical role that Windsor, Vermont, played in producing technology that won the Civil War and changed American life and popular culture after the war ended.

Due to the title of the lecture, one might think the talk would focus primarily on guns and the Civil War, but it actually went much further, illustrating how America’s manufacture of guns was an international phenomenon of cutting-edge technology at that time, and how gun manufacturing plants post-war would eventually evolve into the production of sewing machines and cars.

It was truly an eye-opener and showed to what extent our Northeast manufacturing plants were such a



Society President Susanne Abetti introduces speaker Dr. Carrie Brown.

major influence everywhere. Outstanding refreshments provided by our loyal bakers of course followed. Thanks to the Vermont Speakers Bureau for sponsoring Dr. Brown in delivering this brilliant lecture!

Roy Black to Recall Growing Up In Wilder, Nov. 9

Lifelong Wilder resident Roy Black will take us back to the 1950s and 1960s as he shares his recollections of growing up in this community within the Town of Hartford. Time has wrought many changes, but Roy will help to keep memories alive through a PowerPoint presentation and with help from the audience.

Who remembers experiencing kindergarten in Wilder, attending the Wilder elementary School, adventures with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (Roy wasn’t a Girl Scout, but perhaps those of you who would like to share your stories), the Wilder Club and Library, Springer’s Drugstore, the Village Market, Jerry’s IGA, the Wilder Fruit Store, the old swimming hole?

If Wilder was your “home town,” you won’t want to miss this program. Audience participation and sharing of anecdotes is encouraged. If you grew up somewhere else, come for an evening of fine entertainment. Join us at 7 p.m. at the Greater United Church of Christ in Hartford Village.



Wilder Clubhouse and Library.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Celebration In Hartford Village

By Martha Knapp

Last year's Hartford Village Christmas Celebration was an outstanding success, with over 100 people of all ages in attendance. In response to the many requests to repeat the event, it will be offered again this year, but on an even grander scale.

The Hartford Historical Society, the Hartford Library, the House of Seven Gables and the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ will again partner to create an even better event. The Historical Society will feature an antique toy display, free pairs of assorted children's mittens and hats knitted by member Mona Bouthillier, an array of delicious Christmas cookies with punch and, once again, the opportunity to make your own lovely Christmas arrangements, using a variety of evergreens and assorted Christmas decorations. These activities will take place between 1 and 4 p.m.

At the same time, the Library will feature a Christmas story time, cookie decorating, stringing of cranberries and popcorn and offer Wassail with other refreshments. In addition, a raffle will be held for a Christmas quilt. The drawing will be held at 4 p.m. and announced at the church's caroling event.

The House of Seven Gables will open its doors for tours of the historic home, which will be decorated in a Victorian Christmas theme. Tours of the house will be offered at 1:30, 2:00 and 2:30.

At 4:00, the church bells will ring to invite everyone



Kristy O'Meara assists Martha Knapp in supervising the children as they create lovely Christmas centerpieces to share with their families.

to the church to sing carols with the village children. Les Gibbs will again accompany us on the church organ. (This was an especially joyful event for me last year because I hadn't sung carols with a large group since my own school days.)

Between 5:15 and 5:45, actors from Northern Stage will perform a portion of the play, "A Christmas Carol," which will be featured at Northern Stage November 16 through December 24. After the performance, there will be a free soup and sandwich supper in the church hall until 7 p.m.

We invite Hartford residents to attend this free event and urge them to show both their Christmas and community spirit.

Why Does West Hartford Have a "Tigertown"?

By Arthur S. Peale

The name Tigertown may conjure many images. But, what we are interested in is the area here in Hartford and vicinity. Tigertown Brook goes through New Boston in Norwich into West Hartford and ends up in the White River. One area of Norwich was called Tigertown, probably because some unruly individuals were living there. *Vermont Place-Names-Footprints of History* by Esther Munroe Swift, copyright 1977,

states the following: "The origin of the name Tigertown Brook has been lost, but in Nineteenth Century American slang, a 'tiger' was a rough or hard fighting man. So it can be presumed Hartford's Tigertown Brook area was equivalent to a neighborhood that in other towns might be called "Tough End."



William Bramble Story Offers Early Glimpse of Hartford, Vermont

By Mary Ann Devins

References to William Bramble in Hartford's early records describe him as an active citizen, community leader, and defender of the town during the American Revolution. Bramble was born August 27, 1742, in Lebanon, New London, Connecticut. He and Elizabeth Buell were married in Lebanon, Connecticut in 1762, less than one year after the Hartford, Vermont town charter was issued by Benning Wentworth, who was the Governor of the New Hampshire Grants at the time. Elizabeth was born to Abel and Mehitabel (Dewey) Buel in Lebanon, Connecticut on October 6, 1743. Elizabeth's mother was a descendant of the Dewey family who settled in the early years of the formation of the Town of Hartford as one of our first settlers.

There were 62 original grantees in Hartford, Vermont, but only six actually came to settle on the land. Many original grantees sold their grants of land to others who embarked into the wilderness of the New Hampshire grants. This is the story of one of those adventurers.

William purchased the right of original grantee William Young in the Town of Hartford in the New Hampshire grants and came to Hartford with his wife and their two young daughters sometime in 1766/67. They probably came up the Connecticut River with all their possessions as did many other settlers of that time and landed at Lyman Point Park where the White River meets the Connecticut River.

In 1769 one of the first Town Meetings was called in Hartford, and William Bramble, along with John Bennett, are listed as grand jurymen. That same year William Bramble, Jr. was born. In the records of the 1770 Town Meeting, William Bramble is identified as one of the town's two tithingmen. (Wikipedia: A tithing or tything was a historic English legal, administrative or territorial unit. The term implies a grouping of ten households, and the tithings leader or spokesman was known as a tithingman.)

Established in 1769 by Eleazar Wheelock, Dartmouth College is one of the nine colonial colleges chartered before the American Revolution.

Dr. Wheelock was most successful in his appeals to several landowners of Hartford for donations in establishing this institution, and William Bramble is listed as having been one of the land donors in 1771.

The March, 1772 Town Meeting report lists William Bramble as one of the Town's two constables, and in 1774, a tax collector. July 4, 1776, as we all know, was the onset of the Revolutionary War. The New Hampshire Grants took a distinctive part in the war against the British.

At a meeting legally warned and held at the house of Solomon Strong on Tuesday, April 1, 1777, the following were chosen leaders in the town: Col.

William Bramble lived in Hartford in 1791 when Vermont became the fourteenth state.

Joseph Marsh, Moderator; Amos Robinson, Clerk and Treasurer; Lieut. Joshua Hazen and Maj. Jos. Marsh,

County Committee; Amos Robinson, Col. Jos. Marsh, Stephen Tilden, Capt. Abel Marsh and Lieut. Israel Gillit for the Town Committee; Capt. Abel Marsh, Lieut. Joshua Hazen and Benjamin Wright, Jr., Commissioners of Highways; John Gillit, Joel Marsh, Thomas Emerson, Elisha Marsh, Daniel Pinneo, Benj. Wright, David Bliss and Jonathan Bennett, Surveyors of Highways; Benjamin Wright, Jr., Thomas Tracy, Fence Viewers. Solomon Strong, Sealer of Weights and Measures; Thomas Hazen, Sealer of Leather; Mitchell Clark and Elisha Marsh, Pound Keepers; William Bramble and David Wright, Constables; Silas Hazen and Andrew Tracy, Collectors; Joel Marsh, Daniel Pinneo and Joshua Hazen, Assessors. (Wikipedia: A Fence Viewer is a town or city official who administers fence laws by inspecting new fences and settles disputes arising from trespass by livestock that have escaped enclosure.)

Shortly after the start of the war and during William Bramble's term as Constable for the Town of Hartford, his son Ornan was born on December 26, 1776, in Hartford where he grew to manhood. Ornan wrote a small narrative, including many dates and facts about his family in their family Bible.

In 1780, Royalton was attacked by some 300 Indians led by a handful of British soldiers. The Hartford militia under Captain Joshua Hazen responded quickly and pursued the attackers, but Colonel House, fearing for the lives of captured settlers, did not force an engagement. William Bramble joined the local militia as a Lieutenant and was among those who joined this

expedition as a member of Capt. Joshua Hazen's Company in Col. John Wood's regiment.

An attack was made on Peacham, Vermont, March 8, 1781. Col. Thomas Johnson of Newbury, who had engaged to erect a grist mill at Peacham, arrived at the house of Jonathan Elkins of Peacham on the evening of 7 March. About 1:00 the next morning, a party of Indians from Canada invaded the house of Mr. Elkins and made prisoners of Col. Johnson, Jacob Page and young Jonathan Elkins, taking them to St. Johns, P.Q.

The news of the foray reached Hartford by express sent by Gen. Bayley, who requested immediate help. Capt. Joshua Hazen promptly responded to the requisition and marched with a portion of his company to Piermont, New Hampshire, but there, learning that the enemy could not be overtaken, retraced his steps.

A portion of Capt. Hazen's company was at Quechee when the dispatch was received by that officer. On receiving notification from Capt. Hazen to march into Peacham, Lieut. William Bramble collected the members of the company and proceeded toward Peacham, but had marched no further than Dresden (Hanover, New Hampshire) when Capt. Hazen arrived there on his return from Peacham, and all returned to Hartford to rendezvous until again called into service.

The Hartford militia took part in the march to Bethel, Vermont, in June 1781, and a portion of Capt. Joshua Hazen's Company was ordered out under the command of Capt. William Bramble to march to the fort in Bethel. These entries tell us that the citizens of the Town of Hartford were very active and willing in the defense of our town against the British during the Revolutionary War.

William Bramble lived in Hartford in 1791 when Vermont became the fourteenth state, becoming the first state to enter the Union after the original thirteen colonies. In June 1791, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison toured the state. Perhaps our William Bramble met and shook hands with them.

William Bramble died in Hartford and was buried in the Hilltop Cemetery in Quechee five years after the death of his wife, Elizabeth. An entry in Ornan Bramble's Bible states: "William Bramble d. Mar 4, went to bed well at night and found dead in his bed in the morning. Aged 85, he died Mar 4, 1827."

Note: Due to space limitations, the article so carefully researched and crafted by Mary Ann Devins has been condensed. The complete story, with a list of Bramble's children who were born in Hartford, may be found at the Hartford Historical Society.

2016 “Glory Days of the Railroad”

By Martha Knapp

The Hartford Historical Society, a yearly fixture at Glory Days, brought its beloved railroad displays once again to the festival in downtown White River Junction on September 10-11. Saturday we were located next to Engine #494, part of a fun family day featuring live music, train rides, special opportunities for photographers, and trains to view and tour.

On Sunday, we were moved inside to the space of the former Railroad Museum, a great place to be as it protects our exhibits from the weather.

We pay a fee to rent a booth, so to help defray costs we offer our popular historic memorabilia as well as baked goods for sale.

A perennial bestseller is the set of photos that H.H.H. Langill took of the Great Railroad Accident of 1887. (Apparently he used to sell them for \$1.50 each! There were 20 in all and we have all but three in our set that sells for \$10.00.) In addition to selling railroad photos and memorabilia, we always manage to sign up a few new members.



Before highways came to Vermont, White River Junction’s railroad station was one of Vermont’s main centers of commerce and transportation.

Photo courtesy of the Valley News.

Board member Dan George spotted an old photo for sale in the booth next to ours of Engine #494 in front of the Hartford Town Hall, framed with an old railroad stock certificate. Somehow we did not have that photo in our collection! Dan struck a bargain and donated it to the society to be displayed soon in our railroad exhibit at the Garipay. Thanks, Dan! And thanks to the other members who helped make our booth a success.

Railroad Oddities

An article that appeared in the June 19, 1941, issue of The Landmark

Two presidents of the United States – James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln – were ex-railroaders.

American Railroads spent more than 3½ billion dollars in 1940 to buy fuel, materials and supplies, new equipment and facilities and to pay wages and taxes.

Accuracy Plus – Watches carried by officers and employees of railroad operating departments must not vary more than 30 seconds a week from perfect time.

Volunteers Putting HHS Collection Online

By Martha Knapp

Volunteers have been busily helping Kristy O'Meara and myself upload documents and photographs from the HHS collection to an online archive where they will be available to the public. Some materials can be found at <http://catalog.hartfordhistory.org>.

Our thanks to Elders Liljenquist, Timothy and Vogel, as well as to Hannah and Emily Ballou for their dedication to the society. They do a variety of projects to help maintain our collection and exhibits.

If you would like to help, please contact me at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com. Some of the work on this project can be done at home.



The collection includes this old view of White River Falls.

White River Junction Railroad Station Canopies

By Chris McKinley

The east and south canopies were built sometime approximately between 1939 or 1940, and have stood with the current colonial style station since then.

When B&M took down the old north canopy on November 23, 1938 they held on to the awning so that they could reuse it, which was often what happened with old railroad buildings that were suitable for reuse instead of discarding them. Some people like Bill Brigham, a retired ticket agent, agree that this is what occurred through his recollections.

The B&M may have built the east awning for the Railway Express Co., after the station was finished the same year, but this is an unknown. It was constructed with heavy thick wooden beams.

The awning south of the current station was built a bit later to protect the U.S. Mail and milk cans from local farmers that were being shipped to Boston, as well as large pieces of ice used to help air-condition the passenger cars in the summer months.

The south (top) and east canopies of the White River Junction railroad station were built soon after the current station was completed. The station is a contributing property in the White River Junction Historic District. Photos courtesy of Chris McKinley.



Reminder, dues for calendar year 2017 are payable in January!



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 Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to:
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THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society
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Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Contact Name: _____
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THANK YOU!

Report from the Historic Preservation Commission

By Pat Stark

As part of our latest Historic Nomination we held a public meeting at the tabernacle of the Advent Christian Campground on July 20. Consultant Brian Knight presented an informative and interesting power point talk on the history of the camp meeting

The central Baptistry was once fed from a local spring and was reportedly very cold—the preacher’s legs going numb long before all the converts passed through.

movement both nationally and locally, and had several historic photos of this one. We are pleased he has also agreed to give this again to the participants of this year’s camp.

This camp was started in 1877 on a 7½ acre plateau purchased from Orrin Taft. A platform once marked the spot the Passumpsic Railroad stopped to let off the many passengers headed for the summer camp meeting. There are currently 33 buildings, including a Dormitory/Lodging house and Boarding/Dining building.



Advent campground with Baptistry.

The central Baptistry was once fed from a local spring and was reportedly very cold—the preacher’s legs going numb long before all the converts passed through. As it was a temporary camp, tents were first used for housing, later wooden platforms were built and still later walls and roofs added. A fire in 1895 caused the buildings to be spread out, and a second expansion happened in 1971.

Mystery Photos

Can you help us identify these people?



Please write us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

Hartford Historical Society

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HHS Calendar

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

(excepting holidays) M-F 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. or by appointment. To be sure we are open, check for the flag outside the building or contact us at 296-3132 or at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com. For an appointment, contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 M-F from 9 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETINGS open to the public:

Fourth Thursday of the month – **HHS Board of Directors meeting** at the Garipay House, 6:30 p.m. (Please check for exact date). For more information, call Mary Nadeau at 295-2123.

Second Wednesday of the month - **Hartford Historic Preservation Commission meeting** at the Town Hall, 4:30 p.m., 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction.

PROGRAMS

Wednesday, November 9, 2016 – **Growing Up in Wilder** by Roy Black, 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Saturday, December 10, 2016 – **Hartford Village Christmas Celebration**, 1-7 p.m. at the Hartford Historical Society, Hartford Library, House of Seven Gables and the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ. Complete details inside this newsletter.

The Genealogy Center in the Hartford Library is open Tuesday afternoons from 1-3. Carole Haehnel will be happy to assist you in exploring the resources we have and in accessing information from *The Landmark*, which we have on microfiche. Ray Fifield is returning, by appointment only, to assist researchers. Just call the library to set it up.