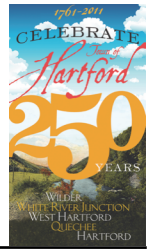




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November-December 2018

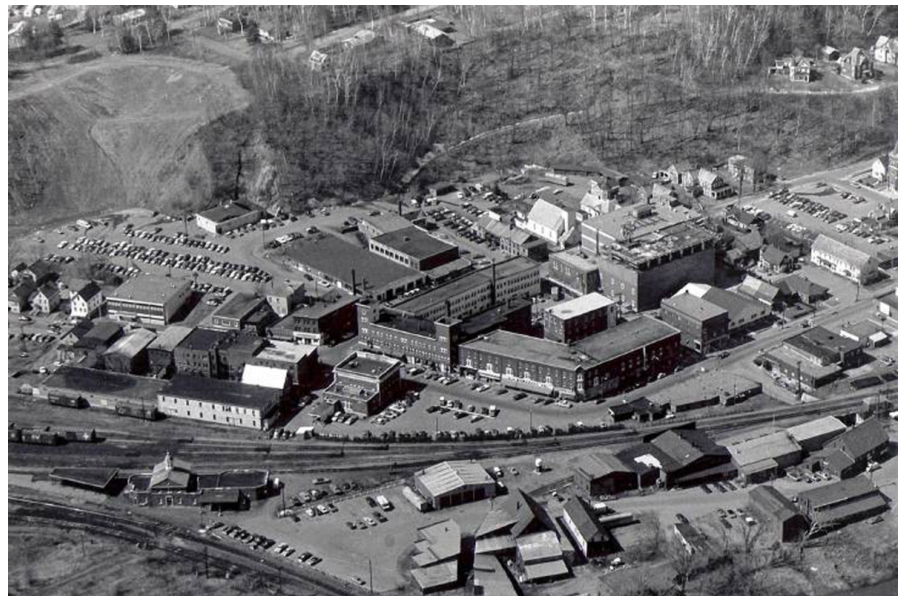
Reminiscing 50 Years of Change in the Upper Valley

By Mary Nadeau

We were fortunate to have one of our most popular guest speakers at the program meeting on Wednesday, September 12. Steve Taylor, who grew up in Plainfield and now resides in Meriden, led us on a fascinating journey through the past fifty years in the Upper Valley area, describing changes that have taken place, some for the better, but some, perhaps, not so much!

From Steve's observations, the landscape of our region has been dramatically altered during the past half century. He noted the closing in of the forests, as Mother Nature took over pastures and meadows long abandoned due to the shrinking of local agricultural activities. As an example, he cited the formerly breathtaking vistas of Mt. Ascutney from the Maxwell Parrish estate, today completely lost from view.

He remembered the joy of visiting the popular swimming holes "sprinkled" around the area and of the many picnic spots, often in somebody's pasture. At town meetings, skillful orators did their best to sway



As a young man, Steve Taylor worked at Swift and Co. on South Main Street in White River Junction where fresh meat arrived by train on Monday mornings for delivery to local stores.

public opinion before a vote was taken, and they were often successful. Now most communities have shifted away from the traditional town meeting format. One-room schoolhouses dotted the rural landscape. RFD delivery was a lifeline to rural residents. Those "post

Continued on page 8.



Levi Allen: Ethan's Black Sheep Brother

Presentation by Vincent Feeney

7 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ in Hartford Village. Refreshments.

From the Editor . . .

At one time, one of our members approached me and asked if we could do something on Alfred Watson of Watson's Field fame. I found this article in the *Bellows Falls Times*; Vol 43; Page 4 dated 7 December 1898.

"Alfred Edwin Watson of Hartford, the other new man on the railroad commission, was born in Worcester, August 6, 1857. He located in town March 12, 1867, was educated in the common schools, Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N.H., and at the St. Johnsbury Academy, class of 1879; graduated from Dartmouth college, class of 1883; studied law for two years in the office of Hon. Samuel E. Pingree, was a member of the house of representatives in 1894 and 1896, serving as chairman of committee on the library, and member of committee on railroads, has held the offices of assistant town clerk, school director, secretary of civil and military affairs, 1888-1889, clerk of board of railroad commissioners from 1886 to 1894, treasurer of White River Savings bank, Windsor county director of Vermont Fire Insurance company, director of Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw Railway company."

I consistently learn more and more about the people who made our town what it is today and it never ceases to amaze me how wonderful they were and are.

On Wednesday November 14, Vincent Feeney will present his popular talk, "Levi Allen: Ethan's Black Sheep Brother." What was it like to be the loyalist brother of Vermont's most famous revolutionary? Join us at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ for another informative and entertaining evening. Vincent is the author of numerous books and articles on Vermont history and a former professor of history at the University of Vermont. The program will begin at 7 p.m. and delectable dessert items will be served afterwards.

Finally, we again invite you to renew your membership or make a gift to the HHS using the PayPal form on our website at hartfordhistory.org. The Board has voted to reinstate a life membership category. Persons sixty-five years or older may now join (or renew membership) as a life member for the one-time fee of \$250 (with board approval). Thanks for your support!

Mary Ann Devins, Editor

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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.

Orren Taft Remembered as Influential Resident of Wilder

By Barbara Duclos

Orren Taft was born in Hartford, VT on May 26, 1826. His parents were Abijah Taft of Mendon, MA and Elizabeth "Betsey" Bugbee of Enfield, CT. He was the seventh of ten children. The Taft family settled in Hartford, VT around 1800.

Orren was a farmer and speculator, a skill he learned from his father Abijah who bought and sold property with Orson Rust, Jonathon Bugbee, John Downer, and Wyllys Lyman. According to the deeds, Orren's property consisted of all the land on the east side of the highway (Christian St.?) from the White River Bridge at White River Junction north to Olcott (Wilder). Bounded on the north by lands of R. H. Davis and land of the Universalist Church Society, and the land of the C. B. Stone Estate; Easterly by the Taft Avenue so called; southerly by lands of Myron and George Tenney and the "cemetery (upper level of the Hartford Cemetery?) & Knowlton Pasture," and westerly by lands of George P. Bugbee, George W. Pease, and the estate of C. B. Stone. The farmhouse was located where the Haven and St. Paul's church are now. In 1866, Orren married Arvilla Martha Galusha. It is assumed that they were divorced as Orren married Ellen Sarah Nason in 1878 and Arvilla was still living.

Between 1879-1892, Orren purchased, sold or donated 10 properties in Olcott. One of them was the corner of Depot Street and Norwich Avenue, the site of the former Post Office building, which he purchased with George Tarbell. He sold seven acres to the Second Adventists for a camp, which is still in existence today behind Knight's Funeral Home. A property owned on the corner of Hartford Avenue and Fern Street was bequeathed to the First Universalist Society upon his death. In 1880, twelve acres were bonded over to the White River Falls Corporation to establish a mill on the Connecticut River in Wilder. From his reservoir he deeded water rights to several people, giving them 40 gallons of water a day for \$8.00 per year. In 1882, a new road was constructed between Olcott and White River Junction through the Taft farm (Taft Avenue). Before that the only way to get to Olcott was along Christian Street.

Orren died March 16, 1898 in Hartford at age 71. His property passed to his wife Ellen who was the Executrix of the will. It does not appear that Orren and Ellen had any children. He was generous to family members and friends leaving them a total of

\$4,525.00. That is the equivalent of \$137,000 in today's dollars. He bequeathed to the Hartford Cemetery Association \$100 to be invested by the trustees and the interest to be expended annually in keeping in good and proper condition his burial lot together with the Taft family burial lot.

The remainder of his estate was bequeathed to the First Universalist Society of White River Junction, in trust for the support of preaching in the house of the society or in a house located on the lot where their house now stands (Maple St.). It is a lot that was given to the society by Asa Taft (brother) in 1878. The trustees gave bonds to the society and the interest earned was paid annually for the support of teaching. In 1945, the building was sold to the Myrtle Lodge #27 I.O.O.F.

In 1905, Orren's widow Ellen decided to sell the farm. An article in the Randolph, VT *Herald and News* lists the property: The Orren A. Taft farm at White River Junction is for sale. It contains two large and one small pasture, a field containing about 60 acres and a large acreage of wood and timber lands upon same. One barn, 100 x 40, with walled understory, 1 large horse barn, farm house, wood shed, milk house, hog house, corn barn and other outbuildings, and a large silo. Also a stone and cement reservoir, about 20 x 15 feet, of never-failing water supply. The price of the property is \$6,000. The price of the Lyman pasture is \$1,000, if sold separately, leaving the balance of farm and reservoir \$5,000.

Ralph M. Sanders of Claremont, NH, purchased the farm in April of 1905 for \$4,383.00. He was going to establish a stock farm where one of the features would be the training and acclimating of Western horses for the Eastern market. Mr. Sanders sold a portion of the property to G. L. Bidwell in 1906. Mr. Bidwell divided the land into 57 building lots and named it Highland Park. The boundaries were Taft Ave., Pierce St., Fairview St. and Sanders Ave. Henry R. Miller purchased over a dozen of those lots. Other lots were sold to Dr. James Blanchard, Joseph Turner, Lang Chase, Mrs. Pingree and Mr. Walshe. In 1906, Ellen sold wood, timber and privileges to Ralph Sanders. She also sold land and premises to Frank B. Tenney on the south side of West Main Street in the village of White River Junction. Ellen continued to live in Hartford until her death in 1931 at the age of 95.

Benning Wentworth Granted 78 Charters in 1761

Reprinted from the Valley News, June 1961

In 1761, Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire granted charters to 78 towns along the Connecticut River, 60 on the west side and 18 on the east.

Upper Valley towns which then came into existence included Hanover, Lebanon, Strafford, Thetford, Fairlee, Lyme, Norwich, Plainfield, Canaan, Windsor, Enfield, Hartland, Hartford, Orford and Woodstock.

The first township chartered “after the close of the French and Indian war” was Hartford – on July 4, 1761 just 15 years prior to the announcement of the Declaration of Independence.

The first township chartered “after the close of the French and Indian war” was Hartford – on July 4, 1761 just 15 years prior to the announcement of the Declaration of Independence.

Hartford’s charter is typical of all. It was issued in the name of “George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith...”

Boundaries were specified, and the grant was to be divided into 68 shares, out of which allowance was to be made for highways and unimprovable lands.

The charter conferred on future inhabitants all the privileges and immunities enjoyed by other New Hampshire communities. As soon as 50 families were settled there they were to have the liberty of holding town fairs twice a year and of opening and keeping a market one or more days a week.

Provision was made for the first meeting for the election of town officers to be held on the last Wednesday of August, with annual meetings forever after to be held on the second Tuesday of March.

The most important condition upon which the charter was granted was that every grantee should plant and cultivate five acres of land in five years for every 50 acres in his share, and should continue to cultivate and

improve the same under penalty of forfeiture.

Other provisions were all white and other pines were to be preserved for the royal navy and cut only by special permission; a tract of land near the center of the township was to be divided into lots and divided equally among the grantees; for ten years the rent of one ear of Indian corn was to be paid on Dec 25; after the first ten years, each proprietor was to pay his majesty one shilling proclamation money for every 100 acres owned.

Few of the original proprietors actually saw their grants, for most of them were land speculators. However, some, too old to go off into the harsh wilderness themselves, sent their young adventurous sons instead.

In some cases, the frontier communities were unable to comply with the condition regarding cultivation of land. In 1769, Canaan and Lyme were among those granted an extension of four more years. The renewal of the charter explained the failure to meet the standards of cultivation as due to the “great inconveniences” that resulted from being “so remotely situated from any other Townships or Settlements that can afford any assistance.” Quit rents and other fees, however, remained due and payable” as before.

Several of the historic original charters are still in existence. Strafford, Hanover, Lebanon and Thetford are among these. Others have been lost, such as the Lyme Charter, which was kept in the office of the town clerk for many years, but then borrowed to use at court and never returned. In some instances, the original document disappeared, surviving only in copies.

Sometimes, a charter appears as suddenly and mysteriously as it vanished. This is what happened at Thetford.

Some years ago, William Slade was searching through old militia records in the Town Hall when he discovered the long lost town charter. Its deep creases, formed by frequent folding to fit a saddlebag, bear witness to its many journeys.

Signed by Wentworth at Portsmouth, it was carried to Hebron, Conn., home of the original proprietors; from there to Thetford; then to Albany; at the time of the conflict with New York, and then back to Thetford, where it was buried and forgotten among old records, until unearthed by Slade.

An Old-Fashioned Christmas in Historic Hartford Village



Saturday, December 8 from 12-7

Schedule of Activities

Hartford Library

1:00 Children's Holiday Story Time

1:30-3:30

- Holiday crafts for children
- Evergreen centerpiece craft for all ages
- Wassail and refreshments

Cornerstone Community Center (Praise Chapel)

12:00-1:00 Lunch with Santa

1:30-3:30 Family holiday movie

Garipay House

1:00-3:30

- Old fashioned tree chain crafts for all ages
- Holiday music
- Free hand-knit hats and mittens
- Tours of the museum
- Display of holiday items from the collection
- Beverages

Greater Hartford United Church of Christ

4:00 (Listen for the church bells)

4:15 Performance by the North Country Chordsmen

4:45-5:30 Christmas caroling with Carol Crounce
playing the historic church organ

5:30-7:00 Free soup and sandwich supper for all



4 pm: Listen for the Church Bells!

Gather at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ for a performance by the North Country Chordsman followed by a Christmas carol sing-along. The church will generously provide a soup and sandwich supper. **For more information, please call the Hartford Library at 802-296-2568.**



A Sketch of Samuel and Lydia Steele Pingree

By Mary Ann Devins

Col. Samuel E. Pingree received the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor in the Battle at Lee's Mills, VA where he and his company crossed a creek and captured a heavily defended position despite wounds that hospitalized him for ten weeks. He later served as governor of Vermont and town clerk of Hartford for almost 50 years. In 1869, Pingree married Lydia Steele who was the granddaughter of Zadock Steele who was captured during the Royalton Raid in 1780 and taken to Canada. He recorded his harrowing escape and return to Vermont in an engaging memoir. Local records show that the independent-minded Lydia purchased several Hartford properties in her own name and attended the Hartford Congregational Church while her husband preferred the Methodist Episcopal Church.

When I first began my adventures in genealogy back in 1975, I consulted the reference materials at the Hartford Town Clerk's office frequently. It did not escape my attention that many documents from the late 1850's to the early 1900's were signed by our town clerk, Samuel Everett Pingree. I have always been curious about this gentleman... Who he was and where he came from. This is his story.

Samuel Everett Pingree was born on August 2, 1832 in Salisbury, Merrimack, New Hampshire to Stephen and Judith (True) Pingree. He got his education in Salisbury, N.H.; Andover Academy; McIndoes Falls, VT and at Dartmouth College graduating in 1857 from that Ivy League College.

He studied law under E. P. Huntoon of Bethel, VT and was admitted to the bar in Windsor County in December 1859. He began practicing law in Hartford in partnership with his brother Stephen (1835-1892).

In that same year he was elected town clerk of Hartford and held that office for almost 50 years. He was always faithful in the performance of his duties, and no matter what the weather was, he was to be found each day at his office. At the beginning of Civil War he assisted in recruiting a company of soldiers, which he joined as first lieutenant.

On July 16, 1861, Mr. Pingree, with his friend, Horace French of West Lebanon, NH, left for St. Johnsbury and was mustered in to the United States service as a member of Co. F, Third Vermont. He was chosen first lieutenant, was promoted to captain, was commissioned major for meritorious conduct and in 1863 was commissioned lieutenant colonel.

He was severely wounded at the Battle at Lee's Mills on April 16, 1862, during which he led his company across a wide creek and drove the enemy from rifle pits on the opposite bank. He spent ten weeks recuperating in a Philadelphia hospital.

He was repeatedly wounded in action and while in command at Lee's Mills his right thumb was severed. Later he was colonel of the eighth Vermont regiment. After the Battle of the Wilderness he commanded the second Vermont regiment.

A news article which appeared in the *Vermont Watchman and State Journal* in Montpelier, VT listed Samuel Everett Pingree as a recipient of the Medal of Honor while captain Third Vermont Volunteers for personal gallantry in action at Lee's Mills, VA on the above date.

Date of issue: 17 August 1891. Citation: Gallantly led his company across a wide, deep creek, drove the enemy from the rifle pits, which were within 2 yards of the farther bank, and remained at the head of his men until a second time severely wounded.

During the second day of the Battle of the Wilderness, Pingree was placed in command of the 2nd Vermont Infantry, since all the field officers of that unit had been killed or wounded. Pingree participated in the battles of Spotsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Weldon Railroad, where he narrowly escaped capture with a portion of his command.

Pingree's final military action occurred at Fort Stevens on July 11 and 12, 1864. He mustered out of the service on July 27, 1864.

On August 17, 1891, Pingree received the Medal of Honor, for his 1862 actions at Lee's Mills.

While Samuel Pingree served with the 2nd and 3rd Vermont, his brother Stephen Morse Pingree (1835-1892) was a member of the 4th Vermont Infantry; originally a first lieutenant in Company E, he eventually attained the rank of colonel as the regiment's commander.

After leaving the Army, Samuel and Stephen Pingree led the 8th Infantry Regiment of the Vermont Militia; Samuel commanded as a colonel, and Stephen was second-in-command as a lieutenant colonel.

Pingree returned to Hartford and his law practice, and received his master of arts degree from Dartmouth in 1867. In 1868 and 1869, he became States Attorney and gained prominence as a criminal lawyer.

He served as town clerk of Hartford for 50 years, and in 1868 was chosen delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention at Chicago. In

1870 he was elected president of the Vermont Officers' Reunion Society.

On September 15, 1869, Mr. Pingree married Lydia M. Steele, daughter of Sanford and Mary (Hinman) Steele, of Stanstead, Quebec. Lydia Steele was the sister of Benjamin H. Steele, who was a college classmate of Pingree's, and served as an associate justice of the Vermont Supreme Court.

Lydia Steele and Samuel Pingree were the parents of an adopted son, William Steele Pingree (1879-1965). William S. Pingree attended Norwich University for three years, and Boston University Law School for one. He completed his legal studies with his father, and after being admitted to the bar in 1904, the younger Pingree practiced law in Hartford, Vermont, served as town clerk (1923-1942), and also served as Windsor County state's attorney.

In 1882, Pingree was elected lieutenant governor of the state and in 1884, he became Vermont's forty-third governor.

After serving his term as governor, he was appointed chairman of the State Railway Commissioners and held that office for eight years; He became a trustee of the Hartford Library and in 1898 he was awarded the honorary degree of LL.D. from Norwich University.

When the White River Savings Bank was organized in 1886, he became its first president. The fiftieth wedding anniversary of Governor and Mrs. Samuel Pingree was celebrated in Concord, New Hampshire on September 17, 1919. They celebrated at a Concord area hotel since they had many friends in the area of his birth.

Former governor Samuel E. Pingree and captain Horace French, both veterans of the third Vermont regiment, met in White River Junction for a dinner in observance of the fifty-ninth anniversary of the battle of Lee's Mills in Virginia. At this time, Governor Pingree was in his eighty-ninth year and Captain French was 85. Both were active and alert in their elder years.

On June 1, 1922 Samuel Everett Pingree died at his home in Hartford Village after three weeks of illness, the cause being the general breaking down of his health. He was 89 and the oldest town clerk in New England.

His wife, Lydia followed him in death on February 23, 1935 and they are buried together at the Hartford Point Cemetery on Maple Street in the village of White River Junction.

offices on wheels” could sell stamps, mail packages, deliver baby chicks or bees in addition to delivering the mail six days a week. Farmers used draft horses to plow the fields and haul logs. Gradually farm horses were replaced by tractors. Logging horses gave way to log skidders and more recently to today’s enormous machines.

Fifty years ago, parents forbade their children to go anywhere near rivers and streams because they were so polluted. Raw sewage was routinely pumped directly into them, and businesses used the rivers to sweep away their noxious waste. The E. E. Cummings Leather plant, for example, emptied its waste vats directly into the Mascoma River every Friday. A chicken slaughtering plant in South Royalton used the White River to dispose of its refuse. Slowly, much-needed

Steve remembers a time when there were no coyotes, no wild turkeys, and the native deer population had plummeted due to over harvesting. Today not only have all three rebounded, but the deer population has surged because fewer people are hunting and the amount of posted land has greatly increased.

change occurred. Where homeowners had discharged their waste into streams and rivers, septic systems became mandatory. Communities began to build sewage disposal plants. As a result, we are blessed today with beautiful, clean waterways. The Connecticut River has been transformed into a wonderful recreational resource for swimming, tubing, canoeing and fishing, none of which were remotely possible a half century ago.

Steve remembers a time when there were no coyotes, no wild turkeys and the native deer population had plummeted due to over harvesting. Today not only have all three rebounded, but the deer population has actually surged because fewer people are hunting and the amount of posted land has greatly increased, providing them with protected habitat. The beaver is another animal that has returned from near extinction, and wild boar have firmly established themselves as a feral herd. When the Hurricane of 1938 blew down



The relocation of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital from Dartmouth College (above) to the current Lebanon location in 1991 impacted towns throughout the Upper Valley.

sections of fencing at Corbin’s Park, a private hunting reserve that spans several towns in the Grantham area, some of its wild boars escaped into the wild. They quickly became a nuisance for farmers, who were unable to successfully grow potatoes and corn. The damage the boars did was so extensive that the Town of Plainfield placed a \$40 bounty on the head of each boar.

Transportation in and around the Upper Valley has been dramatically improved over the years. Steve remembers when the dirt roads in Plainfield became so impassible in the spring that school children would have a couple of weeks of “mud season vacation.” During the summer, storms washed out culverts. Town officials continually struggled to keep their roads passable. Over time, roads were upgraded and most are now paved. Today the towns are under enormous pressure in the winter to get the roads plowed quickly, and school cancellations have become the exception, rather than the rule.

Employment opportunity is another area that has undergone considerable change. Fifty years ago, much of the population was still engaged in farm work, work in the mills or on the railroad (considered to be a good blue-collar job). There was a relatively small professional class, most of whom worked at Mary Hitchcock or other area hospitals. Today we have a much more diverse economy, and improved transportation systems (especially our interstate highways) have led to long commutes, both into and out of this area. Steve recalled the tremendous impact that the relocation of Mary Hitchcock Memorial

Hospital from Hanover to Lebanon and its expansion into the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center had locally. Since the increasing number of physicians and their families needed places to live, populations of the satellite towns on both sides of the Connecticut River mushroomed.

During the 1940s, perhaps only 50-60% of families had running water in their homes and “two holers” were the norm.

were heated with wood, and chimney fires were not uncommon. Then came the transition from wood to coal to oil or propane and more recently to heat pumps. Electrification arrived during the 1930s, but many families in the “back country” didn’t have it until years later. Early telephone service became a great source of entertainment, since party lines provided a tempting opportunity to listen in to other folks’ conversations. Even the size of lawns have

changed from a patch of grass manageable with a push mower to the lawns of today that sometimes cover acres at a time and require gas-powered lawn tractors.

Although lifestyles changed a great deal over the past fifty years, Steve considers the biggest transformation as “before and after TV.” During the years before its arrival, families gathered around their radios, and outside

antennas brought them the news of the day as well as a variety of entertainment. In 1953, when a merchant in Plainfield obtained a franchise to sell TV sets, residents merely yawned. However, in 1954, when the Burlington channel first went on the air, locals rushed to secure \$500 loans to buy sets! Instead of visiting or attending social events, families began staying home to watch their favorite programs. He labeled TV as “the great disrupter.”

Other sources of information and entertainment were

Home life has undergone profound changes. During the 1940s, perhaps only 50-60% of families had running water in their homes and “two holers” were the norm. Houses

local newspapers, such as *The Landmark* (it was replaced by *The Valley News* in 1952). Most of the papers were weeklies, and all contained social columns that provided news of such stirring events as people paying calls on their neighbors, PTA meetings, church suppers, and reports of people taking ill or suffering other misfortunes. During the era, Home Dem groups prospered, as did church organizations, the Grange, 4-H and clubs for men or women. Plays were well attended. Dancing was popular, too, and Island Park in West Hartford was a favorite venue. Movie theaters popped up. “They were among the few places you could bring a girl on a date...or you could go parking,” he quipped. Yet another popular activity was Sunday afternoon visits. Families didn’t need to make advance arrangements; they simply dropped by and were warmly welcomed by their hosts. There was an audible round of chuckles and knowing nods when Steve referred to the old town dumps as important social institutions. Popular neighborly interactions took a major hit when the solid waste dumps were shut down.

Town government was very different from what we have today. Selectmen had vast power and respect, even though they were not necessarily beloved. There were no police, so the Selectmen often had to intervene to keep the peace and to settle disputes. Because there were no open meeting laws, though, no minutes of their board meetings were kept.

The local political scene has completely flipped during the past fifty years. “When I was a kid,” he said, “if you were a Democrat, you were viewed like the town drunk.” The area was rock solid Republican until about twenty years ago.

Population trends and demographics continue to evolve. From 1800 to 1840, the population actually with it great diversification of the economy. We continue to mourn the loss of our young people; they have always been an “export.” Steve sees the biggest obstacle today as the lack of affordable housing, and in recent years land has become an investment vehicle, driving up its value.

At the conclusion of the program, many in the audience shared their own recollections of Upper Valley life over the past half century and some shared amusing anecdotes. We are pleased that Steve has agreed to return again next year for another presentation, this time on the sheep industry that once played an important role in Vermont’s economy and transformed its landscape.





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THANK YOU!

Residents Support Rural Schools

Reprinted from The Landmark, August 25, 1938

The school board of the Town of Hartford, believing that the pupils in the rural districts would receive a better education by attending the larger elementary schools, voted to close three rural schools and transport the children to village schools. This plan they thought would reduce the school budget by almost two thousand dollars per school year. Thinking naturally that a majority of the people would favor a plan yielding an equally good if not better education at a marked decrease in cost, if it did not work physical hardship on the children, the school board proceeded on that basis. So violent were the protests from the districts concerned and so many the signers of petitions that the board later reconsidered and compromised by opening the schools this year pending a referendum next town meeting.

Stanley Garipay, Clerk

Apparently the voters at town meeting didn't adopt the plan to close the rural schools. The August 28, 1941 issue of *The Landmark* lists the teaching staff for seven rural schools located outside the villages:

West Hartford: Ruth E. Newton
Centerville: M. French
Hillside: Alice Hudson
Christian Street: Mabel A. Ricker
Brockway: Hilda LaDeau
Jericho: Virginia Gordy
Center of Town: Rose Fumagalli

November 14 Program to Profile Loyalist Levi Allen

Vincent Feeney, the author of numerous books and articles on Vermont History and a former professor of history at the University of Vermont will present a talk on "Levi Allen: Ethan's Black Sheep Brother" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ in Hartford Village.

Although he supported his brother at the taking of Fort Ticonderoga, the two fell out during the American Revolution. Levi was a Loyalist! When the war ended, Ethan and Ira Allen recruited Levi as Vermont's independent liaison with the authorities in British North America. Levi's life presents a vivid picture of the turmoil that a prominent Vermont family experienced during the formative years of the American Republic.

Long Range Planning Update

By Judy Barwood

The Hartford Historical Society was not able to secure adequate funding to pursue the purchase of the former Horace Pease House/Elks facility. All gifts and input to our Capital Campaign were very much appreciated. Many generous people supported our society!

We will now concentrate on upgrades at the Garipay House with our first priority to make our facility handicap accessible. We also plan to increase our storage capacity, make the collection more accessible, and continue to grow our educational programs. Regular committee meetings will continue and we welcome your input. Watch for updates and information on our progress.



Hartford Historical Society

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HHS Calendar

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM will be closed from November 1 until May 1. For an appointment or donation, please call 802/296-3132. Our phone will be monitored once a week.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS are open to the public on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Garipay House at 6:30 p.m. (Please check for exact date.)

BUGBEE HISTORY HOUR is on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Bugbee Senior Center in the library, 1-2 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 – “Levi Allen: Ethan’s Black Sheep Brother,” presented by Vincent Feeney, 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Wednesday, November 21, 2018 - The Hartford Historical Society will be hosting a safety break at the Northbound Sharon rest area. We are looking for volunteers to furnish items for the event such as baked goods, store bought items such as cookies, and various snack items. Also apples and other fruit. Please contact Roy Black at 802/295-0608. Thank you.

Saturday, December 8, 2018 - "An Old Fashioned Christmas in Historic Hartford Village," 12-7 p.m. Please see page 5 for more information.

Wednesday, April 11, 2019 - “Getting from Here to There: A History of Roads and Settlements in Vermont,” presented by Deborah Lee Luskin. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village. Refreshments.

The **Genealogy Center** on the second floor of the Hartford Library is open on Tuesday afternoons from 12-3 p.m. Mary Ann Devins will be happy to assist you in exploring the resources we have and in accessing information from *The Landmark*, which we have on microfiche. Just drop in on Tuesdays or call the library to set up an appointment.