



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• HARTFORD, VERMONT 05047 •

HARTFORD • QUECHEE • WEST HARTFORD
WHITE RIVER JUNCTION • WILDER

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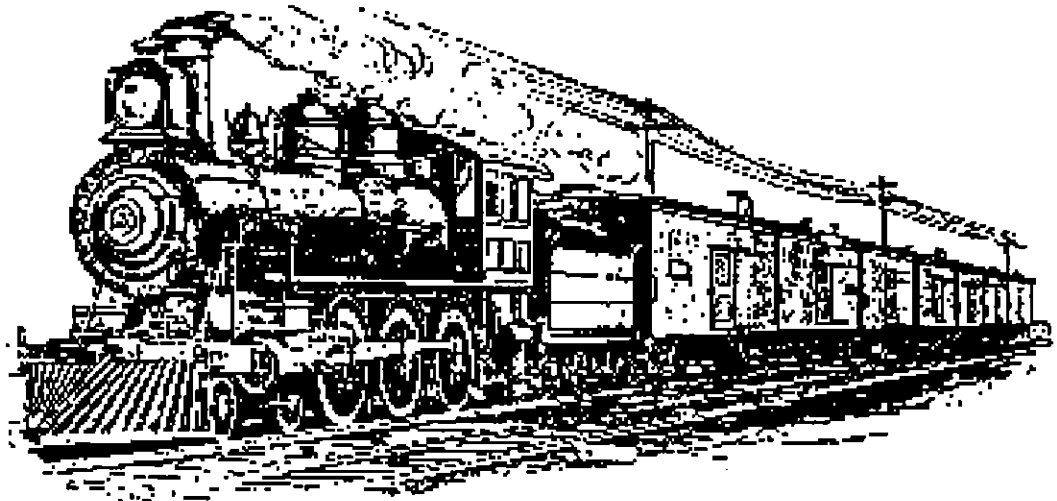
September Meeting . . .

Our planned speaker, Mr. Wilder of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, has had to cancel his appearance. We are pleased to announce that our program will still be about the railroads.

John Rogers, Treasurer of the Connecticut Valley Model Railroad Club, and member of the West Lebanon Central Business District Committee for the Preservation of the Westboro Railroad Yards, will speak on Ramblings on the Railroad.

Mr. Rogers has been a conductor on the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Railway, and was towerman, conductor and motorman on the Chicago Transit Authority. He is a member of the committee for the "Glory Days of the Railroad." We will have our railroad collection on display at this meeting.

The Meeting will be
Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 PM
at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ
Route 14, Hartford Village



From the President:

As your president, I have set two goals for the coming year: expand membership and to increase work on oral histories. Membership requires everyone's support.

People are our most important resource and there are many who enrich our organization by sharing their knowledge and memories or by sharing a willingness to help with the organizational tasks.

Why not bring someone along as a guest to our next meeting?

Cameron Clifford and Jim Kenison have experience at doing oral histories and they are training Judy Barwood and me. Contact one of us if you wish to participate.

We also need a volunteer to chair Fundraising. Is there someone with artistic talents who would like to design the posters advertising our meetings? In a few months, we will be looking for a new editor for our *Newsletter*.

Won't you please consider pitching in? With your help we can look forward to another successful year.

— Mary Nadeau



Hartford Library, Hartford, Vermont

Coming Up:

September 19, 1993: Hartford Library Centennial.

The library in Hartford Village first opened its doors in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Horace Pease donated the land and Ephraim Morris gave the money to build the Queen Ann style building that is now a local landmark. It still houses the original furniture, hand carved shelves and much of the original 1,000 book collection.

The Hartford Library Trustees have invited the members of the Historical Society to join them in their gala open house and library rededication on Sunday, September 19, 1993, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 2, 1993: Hartford Fire Department Centennial.

There will be a **parade** starting at 10:00 a.m. It will form at the High School, cross the river on the Route 4 bridge, and proceed down North Main Street. There will be old fire trucks on display behind the American Legion, and displays of fire fighting equipment and memorabilia in front of the new Court House.

There will be three **muster events** (from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.): *Midnight Alarm*, *Bucket Brigade*, and *Wet Hose Contest*. There will be Centennial caps for sale, and T shirts with a picture of an old pumper similar to the one first owned by the Town and a logo, "100 Years and Still Taking the Heat," which was devised by the High School Arts Class.

If you have any old pictures or memories of Hartford's Fire Department that you would like to share with the Fire Department at this time, please call Charles Brush at (802) 296-2317.

The Fire Department and the railroad share an intertwined history; "... December 14, 1904, what was then the Hartford Village business district started to burn, and the fire spread from structure to structure at its own merry pace. Things got so bad that Concord, New Hampshire's fire department loaded some of their fire engines onto a special train to come and help out..."

"...Before the town bought its own fire whistle for the old station on Bridge Street, the alarms were transmitted by running down to the locomotives in the railroad yards and sounding all their whistles at once." (*Upper Valley Magazine, Sept/Oct. 1993*)

It is fitting that the Hartford Fire Department Centennial is on the first day of The Glory Days of the Railroad festival, being held October 2 & 3. Sponsored by the White River Chamber of Commerce and River City Arts. There will be two days of activities and exhibits centering around the role of the railroads in local history.

We will have our railroad collection on display on October 2 in the Station House. Will you please help us staff the booth for two hours intervals during that day? We will have a sign-up sheet at our September 8th meeting.

Recent Gifts:

The Society thanks the following individuals for their recent gifts:

Bertha French and Irene Brockway - three family christening gowns.

Herbert Adams - five photographs of White River Jct. and Quechee.

Fred and Alma Bradley - a brandy bottle previously owned by A. E. Watson;
Universalist Hymn book.

Students of Hartford Village Elementary School - booklet, *The History of Hartford.*

Virginia Close - 100 contact prints, duplicates from Dartmouth College Baker Library Special Collection, of Hartford, VT scenes.

Pat Stark - 1952 booklet, *75th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in White River Junction, VT.*

White River Junction Railway Facts:

The first rail was laid at White River Jct. on the Farm of Col. Samuel Nutt (Nutt Lane off south Main St.) by the Vermont Central, early in 1847.

The settlement on the north side at the junction of the White

River and the Connecticut was called Lyman's Point until the railroad came through, then both sides were called White River Junction. (*History of Hartford, VT, W. H. Tucker 1889*)



HARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office: Room 110, Municipal Building, White River Jct., VT 05001

Hours: By Appointment

Mary Nadeau, *President*, 295-2123 • Priscilla Gadzinski, *Curator*, 295-2364

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of March, May, September and November at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, Route 14, in Hartford Village.