



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

September 1999

HHS MEETING IN SEPTEMBER



On September 29th, we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation with a talk by Jack Moore. He will bring all sorts of electrical artifacts from days gone by along with a slide show detailing how electricity came to Vermont. Come and hear about the amenity that most of us take for granted until a catastrophe cuts us off from heat, lights and all the other things that electrical power brings. Surely there are some among us who remember the days of kerosene lamps and wood heat! Remember light bulbs with beaded pull cords? They seemed wonderful: no wicks to trim, no chimneys to wash!

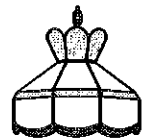


There should be a lot of memories in this talk. Bring your own of the early days in this century. Who were the first to get lights in Hartford? In Bridgewater, Vermont, electricity because of the mill, was available only during certain hours, was this true here? If you don't know, surely some one in the audience will.



The meeting will be held at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, on Route 14, Hartford Village, at 7 p.m. Come bring your own recollections and discover what your neighbors recall. Audience participation is one of the truly fun parts of our meetings.

*Happy Birthday
CVPS*



Mark your calendars now and come to our next meeting:
Wednesday, September 29, 7p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church

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

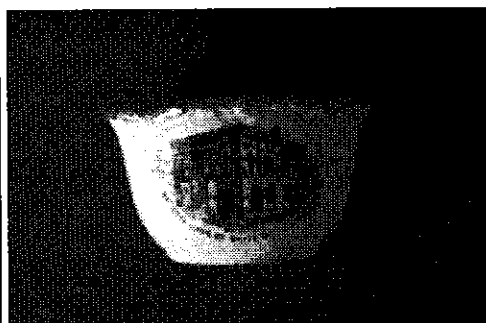
Volunteer Staff

Archivist, Pat Stark
Curator, Priscilla Gadzinski
Correspondence & Membership Secretary,
Betty Mills
Facilities Coordinator, Pat Stark
Program Coordinator, Evelyn Stevens
Newsletter Editor, Kathy Wendling

Annual Business Meeting Report

About 50 people attended the Society's Annual meeting on May 12, 1999. After a pot luck supper that was up to the usual yummy standards, David Briggs, owner of the Hotel Coolidge spoke on the history of that venerable institution. (See David Ford's report on next page.) At the annual business meeting that followed, the officers elected to serve until 2000 were elected. Their names appear at the top of the left column. Board members who will serve three year terms are those whose term expires in 2002 as listed at left.

As a special surprise, Peter Michael Gish who painted the murals in the Coolidge while attending Dartmouth, was introduced. Later, that same week the Zolliker Gallery featured oil, watercolors and pastels by Gish.



HARTFORD SUGAR BOWL

At left is a picture of our newest acquisition: a memorial sugar bowl featuring a picture of the First National Bank. Made in Germany for O. A. Randall of White River Junction, this bowl will be on display at the Garipay House. Information about the business of O. A. Randall will be welcomed. Call archivist, Pat Stark at 295-2192.



ANNUAL MEETING



Above, David Briggs, our guest speaker chats with Muriel Farrington, who was later chosen as a VP.

Evelyn Stevens, Program Chairman introducing David Briggs who spoke on the history of the Hotel Coolidge.

, David Briggs used slides, old advertising pamphlets, and other ephemera to illustrate his talk on the life of the "Grande Dame" of White River Jct.—the Coolidge Hotel. He noted the truism that there are 100 hundred different positions for each 100 historians. All interested parties, even if not historians are invited to come and visit him at his office, his door is never locked.

The history of the hotel is the history of the town and changes in increments of 20 to 30 years—with each generation. In 1840 White River Junction was just a river valley village, with very few buildings. But during the next decade the railroad came through bringing great change.

In 1849 Samuel Nutt tore down a building in Enfield, NH and erected it in White River Jct. calling it "The Junction

House." by then the Hartford Woolen Mill, and many other local industries had been established.

In 1871 the hotel was purchased by a man named Baron. This was an era of local ownership. Baron and Nutt were given credit for developing tourism in the White Mountains due to the success of the Junction house. The Smith Bakery, the Paper Company, and the State Fair all saw their genesis at this time.

The second Junction house featured mansard roofs and towers decorated with elaborate iron filigree (*see picture, next over*). 1909 began the transition phase Lyman and Gibbs took over control of the Hotel. White River Jct. started to look like a city. The Loyal Club put in a park in front of the Hotel, created from the garbage pit that had greeted visitors upon arrival in the Junction.

Showing a photo of a banquet of several hundred people, Briggs suggested that it was a gathering for Teddy Roosevelt who made a whirlwind tour of Vermont in 1905.

In 1925 the Coolidge burned to the ground, heralding an era of transition. Twin State Fruit began in the twenties, and the Hotel was owned by absentee owners. all throughout the 1930's this was so. The owners sometime along the way became the First National Bank which indicates that economic times were not good. There were various owners throughout the 1950s.

August Zolicoffer ran the Hotel twice in the '50s and again in the 1960's The Loyal Club Park was destroyed to make way for a state-of-the-art post office in the 1930's. The Veterans' Hospital was built, the Smith Baking Company was sold to Ward and passenger train service ended in 1969. The late George Seldes celebrated three of his many birthdays at the Coolidge.

The Coolidge survived in the 1970's by being, at in least part, an *ad hoc* club

house for Quechee Lakes. When the club house at Quechee Lakes was built this relationship ended.

The energy crisis was very hard on the hotel business, especially such an ark of a building as the Coolidge.

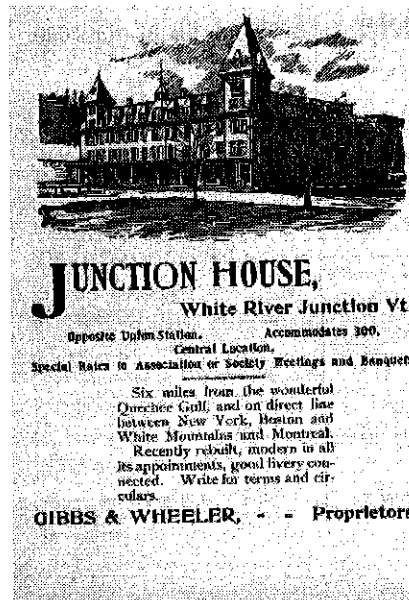
The speaker believes that once again, the village of WRJ is on the rise. Tourism as an industry is now a vital part of what we do here. Lyman Point Park and the River City Arts theater are examples of local concern and commitment to making downtown WRJ into an arts and entertainment center again.

Today the village's businesses are locally owned; the historic district concept, destination shops, arts and entertainment and res-

taurants are all factors that lead David to think it likely that a new revival of this area and of his beloved hotel is underway.

From the meeting notes of our Secretary, David Fairbanks Ford.

Picture from the Feb. 1902 Interstate Journal.



**PAT STARK'S WISH LIST
FOR THE
GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM**

Fans, any type she says, but surely not ones of the kind you may see at our next meeting!

Table easels, book supports, and table picture supports.

A display module for brochures. If you don't have one of these specialized items to give— consider contributing toward toward the Society's purchase. (The cost is about \$100.)

Pat also wishes for lots of members to volunteer to staff the Garipay House for a couple of hours at a time. Drop her a post card (she'll be away most of September) or contact Betty Mills (295-6246) or Peggy McDerment at (295-2357) They can tell you the dates needed and fill you in on the pleasures that await such a service to your local historical society.

Have you experienced "Quest" yet?

Did you know that we are now published? Yes, we are *out-in-print!* in the **Upper Valley Quest Book** (available in local bookstores). You can try your hand at finding the Treasure Box!



Photo above was taken at the Hartford Historical Society's Garipay House during a recent board meeting. On left is Membership chairman, Betty Mills and on right, archivist, Pat Stark.

We've mentioned the two ladies above several times in this issue. Both are mainstays of the Society. Both are eager to meet and greet you. Betty will recruit you as a member if you haven't already joined and Pat will share our growing collection of Hartford artifacts.

A PHOTO OP FOR YOU!

Pat invites anyone who wishes to obtain **photo sleeves** to preserve their own collection to contact her in early October before she orders for the HHS. Drop her a postcard now, or call 296-2192 after September 29th—or see her at the meeting that evening.



Thank you! Charlotte Harvey, chair of the Society's July Yard Sale wishes to thank all who helped her with the organization before, after and during the sale that netted the HHS more than \$200. Muriel Farrington, David Ford and Peg McDerment were co-captains in this effort and we are all grateful to the Rev. Jim Olson for permitting advance storage of sale items in his church.

Would the owner of the Tupperware cakeplate left at the Annual Meeting, please contact either Pat Stark at 296-2192 or Peggy McDerment 295-2357

**SPECIAL CANCELLATION
OF A SPECIAL STAMP
SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT
THE
GARIPAY HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 25TH
1 - 4 PM**

Sponsored by the Hartford Garden Friends, a U. S. Postage Stamp with a special cancellation will be available to those who stop in at the Garipay House on the date and hours above.

Mystery Photo



From the HHS photo collection. . .can you identify this house? Is it still around? If you know anything about it—contact archivist Pat Stark at 296-2192—after her return from vacation September 28th..

**GENEALOGICAL GROUP MEETINGS
AT THE
GARIPAY HOUSE TO RESUME**

After a brief hiatus, the HHS genealogy group plans to resume its meetings in September. The next morning session will take place at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 14th and the evening meeting will be held from 7 - 9 p.m. on September 22nd.

Regular members of this HHS sponsored group know how helpful these meetings can be. If you have never attended but have an interest in finding out more about your ancestry, plan to come. If you have questions, call Betty Mills at 295-6246.

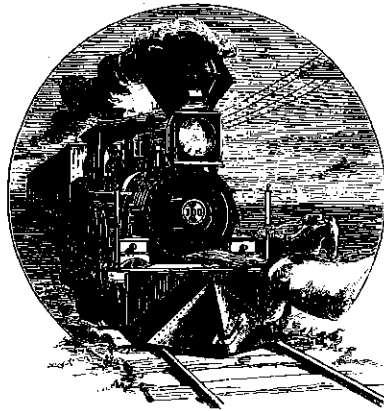
August 1999 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	MEMBERSHIPS	MEMBERS
INDIVIDUAL	36	36
FAMILY	29	58
SENIOR	47	47
SENIOR FAMILY	29	58
COMMERCIAL	2	2
	145	201

**New Members
1999-2000**

Family
Alex and Marcia Kindzerske
of Quechee

Senior Family
Ernest and Nancy Reeves
of Hartford



ONCE AGAIN, we plan to participate in *Railroad Glory Days* and hope our members will turn out for this celebration of those historic days when railroad was king in White River Junction. **The day** this year will be celebrated on September 11th.

In the works. . . .

The many meetings and personal research by members of the HHS Long Range Planning Committee will soon result in just such a plan. It is prudent and wise to have such a plan and, most importantly, most grants available to societies like ours require an organized forward look at goals and needs for the future.

David Ford and Betty Mills are working on a brochure for the Society which is nearing completion.

You can expect to learn more about these and other projects in the pages of this newsletter. Better yet, come to our next meeting and learn first hand the activities underway. **See you on the 29th, 7 pm—it should be electrifying!**

**THE HARTFORD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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

**YOUR DUES COVER ONE
YEAR'S MEMBERSHIP.
YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL
WILL GIVE THE DATE
YOUR DUES ARE DUE.**

1999 APPLICATION & 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	_____

Please send this form and your
check to:

Hartford Historical Society
Attn: Treasurer
P.O. Box 547
Hartford, Vermont 05047-0547

Name _____

Additional Names (Family Memberships)

Mailing Address

Telephone _____

Comments/Questions :

(*) 911 address.

We have several of Mr. Fellows' photographs. Ad at right from the Interstate Journal, May 1901. If you have any of his or of other area photographers, consider sharing them with us. We can copy and return.

Always our specialty—

"The Finest Portraits That Can Be Made."



We do not try to sell cheap, but how GOOD they can be made.

FELLOWS THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Just look at this list—

- FINE PHOTOGRAPHS,
- FINE CRAYONS,
- FINE WATER COLORS,
- FINE SEPIAS,
- FINE VIEWS.

"What we say we do we do do."

WE KEEP A GOOD LINE OF
Cameras and Amateur Supplies
At all times. Our experience may be of some use to you.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT.