



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 1

Society Newsletter

September 2001

September Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2001

United Church of Christ in Hartford Village

7:00 PM

"Overview of Theron Boyd House and Quechee's Future"

by

Richard Winfrey

Richard Winfrey is President of the Friends of the Burtch-Udall Homestead. This homestead is unusual in that it has never been modernized. Ten years ago Mr. Winfrey chaired a group of local Quechee citizens working with the Vermont Land Trust to purchase the Homestead. The goal was to preserve its architectural history and provide life care for Theron Boyd who occupied the Homestead at that time. The Trust bought the property and later sold it to the State of Vermont for \$300,000. The State then committed to restore the Homestead and operate it as part of the Historic Site Program. The State has recently committed an additional \$200,000 to prepare the site for visitors. Work will begin shortly.

Mr. Winfrey has also been active in the revitalization of Quechee Gorge, including the establishment of a Visitor's Center and its tie-in to the Quechee State Park, the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, and the Marsh-Billings, Rockefeller National Park. He will present a fascinating picture of the status of the Theron Boyd House and the future of Quechee as a tourist center.



Richard Winfrey, John Dumville, Emily Wadhams, Governor Howard Dean, Deborah Doyle-Schechtman, Vt Senator Dick McCormick at dedication of the Burtch-Udall Homestead on August 31, 2000.

Upcoming: Our November Meeting will host Jim Cook re-enacting Calvin Coolidge. Mark your calendar now for Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 pm.

The Literary Ladies

And the General's Widow

One hundred and fifteen years ago, in 1884, the ladies of Hartford took time from their complicated Victorian domestic duties to organize The Ladies Reading Club. By 1983 they were meeting regularly in the upstairs rooms in the Hartford Library (1). They read, discussed and listened to lectures on politics, classic literature, science and the latest in homemaking and child rearing.

In 1901 the Club published a booklet "The Old and The New 1893 - 1901" which included a list of the subjects studied and lectures sponsored by the Club at the Library during those eight years.

Among the impressive list of topics were *The Victorian Poets*, *Shakspeare (sic)*, *the History of England under the Stuarts*, *American History*, *Topics of the Time*.

For the *Shakspeare* year they studied "Shakspeare's Life" and nine plays. For *American History*, along with other subjects, were "The Dutch in New York". "The Settlement of the Great West", Longfellow's "Evangeline". *Topics of the Times* included "Scientific Treatment of Crime", "Children's Minds", "Women's Education", "Dress Reform" and "Women's Suffrage - Pro and Con".

Each year there were three to five lectures, often by professors from various colleges. "The Problem of the Poor" by Prof. Wells, Dartmouth; "Milton" by Prof. Chapman, Bowdoin; "Problems in Education" by Miss A.C. Emery, Brown University; "Elizabethan Sea Rovers" by Prof. H.D.

Foster, Dartmouth. And then there were what may have been local talent: Frederick W. Bancroft spoke on "Scotch Songs" and Col. T.W. Higginson on "English and American Traits". Authors and traveling lecturers also made their appearances.

In 1896-7 the Ladies usual schedule of classics included a guest lecturer with a personal story. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, the widow of General George Armstrong Custer, spoke on "*Garrison Life on the Frontier*".

Elizabeth Bacon Custer's husband had died in the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. Since then she had written three books: *Boots and Saddles* (1885), *Tenting on the Plains* (1887), *Following the Guidon* (2) (1891).

Elizabeth Custer spent the remaining fifty-seven years of her life after the General's death defending her husband's reputation and trying to clear him of any blame for the disaster at Little Big Horn. It would be interesting to know how the ladies of Hartford received this lady author. How did she happen to come here? Was she on tour to sell her books, or did she have relatives or friends here? Did she speak of the Battle of Little Big Horn? Or did she confine her lecture to her writings?

Perhaps a search through the newspapers of the time would yield a review of her speech. (Baker Library has back issues of the *Landmark* on microfilm, and Lebanon Library has the *Granite State Free Press* if you are interested in finding out for yourself and us).

Literary Ladies (continued from previous page) Today it is inspiring to learn that the mothers and wives of Hartford so many years ago wanted to be educated about the world outside of the Upper Valley. History, adventure, classical literature and current social issues were all there in the upstairs room of the Hartford Library.

(1) The Ladies Reading Club disbanded in 1917. The Hartford Women's Club was founded in 1923.

(2) Guidion: a small flag or streamer carried as a guide by troops.

Note: Mrs. Custer's books are still available at Baker Library, Hanover, in the Baker/Berry Stacks:

Following the Guidon, reprinted 1994

Boots and Saddles; or, Life in the Dakota with General Custer, 1885.

Tenting on the Plains; or, General Custer in Kansas and Texas, 1887.

Priscilla Gadzinski, Curator and Robert (Gilman) Parker. 8/3/01

New Members Report as of July 31, 2001

Norma L. Boyce of Manchester, NH

Philip H. Edson, Jr. of White River Junction, VT

Annie Larrabee Grzegorowicz of Lebanon, NH

Elaine C. Hinckley of Williamstown, VT

Quechee Gorge Vllg, Gary Neil, of Quechee, VT

Ron Theriault of Old Town, FL

Greg Whitehill of White River Junction, VT

GARIPAY HOUSE NEEDS

The Board of Directors has created this 'column' to keep you informed of the smaller, but still expensive, issues at the Garipay House. Like any older house, things constantly need fixing. If you feel you can help with any of these projects, either with money, materials, or 'muscle', please let one of the Building Committee members know. They are:

Norm Lyman [295-2061]

Bob Follensbee [295-3649]

Peggy McDerment [295-2357]

Dot Jones [295-2701]

Pat Stark [295-3077].

o The upstairs bathroom needs a new shower / tub 'surround'. Once this is done and we feel confident all leaks have stopped, we can decide what steps to take to repair the kitchen ceiling.

o The two attic windows need to be replaced - they do not work well and the wood has rotted.

o We are always in need of folks to help with our **Open House** - the first Sunday 1:30 - 4:00, and the first Tuesday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm]. It's a good opportunity to check out the displays, and we never know who will come in the front door! [Or what they will bring to donate]. One night a lady who lived in the Garipay House as a young girl stopped in.

If you are interested in helping with this [you only need to 'be there' - no experience needed] please call Pat. Thanks.

Writing History of 9th Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment - Need information

I am writing the history of the Ninth Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment and request your assistance in locating letters, diaries or photographs of its members. This work will be about the experiences of the common soldier, not the generals and their grand strategies. I am trying as much as possible to let the members of the unit tell their own story. If any of your members possess any to the aforementioned material and would share copies with me, I would be greatly appreciative. This work will be fully footnoted, and any material used will be credited to the owning organization or individual.

If you can help me, please contact me at:

Paul G. Zeller

501 Lotz Dr, Yorktown, VA 23692

phone: (757) 898-9432

e-mail: paulgz@aol.com.

NOTE: Paul also enclosed a brochure about the Civil War EXPO at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, Sept 29 '10 AM to close' presented by the Eighteenth Vermont Regiment, Inc. It ends with an evening torchlight parade through Tunbridge.

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NOTICE: The Evening Genealogy Workshop has been cancelled due to lack of interest and participation.

May Potluck Supper and Elections

The food was really great, the business meeting brief, and the program was lots of fun. It is a mystery as to why the attendance has been so low the past couple years - those who do show up really have a great time. We shared our memories of what we did "way back then", including what we did for fun, what school was like . . . what life was like. Newcomers and younger people asked those with longer memories what different neighborhoods were like, who lived where, whatever happened to . . . your Board would like suggestions on how to increase attendance at the annual election meeting.

Elected:

Officers

President: Dot Jones

Vice President: Muriel Farrington

Secretary: David Ford

Treasurer: Peggy McDermont

Directors

Fred Bradley (3 yrs)

Everett Smith (3 yrs)

Barbara Folsom (2 yrs)

Bob Follensbee (3 yrs)

Betty Mills (3 yrs)

Alice Hazen (3 yrs)

Sue Ellen Shambo (3 yrs)

Remembering Silent Pictures Filmed On the White River...

On October 15th selections from the silent picture, "Way Down East" will be presented at the Howe Library, Hanover as part of the ongoing series, "Cine Salon". Anyone who remembers these famous filmings and is interested in old films is invited to attend this FREE event at 7:30 pm.

My grand-aunt and grand-uncle remembered watching the filming; and anyone with memories of Griffith, Lillian Gish, or any aspect of the filming of the White River Ice flow in 1920, should feel free to contact me, David Ford, secretary for the Hartford Historical Society, as I would like to take notes on any first- or even secondhand accounts.

--thanks a lot,

David Fairbanks Ford

Phone: 802.295.7105

e-mail: dff@mainstreetmuseum.org.



Filming of "Way Down East"

9th Annual Glory Days of the Railroad Festival September 8, 2001 10-5 [free]

Sponsored by New England Transportation
Institute Museum, Inc.

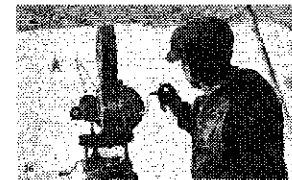
Excursion Train Rides
Kiddie Live Steam Train Rides
Rail Cars on Display
Railroad Memorabilia
Crafts / Food
Classic Car Show
Photo Contest
Music & Entertainment All Day

Ride AMTRAK to the Festival Sept 8/9 Adults
\$5, children \$2.50 each way
Call 800-USA-RAIL

Listen for instructions to speak to an agent and
refer to Vermonter - Glory Days of the Railroad.
Fare No X169

AND: The Hartford Historical Society will
have a booth. We are always in need of
volunteers to come 'sit with us awhile' and help
meet the public. **Please help.** Call Pat Stark
[295-3077]

Hartford Historical Society
PO Box 547
Hartford, Vermont 05047



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The filming of "Way Down East"

In Gratitude and Sincere Appreciation: To John Lutz who has been publishing The Hartford Historical Society Newsletter for several years at no cost to the Society. He also has been instrumental in choosing collectable indicia printed on the Newsletter.

Officers

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

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NEWSLETTER:

Muriel Farrington, Editor

John Lutz, Publisher
