

## Hartford Residents Go to Washington

When William Strong left Hartford to serve in the United States Congress in November 1810, he sailed down the Connecticut River to Hartford, CT and then traveled some five days by carriage to Washington D.C. where the U.S. Capitol building was still unfinished. There was no Senate chamber and the dome would not be completed until 1863. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were among those who attended church services in the main rotunda of the Capitol on Sundays.

Strong was one of three Hartford residents who served in the United States House of Representatives. He served from 1810 to 1815 and again

from 1819 to 1821. George Wales served from 1825 to 1829 and Hartford native Andrew Tracy served from 1853 to 1855.

William Strong was just one year-old when Benajah and Polly Strong brought him here from Lebanon, CT in 1764. He had little formal education but trained himself as a surveyor and served Hartford as a selectman in 1802 and as sheriff from 1802 to 1810.

Strong was a Democratic-Republican, which was the party of Jefferson and Madison. Democratic-Republicans generally favored states rights while the opposing Federalist Party preferred a stronger central government. William Strong defeated a Federalist incumbent to become one of 142 members of the U. S. House of Representatives.

In Strong's day, representatives met in the room now called Statuary Hall. His first vote, in November 1811, was against a federal tax on flax, hemp, and cotton.

It was President James Madison who asked Congress for a declaration of war against Great Britain in June



This sketch by Benjamin Latrobe shows the U.S. Capitol building in about 1810, the year William Strong was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. The house met in the rotunda beneath the original short dome. The Senate chambers were not yet complete.

1812. William Strong supported the war and also voted in favor of giving a firearm to every American citizen age 18 or older.

Strong's term was interrupted when British troops set fire to the city of Washington in 1814. The first Library of Congress burned during the war and lawmakers approved the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's library in 1815 despite opposition from rural representatives, including William Strong. Strong voted to ratify the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812, before he left Congress.

William Strong served for two more years in Congress starting in 1819. During this time he often voted against expeditions into new territories, building military installations, and expanding slavery. Meanwhile, he consistently supported taxes on liquor and sugar. Mr. Strong died in 1840 and rests in the Hilltop Cemetery in Quechee.

George Wales came to Hartford in 1813 to practice

Continued on page 4.

## From the Editor . . .

People ask, "Scott what does, 'to the nines' mean?" Well, it's a poetic phrase for 'perfection' first used by Scottish poet William Hamilton in 1719.

The bonny Lines therein thou sent me,

How to the nines they did content me.

Had to look it up when Hartford resident Ralph Terino used it in the tale from his youth on page nine.

Nature has reclaimed the former home of Joel and Lydia Simonds on the Old King's Highway. The road from 1763 is now covered by trees but the Simonds' cellar hole and the outlines of their farm are visible on laser-generated images from the state of Vermont. Joel and Lydia were members of the Christian Society of Quechee Village and their descendants have been active in Hartford over the years, including Priscilla Gadzinski who is a member of the HHS and a threegreat granddaughter of Joel and Lydia. Priscilla has explored the homestead, found early transferware, and provided family history for our article.

## Hartford Notes

• Years ago, an elevator was installed at the White River Junction United Methodist Church by volunteers including Asa Derrick, Len Jacobs, Walt Morancy, Amos Ticehurst, and Ernie Kenyon. When a huge boulder was found in the bottom of the elevator shaft, Len Jacobs took a jackhammer down to the church and everyone took a turn, but they made no progress. So Len got some planks, chains, and a stone drill to build an A-frame over the stone so it could be picked up and hauled out the front door.

As it was sitting in front of the church, Noel Vincent suggested holding a fundraiser-pay a dollar and guess the weight of the boulder-and the person closest would get half the money. It was very popular with the public and attracted much attention. Noel later weighed it on his Stillson Scale and Charlie Crump was the winner with an exact figure. Quite a bit of money was raised to help pay the expenses for the elevator before Noel took the stone away.

## 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. Since its founding by sixty-one hardy souls in 1761, Hartford has evolved from a subsistence farming community to a vibrant and diverse town. It's a rousing story with a few surprises that you can explore on a new timeline from the HHS. The link is on our back cover. You will also see a link to a website called *Very Vermont, Stories from the Green Mountains.* These are tall tales, but true.

HHS treasurer Peggy McDerment tells me we need your support for our collection and programs. Please join, renew, or make a gift by sending a check or using the PayPal form on our website. If your membership is due, your mailing address on this issue will be highlighted in yellow. Thanks!

Finally, before I forget again, our thanks to Art Peale for his diligent help plowing the driveway and helping keep things in shape at the Garipay House each year.

Scott Fletcher, Editor



## Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547 http://www.hartfordhistory.org info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com 802-296-3132

#### **Board Members and Officers**

Dual u Michibers al	in Officers	
Judy Barwood-Preside	ent	802-295-2435
Roy Black—Vice-President		802-295-0608
Pat Stark—Secretary		802-280-2221
Peggy McDerment—Treasurer		802-295-2357
Lannie Collins—Board Chairman		802-356-3883
Pat Rondeau—Board Member		603-675-6612
Carole Haehnel—Board Member		802-295-3974
Program Director	Mary Nadeau	802-295-2123
<b>Museum Director</b>	Vacant	
<b>Curator/Archivist</b>	Pat Stark	802-280-2221
Newsletter Editor	Scott Fletcher	310-227-3147
Print & Web Design	Scott Fletcher	310-227-3147
Volunteer	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974
Long Range Planning	Judy Barwood	802-295-2435
<b>Cemetery/Snow Plow</b>	Art Peale	802-295-6100
GenCenter Director	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974
Genealogist	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974

Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

## Bonnie Briggs Receives the Hartford Cane By Mary Nadeau

On August 15, 2020, a special celebration was held at The Village in White River Junction to honor Bonnie Briggs on her ninety-eighth birthday and to make her the official holder of the Hartford Cane in recognition of her being Hartford's eldest resident. Following a champagne toast, the Cane was presented to Bonnie, the remarks below were read, and then everyone enjoyed birthday cake and ice cream.

"On behalf of the Hartford Historical Society, it's an honor to present to you today the Hartford Cane in commemoration of your being our town's eldest citizen, and in recognition of the many valuable contributions you have made to our community.

"Growing up on a farm in Lyme, New Hampshire, you were dubbed, "Tillie the Toiler," a very apt description of a young Bonnie who couldn't just "sit around," but was recognized early on as a go-getter who was always ready to roll up her sleeves and plunge headfirst into whatever needed to be done. You always had a clear sense of purpose and accomplished a very impressive list of achievements.

"After graduating from Thetford Academy, where you met your future husband, Fred Briggs, you studied for a year at UNH before enrolling in a nursing program at Boston's Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. In 1944, you achieved your goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

"You then served at a hospital in Boston and later at the VA Hospital for the duration of World War II, while your husband was serving our country in the Pacific Theater. We can well imagine your joy when V-J Day finally arrived, knowing that the two of you would be reunited and settle down to build a life together. You raised four bright, active children and instilled in them a profound sense of responsibility toward family and community as well as high standards of moral and ethical character.

"Fred had the perfect helpmate in you, and you assumed a supportive role in all of his business ventures. In 1953, Fred and Elwin Phillips opened an Army and Navy Store in White River Junction. After several years the partnership was dissolved and Briggs Ltd. was formed, originally dealing in sporting, fishing and hunting goods. The store eventually transitioned into a men's clothing store, offering quality clothing at reasonable prices. As a salesperson, you were always pleasant and helpful, and through your joint efforts, the store thrived. When Fred passed away in 1992, your ran the store singlehandedly until 2002, when at the age of 80, you decided to close shop after a robber entered during broad daylight and stole the cash register! You successfully operated the Gates-Briggs Building where



Mary Nadeau presented the Hartford Cane to Bonnie Briggs during a celebration of her 98th birthday.

your challenges included a struggling economy and dealing with an old building in need of a myriad of repairs. Thankfully, your son David offered support and guidance and daughter Betsy later joined the team.

"As a member of the Loyal Club, including serving for a number of years as its president, you assisted in overseeing the operations of the White River Junction Library. As a member of the Hartford Garden Club, you maintained a lovely pocket garden at Briggs' Park that was enjoyed by all.

"You served as a Cub Scout Den Mother and also volunteered with Girl Scouts. Active in the White River Junction Methodist church, you helped to dress the junior choir on Sunday mornings and were active in preparing food for church suppers. For a few years, you did private duty nursing at night at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover.

"According to Betsy, 'Mom ran a very tight ship.' Every week, there was a list of chores that each child was expected to perform, and in exchange an allowance was given. From all accounts, their childhoods were happy, eventful, and most important, they knew that they were deeply loved. Betsy added that, as busy as you were, there were always wonderful home cooked meals for the family.

"You have led a remarkable life, never shirked away from hard work and responsibility, and contributed mightily to the fabric of our community. Please know that you are dearly loved and much respected, and the Society is delighted to present you with the Hartford Cane in commemoration of your being our eldest citizen."

#### Hartford Residents Go to Washington continued from page 1.

in the Masonic lodge, and was named treasurer of the White River Bridge Company.

Like William Strong, Wales was a member of the Democratic-Republican Party when elected to Congress in 1824. That year, Andrew Jackson received the most popular votes for President but the vote in the Electoral College was not decisive. So the election was decided by the House of Representatives where each state delegation cast one vote for President and



George E. Wales served in Congress from 1825-1829.

John Quincy Adams prevailed.

As a congressman, Wales voted many times in support of duties on imported wool as this was Hartford's chief export at the time. He also opposed the expansion of slavery.

Wales was an unsuccessful candidate for reelection to Congress in 1828 so he resumed his Hartford law practice. He lived

in Hartford Village in the home later owned by Charles and Kate Cone.

Wales was a founding member of the Second Congregational Church and served as town clerk in Hartford from 1840 until his death in 1860. He now rests in the Hartford Cemetery.

Andrew Tracy was born in Hartford in 1797. His father James Tracy was one of Hartford's original proprietors. Andrew studied law with George Wales and was admitted to the Bar at Woodstock in 1825. He practiced law in Quechee and later bought a Federal Style house that still stands at 30 Elm Street in Woodstock.

Tracy served in the United States Congress as a member of the Whig Party from 1853 to 1855 and was considered one of its more conservative members. He frequently opposed government spending and one of his first votes was against the purchase of George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, as a national monument.

Many of the bills in Congress reflected growing conflict between Northern and Southern states. One of these was the Kansas-Nebraska Act that would create new territories in which slavery could be allowed or prohibited by popular vote. This would abolish the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which outlawed slavery in these territories.

President Franklin Pierce supported the Kansas-Nebraska Act fearing conflict and possibly violence with southern states. Andrew Tracy cast dozens of votes against this bill during April and May of 1854, but it passed on May 22, 1854 and was signed into law by Presid



Andrew Tracy was a member of the Whig Party.

signed into law by President Pierce.

Andrew Tracy's term in Congress was interrupted by illness and his discomfort with the climate of Washington D.C. He was absent for most votes from July 1854 until January 1855, and ended his service in March 1855. He decided against running for reelection and returned to Woodstock where he continued to practice law.

The era of Hartford's three congressmen was one of rapid growth for America. The number of states grew from just seventeen during William Strong's term to thirty-one when Andrew Tracy entered Congress in 1853.

It was also a time of political change in the country. The Federalist Party of Alexander Hamilton ended with the War of 1812 leaving Democratic-Republicans as the sole party until Andrew Jackson mobilized a new Democratic Party after losing the presidential election in 1825. The Whig Party was formed in opposition to Jackson in 1833 and named their first presidential candidates in 1836. After the Kansas-Nebraska Act passed, Whigs evolved into the Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln.

The Democratic and Republican parties have essentially reversed positions over the years. The Republican Party was originally based in northern states, opposed slavery, and supported liberal reforms while the Democratic Party was strongest in southern states, endorsed slavery, and favored states' rights and other conservative views. But although the names of political parties have changed over the years, many current disagreements can be traced to the nation's beginning.

# Laser Images Bring the Old King's Highway to Life



The Old King's Highway has disappeared under a veil of trees but the impression left in the ground can be seen starting at the bottom of the photo where a line veers left from Old Town Farm Road. The cellar hole of the home of Joel and Lydia Simonds can be seen in the left center of the photo. Secondary roads and stonewalls are also visible. This image was created with LiDAR, a technology that uses lasers to generate topographic maps. LiDAR shoots and collects up to a half-million data points per second, creating a 3D map of the landscape that is accurate to within 10 centimeters. When a LiDAR-equipped aircraft flies over a wooded area, laser beams penetrate the canopy and bounce back. An algorithm then factors out the vegetation, creating a topo map. This stagecoach route from Boston to Montreal was laid out in 1763 and flourished until railroads were established in White River Junction in 1848. The Old King's Highway disappeared from maps by 1910.

Back in the day when one went from Boston to Montreal by stagecoach, the coach would cross the Connecticut River from West Lebanon, pass the Hartford meetinghouse in the center of town, rumble through Quechee Village, and continue north up Seaver Hill along what was called the Old King's Highway to Pomfret.

The last house in Hartford on this old road was built by John Braley in 1796. He and his wife Mary owned land on both sides of the highway and raised thirteen children there.

In 1814, the Braley's daughter Lydia married Joel Simonds and they lived in Northfield, VT when their first child, Daniel, arrived in January 1815. Joel and Lydia had moved to Hartford by the time daughter Mary was born in December. When John Braley died in 1819, they purchased his home on the Old King's Highway.

Joel and Lydia had fourteen children in their small home. The Simonds children would likely have attended the one-room Birch School down the hill on Quechee West Hartford Road. Joel was assisted in the fields by his sons Daniel, Charles, Rufus, and Horace who all became successful farmers.

In 1832, the Simonds family was among many across America to be struck by illness. Ten-month-old John Simonds died on April 28, and his brothers Albert and Seth died on May 5. The cause of these deaths is not known. Consumption was the leading killer at the time but a severe cholera epidemic swept the country in 1832. Joel and Lydia buried their boys next to their home. Over the years, illness also claimed Polly, John B., Horace, and Harriet Simonds. In 1851, Joel also buried his infant grandson, Charles Simonds. In time, Joel enclosed the

Continued on page 6.

Bringing the Old King's Highway to Life continued from page 5.



Top left, the Old King's Highway is still visible near the former Simonds home as it stretches north around Seaver Hill. It is lined with stones along their property as it is farther north on the highway near the home of S. Kent. Above left is more stone construction by Lydia and Joel Simonds, above. The broken marker at top right is in memory of Harriet Simonds who married Harvey Delano in 1858 and died the next year at age 20. Bottom right is a granite post that once supported a fence around the family cemetery. Color photos by Art Peale.

little cemetery with granite posts and wrought iron rails. In 1853, he deeded the property to the town of Hartford hoping it would be permanently maintained.

Despite these losses and the strain of subsistence farming, Joel and Lydia persevered with the support of family, friends, and faith. Their son Charles and his family lived next door and Daniel and Rufus were nearby. In 1863, Joel Simonds was listed among members of the Christian Society of Quechee Village.

There were three unions between the families of Joel Simonds and John Judd of Strafford, VT. Daniel Simonds married Sarah Judd in 1845. Lydia Simonds married Lyman Judd in 1851, and Rufus Simonds married Wealthy Judd a few years later.

In 1864, after fifty years of marriage, Joel and Lydia Simonds sold their property in Hartford and moved to Strafford where they spent their last years living with their daughter Lydia Judd and her husband. Lydia Simonds died in 1873 and Joel survived her by three years. They are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in South Strafford.

Today, the hillside is covered with trees and there is no sign of the Old King's Highway. All that remains of the Simonds home is a cellar hole, stonewalls, and scattered pieces of headstones.

But though the area is covered by a green canopy, the State of Vermont has done laser images, known as LiDAR, that show the path of the old highway, the outline of Joel's fields, and a neat earthen rectangle around the house and cemetery. Straight lines suggest stonewalls on both sides of the old highway where crops were raised and animals grazed. A faint rectangle near the cellar hole may have been a barn.



The map above, published in 1856, shows the Old King's Highway from where it leaves Old Town Farm Road in Hartford in the lower right to its junction with Bunker Hill Road in Pomfret. The path of the highway is similar to the LiDAR image at right and the cellar holes may mark the former homes of R. Kenyon, C. Ware, A. Kent, and S. Kent.



These LiDAR images also show old cellar holes further north on the Old King's Highway in what is now Pomfret. A map from 1856 identifies owners as S. Kent, A. Kent, C. Ware, and R. Kenyon.

S. Kent left the cellar hole of a prosperous farmer and, across the highway, lies the foundation of a spacious barn. The fields of S. Kent lie to the east of the Old King's Highway and the laser images suggest they were bounded by stonewalls. A secondary road connects the farm with Joe Ranger Road. A short way north along the highway was the cellar hole of A. Kent. Likely a son of S. Kent, his story needs further research.

Then one soon comes to the modest cellar hole of C. Ware with its central fireplace. It may have been the home of Camilla Ware who was born in Peacham, VT and moved to Pomfret with her parents Jonathan and Betsey Ware in 1813. In 1856 when the map showing the Old King's Highway was printed, Camilla was the only member of the Ware family still living in Pomfret.

Jonathan Ware was a linguist, writer, teacher, lawyer, abolitionist, and historian. After graduating from Harvard in 1790, he studied law in Bennington, VT and moved to Peacham, VT to begin his career. At that time, he also helped start a newspaper called the *Green Mountain Patriot*.

One early source says that Jonathan, "was unfortunate in his practice and in money affairs," so he closed his law practice and moved his family to Danville, VT. Jonathan and Betsey lost an infant daughter there in 1807. During the War of 1812, Jonathan served in the army for a time in Burlington and Plattsburgh. His son Jonathan Jr. also served and may have died during the war at age seventeen. He was buried in Pomfret in 1813 by which time the family had presumably moved to a rough little farm on the Old King's Highway.

In addition to farming, Jonathan Ware continued to write. In 1814, he published a book about English grammar. He also completed an unpublished history of Vermont. To support his family, he traveled to Boston and New York to teach Greek for several years. Returning home, he tried to open a small school but it did not succeed.

Jonathan spent a dozen of his later years translating the Old Testament from Hebrew into Arabic, Greek, Latin, English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Danish, and Russian, all on the same page. He was nearly finished but

Bringing the Old King's Highway to Life continued from page 7.

traveled to Boston to consult references and caught a lung infection that killed him in 1838. The book was bound and preserved at Harvard.

Jonathan Ware was civic minded and corresponded on issues such as slavery and government policies toward Native Americans with public figures like William Lloyd Garrison and Alden Partridge, founder of what became Norwich University. Jonathan Ware was civic minded and corresponded on issues such as slavery and government policies toward Native Americans with public figures like William Lloyd Garrison and Alden Partridge, founder of the military school that became Norwich University. Garrison published a tribute to Ware in his paper, *The Liberator*, after his death.

Jonathan's wife Betsey was the oldest daughter of John Winchester Dana who was a successful farmer and one of Pomfret's founders. Betsey Ware was likely the practical member of this scholarly household and it is possible her father assisted the family although he died the year they returned to Pomfret.

Camilla Ware was an apt student who learned at least six foreign languages but, like her father, never enjoyed success as a teacher. She assisted her father with his writing and, in 1858, published an abolitionist tract called *Slavery in Vermont*. Camilla died in 1871 and is buried with her family in Pomfret's Hewittville Cemetery. This ended a remarkable and little known chapter in Pomfret's history.

To the north along the highway, just below the Appalachian Trail, is the cellar hole of R. Kenyon. This may have been Remington Kenyon who came to Pomfret with his wife Jerusha around 1820. Jerusha Kenyon is buried nearby in the Bunker Hill Burying Ground. Remington Kenyon died in 1869 and his stone could be among several illegible markers near his wife.

Remington and Jerusha had four sons, Horace, Carlton, Albert, and Charles. A second cellar hole suggests that one of the sons may have built a home nearby, perhaps after the map was created in 1856. This may have been Horace Kenyon whose wife Philna and her twenty year-old son Edgar also rest in the Bunker Hill Burying Ground.

These residents of the Old King's Highway likely knew each other, helped each other, and shared the hardships of that difficult time. When railroads replaced stagecoaches in the mid-1800s, a former lifeline of commerce was quickly engulfed by forest, properties lost value, and local residents moved on—leaving faint memories, distant descendants, and mysterious traces on LiDAR images.

# Looking Back at The Center of Town

This laser-generated (LiDAR) image shows how Stagecoach Road once forked around the old Hartford Meetinghouse as it passed the Center of Town Cemetery and intersected with Center of Town Road. Today, the meetinghouse is gone and Stagecoach Road no longer reaches the Center of Town. Stonewalls form a square around the cemetery in the photo. The image is provided by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information.



Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

# Hopping Freights in White River Junction

In an interview with Judy Barwood of the HHS in 2015, Ralph Terino shared an exploit from his childhood in Hartford that was still fresh in his mind after a long and fulfilling family life and legal career.

"When we were growing up, we used to hop the freights. If you wanted to go to West Lebanon across that big railroad bridge, we'd just hop a freight and zip right over and get off and nobody bothered us you know. Sometimes we'd just ride to the south end of town. You can't do it now.

"They used to have the Winter Carnival at Dartmouth College every year and it was a big thing for the locals, guys especially, because the students would import their girlfriends and they would come to White River Junction dressed to the nines so we were all there

to watch them get off the train. I was coming home from the movies one night and I was wearing one of

"The secret of hopping a freight car is that they had a bar on the bottom and a railing you could grab. The idea was to get going the same speed as the train and just hop right on." those heavy coats with a big fur collar and the girls were there, and there was a freight going by. Since I had hopped the freights before, I thought I'd show off a little bit for the girls.

"The secret of hopping a freight car is that they had a bar on the bottom and a railing you could grab. The idea was to get going the same speed as the train and just hop right on. Well, I started to run and the train was going faster than I thought, and I had that heavy coat on, but I was too ashamed to stop running so I grabbed on to the bar and it yanked me right off my feet. I can still remember it to this day. My feet felt like they were swinging right under the car and I thought my legs could get torn off. As I was hanging there, that big collar was underneath one of the rails so I couldn't lift myself up and I was afraid to reach my



Ask a Hartford resident of a certain age about hopping freight trains and he or she will likely know someone who did it.

legs down to the lower bar because I thought the wheels might catch me.

"At the White River Station, the B&M tracks were on one side of the platform and the Central Vermont tracks were on the other side. At the end of the platform, the tracks merged so the rails were closer together and there were cinders all over the ground. So I was debating how long I could hang on and I didn't know what the tracks were like further down. I decided to jump when the tracks merged and, when I got there, I pushed as hard as I could and fell into the cinders.

"I just laid there until the train went by, then I stood up and saw that I was right in front of my house. So I walked home and went into the bathroom. I'll never forget that I was wearing a white shirt and, when I looked in the mirror, my face was whiter than my shirt. I was afraid I'd be shy of hopping freights again but, the next night, a train was rolling by and I hopped it just to make sure I could still do it. When you're young, you feel like you can do anything."

Editor's note. Ralph Terino was born in Hartford in 1930. He earned a law degree from the University of Vermont and practiced law in Hartford until retiring in 2009. Ralph and his wife Phyllis had three children. He passed away in 2019.



6

LET OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT!

Heart to Home LLC

Sabil & Sons Inc.

Studio Nexus

Bailey/Howe Library at UVM

Cloverleaf Jewelers & Gifts

Please contact us to learn about promoting your business by supporting the Hartford Historical Society.

Schaal Electric Meeting House Furniture Restor ciety dues are payable after January 1 each yea form or use the PalPal form at hartfordhistor	r. Please retur
ciety dues are payable after January 1 each yea form or use the PalPal form at hartfordhistor	r. Please retur
form or use the PalPal form at hartfordhistor	
form or use the PalPal form at hartfordhistor	
Hartford Historical Se	, 1
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIO	
Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).	
🔿 Regular - \$25 [individual & family]	lon-Profit - \$30
🚫 Senior - \$20 [individual & family all over age 55] 🚫 B	usiness - \$50
Life - \$250 [any individual over age 60]	atron - \$100
Name:Additional Names:	
Address: City:	
State: ZIP Code: Phone:	
e-mail:	
Comments:	
The Hartford Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt $501(c)(3)$ orga Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historic	
Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT	
THANK YOU!	
	 ?
Hártford Historical (De	vci <i>e</i> tų
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLIC	
Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).	
Contact Name	
Contact Name: Business Name:	
Address: City:	
State: ZIP Code: Phone:	

Special Opportunities for Higher Levels of Support

Silver Sponsor: \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Gold Sponsor: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum Sponsor: \$2500 \_

The Hartford Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to: Hartford Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547 THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

# R.I.P. Gershom Bartlett



Whimsical headstones carved by Gershom Bartlett (1723-1798) are most common in his native Connecticut, but they are also found in Vermont where he spent his later years. He now rests in Waterman Hill Cemetery off Route 5 in Norwich near the Ompompanoosuc River. Gershom's wife Margret lies beside him and has a typical Bartlett headstone with a sad face graced by a bulbous nose, crown, and wild mane of hair. Vines, etched in relief, climb the edges of the stone. Gershom's head lies next to Margret's feet as though they hoped to face each other upon one day rising from the grave. Gershom's headstone deteriorated years ago, but a marker commemorating his Revolutionary War service is planted at his feet.

Gershom Bartlett's headstone, top center, is no longer legible but a military marker identifies his grave. Above right, headstones by Bartlett mark the graves of Mark Clark and his brother John Baldwin Clark in the Christian Street Cemetery. At bottom, the headstone of Judith Carter Gross in the Center of Town Cemetery was repaired by Art Peale of the HHS.



#### **Hartford Historical Society**

Post Office Box 547 Hartford, VT 05047-0547

Return Service Requested



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID permit no. 15

#### **HHS Calendar**

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM is open on Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or by appointment. Please call 802/296-3132 or email us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.org.

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS** are open to the public on the last Monday of the month at the Garipay House at 6 p.m. (Please check for exact date.)

Saturday, September 12, 2020 - "Yard Sale at the Garipay House." 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Annual HHS fundraiser. Masks please.

The **Genealogy Center** on the second floor of the Hartford Library is open by appointment. Please call Carole Haehnel at 802/295-3974 or email her at: chaehnel151@comcast.net.

#### Websites

Hartford Historical Society: http://www.hartfordhistory.org/ Hartford History Timeline: https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1456118/History-of-Hartford-Vermont/ Very Vermont - Stories from the Green Mountains: https://veryvermont.exposure.co/very-vermont