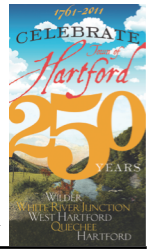




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 28, No. 4

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July-August 2015

JULY 4, 1876 CENTENNIAL ADDRESS

by Noah Bigelow Safford

Noah Bigelow Safford came to White River Junction in 1856 and became one of its prominent citizens. He represented the town in the state legislature, served as treasurer of the Vermont State Agricultural Society for twenty years, practiced law with Governor Coolidge and was appointed postmaster of

In 1849 there were only three dwelling houses and same number of families at the Junction upon the south side of White River, and only five scholars in the School District.

In 1847 (the Vermont Central Passumpsic Railroad being under construction) A. Latham & Son commenced building a Machine Shop and Iron Foundry near where now stands the large engine house of the Central Road.

In 1852 the Machine Shops were greatly enlarged so that they consisted on the Iron Foundry 90' by 50', car shop 200' by 40', machine shop 320' x 40' and boiler and forging shop 280' by 40' and three other small offices and buildings. At this time they began the manufacture of locomotives and freight cars. A. Latham & Son failed in November 1854.

The shops, after that time, remained unoccupied for nearly four years and a half.

In the spring of 1859 a portion of the shops were

rented for the purpose of shoe peg manufacturing, and at the same time another party rented the machine shop and a third party rented the iron foundry. They were put in operation, and continued thus until they were accidentally burned in May 1861.

At the same time were also burned the railroad passenger and freight depots, the Passumpsic and

Central Railroad wood sheds and barn, and a large store house upon the north side of the White River.

Nothing was done towards the revival of any business during the war nor until 1869. In fact up to 1869 after the suspension of the locomotive works



White River Junction in 1862

(continued on page 3)

UPCOMING EVENT:

5th Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day

Saturday, August 15th, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Lyman Point Park, beside the Hartford Town Hall

From the Chair . . .

It's that time of the year when we have to think about our fuel budget for the coming winter. Unfortunately, some of the organizations and businesses that have provided generous grants to the Society in past years have either cut back on the amount they allotted us or turned us down this time around. We have to keep in mind that they are inundated with requests from nonprofits for a finite amount of available funds.

To ensure that we are able to heat the Garipay House this winter, the board has decided to hold a "Books, Bargains and Bake Sale" with profits earmarked for the purchase of heating oil. The dates we have selected are Saturday, July 25th and Sunday, July 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will also be offering hot dogs and lemonade for sale on Saturday.

So, once again we are appealing to our membership for donations of clean, salable items. They may be dropped off at the Garipay House during our regular business hours or, in a pinch, left on the back porch. Baked goods may be brought to the House on

Friday or the morning of the sale.

We will be needing volunteers to help sort and price the donations as well as sales persons for the sale on Saturday. Anyone wishing to help may contact Martha Knapp at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com or 802-295-3132.

To prepare for our annual meeting on May 30th, board members had to raid their own kitchens to come up with items such as serving spoons, a ladle, a pie server, knives, a tall kitchen waste basket and serving bowls. The Garipay House kitchen is not well equipped for events that involve serving food. Donations would be most welcome, and we are not at all concerned about having things "match". Items may be brought to the House during regular business hours.

Thank you for your continued support of our Historical Society.

Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board



Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordhistory.org>

Note our new email address:

info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

802-296-3132



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.

Officers

Susanne Abetti—President	802-295-9687
Bill Wittik—Vice President	802-295-9683
Tammy Ladd—Recording Secretary	802-356-2965
Art Peale—Treasurer	802-295-6100
Peggy McDerment—Asst. Treasurer	802-295-2357

Directors

Mary Nadeau, Chair	802-295-2123
Martha Knapp, Museum Director	802-295-2713
Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974
Brent Knapp	802-295-2713
Lorna Ricard	802-295-2701
Judy Barwood	802-295-2435
Daniel George	802-295-7623
Brett Mayfield	802-591-3978

Curator/Archivist	Pat Stark	802-295-3077
Newsletter	Susanne Abetti	802-295-9687
Membership	Martha Knapp	802-295-2713

(continued from page 1)

there was but little business save railroad business and no building done.

In 1869 a portion of the premises near the tall chimney was rented for a term of years for the purpose of putting in operation another shoe peg manufacturing. New buildings were erected and the same are now in operation.

At this time (1869) there were only 46 dwelling houses on the south side of White River and 15 on the north side. Total number 63[sic].

This year the Vermont Central road purchased a portion of the ground where the boiler shop stood and fitted up the walls of that shop for an engine house and used it for that purpose until 1873 when this railroad made further purchases of real estate and tore down the last remains of the Latham

In 1867 a new highway bridge was built across the White River which opened direct communication with New Hampshire for travel. Previous to this time, there was no access to the Junction from New Hampshire save by railroads, without making a circuit of White River Village.

Since 1869 there had been a steady growth. More or less building every year—so that now in this centennial year there are

- 91 dwelling houses
- 11 shops and stores
- 102 buildings on south side of White River
- 20 upon the north side
- 122 buildings furnishing tenements for 158 families

There are now 4 new dwelling houses on the south side and 2 on the north side now being erected with fair prospect of three more during the season.

To show a little the prices of real estate we will instance the Meadowlands east of the railroad near the yard and depots. In 1861 ten acres of that meadow were sold at public sale for \$140 per acre. The meadow on the old Dan'l King farm below the second railroad crossing this spring (1876) has been cut up into half acre and acre lots and sold at \$400 per acre. Nine half acre lots sold this spring.

Thus far I have confined my history to the particular locality of White River Junction. Let us now look at the whole town and indulge in a little prophecy.

This town has within its limits facilities for business and growth, not

surpassed by any other town in the state. With the four railroads centering here, and with the water power at Quechee village and two new large factories, and unoccupied water on that river capable of operating a dozen more as large. The power upon White River not so great to be sure, but valuable—and finally that splendid power upon the Connecticut River greater



Wheeler Brothers in 1884 – the corner of Gates & South Main Streets



White River Junction in 1890

Boy Scouts Visit the Hartford Historical Society

By Martha Knapp

Den # 3, Pack 232 of Hartford, Vermont, made an appointment to visit the museum. The Den leader is Erin Marcotte, and her Scouts are D. Tanner, R. Greyson, M. Caden, and B. Rowan.



Den #3 Pack 232 Hartford, Vermont

I led the tour for these very excited second graders. To begin with, when they discovered the original set of school desks we have on display from the 1800's from the Old Pinewood School House, I heard comments of "way cool" and "awesome" referring to the desks, the historic school books and items that were placed on the desks for them to enjoy.

In the next room the Abenaki Exhibit caught their eye as did the guns we have over the mantle. We spent most of our time in that room, and they had many questions for me. I invited them all to come to our Abenaki Celebration on August 15th, where they would meet many of the Abenaki People.

Next we visited the basement area, where they saw

the old parts of Engine #494 and the tools used to work on the trains. They wanted to know what everything was. They also saw some of the exhibits that school children had made for us, and since they knew those students, they were able to make a connection.

We then moved to the loom room. The spinning wheels around the corner excited them because they could identify what they were used for. They hadn't previously seen a barn loom but were very interested in how we make the rugs from t-shirts.

On the way to the doctor's office, one Scout turned around and said, "Whose house is this, anyway?" I answered,



Second grade Boy Scouts, parents and den leader visit the Garipay house and learn the history of their town.

"This is the Hartford Historical Society and it belongs to everyone in the town. We take care of it so that when you grow up and have your own children, you can

bring them here and show these things to them." I saw that light bulb go off, and they all seemed impressed with that answer.

We visited the doctor's office. They liked the eyeball that came apart and showed what an eyeball was made of, the skeleton of the feet and the tools the doctor had in his office. They thought the dial-up phone and adding machine were very old-fashioned.

We proceeded to the front porch where they did the ending ritual, and I was invited into the circle to



Boy Scouts invite Martha Knapp to participate in the Boy Scout handshake.

The Fifth Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day

By Martha Knapp

On Saturday, August 15th, the Hartford Historical Society will host the Fifth Annual "Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day" at Lyman Point Park in White River Junction from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Lyman Point was an important Abenaki travel port and trading center.

This is a family event, featuring a potluck wild meat barbeque lunch beginning about noon to 1:00 p.m. There will be a number of demonstrations as well as the sharing of Abenaki ways and cultural practices. This year our Special Guests will be the Black Hawk Singers who will have a program to teach us about the drum and what the songs mean. They sing songs in the Abenaki language.

Our other special features will



From the Hartford Historical Society's 2014 booth:
"From Grasses Trees, and Bark, Comes Abenaki Art"



David Fairbanks Ford displays the Main Street

include Abenaki basket making, the pounding of the black ash, traditional Abenaki bead working and other educational opportunities. There will be a number of booths as well, including one representing the Hartford Historical Society and another from the Main Street Museum.

In past years, people have come from as far away as Connecticut to attend this annual event, from basket collectors to historians and from every walk of life. If you have never been, please mark the day on your calendar and plan to share in the day's activities. Children are especially welcome.

The event is free and open to the general public. On-site parking is available. Since there will be a potluck meal, you are encour



Update from the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission

By Pat Stark

The Commission continues to be busy with various projects. We are in touch with the Jericho Schoolhouse project to repair the foundation and make other improvements to the building and with the West Hartford Church and its efforts to preserve that structure. The second town-wide survey designed to inventory houses built between 1920 and 1949 is in progress. Our next project will be a Historic Nomination of the Advent Campground, a

recommendation from the committee that handled the first town-wide survey of structures up through 1939.

The Oral History Project (a joint project with the Hartford Historic Preservation Committee and the Hartford Historical Society) has been gifted with an "angel". Ryan Scelza is helping to transcribe some of the difficult interviews and is putting the ones we have into mp3 format with the assistance of the technology department at the Jones Media Center at Dartmouth College. One of the benefits is that interested people

Opening of the New Exhibit: "The Old and The New, Never Before on Display at the Garipay"

By Martha Knapp

During the winter months, our President Susanne Abetti informed us that many interesting historic objects pertaining to our Town were being offered for sale on eBay. She began to purchase a few of them, and I was inspired to do the same. In the meantime, we had just finished displaying our Phil Bouthillier exhibit and had received three new (to us) display cabinets, courtesy of a museum that no longer had a use for them. These events became an inspiration for the creation of a new exhibit.

Going through our collections in storage, we found things that had never before been offered for viewing by the public. Added to these items were articles donated to us this year by residents, along with other recent acquisitions. Putting it all together, we came up with a unique exhibit of miscellaneous treasures.

One of the objects on display is a beautiful hand-knitted American flag made by Chrissa Bingham. It became a focal point in our display. (See photo.) Val Roy Erno made us a mattress and pillow for an 1895 baby cradle and a Raggedy Ann doll to tuck inside the cradle. The exhibit will be up all summer, and I hope

that you all will get a chance to see these objects before we put them away to make space for our next exhibit.

We give the openings of our exhibitions a party atmosphere, and this opening was no exception. I stayed busy giving tours until I could no longer ignore the people roaring with laughter as they enjoyed the refreshments in the Library Room. (See



Left to right: Val Roy Erno, Chrissa Bingham, Mary Nadeau, Susanne Abetti, and Roy Black sharing a good laugh in the Library photo.)

I want to thank David Fairbanks Ford for connecting us with the donors of our new display cabinets, Susanne Abetti, always innovative and inspiring, for leading us to the eBay objects, the Davis family for the photos and information about their ancestors, Jim Tonkovich for his exciting contributions, and Kristy and Jim, my staff, for the hours of work they



Nathalie George, who lives across the river from the Historical Society, enjoyed her first visit to the Garipay House.



The Star Spangled Banner Flag, created by Chrissa Bingham, is on view in our new exhibit. The fifteen-star, fifteen-stripe flag (from 1795 to 1818) was the official American flag after Vermont and Kentucky joined the Union. It's referred to as the Star Spangled Banner Flag because it was the one flying over the War of 1812 battle that inspired Francis Scott Key to write what became the words to our national anthem.

Ottauquechee School Visit

By Martha Knapp

My dream came true recently when the third and fourth graders and their teachers came for a field trip to the Hartford Historical Society. Their two-hour stay passed very quickly. I love being around the children with their vibrant energy and the looks of wonder in their eyes. Yes, it can get a little chaotic until they figure out what the museum is all about, but they soon discover that we have an abundance of things to interest them. My follow up dream is for the students to bring their parents here for another visit so they can show them what they saw here.

I began by having the students sign in. They all had big backpacks. Since there isn't enough room for them in the museum, my assistant Kristy and the teachers helped them stow their belongings in the kitchen area.

They were fascinated by the objects all around them in the front parlor room and were very attentive when explanations about the historical artifacts were given. The old school books that we have in the room caught their attention, and they were pleased to be able to hold them and look through their pages.

The adjacent room contains our Abenaki items. The students learned what life in Vermont was like before the European settlers arrived. It came as no surprise to me that there were students of Abenaki descent and of other Native American tribes present in the class. Over the past several years, I have made visits to the class in Quechee, bringing along the Abenaki exhibit. This time, however, they had the opportunity to see all the other objects in the museum. My goal is to

have all Hartford students visit the museum for a complete tour.

After a lively question and answer period, it was snack time, and then we prepared for the next adventure.



Students from the Ottauquechee School enjoying our basement exhibits as they move toward the loom room

While our barn loom expert, Kristy O'Meara prepared to give the students a demonstration, the students went into the museum basement and viewed a number of exhibits down there that are of interest to children. One of the teachers remarked that as a child she had ridden on the play horses that once were a fixture in Frost Park. The students appeared to be interested in everything

they saw, including the tools for our own use that we have hanging on a tool board.

Entering the loom area, they were captivated by the spinning wheels, the loom and the huge bank books,



Students gathering around the historic barn loom, waiting for Kristy to begin her demonstration of making rugs from

but when Kristy went to work weaving on the loom, she had their full attention. They watched her make rugs for quite a while before it was time to move back upstairs to the new exhibit in the dining room, "The Old and the New". Again, they enjoyed seeing the artifacts, asked questions and offered comments. I pointed out the photos of Amelia Earhart, who, in the 1930s, landed at the Twin State Airport in White River Junction, site of the former

Vermont State Fairgrounds. Over a thousand people came to see her, and she was presented with a large bouquet of roses. One student mentioned that he knew all about Amelia Earhart from watching the movie "Midnight at the Museum", which just happens to be one of my favorite movies.

(continued on page 11)

ANNUAL MEETING 2015

By Martha Knapp

We were blessed with perfect weather for our annual meeting on May 30th. Tables were set up on the front porch of the Garipay House for our potluck lunch and delicious homemade pies to accompany our grilled hot dogs and freshly squeezed lemonade.

The purpose of our annual meeting is to elect our board members, to discuss our accomplishments over the last year and to receive input from our membership. We also announce future projects on the horizon.

Updates on our building have included an improved parking lot, the reglazing of most of our historic windows and storm windows and the start of the remodeling of our entryway by removing the carpet, staining the floor and stairway and painting the woodwork.

The Historical Society gave bonuses to our dedicated workers, James Hewitt and Kristy O'Meara, who work with us on every phase of the museum activities, from assisting with inventory for our new MusArch Program, making labels and setting up exhibitions, to the upkeep and maintenance of the house and grounds.

Our fundraising (aside from seeking grants) included our Books, Bargains and Bake Sale held last October, the "Way Down East" event in February and the Wine Tasting event at the Norwich Inn in April. We are continually



New board member Brett Mayfield and Brent Knapp enjoying the meeting



Society members tuck into the homemade pies as Mary Nadeau chairs the annual meeting while secretary Tammy Ladd records the minutes.



Around the corner, the rest of the group is enjoying the freshly squeezed lemonade

seeking ways to raise funds for the many things on our agenda that we hope to accomplish in the near future.

This year's Books, Bargains and Bake Sale, which will help pay for this winter's fuel oil, is scheduled for Saturday, July 25th, with the possibility of a bargain day on the 26th to clear the yard and give really good deals. We are asking everyone to help us out by donating good, clean, salable items, volunteering to help with pricing, setting up the morning of the sale and shopping during the sale. Our hope is to again raise enough money to keep the Garipay House open during the coming winter.

Leo Zacharski reported that the Jericho School House Fund now has raised \$30,000 toward the work needed to shore up the building's foundation. The Historical Society is in full support of that project and has assisted in the fundraising efforts.

The candidates elected for a three-year term on the Board of Directors were Susanne Abetti, Carole Haehnel, Pat Stark, Mary Nadeau, Brett Mayfield, and Martha Knapp. Officers elected included President-Susanne Abetti, Vice President-Bill Wittik, Secretary-Tammy Ladd, and Treasurer-Art Peale.

The Society recognized Tammy Ladd for her many years of service as Secretary and Carole Haehnel for her many years as Treasurer. Carole has agreed to donate her organizational skills to help us with the many backlogged

Hartford Historical Society Newsletter

filing projects at the Garipay House.

Hartford Historical Society's

Books, Bargains and Bake Sale

Saturday, July 25th and Sunday, July 26th

at the Garipay House

1461 Maple Street, Hartford Village



10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Featuring:

Clean, Salable Items - Books - Baked Goods

Hot Dogs and Lemonade Available for Purchase

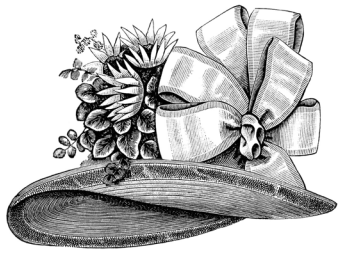


Donations may be dropped off at the Garipay House during regular business hours (M-F 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Bakers may bring their treats to the House on Friday or on Saturday morning



Just as with last October's yard sale, pictured here, proceeds will go into the Society's Fuel Fund so that we may keep our museum open during the cold winter months!



“Hats Off” to our Local Business Supporters!

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LET OUR
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Hartford Historical Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

- Individual \$20.00 per year
- Senior \$15.00 per year
- Institutional \$30.00 per year
- Family (same address) \$25.00 per year
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- Special Gift of Support \$ _____

Name: _____ Additional Names: _____

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 Mail this completed form, along with a check payable to Hartford Historical Society, to:
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THANK YOU!

Hartford Historical Society BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

Contact Name: _____

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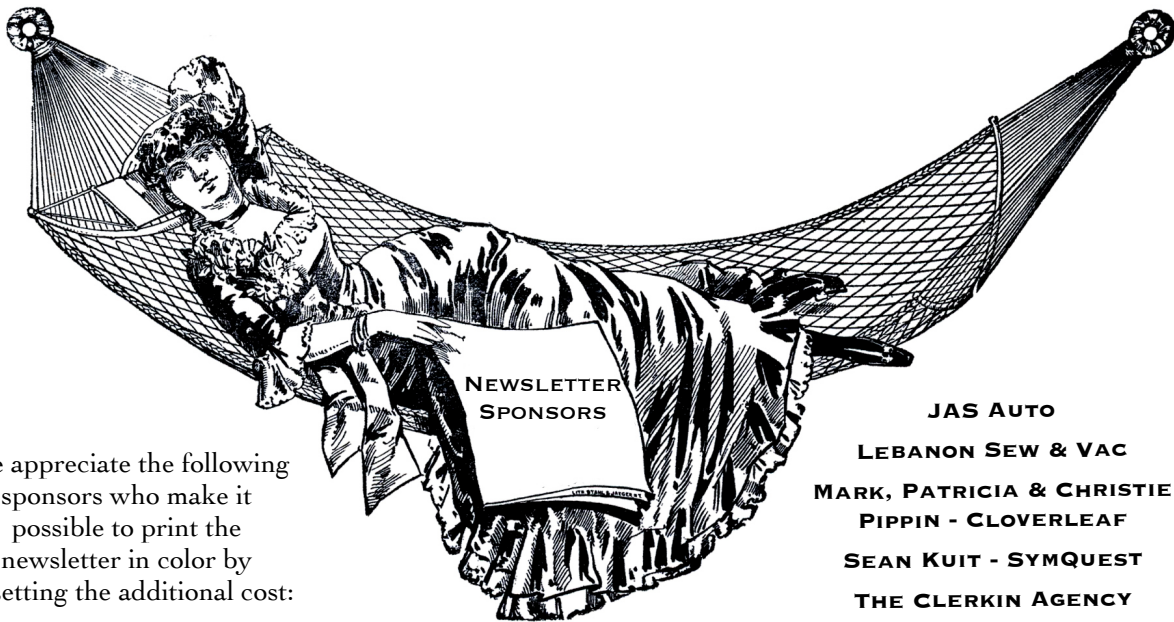
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THANK YOU!



We appreciate the following sponsors who make it possible to print the newsletter in color by offsetting the additional cost:

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(Ottauquechee School Visit -- continued from page 7)

Too quickly it was time for their bus to arrive. Before leaving, the girls got to see Dr. Garipay's office because the students had split up to use the bathrooms before boarding. The pink bathroom is upstairs where the office is located. The boys headed for the blue bathroom on the first floor. Before they departed, I

handed one girl copies of some of our historic postcards to share with the others during the bus ride. Their next stop was Quechee Gorge for a picnic lunch, followed by a walk through the trails and then a trip back to school. I would be very pleased if I had children in that class. Kudos to the Ottauquechee School! Thanks for coming!

CURATOR'S CORNER

by Pat Stark

Our donations are often surprises, and this latest one certainly was. We recently received an email from the Shelburne Museum, asking if we want the bell that once hung in the Hartford Woolen Mill! John Cone had given it to them years ago before the Society existed. We are excited to have it returned, but it will be a few months before we can get our permit, build the frame to



The Hartford Woolen Mill bell at the Shelburne Museum

secure it, and get it moved and installed. We look forward to adding it to our collections. I wonder if anyone remembers hearing it peal "back in the day". Was it rung to signal shift changes?

Any information about the function of the bell will be greatly appreciated. The more we can document the story behind an artifact in the collections, the more valuable it becomes to future generations.

Hartford Historical Society

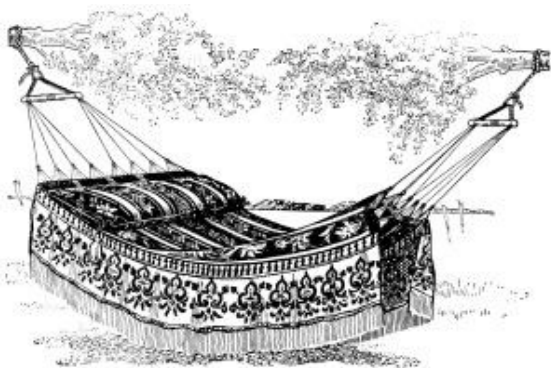
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HHS Calendar

Upcoming Programs, Meetings and Events

OPEN HOUSE at the Garipay House

(excepting Holidays and inclement weather) M-F 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by appointment. To be sure we are open, check for the flag outside the building or contact us mornings at 296-3132 or email us at info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com. For an appointment, call or email us or contact Pat Stark at 295-3077 M-F from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

** Special Summer Hours: 1st Tuesday of the Month 6-8 p.m., 2nd Sunday of the month 2-4 p.m.*

MONTHLY MEETINGS open to the public:

2nd Monday of each month – **The Hartford Historical Society Discussion Group** at the Bugbee Center at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

2nd Wednesday – **Hartford Historic Preservation Commission** meeting at the Municipal Offices, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction at 4:30 p.m.

4th Thursday – **HHS Board of Directors Meeting** – at the Garipay House, 6:30 p.m. (Please check for exact date.) For more information, contact Mary Nadeau at 295-2123.

Saturday & Sunday, July 25 & 26, 2015 – “**Books, Bargains and Bake Sale**” at the Hartford Historical Society, 1461 Maple St., Hartford Village 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5, 2015 – “**Advice for Struggling Genealogists**”--a Special Program at 7 p.m. at the GenCenter located upstairs at the Hartford Library, 1587 Maple St., Hartford Village

Saturday, August 15, 2015 – **5th Annual Abenaki and Indigenous Peoples Honoring Day**, 11 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Lyman Point Park, 167 Maple St., White River Junction.

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 – **The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer** by Adam Boyce. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Refreshments.

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 – **A History of the Jericho District** by Leo Zacharski. 7 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Refreshments.

The Genealogy Center, located upstairs in the Hartford Library, is open Monday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Carole Haehnel and Ray Field will be happy to assist you in exploring the resources we have