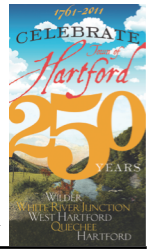




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 28, No. 6

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November-December 2015

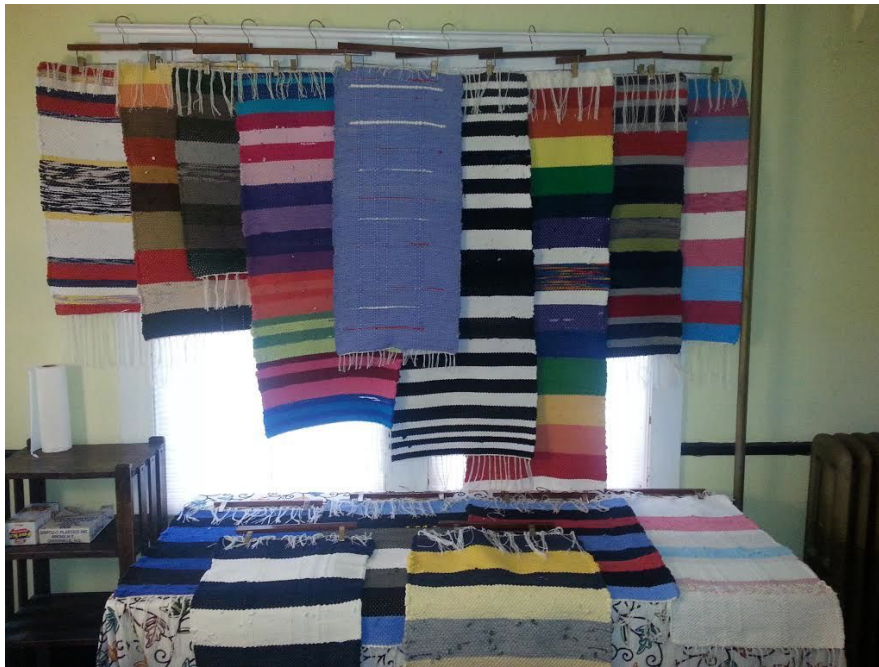
“Loom Party” at the Hartford Historical Society

by Martha Knapp

I hope everyone saw our two-day front page spread in the Valley News on September 23rd and 24th. It was a lengthy article about the staff at the Historical Society and the good work that gets accomplished here. We have received a lot of feedback, and the articles even generated some donations earmarked for funding this program to make up for all of the donated time our staff from the Justice Center has given as volunteers during the period when the funding was first cut off completely and then revised to fund two days per week. All of us are hoping for the return of a full time (20 hours per week per person) staff. If anyone else who shares our dreams would like to send a donation earmarked for this purpose, remember that we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) and we would gladly provide you with a receipt for tax

purposes.

On September 20th, the Hartford Historical Society held its last Open House event of the season from 2-4 p.m. Twenty or so people came to watch us take the



rugs that Kristy O’Meara has been weaving all year off our 150-year-old barn loom. It became quite a project, since she had made numerous rugs in a continuous series, separated from one another by a threaded space which then became the fringe on either ends of the rugs.

*The “Fruits of the Loom”:
Rugs made on the Garipay House Barn Loom on display in the kitchen*

The material used to make the rugs was the tee shirts that many people gave us in response to our requests for

them. Kristy wants everyone to know that she could use more to replenish our supply. Any color would be a good addition.

Loom Master Andy Bird, who taught us how to put our loom together, how to thread the loom, how to

(continued on page 3)

UPCOMING PROGRAM:

“A History of the Jericho District”

by Dr. Leo Zacharski

Wednesday, November 11, 7 pm

Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, 1721 Maple Street, Hartford Village

From the Chair . . .

It's that time of the year when we remind our membership that it's nearly time to pay annual dues. **Unless you joined as a lifetime member, your dues are payable each calendar year after the first of January.**

With our limited resources, it would be too costly to send renewal notices to each of our members via first-class mail, so we have to rely on our readers to heed the announcements printed in our newsletters and to renew in a timely manner. Our dues schedule appears on page 10.

Up to now we have been reluctant to delete from our mailing list the names and addresses of those whose dues were delinquent. Unfortunately, with the ever-

increasing cost of printing and mailing the newsletters, this practice has become financially unsustainable. **If you are unsure of your dues status, please look to the right of your name on the address label to find the year through which your dues are paid.**

We value the on-going support of our members and appreciate their role in helping the Society to meet its expenses. There will be a follow-up reminder in the January-February newsletter.

The Hartford Historical Society operates as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, and your membership dues as well as all donations made to the Society are tax deductible.

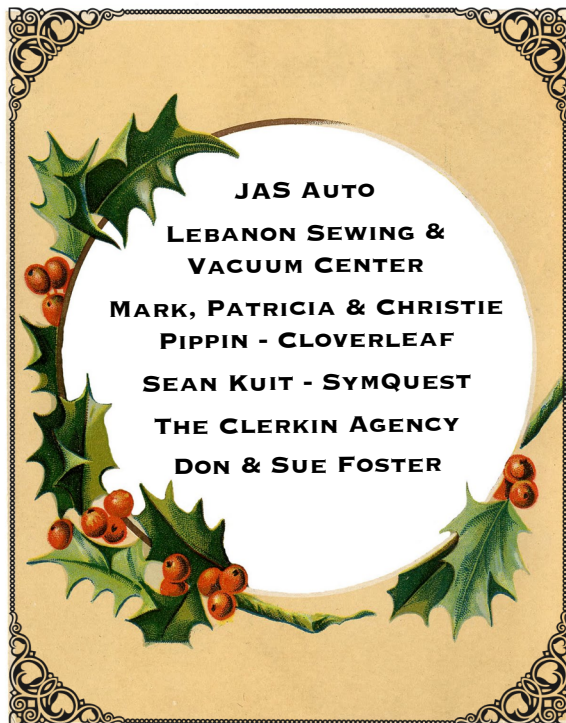
Thank you!

Mary Nadeau, Chairman of the Board



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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



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

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Susanne Abetti—President | 802-295-9687 |
| Bill Wittik—Vice President | 802-295-9683 |
| Tammy Ladd—Recording Secretary | 802-356-2965 |
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| Curator/Archivist | Pat Stark | 802-295-3077 |
| Newsletter | Susanne Abetti | 802-295-9687 |
| Membership | Martha Knapp | 802-295-2713 |

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.

(LOOM PARTY - continued from page 1)

make a rug, and how get the loom to operate correctly, came to see the results of his teachings and to assist us with the tasks we don't do very often. It was a pleasure to share this day with Andy and all who attended.

Those who have had a chance to weave like this confess that they like it very much and claim that the experience is close to Nirvana at times. We are going to put the rugs up for sale and share the profits with

Kristy, who thinks it's a great plan. She needs to find ways to supplement her income, and we also need to bring more funds into the Society, so this would be a win-win situation.

It was decided that we would put the rugs on display in our kitchen area and offer them for sale for anyone wishing to gift themselves or others with a special, unique, one-of-a-kind work of art. We are considering a



Mary Nadeau choosing a favorite



There were a total of fourteen rugs removed from the loom. Everyone pitched in to help carry this new batch of rugs to the tables, where they were separated and tied off by many helping hands.



Martha McLafferty, Director of the Justice Center, is always supportive of our events. She has questions for our Loom Master, Andy Bird.



With a ruler and our rolling cutting tool, the rugs were separated from one another to receive the final finish.



Andy Bird continuing the process of instructing Kristy and answering her questions

In Gratitude for the Volunteers at the Hartford Historical Society

By Martha Knapp

This year has been wonderful for the Hartford Historical Society's volunteer program.

When we put out the call, we were lucky to have Heather Clow come to visit and see if we had any jobs that she might be able to do for us at her home in her spare time. We introduced her to "Musarch", the museum program we have begun to use to take a complete inventory of our collection. The program, when completed, will be accessible online for researchers and members of the public to study our collections. This is a program that will bring us into the modern world of museums and their capacity to make the information available. We will have a description and information about each object, its catalog number, its location and a photograph of each item that we have collected since our Society was formed.

Next we met two high school sophomores from Hartford High School, Emily and Hannah Ballou. They told us about the community service program that is a requirement for all high school students. All students need to perform 40 hours of service to graduate and 100 hours to be on the honors program. They asked if we had something they could do for us, and we put them right to work on our inventory. I have to say right now that it was wonderful to be around these young people. They knew all about computers and seemed perfect for the job. They came every chance they had until they had to go back to school, but will continue to come in to help during their vacations and next summer as well. They also said they will put the information on their guidance teacher's bulletin board and tell all of their friends how much fun they had here. They love history and liked seeing the old photographs. They predict that some of the students will need community service hours to graduate, and they will suggest to their guidance counselor to pass the word along that we are a great place to do service.

Next we had a visit from the Mormon missionaries, Sister Davis and Sister Pierce, who had heard from

the Sisters who were here last year in service to us that we could use volunteers. Sister Davis and Sister Pierce worked on the inventory until they were transferred and replaced by two Elders, who came to continue the Sisters' service for us. Elder Erbe and Elder Jensen have been working here for about two hours per week for two months now and expect that they will be here for four months. They are young and studious and accomplish a great deal while they are here.

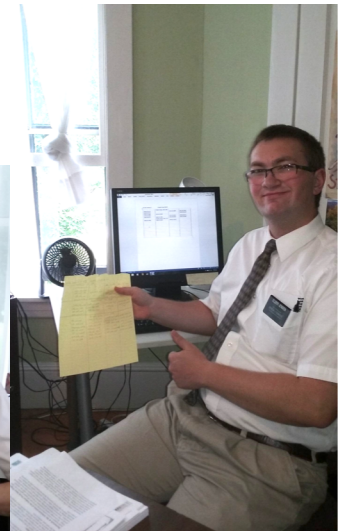
We also have many people who have baked goodies for our events, who volunteered to help with Abenaki Day and who helped with our yard sale. We continue to add up the volunteer hours



Emily and Hannah Ballou, sophomores at Hartford High School, volunteered here at the Society during their summer vacation. 40 hours of community service is required for graduation, or 100 hours to qualify for the honors program. They promised to be back for more hours during their school



My name is Elder Erbe, from St. George, Utah, serving a mission for two years. I'm 18 years old, from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. We do service

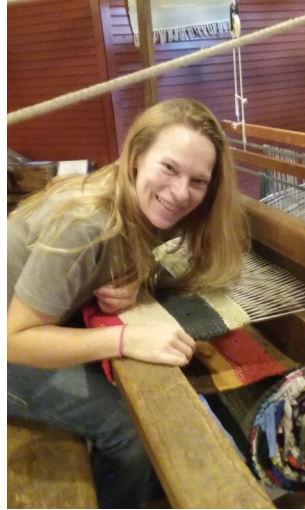


My Name is Elder Jensen. I'm from Pleasant Grove, Utah. I have been on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for eight months. I've served in Lamoille County, Vermont, and Oxford, Maine. I love serving here every week. It's a great way to serve the

from the Justice Center. And, of course, all of our board members are volunteers. All are committed to our mission and believe that our work will astonish and continue to educate our future generations. The volunteer hours are recorded, and in applying for certain grants these hours are considered as in-kind donations for

Many, many Thanks...

Taja Bowen is our newest staff member from the Justice Center. She volunteered many hours to get things ready for the Loom Event. Here she is painting the stairway in the basement, which was given a new coat of paint. Taja was the official photographer for this open house.



... to our Justice Center Workers!

Kristy O'Meara has performed many volunteer hours for the Society. This time she was preparing for the Loom Event, and she volunteered all week to make things ready.



FANNIE G. FINALLY FINDS A HOME?

In a prior newsletter I wrote of a gravestone found 1½ feet down in the cellar of a Quechee resident when digging out his cellar to lower the floor. Further searching revealed that the six-year-old girl had died of Scarlet Fever in 1864.

Fannie, daughter of Norman and Mary Tewksbury Shallies. Granddaughter of Joseph and Emily Shallies, where are you buried? Under the floor of that house, somewhere in the yard, or in the family plot with grandparents, aunts and uncles and perhaps father and mother?

Further research shows Fannie's mother and father moved to Concord, New



*Installing Fannie's headstone at
Center of Town cemetery*

Hampshire, sometime after her death. But their death certificates show they were to be buried in Quechee, Vermont. Searching through the cemeteries in Quechee where the Tewksburys are buried and in the Center of Town cemetery revealed no headstones for a Norman and Mary. However, in the Shallies' family plot at Center of Town there are three supposedly unmarked graves in a row. Slightly below ground, in a row with the other gravestones, I found fieldstones right where carved gravestones would have been.

One can only assume who might be buried here. Fannie's headstone, so long out of place, has once again – at least recognizing her as one of the family – found a home.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION IN THE 1920'S

*A Speech delivered May 28, 1975 for the 50th Anniversary of the White River Junction Rotary Club
by John St. Croix*

(Part 2 of 2 parts)

Against this background, White River junction was expanding. New businesses came in; old businesses were sold to new owners; the well-established businesses were prospering. This was known as the period of "Coolidge Prosperity".

Well-established businesses of that day which are still in existence are the White River Paper Company, Miller Automobile Company, Green Mountain Studios, which was originally the Green Mountain Card Company, Cross Abbott Company, now the Cross Company, Vermont Cut Flower Exchange, Adams & McNichols, now Adams, McNichols and Melen, and Swift & Company. Drown & LeBourveau and Watson & West Insurance are still going strong under one roof. They don't realize it but they are all going to get a bill for advertising.

None of the retail stores or groceries of that day are left. They included Armstrong Market, Andrew Morris, Bogle Brothers, Wheeler Brothers, H.L. Hanson, Browne's Shoe Store, T.T. Allen, Hunts Department Store and many others.

In 1919 Burton Shepard started the Shepard Company which is still a thriving business.

Calman Colodny started the Surprise Department Store in 1920. It was about two stores down from its present location. The Telephone Company moved out of its

office over the bank into their new building on the corner of Gates and Currier streets in 1922.



Swift & Company of White River Junction

That same year Walter C. W. Marshall bought the Bailey Music Rooms, a Burlington concern located in White River, and set up his own business. Alfred Wright, Sr. bought "The Landmark" from Mrs. Jamieson that same year. Chimes Candy Store moved to White River and opened a store where the Kwik-Way store is now. They sold April Fool candy - soap and onions covered with chocolate. My mother got hold of a piece - it was tragic. H.A. Perkins built a warehouse in 1920. They sold it to the Vermont Warehouse Company in 1923. This is the building now occupied by Twin State Fruit Company. And in 1924 Allard Graves

opened the Lyric Theatre on North Main Street. It used to have the latest shows, and every week we had some fine vaudeville entertainment.



Lyric Theatre on North Main Street (on the left) in White River Junction

One of the entertainers said it was the most morbid place he had ever worked in. No matter where he looked he saw Graves.

We did not have the Town Manager system of government then. The Town Clerk was William S. Pingree. He had just succeeded former

Governor Samuel E. Pingree who died in 1922 and had served as Hartford Town Clerk for fifty years. Roscoe Wilmot was the Town Treasurer. He was postmaster in

the village several months prior to taking the office. Charles Smith was the Chief of Police, and Fred Hutchinson was the fire chief. When Mr. Hutchinson retired in 1954, he had been the Hartford Fire Chief for forty years.

The postmaster at that time was Carl W. Cameron. There were three banks in the village. Leonard Wheeler was the president of the First National Bank, Howard Miller was president of the Inter-State Trust Company and Roy Howard was president of the Hartford Savings Bank and Trust Company.

Back in 1884 Lyman Gibbs started a livery stable on Gates Street. Nathaniel Wheeler started a grocery store where the Kwik-Way market now stands, in 1889. He was always watching Gibbs' lucrative business. Finally he couldn't stand it any longer so he went over and bought him out. Gibbs stayed home for a week. He either couldn't stand the prosperity or the idleness, so he went back down to his old stomping grounds and bought back half the business. This started the famous partnership of Gibbs and Wheeler.

In 1901 the two men bought the Junction House from William Barron. They continued their partnership until 1923, when ill health forced Mr. Gibbs to retire. He sold his hotel holding to William Wilmot. When Mr. Wilmot died, the garage became the property of Hubert Kendall.

November-December 2015

The year after Mr. Gibbs' retirement, Nathaniel Wheeler changed the name of the hotel from the Junction House to the Coolidge Hotel in honor of John Coolidge, an old friend and the father of President Calvin Coolidge.



Downtown White River Junction



HARTFORD'S HISTORIAN — John St. Croix of Hartford Village looks over his photo album of over 1,000 photographs depicting Hartford's history, material he used in two books on the town's past. (News photo — Terrill Albee)

John St. Croix reviewing his scrapbook of Hartford memorabilia

It was in that year that the Town of Hartford had the distinction of being the first township in the state to have all its rural schools rated as Superior Schools. Clarence L. Joy was the Superintendent of Schools at that time and the enrollment for the year was 1,023 pupils.

The State Highway Department also announced that it had found the roads in the Town of Hartford to be the best in the state, a credit to John St. John, Road Commissioner, and his highway crew.

Although each period of history has its prominent citizens, I feel that every citizen who has played his part to perfection deserves praise and credit for his contribution be it large or small. We have always been blessed with enterprising people throughout Hartford's history. All of you, today, are contributing time, zeal and effort to the betterment of our way of life. I love the past – I find it inspiring. I also love the present – I find it

interesting, challenging and intriguing. I look forward to the future – it looks extremely bright.

When the Rotary Club celebrates its one hundredth anniversary, I hope records will be available so that, when they look back to 1974, they will find accounts of what you have done and what you are doing. Under your leadership Hartford is beginning to move ahead. You should be recognized for your work and for the new progressive spirit that has arisen. When someone

November Program to Recall History of Hartford's Jericho District

Dr. Leo Zacharski will be our featured speaker at our next program on Wednesday, November 11, at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, beginning at 7 p.m.

Leo has gathered a wealth of information including photos, anecdotes and historical



Hartford's Jericho District, subject of our November 11 program

information about this unique community. People who grew up or have lived in this “village” are encouraged to come and to share their stories and photographs. We would especially like to hear from those who attended the one-room Jericho School House. This promises to be a must-see

Christmas Gift Ideas – Available at the HHS

Our Society gift shop has quite a variety of items that would make excellent holiday gifts:

- Copies of the first edition of *Valley Memories, The Early Years*, produced by the Valley News \$40
- John St. Croix's book, *Historical Highlights of the Town of Hartford*. Pristine copies \$50; gently used \$20-\$25
- Back copies of Hartford High School yearbooks \$20
- Packets of historic postcards \$10
- *The Year in Photos 2011: Hartford, Vermont Celebrates 250 Years* \$20
- *Images of America – Hartford* by Frank J. Barrett, Jr. \$20
- *Malian's Song*, a recounting of Roger's Ranger's raid on Odanak written by the Abenaki \$16.95
- A gift membership to the Hartford Historical Society! \$15 for seniors and \$20 for everyone else.
- Kristy O'Meara's rugs made on our 150-year-old barn loom, ranging from \$30 to \$90



Your purchases help support the Society, while providing unique, quality gifts for those on your shopping list.

“The Old Country Fiddler” Delights Members at September Program

Adam Boyce, a multi-talented musician/historian/author/entertainer brought history alive at our September 9th program with his delightful presentation, “The Old Country Fiddler”: Charles Ross Taggart, Vermont's Traveling Entertainer. Dressed in period attire, Adam delighted the audience with his Vermont Yankee accent and his meticulously researched portrayal. His monologue was punctuated with lively fiddling that had members of the audience joyfully tapping their feet.



Taggart was born and brought up in East Topsham, Vermont, but he gained national fame as a traveling entertainer at a time when stage performances were in vogue and before movie theaters had sprung up in every community across America. He appeared in a “talkie” that preceded Al Jolson's “The Jazz Singer” and made numerous recordings.

We are grateful to the Vermont

Adam delights the audience with his realistic portrayal, right down to the felt hat.

HARTFORD VILLAGE CHRISTMAS EVENT ON DECEMBER 12, 2015

By Martha Knapp

This year the Hartford Historical Society is partnering with the Hartford Library, the House of Seven Gables and the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ for “**An Old-Fashioned Village Christmas**” to be held on Saturday, December 12th, from 1-4 p.m. This should be a very enjoyable event for individuals and families.

Festivities will include a visit to the **Garipay House** to see some historical toys, the opportunity to take part in making crafts to bring home, the gift of a pair of handmade mittens, Christmas cookies and beverages.

At the **Hartford Library**, children will be making old-fashioned Victorian decorations such as garlands of hand-strung cranberries and popcorn and colorful paper chains to hang on the tree. Wassail will be served, and a story time will be held for the little ones.

The beautiful and historic **House of Seven**

Gables will offer families a brief tour of the first floor, decorated with a Victorian Christmas theme, ending with Christmas carols around the grand piano. The tours will be available at 1:00, 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. Then you will be invited to walk to the **Potter’s House School** for a craft session to create

items to be donated to the Church’s community food outreach program. Refreshments will be served in the Community Center, and each child will receive a small gift to bring home.

The bells at the **Greater Hartford United Church of Christ** will begin

ringing at 3:00 p.m. to call us to a caroling session, accompanied by Lester Gibbs on the church’s beautiful organ. Depending on time and weather, we may take the caroling around the block in **Hartford Village** to spread our joy around the neighborhood.

We are looking forward to having local families join us for this exciting event, so please mark your calendar. If there is enthusiastic attendance, this may become an Hartford Village event.



Mark your calendar for the Hartford Village Christmas Event on Sat., December 12 from 1 to 4





“Hats Off” to our Local Business Supporters!

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Patrons: Cloverleaf Jewelers Kibby Equipment



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Main Street Museum

Meeting House Furniture Restoration

Route 4 Country Store

Schaal Electric

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Studio Nexus

White River Toyota

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
- Senior Family (same address) \$20.00 per year
- Special Gift of Support \$ _____

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) 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 BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Contact Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Phone: _____

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Corporate/Business: \$50 ___ Patron: \$100 ___ Benefactor: \$250 ___ Other: _____

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

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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!

CURATOR'S CORNER

by Pat Stark

The Holidays are upon us already with all their busyness. I hope everyone has a



great season! Here is a greeting from the Archives – donated by Fred Bradley from his youth.



Our Bell – the base is finished thanks to several of our board members!



Brent and Dan dig the hole.



Brent and Gaylord mixing and pouring cement



The finished base!

On another note, here is a **MYSTERY PHOTO** – a new addition believed to be Telephone Workers in White River Junction. The sign on the building says “Armstrong”. If you think you recognize the buildings (or any of the people), please let me know! Thanks, Pat



Can you help us identify this photo?

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.

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.

Wednesday, November 11th, 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.

Saturday, December 12th, 2015 – **“An Old Fashioned Christmas”** to be held in Hartford Village from 1- 4 p.m. (See newsletter article for further details)

Wednesday, April 13th, 2016 – **History of West Hartford** by Cameron Clifford. 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 and in accessing information from *The Landmark*, which we have on microfiche.