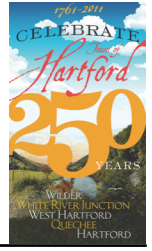




# Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 36, No. 2

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May-June 2023

## Hartford's Historic Cemeteries Face the Future

By Scott Fletcher



Hartford has five wonderful old cemeteries that are still active. Last year, there were forty-four casket burials in these cemeteries. In 2022, Hartford issued eight hundred and sixty-four cremation permits and some of these remains were buried in town although families can also choose to scatter them, keep them, or send them elsewhere.

Cemetery associations maintain four of Hartford's cemeteries. Two associations have a handful of members and the other two have a single member. In 2021, the Christian Street Cemetery Association asked the town to take responsibility for maintenance and recordkeeping. Mt. Olivet Cemetery and the old St. Anthony's Cemetery on South Main Street are owned by the Burlington Diocese of the Catholic Church and managed by a committee at St. Anthony's Church in Hartford.

The town also has seven amazing cemeteries and a family tomb that no longer receive new burials but continue to shelter many of Hartford's earliest residents. The Town of Hartford mows these cemeteries and stores what records have survived.

*Hartford's Department of Parks and Recreation plans to remove trees threatening to break old markers in the Delano-Savage Cemetery on Route 14. "Once we take care of the active cemeteries," says Jeff Knight of Knight Funeral Home, "it would be great to make sure the inactive cemeteries don't grow in."*

As maintenance costs have increased and cremation has replaced the majority of casket burials, many cemetery associations have asked the town to increase funding. Hartford's proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 includes \$102,800 for the town's active cemeteries, in addition to \$2,630 for the Parks and Recreation Department to mow all the rest.

Funding from the town has enabled the associations to cover operating costs and begin to address deferred maintenance. This year, for example, the nearly impassable main road through the upper tier of the Hartford Cemetery will be leveled and re-surfaced. The Hartford Parks and Recreation Department is planning to remove large pine trees threatening to

*Continued on page 4.*

---

## From the Editor . . .

Howard Tucker said this about cemeteries. “The writer will say that one of the first objects for which he enquires on visiting a new place is the cemetery. The selection of a site for a burying-ground, the manner of caring for it, the character of the monuments, the inscriptions to the memory of the dead, are a very correct index to the taste, if not the intelligence of the inhabitants—the moral physiognomy of the place.” *History of Hartford*.

Hartford’s cemeteries are no longer loved and cared for as they were in the past. One of our five active cemeteries was recently turned over to the town for management. Two others are each under the watchful eye of a single person. This issue, we meet the handful of people who care for these historic places and ask what the future holds.

This issue also features a report on an intrepid team from Hartford that built a telephone trunk line from White River Junction to Montpelier in 1908. They

worked hard, but they ate well. We also provide an update on efforts to replace two war monuments that mysteriously vanished, and offer a tribute to Lowell M. Weeks who was elected master of Hartford’s Masonic Lodge at the tender age of twenty-six. Much of Hartford turned out for his funeral when he died less than three years later.

You are invited to the annual meeting of the Hartford Historical Society at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20. Special book sale from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. We hope to see you.

Also, be sure to attend a special presentation by professor Rowley Bucken of Norwich University on Abner Doubleday and the invention of baseball. First pitch will be at 7:00 p.m. on June 14 at the Hartford Congregational Church. Meanwhile, your comments and contributions to the HHS and this newsletter are very welcome. Please contact us.

*Scott Fletcher, Editor*

---

## Poor Pickings

*The Landmark, May 20, 1892*

W.H. Laird's house was feloniously entered Monday night. By mistake Laird omitted to fasten the shed door leading from his carriage house to the kitchen and the prowler took advantage thereof and gained access to the house. Mrs. Laird heard someone in the bath room and arousing her husband he quickly dressed himself and proceeded to investigate; but the burglar had gone before William had completed his hasty toilet, thus saving himself trouble and Laird the bother of knocking him down and securing him. Several drawers and cupboards were opened but nothing was stolen. The average Junction residence affords mighty poor picking for burglars, but hereafter the thief who enters one of them stands a very good chance of having a bullet lodged in his carcass.

### 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.



## Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordvthistory.com>

[info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com)

802-296-3132

### Board Members and Officers

Judy Barwood—President	802-295-2435
Pat Stark—Secretary	802-280-2221
Peggy McDerment—Treasurer	802-295-2357
Carole Haehnel—Board Member	802-295-3974
Jim Kenison—Board Member	603-540-4591
Pat Rondeau—Board Member	603-675-6612

<b>Program Director</b>	Mary Nadeau	802-295-2123
<b>Museum Director</b>	Vacant	
<b>Curator/Archivist</b>	Pat Stark	802-280-2221
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Scott Fletcher	310-730-5051
<b>Print &amp; Web Design</b>	Scott Fletcher	310-730-5051
<b>Facebook Admin</b>	Jim Kenison	603-540-4591
<b>Long Range Planning</b>	Judy Barwood	802-295-2435
<b>Cemetery/Snow Plow</b>	Art Peale	802-295-6100
<b>GenCenter Director</b>	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974
<b>Genealogist</b>	Carole Haehnel	802-295-3974

# How Ol' Engine 494 Barely Came to Hartford

By Mary Nadeau

The July-August 2022 issue of the Hartford Historical Society's newsletter featured an article about Hartford's steam locomotive Ol' 494 visiting the 1939 New York World's Fair. For this year's April program, David Briggs kindly offered to tell, "the rest of the story," of how this local treasure achieved a permanent home in downtown White River Junction.

Ol' 494 was built for the Eastern Railroad in Manchester, NH in 1892. She was acquired by the Boston & Maine Railroad who changed her number to 905 in 1911. After years of service doing a daily run from Boston to Portland, ME, she was used to push coal from Bretton Woods at the foot of Mt. Washington for use by the cog railway. The last run for this purpose was made in 1938 when she was retired and stored in Portsmouth, NH.

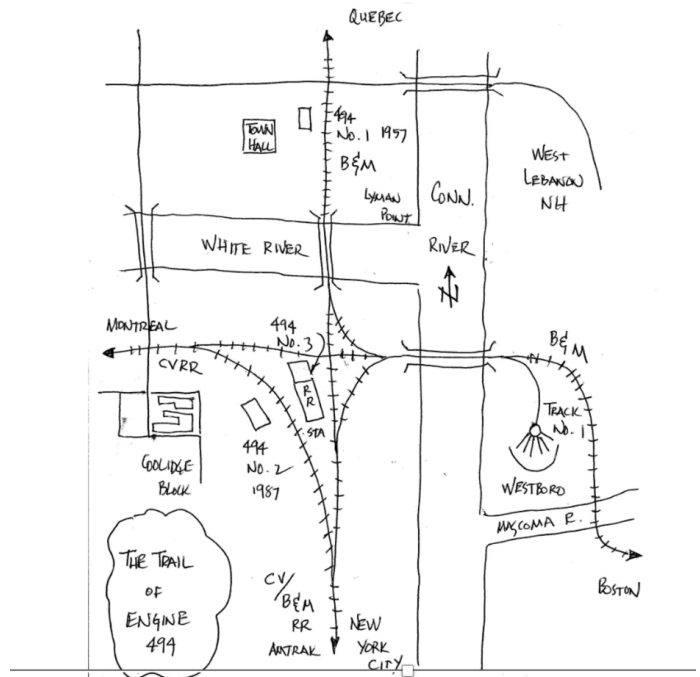
After much-needed repair and cosmetic refurbishment at the B&M facility in Billerica, MA, she was renamed Engine 494 and put on display at the World's Fair in New York City. During World War II, the retired engine was brought for storage at a B&M repair facility in Fitchburg, MA.

Subsequently a new, permanent home was sought for Ol' 494, and a period of intrigue ensued. B&M president Patrick B. McGinnis, wanted to transfer ownership of the engine to his friend, F. Nelson Blount, a collector of railroad rolling stock. (His collection, known as Steamtown, originally located in Brattleboro, is now housed in Scranton, PA). However, railroad employees in cahoots with one another, surreptitiously sent the engine to North Chelmsford, MA, then to Concord, NH, and eventually to West Lebanon's Westboro Yard.

On July 27, 1957, in the dead of night, Ol' 494 was smuggled across the river to White River Junction and placed on a section of track behind the Municipal Building. President McGinnis, who never learned how this was accomplished, became furious when he received the news and demanded the engine back, but he had no legal recourse.

In 1987, Ol' 494 was moved again, this time to Newbury Square, across from the Briggs Block. Her final destination became the present location adjacent to the former White River Junction Railroad Station. A caboose, built in 1920, was later added.

The story of Patrick McGinnis doesn't end there! He held a contest to redesign and modernize the B&M Railroad's logo, offering a prize of \$15,000 to the



Unbeknownst to B&M president Patrick McGinnis, Boston & Maine employees in Billerica, MA sent Ol' 494 to North Chelmsford, MA, then to Concord, NH, and finally to the Westboro engine house in West Lebanon, NH. The engine wintered there before crossing to White River Junction in 1957 where she was parked next to the Hartford Municipal Building (Top and No. 1 on the map). In 1987, she was moved to Newbury Square across from the Briggs Block (No. 2 above). She arrived at her present location in 1993.

winner. Surprise! McGinnis awarded the prize to his wife, Lucille. Eventually McGinnis went on to deplete the B&M of its assets, selling off railroad equipment that wasn't his to sell, and he landed himself in the Danbury State Prison for his efforts.

damage headstones in the quiet Delano-Savage Cemetery on Route 14. The cemetery committee at St. Anthony's is getting bids to remove trees and brush on the hillside in the rear of St. Anthony's Cemetery where graves sit on overgrown terraces.

Jeff Knight is the proprietor of Knight Funeral Homes and Crematorium in Hartford, as were his father and grandfather. Knight coordinates nearly all funerals in town with the local cemetery associations. He still serves on St. Anthony's cemetery committee and formerly sat on the board of the Hartford Cemetery. He was also a member of the committee formed by the Hartford selectboard in 2018 to help plan for cemetery maintenance in the future.

"Cemeteries rely on the sale of plots for their income, and the cost of maintenance has greatly increased over the past twenty or thirty years," Knight says. "So, I think the maintenance of the cemeteries has really gone downhill."

"Now that the town has money for the cemeteries in the budget," he says, "they just need someone in Public Works, or Parks and Recreation, to coordinate cemetery maintenance. I think it needs to be a town employee as they have in Lebanon, Hanover, Enfield, Cornish, and Plainfield. It may not be a fulltime job, but the town would handle maintenance and recordkeeping. Unfortunately, the town always seems to be dealing with an emergency, so cemeteries are not a priority."

Ken Parker is president and sole board member of the Hartford Cemetery Association. He has served on the board since 2005 and has managed the town's largest cemetery almost single-handedly since 2015. Parker also served on the town's cemetery committee in 2018.

"The town's been fortunate to have residents dedicate time on an unpaid basis," Parker says, "but we're all getting long in the tooth. The town's got to look to the future and determine what to do when we can't or won't do it anymore."

"I think the first step should be the preservation of all the cemetery records in town," Parker says. "They should be digitized and made available to the public in the Town Clerk's office." Jeff Knight notes that Vermont law requires that cemetery records be securely stored and available to the public.

Hartford Cemetery records are currently kept in a spare room in Parker's home. "There's software that should be used for managing records and maintenance on a town-wide basis," Parker says.



*Judge George Wales who represented Hartford in the United States House of Representatives from 1825 to 1829 lies beneath a broken marker in the oldest part of Hartford Cemetery. Kate Morris Cone wrote that a young son of Judge Wales was the first person buried in Hartford Cemetery.*

"We have some very dedicated people on the cemetery boards," Knight says, "but as they retire, the town will need to take over and it would be far better to do it now while we can still benefit from their knowledge. Now that the town has the records from Christian Street, they should learn how to store them because they're going to have more cemeteries down the road."

John Newton has been president of the West Hartford Cemetery Association for forty-three years. His grandfather did the job back in the 1920's. Many of John Newton's ancestors are buried in the quiet cemetery next to the old meeting house. "The place means a lot to me," he says, "so I try to keep it looking good."

Newton keeps the records for West Hartford Cemetery at his home but says the town has a scanned copy. When there's a burial, Jeff Knight contacts Newton who helps the family choose a plot. "I don't do much else," he says. "Once in a while, I might do some brush hogging or tree work."

At age 81, John has no plans to give up the job. "I'll keep doing it for a while, and then maybe get someone else to do it," he says. "Or maybe it will eventually have to go to the town." Newton says the association has an endowment of about \$200,000. "That's enough to keep going for a while--maybe ten years," he says.

The town's proposed budget for 2024 allocates \$3,700 to the West Hartford Cemetery. John says town funding has been very helpful in recent years. "The



*The Simmonds family cemetery rests on the wooded hillside near the former Old King's Highway. It was deeded to the town by Joel Simmonds in 1853 but has not been maintained. Headstones were enclosed by a wooden fence with granite posts. Now, the fence is gone and markers are shattered.*

alternative is for the town to take over the cemeteries completely,” he says, “and the cost would undoubtedly be a lot more than giving us money so we can hire people to do it. But hopefully we’re good for a while.”

J.S. Dow is on the board of the Quechee Cemetery Association and his wife, Sue Buckholz, served on Hartford’s cemetery committee in 2018. The association has a relatively active board under president Jeff Potter. Larry Hudson serves as sexton as did his father and grandfather. He is proud of the care his family continues to give to Quechee’s Riverside and Hilltop Cemeteries. They are well maintained and have attractive new signage.

Dow says that it would cost far more to maintain the cemeteries if they were taken over by the town. “We have a local company mowing,” he says, “and the grass has never looked better.” At the same time, he is concerned about the safety of cemetery records as well as the disrepair of the inactive cemeteries in town.

Hartford’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 includes \$12,000 for the Quechee Cemetery Association.

Deacon John Guarino of St. Anthony’s Catholic Church serves on the committee that maintains Mt. Olivet Cemetery and the old St. Anthony’s Cemetery on South Main Street in White River Junction. Jeff Knight is also on this committee and his funeral home is adjacent to Mt Olivet Cemetery.

Guarino says that increased funding from the town has allowed him to catch up on tree trimming at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, and shift his focus to St. Anthony’s Cemetery where Benjamin Wright, Hartford’s first European settler, rests beneath a barely legible stone.

The records for both Catholic cemeteries remain mostly on paper although Guarino says some have been entered into a database. The town proposes giving \$10,200 to Mt. Olivet and St. Anthony’s cemeteries in 2024.

Scott Hausler, Hartford’s Director of Parks & Recreation, says more work is needed to coordinate ongoing operation and maintenance of the town’s active cemeteries. “I think the town needs to consider hiring a fulltime sexton like Lebanon does,” he said.

“There have been years of neglect of the inactive cemeteries,” Hausler notes. “There’s just a lot of work that needs to be done.” He hopes to commission a survey of broken headstones in all of the town cemeteries to estimate the cost of repairs.

Ken Parker agrees. “Practically speaking, there needs to be town ownership of the cemeteries for a variety of reasons, including funding. I think we need one department mowing and trimming all the cemeteries, and perhaps have the same department mowing all the parks around the town,” he says.

Parker also suggests that the town consider making an area within the town forest available for green burials where remains can be interred without embalming, cremation or markers. It could also be a natural setting for scattering ashes.

“Last year, we probably had a dozen green burials,” says Jeff Knight, “but the problem is finding a cemetery that allows them. Lebanon, Hartland, and Enfield all permit green burials in at least one cemetery. Hanover is working toward it,” he says.

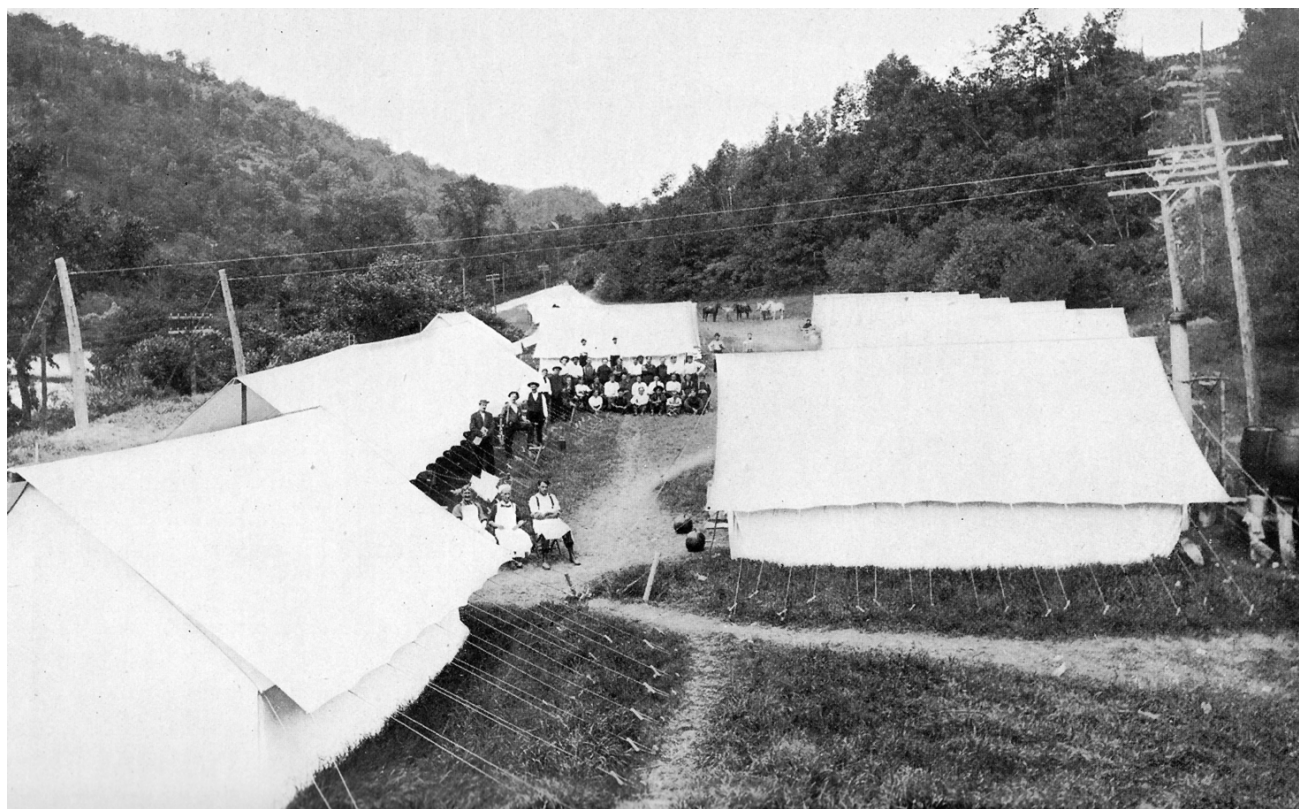
“We need to make cemetery maintenance a priority in the community,” Scott Hausler says. “I think of the cemeteries like parks,” he continues. “They are public places meant to invite visitors. They are also part of the town’s history.”

Although the town plans to allocate \$72,500 to the Hartford Cemetery in 2024, Ken Parker believes more help is needed. His cemetery badly needs additional tree work, more road surfacing, and repairs to the stone retaining wall along the main entry. There are also many broken monuments.

“It’s time for our select board and the community to make a long-term commitment to our cemeteries so we have dignified, respectable, peaceful places for people to have their remains,” Parker says.

---

## George Tenney Builds a Trunk Line From Hartford to Montpelier



In 1906, the New England Telephone Company hired a crew to build a trunk line from White River Junction to Montpelier. George Tenney of White River Junction supervised construction as he had in 1899 when he and fifteen workers strung wires from White River Junction to Rutland. Once again, Tenney would house his workers in tents but, this time, he had to accommodate and manage a much larger crew.

Work started in early summer on the point in White River Junction and residents were soon surprised to see a row of tall poles along the White River toward West Hartford where Tenney established a camp. *The Vermonter* described life for Tenney and his crew.

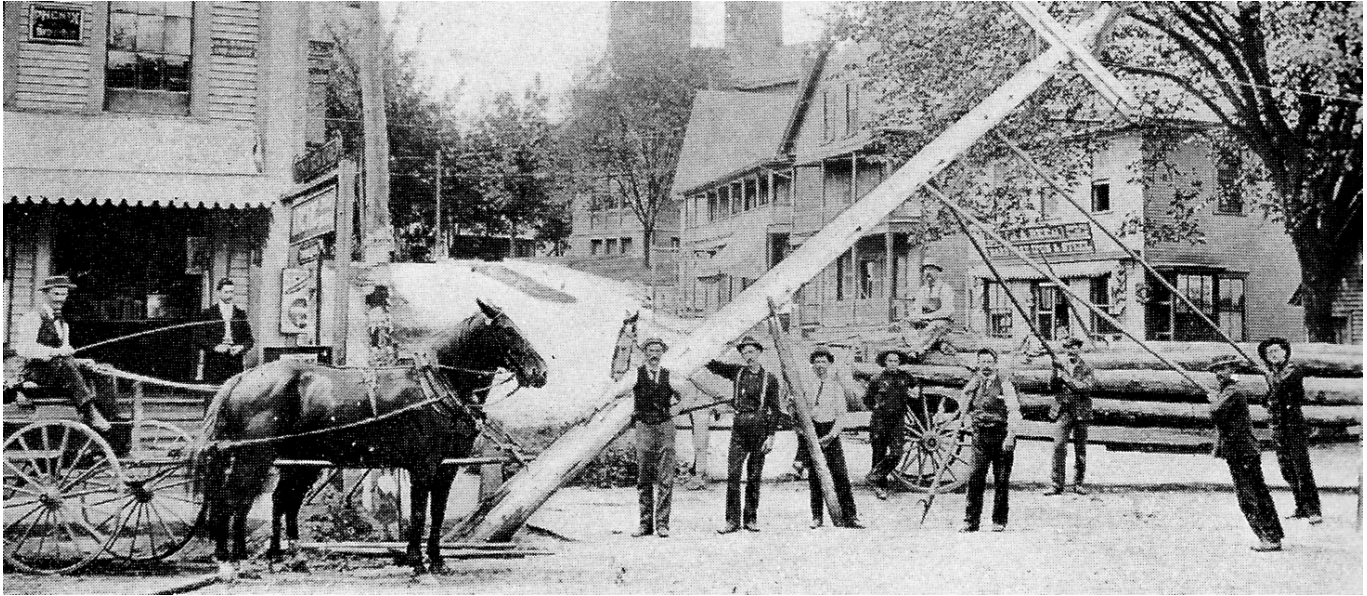
### **From *The Vermonter*, December 1906**

The force employed in constructing the White River Valley Line was a very large one, numbering seventy men at times, and it formed a community in itself. It was nearly self-supporting as they had their own cooks, hostlers, blacksmith, and general property man. The encampment consisted of twelve sleeping tents with six single cots in each, a dining tent, a cooking tent with three cooks, and a tent for twelve or more

horses. The camping outfit was the best in every respect and it is said to cost the company \$3,000.

By five in the morning, the camp was astir, fire built, and the pot a-boiling. Many travelers, viewing the camp from the windows of the passing train, supposed it to be a consumptive camp or “physical-culture” diet. Alas, no. These men had real appetites that called for corned beef and cabbage and onions and potatoes and beans and a steaming boiler of hot coffee to wash it down with. By seven o’clock, breakfast was out of the way and every man to his task: tools, such as shovels, bars, and pikes were carried by teams and distributed where needed and all hands were soon busy, some raising poles, others tamping them in, while others, farther ahead, were digging holes.

To properly set a standard, trunk-line pole requires a hole five or six feet deep by two or three feet across the top. Ordinarily, a man can dig four or even five of these holes in a day. At times the workmen would be scattered along several miles of line and so many were employed at each task that it was interesting to note how far a single shifting of a workman carried him. Perchance in the early morning a man might have been



digging a post hole in the center of the village of Sharon, the next hole he dug was a half mile or more beyond, the second a mile, and the fourth four miles.

***In quick time after the poles were set and tamped, the cross arms were hoisted and placed and the wires strung and almost immediately the new lines were in use and the old lines and poles removed.***

used in drilling rock. This was a great improvement over the hand drill, a day's work for two men at each hole in rock, but with the steam drill it was a short job. Dynamite was used to blow out the holes and it was handled by a man whose special business was to see that the cook did not serve it up with his frankfurters.

In setting a pole, the large end is placed above the hole, while the other end is raised by a number of men until it is beyond their reach. Pike poles are then brought into play. Meanwhile each advance of the pole toward an upright position is held by a man with a stout forked pole, which he rests on the ground beneath it. As the pole rises, the men close in upon it each taking a new and lower hold with the pike, and presently it drops into the ground erect. In quick time after the poles were set and tamped the cross arms

When the work averaged too far from the camp for the men to walk in for dinner, it was carried to them until the camp was moved again.

A feature of the camp was the steam drill

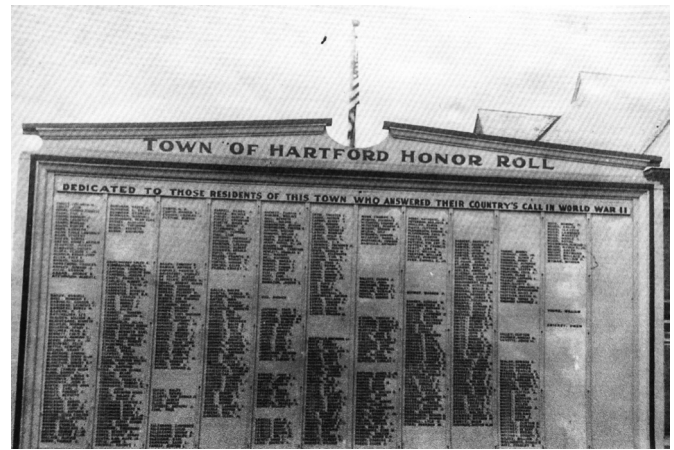
were hoisted and placed and the wires strung and almost immediately the new lines were in use and the old lines and poles removed.

All poles set were either cedar or chestnut and in general were each thirty or forty feet in height. Forty-two were set to the mile. Where anchor cables were needed, they were sunk six feet in the ground, the anchor plate having been subjected to a heavy bath of creosote. It is said that these creosoted planks should last for a good fifty years and their provision is illustrative of the thoroughness and intelligence of the company's work of construction of the entire new line.

A specially-built cable wagon, with low trucks, held a roll of cable, nearly 3,000 feet long, and containing a score of wires, which was used to connect by a point of the line which was dead so as not to interrupt use of the system while the gang was at work on that point.

The general plan of the company comprehended the construction of a forty-wire, twenty-circuit line in place of the fourteen wire, seven-circuit line originally installed. The camp was moved from Sharon to Royalton Center, thence to some three miles beyond Bethel village, which was the last move of the season for with the coming of cold weather the camp outfit was stored and the men continued the work, living within doors. At this writing, the remnant of the constructive force is within a dozen miles of Montpelier.

*Opposite, George Tenney's camp consisted of twelve sleeping tents with six cots each. Another tent sheltered a dozen horses. Above, telephone poles were thirty to forty feet long, with forty-two poles per mile.*



## Residents Seek to Replace Hartford's Missing War Monuments

Two hundred and eighty-four residents of Hartford served in the first world war. Plaques bearing their names were once displayed on a cast iron monument next to the municipal building. The monument had an ornate crest and framework made by the Lebanon Machine Company that built similar pieces for other towns. Records show that the Town of Hartford paid for at least a portion of the monument.

The World War I monument was dedicated on August 16, 1919 at an event called *Welcome Home Day* with a variety of speakers and festivities honoring those who had served. After the dedication, Hartford residents brought picnic lunches to the Vermont State Fairgrounds where a banquet luncheon was served to veterans. The afternoon featured a program of entertainment in front of the grandstand with cash prizes for races and track events.

After World War II, a second monument was built to remember the nearly seven hundred Hartford residents who served in that war. The monuments stood together for some time until they were quietly disassembled and removed. The World War I monument was found in the basement of the Hartford Municipal Building when it was renovated in 2014. The name plates and some pieces of the framework were moved to the basement of the Garipay House owned by the Hartford Historical Society while the rest was discarded.

Gone are the vertical supports, the horizontal supports, scrollwork from the top and bottom of the monument, and one of two eagles that were originally perched atop the piece. The World War II monument, partially made of wood, has never been found.

Now, however, a dedicated group of residents led by Mary Kay Brown is working to design and build a new monument to stand in Veteran's Park between the courthouse and the Main Street Museum.

"These used to be beautiful monuments," says Brown. "We looked at restoring the World War I monument using original pieces, and estimates were over \$100,000. So we decided to create a new monument with a piece of Barre granite and a bronze plaque with the names of veterans from World War I on one side and the names of veterans from World War II on the other. We hope to use pieces of the original World War I monument in the capstone."

The monument group has set a fundraising goal of \$60,000, and has begun submitting grant requests to local foundations and businesses. They were excited and encouraged to receive \$25,000 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation.

The group is applying to the town for a permit to place the monument in Veterans Park. Soon they will present the project to the selectboard. Brown says the new monument could be installed by the summer of 2024. Information on volunteering or making a donation is available by email at [wv1monument@gmail.com](mailto:wv1monument@gmail.com).

*The World War I monument had two hundred and eighty-four plaques with the names of Hartford residents who served in the war. The World War II monument had nearly seven hundred names. The photo of the monument, above right, is the only one known to exist. A team of Hartford residents plans to place a new monument in Veteran's Park.*



---

## Young Lowell M. Weeks Cast a Long Shadow

Hartford residents were shaken by the sudden death of twenty-eight-year-old Lowell M. Weeks in February, 1885. His body was returned from Missouri to White River Junction where friends and relatives filled the home of George Gates for his funeral, which was led by two ministers and Worshipful Brother L.C. Parkhurst of Vermont Masonic Lodge No. 18.

Weeks had launched a career as a telegraph operator at age thirteen and brought his telegraphic skills to Hartford in 1873 when he was just seventeen. He joined United Brethren Lodge, No. 21 in Hartford and regularly gathered with friends at the Masonic Hall next to the Pease Hotel in Hartford Village.

In 1877, Weeks gave up telegraphy to become the express agent from Bellows Falls to Newport, VT. Despite his travels, he became Master of the Hartford Masonic Lodge in 1882 when he was just twenty-six. That same year, he sought treatment for kidney disease in Boston where he settled and was employed by the U.S.&C. Express Company. While living in Boston, Weeks continued to serve as Master of the Hartford Lodge, and remained close to the community as this obituary from the *Vermont Journal* on February 21, 1885 conveys.

Lowell M. Weeks, for many years a resident of White River Junction, died suddenly of Bright's disease at Eldorado Springs, Mo., Thursday evening, 12th inst. Mr. Weeks was born at Bath, N.H., August, 1856, where he lived with his parents until he was thirteen years of age. He then entered the employ of A.S. Farwell, Wells River, Vt., to learn the express business and telegraphy. He was subsequently employed as telegraph operator at Plymouth, N.H., Concord, N.H., and at the White Mountains.

He went to White River Junction in October, 1873, where he remained four years in the employ of W.E. Huntoon, agent of the U.S.&C. Express Company, and manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He resigned this position in 1877 to accept an appointment as express messenger between White River Junction and Bellows Falls and Newport. Vt. under superintendent M.J. Pratt.

In 1882 ill health compelled him to resign this position, and he was soon afterwards appointed to a clerkship in the auditor's office of the U.S.&C. Express Company in Boston. He remained in Boston until March, 1884, when he went to Carthage, Mo., as private secretary to the senior member of the firm of Brinkerhoff & Faris.

He was a zealous mason, being a member of United Brethren Lodge, No. 21 of Hartford, Vt., of which he was master during the year 1882-83. He was also a member of Ottaquechee Chapter, Woodstock, of Windsor Council, and of Vermont Commandery, Knights Templar of Windsor.

The remains of the deceased were brought to White River Junction Wednesday and funeral services were held at the residence of G.W. Gates, Esq., Rev. A.J. Hough officiating, assisted by Rev. A.B. Flanders. The beautiful burial rite of the masonic service was rendered by W. Bro. L.C. Parkhurst, past master of Vt. Lodge, No. 18, in a most impressive manner. The house was filled with the intimate friends and relatives of the deceased, including representatives from the different offices in which he had worked and delegations from the masonic bodies in Hartford, Windsor, and Bellows Falls, Vt. and Lebanon, N.H.

His untimely death is a great shock to a widely extended circle of friends, and removes in early manhood a most promising young man. The summons was swift and sudden, as he was at his desk until the Sunday preceding, and left Carthage in cheerful spirits for a brief vacation at Eldorado Springs. With an ardent disposition, generous heart, and quick sympathies, it is not strange that he had endeared himself to so many. He was a devoted son, an affectionate brother, and a true, manly friend. Quick of perception, Mr. Weeks was characterized by intense vigor, energy, and persistency. He believed that "what was worth doing was worth doing well," and was therefore conscientiously faithful in the performance of every duty.

For a young man, he was clear and pronounced in his views, firm in maintaining them, and indefatigable in his efforts to accomplish what he undertook. His influence was always for the right, and had he lived much might have been expected from him with added years of ripe experience, and a fully developed manhood. But his column is now broken, and many a sorrowing heart mourns his loss. We join with others in extending our sympathy to his widowed mother, and to those others near and dear to him, knowing full well that words cannot heal the sorrow death has caused, but hoping they may assist in bringing cheer to sorrow-stricken hearts.

*"Bury him tenderly; Sweet is the sleep  
of him whom God and the angels keep."*

“Hats Off” to Our Local Business Supporters!



**Patrons**

**Schaal Electric  
Meeting House Restoration  
Rockwood Land Services, LLC  
Dorothy & Schuyler Borst  
Heather Craig & Brian Chaboyer**

**Society dues are payable after January 1 each year. Please return this form or use the PalPal form at hartfordhistory.org. Thanks!**

LET OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS KNOW YOU APPRECIATE THEIR SUPPORT!

**Aurora Day Care**

**C&G Creative Catering**

**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.

*Hartford Historical Society*  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
Memberships run for a calendar year (Jan-Dec).

**Regular - \$25 [individual & family]**
 **Non-Profit - \$30**  
 **Senior - \$20 [individual & family all over age 55]**
 **Business - \$50**  
 **Life - \$250 [any individual over age 60]**
 **Patron - \$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) 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**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!

## Yesterday's News

### Room for Improvement

The school house repairs are progressing finely under the skillful touch of Mr. Porter, and when they are completed, we will have reason to be proud of our institution of learning. We wish this spirit of improvement which has cropped out in a few places would sweep through the village. *The Landmark*, May 6, 1882

### Our Mistake (*The Landmark*, April 14, 1893)

Mr. N.P. Wheeler informs us that we did him an injustice in our last issue by saying he was "speeding" his horse on Main Street. He claims he was only "Jogging" along barely out of a walk and, upon careful inquiry, we find his claims are substantially correct and that of our informant wrong. We make this correction not from any fear of dire results should we fail to do so, but for the simple reason that when we make an error, we are always glad to correct it. And further, that our readers may know that Mr. Wheeler has not taken to reckless driving in the streets as might be inferred from the item in our last weeks' issue.

### Fleeting Glimpse (*The Landmark*, August 12, 1882)

Last Friday night one of the most beautiful meteors we ever beheld, shot from the western sky and sunk behind the western horizon. It was about ten o'clock and it lighted up the earth equal to the most vivid flash of lightning.

### Whoa! (*The Landmark*, August 19, 1882)

A pair of horses attached to a cart without a driver, went through our village Tuesday at a gait that made people stand one side. No damage was done. The team was from the Junction, and if they can afford to furnish that kind of amusement, we shall endeavor to enjoy it as well as we can, considering the hazardous nature of such demonstrations.

### Warranted Rebuke (*The Landmark*, August 7, 1919)

Billy was seated on the nursery floor playing with his blocks, when his grandmother entered the room and with the swish of her skirts knocked down the house Billy was erecting. For this she apologized. Billy said nothing, but proceeded to rebuild; grandmother in repassing again knocked down the house of blocks. Billy looked up at his grandmother and in a grieved tone of voice said, "I know that the first time it was an accident, but the second time it was just carelessness."

### Slow Boat to Hartford (*The Landmark*, June 17, 1882)

A few days ago, a sail-boat with a party of ladies and gentlemen on a pleasure excursion came up the Connecticut and passed up the White River. It brought to remembrance old times some fifty or sixty years ago, when Col. Nutt ran a steamboat from old Hartford, Conn., to this place. At that time there were two steam boats on the river: one running from Hartford, CT to this place, and one running from Hanover, NH to Wells River.

### Tough Sledding

The thaw on Sunday night formed a crust which delighted the small boy, for he could now use the seat of his pants for a sled, after which his mother used her slipper on the same spot, then set up after he had said his little prayer, and mended the sled. *The Landmark*, Feb. 10, 1883

### All By Herself (*The Landmark*, September 12, 1890)

Mrs. B. Nutt of White River Junction shows a patchwork quilt of pieces about an inch square. We do not know Mrs. Nutt, but judge that she must be about four hundred years old if she did all the work herself.



My Laura's hands are smooth and soft,  
I love to feel their touch;  
Yet how she keeps them so I oft  
Have wondered very much.  
"T is Ivory Soap," she archly cried,  
"I use no other spell,—  
And as I clean all else beside,  
My hands improved as well."

## Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547  
Hartford, VT 05047-0547

*Return Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 15  
HARTFORD, VT



*Color printing of this issue  
sponsored by our individual and  
corporate members.  
Contact us to put your ad here.*

### HHS Calendar

**THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM is open by appointment only. Please call 802/296-3132 or email us at [info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.org). Phones/email are checked twice a week.**

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

**Saturday, May 20, 2023 - Hartford Historical Society Annual Meeting.** 1:00 p.m. at the Garipay House. **Book Sale** 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - "Double-Talk on Doubleday: How a Dead Civil War General Invented Baseball Without His Permission."** Presented by Rowley Brucken, professor at Norwich University. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village.

**Wednesday, September 13, 2023 - "County Fairs."** Presented by Steve Taylor. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village.

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023 - "Turnpikes and Taverns in the Upper CT River Valley."** Presented by Jay Barrett. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village.

The **Genealogy Center** on the second floor of the Hartford Library is open Fridays from 2-6 p.m. and by appointment. Please call Carole Haehnel at 802/295-3974 or email her at: [chaehnel151@comcast.net](mailto:chaehnel151@comcast.net). Interested in helping residents explore their family histories? Please contact us at [info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com).

### Websites

**Hartford Historical Society:** <http://www.hartfordvthistory.com/>

**HHS Membership Form:** <https://hartfordvthistory.com/contact/membership/>

**Hartford VT Historical Society Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hartfordvthistory>