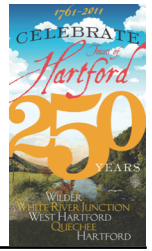




Hartford Historical Society

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

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



Volume 37, No. 2

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May-June 2024



The Humane Legacy of Frank and Lucy Mackenzie

By Scott Fletcher

Lucy Collamer was born in Montpelier in 1851. During visits to the Woodstock home of her uncle, Senator Jacob Collamer, Lucy met Frank Mackenzie whom she married in 1872. Soon, Mrs. Lucy Collamer Mackenzie was known throughout Woodstock for her involvement in community events, her lovely contralto voice, and her deep love for children and animals. That year, Frank became a partner in the Bridgewater Woolen Mill with L.C. White of Windsor.

In 1880, Frank Mackenzie became sole owner of the Bridgewater Woolen Mill, and local newspapers increasingly reported on the activities of the young couple. He would later expand his influence as president of Ottaquechee Savings Bank, the Woodstock Aqueduct, the Woodstock Railroad, the Woodstock Inn, and the Windsor County Fair.

In 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie rented the Woodstock Hall for the high school commencement. That same year, Lucy Mackenzie sang the aria, “He

Shall Feed His Flock,” from Handel’s Messiah, and the audience insisted she perform an encore. By 1889, Frank and Lucy had settled into the former Billings home on Bond Street.

In 1892, Lucy Mackenzie assisted a “Fresh Air” program that helped underprivileged children and young women visit stable homes for two weeks during the summer. In 1908, Lucy Mackenzie purchased two hundred tickets to the humane play *Black Beauty* at the Woodstock Opera House so that children could see the play for free. In July 1909, she was elected a

Frank and Lucy Mackenzie with driver Will Bradley in front of their home in Woodstock. In the weeks before she died unexpectedly, Lucy told Frank she wanted to start a humane society to serve the town. In 1915, Frank gave ten thousand dollars to endow the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society. Photo courtesy of Woodstock History Center.

Continued on page 6.

From the Editor . . .

Come attend the Hartford Historical Society's Annual Meeting on May 19 and meet the dedicated people who volunteer to keep the town's history alive. Give us your support, meet Hartford's Town Manager John Haverstock, and have some ice cream. It will be at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ.

The 1800s were hard on animals but, toward the end of the century, life for New England's domestic animals and livestock began to improve. Humane societies were established, and laws were passed to prevent cruelty to animals, including guidelines for the use of traps, which sometimes caught or injured dogs and cats along with other creatures. In 1915, Frank Mackenzie founded the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in Woodstock, VT at the behest of his wife Lucy who died in 1914. The organization had an immediate impact and its work continues today. This issue, we look at the legacy of Lucy Mackenzie and her husband Frank.

Born in White River Junction, Life Saved by Winnie Davis

The Landmark, May 20, 1920

The *Chicago Tribune* of May 5 contains a portrait and obituary of Samuel Harris who died in that city on the 4th. He was born in White River Junction in 1836 and in early life moved to Chicago later becoming a soldier in the Civil War, and in one of its battles was taken prisoner and sent to Libby prison. For some months he was given a death sentence but was saved from this by Winnie Davis, daughter of Jeff Davis, then president of the Southern Confederacy. After the close of the war, he returned to Chicago and eventually created the firm of Samuel Harris & Co., makers of machine tools.

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.

Our April presentation by Amanda Gustin was about more than Morgan Horses. It was the story of Vermont's early rivalry with New York State as well as a cautionary tale about how a myth can develop. Mary Nadeau provides a thorough report on page three.

In the past several months the Hartford Historical Society has been honored to receive memorial donations from families and friends of the following:

Philippe Bouthillier
Stanley and Loretta Garipay
Gloria Hammond
Beverly Pippin
Beth Potter
Tom O'Neil
William and Phyllis Shambo

Scott Fletcher, Editor



Hartford Historical Society

Post Office Box 547, Hartford, VT 05047-0547

<http://www.hartfordvthistory.com>

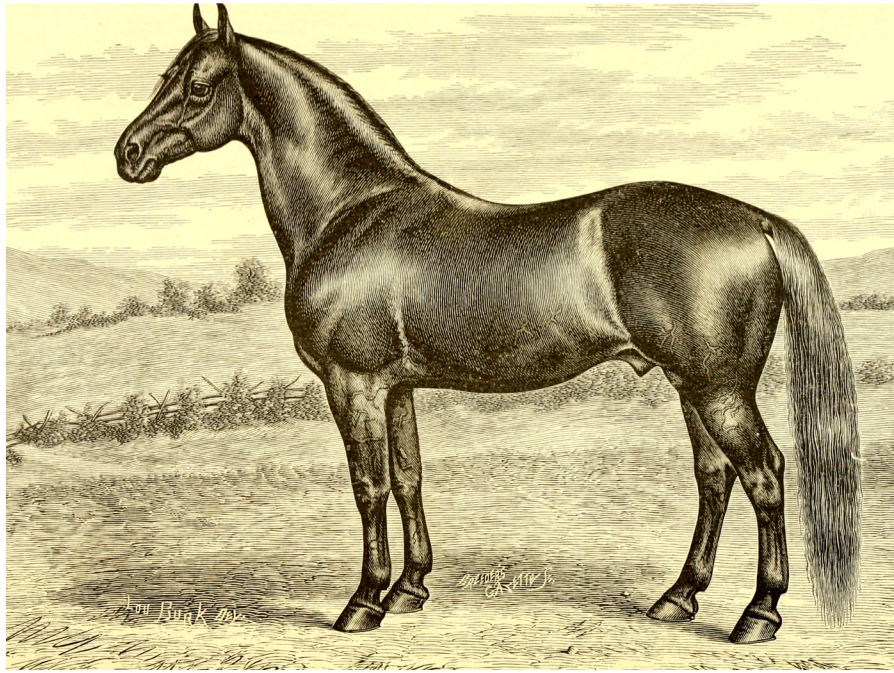
info@hartfordhistoricalsociety.com

802-296-3132

Board Members and Officers

Jim Kenison—Board Chair	603-540-4591
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
Pat Rondeau—Board Member	603-675-6612

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



Justin Morgan's Horse; Making of An American Myth By Mary Nadeau

Our speaker at the April 10, 2024, public program was Amanda Gustin, who gave a lively and interesting talk on the history of the Morgan Horse. The event was underwritten by the Vermont Speakers' Bureau.

According to oral tradition, Morgan's horse was sired by a beautiful bay named True Briton originally stolen from British Officer Col. Delaney. The dam is an object of speculation.

and colored from personal points of view. Additionally, horses occupied a different "emotional space" back then and were considered a mere "commodity." As a result, conflicting stories abound, and nailing down true facts becomes a serious challenge.

What we do know is that Justin Morgan, born in 1747, grew up in Springfield, MA. He became a farmer, a tavern keeper for a time, a stallionier (acquiring and breeding or buying and leasing to

Amanda began by noting that researching the development and history of the Morgan was not an easy task. People of that era tended to not write things down, so that stories were often recounted

improve the gene pool), a teacher, composer and choir master. According to oral tradition, Morgan's horse was sired by a beautiful bay named True Briton originally stolen from British Officer Col. Delaney. The dam is an object of speculation.

Morgan acquired the horse named Figure (possibly because of its beautiful physical appearance) and moved it to Randolph, Vermont, in 1793. It was then widely advertised as a breeding stallion, and Morgan transported him around the state and into New Hampshire for that purpose and also for use as a work horse. However, Figure remained with him for only three to five years. Justin Morgan developed what is thought to be tuberculosis, and he passed away after trading Figure for land in Moretown, VT in order to leave something of lasting value to his children. The horse then had a succession of owners, and documenting all of them is not possible.

Characteristics of the breed include an "expressive" head having a broad forehead, large prominent eyes, a straight or slightly dished short face, firm, fine lips, large nostrils, well-rounded jowls, and short, shapely ears set rather wide apart and carried alertly. Figure is further described as having a high set neck with a solid shoulder, compact body and being on the "shorter side" at 15 hands.

Continued on page 4.



In 1857, Daniel Chipman Linsley published a study of the Morgan Horse breed entitled Morgan Horses: A Premium Essay. Linsley repeated prevailing stories of Figure, his forebears, and his offspring. The book helped establish the reputation of the Morgan breed, but historians find some of the details contradictory or unproven. For better or worse, Linsley's book helped make Figure the mythical creature he is today.

and out pull other horses became legendary. According to one story, a farmer had given up hope of getting some logs hauled away when his two draft horses, despite numerous attempts, couldn't budge them. Along came Justin Morgan with Figure, who had already spent the day hard at work. Morgan offered Figure's services, but his suggestion was met with jeers and the bet of a gallon of whiskey. Figure removed the logs with little difficulty to the amazement of the onlookers.

Another account has two strangers from New York challenging Figure to a race in Brookfield, VT against two rare thoroughbreds. Figure won the race (Morgans can reach speeds up to 20 miles per hour). To this day, that road is called the Morgan Mile.

President James Monroe became wildly unpopular in Vermont during the War of 1812. In an attempt to smooth things over (the period was known as the Era of Good Feelings), he visited Montpelier in 1817, where he rode a horse in the town's parade that some said was Figure – the Justin Morgan horse.

The breed became renowned for its ability to do a bit of everything, including clearing fields (Vermont was still frontier at that time), endurance to travel long distances without tiring and the ability to make strong social connections with humans. Morgans are noted for their good temperament.

The ability of the breed to out walk, out trot, out run

thoroughly impressed by the horse, Monroe is said to have commented, "Vermont breeds horses as true as her men." Amanda Gustin noted that Figure would have been in his later years at the time, and that this may be one of numerous myths about his life.

Figure died in Chelsea in 1821 from an untreated kick received from another horse. He had lived for 32 years, which was an amazing lifespan for a

horse at that time, and especially one who had worked so hard during his entire life.

Figure's most famous sons, Sherman, Bulrush and Woodbury, carried on his legacy to future Morgan generations. No matter the mare, the physical characteristics remain the same, and they are still considered to be smart, energetic and people-centered animals. They are level-headed, don't spook and can be trained as good dressage horses, not phased at tackling a few jumps.

Figure sired many offspring during his life, some of which are thought to have been used by cavalry companies in the Civil War and in other campaigns during the Nineteenth Century. Their hardiness was well suited for military operations, and the U.S. Government adopted them as the official military horse in the early Twentieth Century with the establishment of the United States Government Horse Farm in Weybridge, VT.

The Morgan, long tied up with the idea of Vermont's identity, became the official State Horse in 1961.



In 1894, Col. Joseph Battell published the American Morgan Horse Register to record the breeding of Morgan Horses. In 1905, he donated his farm in Weybridge, VT to the U.S. Government. In 1907, the Dept. of Agriculture established the U.S. Morgan Horse Farm for the purpose of breeding and preservation. Today, the farm is owned by the University of Vermont.

New Hartford, VT World War Monument to Be Dedicated

The Hartford VT Monument Committee announces the dedication of the new World War I and World War II monument in Veterans Park on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. This event marks the culmination of more than eighteen months of meticulous planning, fundraising efforts and unwavering community support.

“The creation of this monument would not have been possible without the invaluable support of key partners including the Byrne Foundation and Better Places of VT through the VT Community Foundation. Full support from the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department as well as the unanimous support of the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Boards as well as the Selectboard allowed us to proceed with this vision of a monument in Veterans Park,” said project leader Mary Kay Brown.

Additionally, overwhelming support from almost 150 local individuals who sponsored “honor bricks” or made other financial donations as well as multiple local small businesses who donated labor, expertise, time and materials brought the project to the finish line.

The significance of this monument extends beyond its physical presence. It replaces the monuments that once stood in the town, including the original World War I monument, which sat in the basement of town hall and then the historical society after being dismantled decades ago for unknown reasons. The new monument incorporates two pieces from the original monument into the new one, preserving the legacy and memory of Hartford’s veterans.

The Hartford VT Monument Committee invites everyone to celebrate the rich history of veterans in this town and once again pay tribute to their valuable contributions to our nation.



Hartford’s new monument in Veteran’s Park incorporates pieces of the original monument.

Hartford VT Cycle Club Tours Woodstock

Two developments spurred the use of bicycles in Hartford around 1890. Bikes with two wheels of the same size were found to be safer and easier to ride than earlier high wheel bikes had been. Also, pneumatic tires made bicycling much more comfortable on rough dirt roads. These improvements led to the formation of the Hartford Cycle Club in the summer of 1894.

Women were welcome to join the Hartford Cycle Club, though there were debates about what they should wear in order not to be immodest, or too “mannish.” There were also differing views on possible health risks for women, including its impact on child bearing. Some physicians, however, saw nothing but health benefits in cycling. Women’s rights advocate Elizabeth Cady Stanton embraced bicycles saying, “The bicycle will inspire women with more courage, self-respect, and self-reliance and will make the next generation more vigorous of mind and of body; for feeble mothers do not produce great statesmen, scientists and scholars.”

Before the Hartford Cycle Club was even formed, members conducted a bicycle parade through Hartford Village and White River Junction. The Hartford Cornet Band serenaded a thousand onlookers as the Pease Hotel served refreshments. In 1895, some sixty members of the Hartford Cycle Club, including a goodly number of women, boarded a train with their bikes and visited Woodstock. There they enjoyed a cycle tour of the town under the glow of Japanese lanterns and fireworks. Alfred E. Watson of Hartford led the parade. Music was provided by the Woodstock Cornet Band. After a free supper, the cyclists returned to Hartford. Hartford’s bicycle boom appears short-lived, however, as *the Landmark* never mentions the Hartford Cycle Club again.



Hartford Cycle Club rode the train to Woodstock in 1895.

Lucy Mackenzie continued from page 1.

trustee of the Pomfret's Abbott Memorial Library where she began years of collaboration with librarian Abba Doton Chamberlin to improve services for children.

When Frank Mackenzie was named president of the 1910 Windsor County Fair in Woodstock, Lucy offered new prizes in the category of draft horses. The winners would not be those that pulled the heaviest logs or sleds, but rather the pairs of horses judged to be the handsomest. The prizes of \$1200, \$800 and \$500 would go to the driver of each team, whether or not this was the owner.

In April 1910, Lucy Mackenzie and Abba Doton Chamberlin met with the superintendent and directors of Pomfret schools to help students access the library collection, which had grown to some eighteen hundred books. Lucy purchased additional books for the library and helped arrange for boxes of books to rotate on a monthly basis through the town's schools.

Lucy Mackenzie became a patron of the Band of Mercy, which was formed in Massachusetts in 1882 to, "teach and lead every child and older person to seize every opportunity to say a kind word or do a kind act that will make some other human being or some dumb (i.e., cannot speak) creature happier." The Band of Mercy created pledge cards that read, "I will try to be kind to all living creatures, and try to protect them from cruel usage." The organization also distributed educational songs known as, "Band of Mercy Melodies."

In 1911, Lucy provided thirty Band of Mercy pledge cards to the Abbott Memorial Library in Pomfret, and librarian Abba Doton Chamberlin distributed them in her Sunday School class. Mrs. Chamberlin recalled that every child in the class eagerly signed the pledge and, the next day, Pomfret children descended on the library "en masse" to sign the pledge. *The Spirit of the Age* reported that, "interest in the matter grew rapidly till it spread through the town, and nearly every pupil in our public schools became a member."

In December 1911, Abba Chamberlin recounted a brief story about the work of Lucy Mackenzie in *The Spirit of the Age*. "A happy illustration of this work came to me within the last week, when one of my little Sunday pupils who chanced to be at Woodstock with her parents, discovered on the street in front of one of the stores, a forlorn looking little kitten. The child's sympathy was aroused. Inquiries were made in the store, and it was found the kitten had been 'dropped' there that morning.

"The girl insisted on taking the kitten home. The father protested, on the ground, that there were already in the house, all that could well be cared for. 'But I have signed the pledge, and I can't leave the kitten here,' responded the child through her tears. After some further conversation, Mrs. Mackenzie was consulted, and the outcome was, that the mother drove down to Dr. Boyce's, carrying the waif with her, and the little thing was comfortably transported to 'kitty heaven.'"



Lucy and Frank Mackenzie made many gifts to Woodstock and neighboring towns, and helped launch the nascent humane movement in Vermont. In 1915, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society opened a shelter, hired an agent to monitor animal welfare, and held quarterly meetings featuring guest speakers. Photos courtesy of Woodstock History Center.

In the winter of 1911, Mrs. Mackenzie and Mrs. Chamberlin invited all students of Pomfret to the first meeting of the Pomfret Humane Society at the Abbott Memorial Library. Lucy Mackenzie offered prizes to the students who could write the best stories about animals. Students would read their stories at a society meeting the following summer. Prior to that second meeting in June 1912, the Pomfret Humane Society had some two hundred and eighty members.

The summer meeting of the Pomfret Humane Society opened with sporting events in the field next to the Pomfret Town Hall. After lunch, students read their animal stories with occasional breaks for a Band of Mercy song, or Lucy would play one of many phonograph records she had given the library. A few grown-ups also gave short talks on related topics. Then, Mrs. Mackenzie presented Helen Kenyon and Clara Maxham with strings of pearls, while Harry Harrington, Thomas Allen, Guy Barrows, and Willie Newton each received a watch.

On May 24, 1913, *The Spirit of the Age* reported that Mrs. Lucy Mackenzie of Woodstock, VT had given copies of the book, "Legends that Every Child Should Know," edited by Hamilton Wright Mabie, to every school in Pomfret. Lucy continued to support the Abbott Memorial Library in Pomfret after her friend Abba Doton Chamberlin retired due to illness. Mrs. Chamberlin spent her last two years confined at the home of Norman Case of South Pomfret and her many guests, including Lucy Mackenzie, were noted in the *Vermont Standard*. Mrs. Chamberlin last saw her friend the week before Lucy died unexpectedly on December 7, 1914.

Shortly before her death, Lucy Mackenzie told her husband Frank that she wanted to form a humane society that would protect the welfare of children and animals in Woodstock, VT. It was a timely request that secured her remarkable legacy of warmth and compassion. Frank Mackenzie sympathized and complied. On August 23, 1915, he convened a group of leading citizens of Woodstock and formed the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, which he endowed with a check for ten thousand dollars.

In October 1915, the *Vermont Standard* noted that the society's purpose was, "preventing cruelty in all its various forms; whether inflicted upon persons or mute animals." The paper informed readers that Chapter 250 of the General Laws of Vermont provided guidelines for the humane treatment of animals, and provisions for addressing violations. Within six months, the society issued a pamphlet describing these laws, and employed

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society Opens Shelter

Vermont Standard, October 7, 1915

—The trustees of the Lucy Mackenzie Humane society have opened a Rescue for lost and strayed animals to be in charge of Mrs. Nellie Udall Richmond at the Forrest Richmond stable near the Woodstock station. Anyone finding strays will confer a favor on the society by taking them to the Rescue where they will be held for a reasonable time before being mercifully disposed of. It is hoped later to have arrangements at the Rescue for the humane disposition of animals whose owners no longer care to keep them.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society Begins

Vermont Standard, October 7, 1915

We the subscribers, hereby associate ourselves together as a Corporation under the Laws of the State of Vermont, to be known by the name of The Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society, Inc., for the purpose of preventing cruelty in all its various forms; whether inflicted upon persons, or upon mute animals. Also, to dispense information relating to the business of the Society, and educate the public mind to a better appreciation of its humane and beneficent objects; to carry out the provisions of Chapter 250 of the General Laws of Vermont relating to cruelty to animals; to give information to the proper officers of the law of any and all violations of said provisions; to prosecute all persons who shall over-drive, over-work, or in any manner cruelly treat any animal in violation of the provisions of said law; to apply any funds realized from fines imposed for the violation of said statute, or otherwise, for the benefit of the Society, and to use all lawful means to carry out the above design.

Lucy Mackenzie continued from page 5.

Lucy Collamer Mackenzie Dies Suddenly in Woodstock

Vermont Standard, December 11, 1914

In the early hours of Monday morning last, the sad tidings spread rapidly through our community that Mrs. Frank S. Mackenzie had been stricken with a paralytic stroke which had left her in an unconscious state. Those who were at the bedside saw that her condition was critical and that it demanded the most speedy and extreme measures for her relief. To the medical aid rendered by the local physicians was added expert assistance hastily summoned from Hanover. But the utmost endeavors of physicians and nurse, supplemented by the untiring and loving ministrations of members of the household, were unavailing, and at a little before noon she sank peacefully to rest, and in her passing a gloom pervades our village from which our people will emerge but slowly.

Lucy Collamer Mackenzie was the only child of George W. and Lucina Ellis Collamer, being born in Montpelier May 30, 1851, and was niece of Hon. Jacob Collamer, an eminent jurist, who had been associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, a member of President Taylor's cabinet, and at the time of his death was representing Vermont in the United States Senate. She was a bright, vivacious child and dearly loved the activities which life out of doors afforded. After receiving the rudiments of her education at home, she became a student at Miss Porter's school, Farmington, Conn., where she proved herself apt in the branches of learning which she pursued. Later she went to Cambridge, Mass., and studied music, for which she had an unusual gift. Her natural talent thus improved enabled her to render both instrumental and vocal music most acceptably. Many today cherish the memory of her rich contralto voice which for several years was heard in the choir of her church at its Sabbath services.

September 10th, 1872, she was married to Frank S. Mackenzie and after a European trip the newly wedded pair established their home on Bond street, Woodstock, where they had since resided.

Mrs. Mackenzie's was a richly endowed nature, abounding in rare graces of mind and heart. She was alert of intellect, with a broad vision and a firm grasp of the principles back of the facts and forces active in modern life. Her soul responded to the beautiful in nature, art and literature. Her sympathies were ready and strong, prompting constant ministries to suffering and needy people and enlisting her active interest in the animals that are dependent on man for protection and care. Her attachments were strong and friendship to her was sacred. She was a woman of quick intuitions and capable of high enthusiasms,—with strong emotions and impulses and with that human quality that drew to her friends and held them with a bond imperishable. She was devoutly and reverently religious, and as a member of the Universalist church, was an example of earnest piety and loyalty. No place outside the home will she be more sadly missed than in the church where she was a faithful worshipper.

It might be said that in Mrs. Mackenzie's death this community suffers an irreparable loss were it not true that such do not perish but have eternal life,—her works do follow her,—though dead she yet speaketh.

A very touching incident which occurred on Tuesday gave eloquent testimony of the graces which peculiarly endeared Mrs. Mackenzie to all who came within her influence. Thomas E. Hudson, in the employ of the Armstrong Transfer company, had been Mrs. Mackenzie's hack-driver when she had been in Boston during the past twenty-two years. He was notified by telegram of Mrs. Mackenzie's death, and very unexpectedly he arrived here on the 2.30 train Tuesday afternoon for the comfort of a last look at his long-time friend and benefactress; and an hour later he took the train back to Boston. Certainly this was an eloquent tribute.

E.A. Thomas as their agent to monitor them in Woodstock.

At the annual meeting of the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in September 1916, the society reported eighty-four annual members, thirty life members, and two honorary members. The meeting featured a talk by the secretary of the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Also that month, the society opened a rescue facility for lost and stray animals at the Forrest Richmond Stable in Woodstock, and Nellie Udall Richmond was placed in charge. The public was encouraged to bring stray animals, which would be housed "for a reasonable time," and then, "mercifully dispatched."

By December 1916, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society was holding quarterly meetings that were open to residents of nearby areas, including Quechee, were invited to contact the society for assistance. Annual memberships were offered for fifty cents.

Franklin S. Mackenzie; Woodstock's "First Citizen"

Vermont Standard, January 29, 1920

Frank S. Mackenzie, who died on Wednesday morning, Jan. 21, as mentioned in this paper last week, was often mentioned affectionately as Woodstock's first citizen.

Mr. Mackenzie was, very unobtrusively, a powerful factor in the realization and conduct of those enterprises and institutions that contribute to the comfort, welfare and progress of this community. He was among the most active backers of the Woodstock Inn project and has been president of the Hotel Company since its organization. The same is true in relation to the Woodstock aqueduct system, and he has, likewise, been the only president of the Aqueduct Company. In the former days of water shortage he, even at personal expense, had spring water delivered daily from house to house in bottles throughout the village; and his personal part in the construction of the new and larger storage reservoir was larger than has been generally understood.

The Lakota Club property came into being largely through his interest and activity, and it was a project not without discouragements.

A popular monument to his memory is Woodstock's beautiful Music Hall, unique in the state. When all the available funds had been expended in construction of the new Town Hall building Mr. Mackenzie completed the matter characteristically, by assuming the burden of decorations and furnishing of the auditorium and stage settings, in such discriminating taste as to personal comfort and artistic values that it is thoroughly appreciated by the people of Woodstock and admired by visitors from places even much larger.

Members of the Universalist parish know and appreciate his generous support of that church, which was regularly his place of religious attendance.

These things were among the larger of his enterprises in some of which was the element of business enterprise, and in all of them, equally, a sincere intent to promote the best interests of his home community. And beside them were innumerable private philanthropies, small and larger, most of which were known only to the persons concerned. In the aggregate a great many people feel personal gratitude, and sincere sorrow at the passing of this friend. Such acts Mr. Mackenzie did not seem to view in the light of charity, but did them with the spontaneous generosity of brotherhood and friendship; and he was singularly unembarrassed at mention of them. The simplicity of the man was an endearing quality.

Upon the occasion of forming the local Humane society Mr. Mackenzie very unexpectedly placed it in a uniquely fortunate position by the gift of an endowment fund of ten thousand dollars, in memory of his deceased wife, who had been deeply interested in animal welfare; and therefore the organization is known as the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society.

Mr. Mackenzie's connection with the Ottauquechee Savings Bank began in 1889. For thirty-one years he has been a member of the Board of Directors, and its president 18 years, since the death of James B. Jones.

He was a director of the Woodstock National Bank for thirty years, and had become its largest stockholder.

Frank S. Mackenzie attended the district schools until in 1856 he went to Pomfret to learn from the late Hosea Doton, a well-known educator of that time. In 1862 he began a course at the old Green Mountain Perkins Academy at South Woodstock; and beginning 1765 he took the course at Coleman's Commercial College in Boston. After graduation he went to learn the woolen business in the mills at Deweys Mills, in which his father was associated. He worked his way up to the foremanship of the weave room, and went thence into the business office for a time.

In the year 1872, in company with L. C. White of Windsor, he bought the Bridgewater Mills at Bridgewater, and within a few years purchased the interest of his partner. Thereafter he operated the mills with marked success until he retired from active business in , selling the mills to their present owners.

He began at Bridgewater with the making of fine wool flannels, and gradually developed into high-grade cloth for men's suitings, overcoatings and shirtings, which won very wide recognition. He was an apt student of the popular fancy and a business man of much more than ordinary abilities. Through inheritance from his father, Mr. Mackenzie acquired an interest in the A. G. Dewey company's mills, and at the death of his brother, Charles Mackenzie, some years ago he purchased the latter's inherited interest also. At the time of his death he was vice-president of the A. G. Dewey Co.

Mr. Mackenzie had in him the love of all things beautiful, and his heart was tender toward all dumb creatures. He delighted to gather articles of artistic beauty in his home. Flowers were his passion, and his conservatories housed one of the finest collections of orchids in New England. These and the hot-house fruits he found pleasure in sharing with his friends.

Mr. Mackenzie married, September 10, 1872, Miss Lucy Collamer, daughter of George Collamer of Montpelier, who died Dec. 7, 1914, greatly mourned in the community. He is survived by his second wife, who was Miss Frances Church, daughter of Mrs. Georgiana Church of Chicago, and a long-time friend of the family, whom he married May 9, 1917.

Frank Mackenzie continued to lead the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society until his death in 1920, when he was replaced on the board of trustees by F.S. Billings. At the Woodstock town meeting in 1920, voters resolved to place a plaque in memory of Franklin S. Mackenzie in the Town Hall.

At its founding, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society was at the forefront of animal rights in New England, and now it is one of the oldest programs of its kind in the country. Today, the society is located on fourteen acres in West Windsor where Lucy and Frank Mackenzie's legacy of kindness continues.

Why Don't We See the Aurora Borealis as Much Now?

“The display made by aurora borealis last Friday evening was unusually brilliant and attracted much attention.”

The Landmark, March 2, 1894

On February 4, 1872, Hosea Doton of Woodstock, VT wrote in his diary, “In the evening there was a most beautiful aurora and portions of red light were formed in the south lower than is usual in that direction. How many of these auroral displays we are having within the past few years, and science is beginning to learn the cause.” Hosea noted seeing the aurora borealis, or northern lights, a half dozen times during 1872.

Newspapers from the 1800s record many dramatic sightings of the aurora borealis, along with varied explanations of its causes. If Hosea Doton was alive today, he would first notice how the coming of electricity has made Vermont skies considerably brighter at night. He might also observe the night sky less frequently to monitor the time and weather.

This could explain a decrease in sightings. But the conditions on the surface of the sun that cause the aurora borealis have not changed significantly since 1872 and, although the Earth’s atmosphere holds more carbon dioxide today, that does not explain a drop in sightings either. Dazzling northern lights can still be observed in Vermont, but we must be patient.

Sunspots have been counted for centuries, and they are found to rise and fall in cycles of some eleven years. During this period, the sun’s north and south poles rotate, causing the sun’s magnetic field to flip. Sunspots are observed to peak in the middle of this natural cycle.

Sunspots are associated with geomagnetic storms on the surface of the sun, and these storms emit electrically charged particles referred to as solar wind. When these particles strike the earth’s atmosphere, particularly at the magnetic poles, shimmering lights dance in the sky. One twelve-year cycle of solar storms is recorded to have peaked about 1872 when Hosea Doton was watching the dark skies. That year, observers reported some two hundred and thirty sunspots each month, which made this a peak year for the aurora borealis.

The current sunspot cycle is predicted to peak around October 2024, which portends an increase in sunspots, eruptions on the sun’s surface, and solar

flares. The aurora borealis may appear more frequently and be seen farther south. In 1824, the aurora borealis was observed as far south as Hawaii. There were also relatively numerous sightings of the aurora borealis in Vermont in 1990, 2002, and 2013.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) monitors the geomagnetic storms on the sun’s surface and classifies their intensity on a five-point scale from G1, minor storm conditions, through G5, which are extreme storms that can disrupt communication systems on earth. *The Washington Post* reports that one G4 storm was recorded in 2023.

There have been many poetic descriptions of the aurora borealis in Vermont newspapers. On October 20, 1888, *The Landmark* marveled, “There was twenty minutes of real good weather last week Friday when the beautiful aurora borealis shot athwart the cerulean sky, and rudely bespangled the arching diapason till the scintillating corruscations of the milky way glittered and gleamed like auriferous bubbles on a jasper sea!”

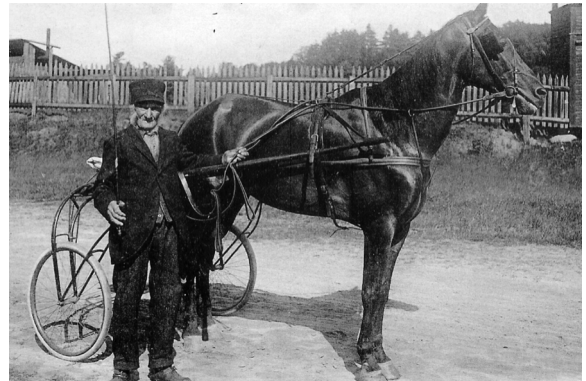
The Vermont Journal observed the following on July 23, 1892. “One of the most brilliant displays of the aurora borealis in many years occurred last Saturday evening, and was followed by a decided tumble of the mercury in the thermometer. While the aurora was not marked by the deep colored streams that characterized the remarkable display a few months since, in all other respects it was fully as brilliant, if not more so. The seeming mingling of clouds of different colors that mounted from the horizon was of rare beauty, while the streamers flashed their light far beyond the zenith.”

Sometimes descriptions were accompanied by explanations such as one by Professor Totten who warned in 1893 that increased sightings of the aurora borealis signaled the end of the world, likely in September of that year. Thomas Edison provided a more rational explanation by commenting, “If we could only capture and store the electricity that nature uses to make a first-rate Aurora Borealis, the concerns that make dynamos would have to go out of business.”

Charley Taylor Dead at 103

Spirit of the Age, January 16, 1909

By the death of Charley Taylor at White River Junction at the advanced age of 103, New England loses its veteran horseman. Mr. Taylor was born December 28, 1805 in Canada and was of German descent. His life has been eventful and full of interest. When very young he became accustomed to horses and passed his long life as a jockey and driver. He had always been called a successful driver and was never known to use unfair means in winning a race. His love for the animals in his charge was un-limited, and for years he slept in the barn with them. For many years he was associated with the late Charles B. Ballard of White River Junction, and ended his days at the home of the latter's widow and son. In his later years, Mr. Taylor was an unfailing attraction at the races in northern New England and had the honor of congratulations from President Roosevelt at the Windsor Horse Show in 1902. His stock introduction by the starter to the crowd was something as follows and never failed to win applause: "Mr. Taylor attributes his good health and longevity to three things: He has never used tobacco in any form, has never used alcoholic drink and has never been married." At the age of 100 years he stated, "I have lived 100 years without a doctor and I am not going to begin to have one now."



*Charley Taylor at age 101 in 1907
with pacer Robert B.*

Thank You HHS Supporters!

PATRONS

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

BUSINESS MEMBERS

*Aurora Day Care
C&G Creative Catering
Ennis Construction
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).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Regular - \$25 [individual & family] | <input type="radio"/> Non-Profit - \$30 |
| <input type="radio"/> Senior - \$20 [individual & family all over age 55] | <input type="radio"/> Business - \$50 |
| <input type="radio"/> Life - \$250 [any individual over age 60] | <input type="radio"/> 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: _____

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

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

Watch Your Fingers *Spirit of the Age*, January 4, 1882

Among the leading industries in the vicinity of Rutland is the manufacture of slate pencils at Castleton. About 35 workmen produce 50,000 pencils per day, and it is proposed to increase to 100,000 per day. The blocks when quarried are sawed into pieces seven by twelve inches, split to a thickness of half an inch, and smoothed by a planer. The block is passed under a semicircular knife, and after having been turned over, the process is repeated. The result is fifty seven-inch pencils. A particle of quartz in the block would break all the pencils. They are pointed by a grindstone, turned, assorted, and sent to market in boxes of a hundred.

We Know Who You Are! *The Landmark*, October 14, 1882

That gentleman who husked corn most of the day Sunday before last, must be more careful or we shall expose his Sunday laboring, as he lives in the center of the village.

Not Him Again!

That nuisance, Owen Reed, has again put in an appearance. *The Landmark*, August 16, 1884

Lost or Stolen *The Vermont Journal*, April 22, 1796

From the subscriber, a pair of black leather SADDLE-BAGS; the seat of them one whole piece of leather, with two loops on one side to put mail straps through. If any person has found them, and will return them to the subscriber, shall be handsomely rewarded for their trouble; if stolen, Ten Dollars for the Thief. Israel Gillet, Hartford, April 2, 1796

Game Over

Three Olcott boys aged four, five, and seven ran away from home last week, causing their parents no end of trouble and alarm. After searching for them all the afternoon, they were found on the Point playing ball. *The Landmark*, May 22, 1891

Last Seen on Decoration Day

Dennis Sullivan says if the party that stole the flowers from his lot in the cemetery will return them, he will withhold their names, as they are all known. *The Landmark*, June 20, 1890

An Honest Face

A.G. Wheeler and wife have been in town the most of the week. Somehow or other we do like to see his honest old face. We do not see why unless it is because of the scarcity of that style of faces here at the Junction. *The Landmark*, February 7, 1885.

Who Needs a Dog or Cat? *Burlington Free Press*, May 16, 1870

Mr. Hazen Savage of Hartford owns a chicken that has four legs. All are full-size and useful.

Have a Picnic? *The Landmark*, November 10, 1899

Several citizens are entertaining the measles.

Give Thanks *St. Albans Weekly Messenger*, January 10, 1879

A package in a basket was left on the doorstep of a cautious Newport woman who, having no desire to adopt a foundling, took it to the police station and found that it contained a twenty-pound turkey.

Time Will Tell *Rutland Weekly Herald*, March 18, 1828

The mistakes of a layman are like the errors of a pocket watch, which affect only an individual; but when the clergyman errs it is like the town clock going wrong - it misleads a multitude.

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



*Thank you to our corporate
and individual sponsors.
Contact us to learn more.*

HHS Calendar

THE GARIPAY HOUSE MUSEUM will be open Friday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in June, July, August, and September, or by appointment. Please call 802/296-3132 or email us at 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.)

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - **“Hartford Historical Society Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social,”** Come hear Hartford City Manager John Haverstock. 2:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Free and accessible. Note: this event is not at the Garipay House.

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 - **“Strafford’s Justin Morrill,”** Presented by Victoria Sample. 7:00 p.m. at the Greater Hartford United Church of Christ; 1721 Maple St., Hartford Village. Free and accessible.

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. Interested in helping residents explore their family histories? Please contact us at 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>

Hartford History Timeline: <https://www.tiki-toki.com/timeline/entry/1456118/History-of-Hartford-Vermont/>