

# *The Chronicker*

Newsletter - Fall Edition 2011

Hartland Historical Society, Inc

## **Fall Membership Meeting**

Sunday, October 16

West Hartland Town Hall/Library

1 PM

No e-mail, voice mail, face book, or video games--but plenty of adventure for two city slickers from Massachusetts. Come hear what brother and sister, David Signet and Joyce Guistina know and remember about Hartland and farm life at their Uncle Ross and Aunt Clara Hamlin's "After Glow Farm" from 1930's-1950's. The Hamlin farm was located just east of the Gaylord House. After Aunt Clara died in 1958, Uncle Ross lived with Irene Shepard in the Gaylord House.



*Russ Hamlin's truck in front of the old farmhouse*

## Moosehorn Farm Tour

Many a traveler needing directions in East Hartland is advised, “Turn at the big gray country colonial farmhouse on the corner.” That house, along with the other buildings on the property, is Moosehorn Farm, now the home of Joyce and Neil Mueller. Hartland Historical Society members were treated to a tour of their lovely edifice this past June. The farm, located at 14 Mountain Rd., has an interesting history.

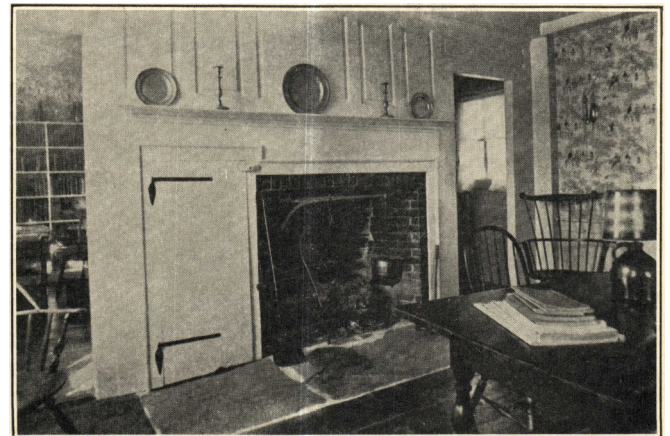
The farm probably gets its name because Moosehorn Brook begins there. In the early 1600’s, a log cabin first occupied the land, but when that burned down, a larger home replaced it. The current cellar, a remnant of that house, contains a well to be used in case of Indian attacks. In typical New England fashion, the structure was enlarged over the course of 200 years until the house was completed in 1815 by Dr. Philander Humphrey. In 1850 it was used as a hotel for travelers using the turnpike from Canaan to Suffield. The modern driveway was actually part of the old toll road. The garage was used to rest and shod horses. The property has had 6 owners including three medical doctors and one theological Ph.D. Family names known are Ransom, Dr. Henry Birge and Rev. Irving Berg.

In a description being supplied to the national Register of Historic Places in 1981, the interior of the Mueller’s home is described as “comfortable, several living and dining rooms... Three or more generations of antiques with some old art objects and pictures. Colonial mantels. Wide pine floorboards. Oriental rugs. Seven working fireplaces, some with Dutch ovens. One room in cellar has equipment for hanging and butchering.” Although this description is still certainly accurate, the Mueller’s have added their own exquisite touches to this beautifully preserved house. Windows are shuttered from the inside. Baskets of all shapes and sizes help define the character of each room. Equestrian prints and paintings are displayed throughout the home. Paint is used playfully with many rooms having contrasting walls and trim. A plethora of antiques and accents artfully fill every ledge and nook and cranny. Each time a visitor turns a corner, she is met with a surprise to delight the eye. We even spied a hobby horse awaiting its rider on top of an upstairs bannister.

The Hartland Historical Society wishes to thank Joyce and Neil for giving our members the opportunity to explore this Hartland treasure.



*Moosehorn Farm c: 1929*



*Old photo of interior of Moosehorn Farm*

## THANKS!

A special thanks for all the assistance from volunteers such as **Cub Scout troop 121**—fantastic job on the Gaylord House spring cleanup, and our “chefs” **Rob Davis** and **Brett Watson** and helper **Connor Davis**—great work with the hamburgers and hot dogs at the Blueberry Picnic.

## We've Got Mail

*The Hartland Women's Book Club heard a rumor that famous authors used to visit Hartland and asked if we could find out more.*

It's true!

In the 1920's through the 60's, the Hi-View Road, Old Stone House Farm, now called Cackleberries Egg and Turkey Farm, in West Hartland was owned by the Hafner family. One of seven sisters, Annie Hafner Laurie, was a famous New York literary agent who would invite her clients to her family home in the Connecticut countryside for some peace, quiet and maybe even inspiration. Alan Paton, author of "Cry the Beloved Country", and Fred Gipson, author of "Old Yeller", visited frequently. Erskine Caldwell, who wrote the 1933 controversial novel "God's Little Acre", was a guest here in Hartland.



*Cackleberries Egg and Turkey Farm formerly Old Stone House Farm*

Erskine's wife completed a pen and ink drawing of the property whose now massive maple trees appear as mere shrubs in

her rendering. One account has John Steinbeck writing acts for the play "Of Mice and Men" at the kitchen table of the Old Stone Farm House. Harper Lee, who wrote many chapters of "To Kill a Mockingbird" in the house, even installed scarlet carpeting in the parlor and living room. On the kitchen phone, David Selznick and Annie Laurie negotiated the movie rights of Margaret Mitchell's "Gone With the Wind". Because Uncle Fred was in Vaudeville, the barn was turned into a theater where many plays and performances were attended by the locals who were charged 25 cents for the privilege of watching the entertainment. After having tea with Angela Lansbury, a neighbor was delighted by her invitation to attend a black tie party at The Old Stone House Farm later that same day. The authors and their famous friends really had to rough it early on, using oil lamps and candles as the house had no electricity until after WWII. Isn't it exciting to think that Hartland played some part in the creating of some of the master literary pieces of the 20th century?

Thank you to Salvatore and Diane Barone and their children, Patricia, Elisa and Fabio, for giving us the scoop and a tour of Cackleberries Egg and Turkey Farm where you can order a Thanksgiving all-natural fresh turkey with a flavor that only your grandfather would remember. You can call them at 860-FRY\_PIGS ( 860-379-7447).

If you would like to join the Hartland Women's Book Club, e-mail [franticmom3@cox.net](mailto:franticmom3@cox.net) and put bookclub in the subject line.

We would like to encourage you to satisfy your curiosity about all things Hartland. E-mail your questions to [franticmom3@cox.net](mailto:franticmom3@cox.net) (please type HHS ? in the subject box) or leave your question on voice mail at 860-595-8021. We may choose a question or two to answer in the next edition of "The Chronicler." We would espe-

## Blueberries and Music—a Great Combination

The Hartland Historical Society's 22nd Annual Blueberry Picnic was music to the ears of the more than 70 attendees. On Saturday, August 13, the grounds of the Gaylord House turned into an eclectic music festival. In celebration of Hartland's 250th birthday, Big City Stylz band accompanied by Hartland's own Ed Baldwin on bass serenaded us with hits from the 50's to the present. Society president, Joanne Groth, presented a summary of events leading up to Hartland becoming a town in 1761 as part of the celebration. Joe Kane, longtime resident, reminisced about his blueberry memories. Mr. Kane reminded us that blueberries were the base of a robust summer industry here in Hartland in the 30's. After picking, quarts of the luscious dark blue fruit drops were transported to markets for sale as far away as Hartford. The rest were gobbled up by residents in breads, cobblers and, of course, pies. The demise of the abundant wild berries here in Hartland was sadly noted, but the audience was cheered by the dozens of home-made blueberry desserts waiting for them and by listening to the very appropriate "I Found My Thrill on Blueberry Hill"



*Ed "Buck" Baldwin on bass.*



*The "band" chatting during a food break.*



*Folks from literally around the world came to enjoy the great day of music, stories, and food.*

## Gaylord House Repair Grant Update

Thanks to the Town of Hartland, The Hartland Historical Society was pleased to be the recipient of a grant from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the purpose of repairs and renovations of the Gaylord House. This year, some monies from the \$20,000 Small Towns Economics Assistance Program were used for upgrading the curator's room and to install a drainage system to keep ground water from seeping into the foundation.

## Hartland Holiday Gifts

If you want to make a Hartland connection with your holiday gifts, have we got the on-line store for you! Visit our website where a variety of interesting Hartland items can be ordered and delivered to your door. If you would prefer not to pay the shipping charge, you can arrange to pick up your items. Call 653-0170 or e-mail mnurge4@cox.net to use this option.

## Memories of the Way We Were

Sharing your special memories of Hartland is the best way to keep them vibrantly alive in our town's history. The Hartland Historical Society has plans to publish its fourth book full of such recollections. We are looking for articles about people who lived in town, events you may remember, and other ideas of interest about Hartland in the recent past or long ago. If you would like to add your reminiscences to the collection or need more information, please call Judy Devlin (860-379-6485), who has graciously agreed to edit the book. Deadline for submissions is October 15, 2011.

The Hartland Historical Society's mission is to discover, procure and preserve whatever historical facts may be available relating to the civil, military, literary, cultural, and ecclesiastical history of the town of Hartland; and to investigate and preserve such traditions and knowledge as now exist only in the memory of persons. The Society will be responsible for sponsoring and exhibiting the collection of historical articles, pictures and other items relating to the town.

Membership Keeps  
Our Mission Alive.  
Thank You.

### OFFICERS

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## Save the date for the Annual Santa Breakfast

Bring your holiday cheer and your appetite to the Annual Santa Breakfast to be held on Saturday, December 10 at the East Hartland Firehouse. From 8 until 11 AM, eat all the pancakes and syrup you want. Sausages, coffee and juice will also be served. The price for this breakfast feast is only \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 2-12, and \$25 for a family. Children under 2 are free. Of course, Santa himself will also be there waiting to listen to your child's holiday requests and pose for pictures. The Historical Society will be selling raffle tickets for a number of items that will be on display during the breakfast. Don't forget to visit Santa's Workshop where children can purchase inexpensive holiday gifts for their friends and family. Historical Society items, like our famous Hartland Houses (check out our new carnival Ferris wheel miniature), will also be available for sale.

## Gaylord House To Close for the Season

The Gaylord House will close for the season following our Fall Membership Meeting. See you in the spring.

www.munic.state.ct.us/Hartland/Historical.htm



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06027

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### 2011 Event Schedule

- 10/16** - Fall Membership Mtg  
W. Hartland Town Hall/  
Library  
1:00 PM
- 11/12** -Town-wide Thanksgiving  
Potluck -Bethany Lutheran  
Church  
5-8 PM
- 12/10** -Santa Breakfast  
East Hartland Fire House  
8-11 AM

## CAMP ALICE MERRITT DISCOVERY and MYSTERY ~Maybe You Know The Answer~

Wayne McCutcheon from Maine recently called the HHS to inquire about the Camp's history. He was very enthused to let us know that he had come across an Old Town Canoe that was purchased for the camp in 1930. He is having this canoe restored to its original condition and wants to bring it back to Hartland for its first launching. A curious thing about it is that the bill states that it was maroon in color. It is known that Old Town Canoes were a standard green. Do you know why it may have been specially ordered in maroon. Let us know! Wayne will be offering this restored canoe to the HHS for a price. If HHS can't afford it – it will be offered to anyone interested.



Canoe pictured is the same model that is being restored

SHIPPED <i>July 14, 1930</i>	Canoe No. <i>124769</i>
To <i>Camp Merritt</i>	Our Order No. <i>5152</i>
<i>Branch</i>	Your Order No.
<i>Cabin</i>	
Via	
Length <i>16</i>	Half Built <i>JAN 30 1930</i>
Grade <i>Ed</i>	Model <i>Old</i>
Completed <i>JAN 30 1930</i>	
Planking <i>w.c.</i>	Hull Varnished <i>JAN 31 1930</i>
Gunwales <i>open Spruce</i>	Canvassed <i>FEB 3 - 1930</i>
Decks	Filled <i>FEB 3 - 1930</i>
Thwarts	Stored
Seats	2nd Filled <i>MAR 8 1930</i>
Half Ribs	Stored
Finish Rails	Railed
Keel <i>JUL - 7 1930</i>	Fitted <i>JUL - 8 1930</i>
O. S. Stems	Colored <i>JUL - 8 1930</i>
Floor Rack	1st Varnished <i>JUL - 8 1930</i>
Sponsons	2nd Varnished <i>JUL - 9 1930</i>
Color <i>Maroon</i>	Stored

Original order receipt for the canoe