



The Chronicler

*Newsletter of the Hartland Historical Society, Inc.
Spring Edition 2011*

May Membership Meeting & 250th Birthday Celebration

Friday, May 20, 2011, 7:00 PM, Hartland School

~Did you know that the first town meeting was held at the home Simon Baxter located on Walnut Hill on July 14th, 1761. Simon Baxter and Joseph Taylor apparently were instrumental in the incorporation of the Town of Hartland. At the time there were 212 persons dwelling here.~

All Welcome

Happy 250th Birthday, Hartland! You are invited to the party, so come and celebrate with your Historical Society. We will share with you a video made in 1986 that features Ronnie Alicata, Alice Parmelee, Agnes Gorse, Paul Crunden, Eva Hoffer, John Raabe, and Georgean Fiehler telling stories of Hartland from the 1930's. Don and Sally Dewy will be shown singing. We will open with a brief business meeting followed by the video. And yes, of course, there will be a birthday cake and refreshments.

****Keep an eye out for information pertaining to other Town wide birthday celebrations, ie: Parades, picnics, and tours. This event is sponsored by the Hartland Community Assistance Fund. We will be collecting non-perishable food as a donation to the Hartland Food Bank.****

By Monica Cigelka



Wooden truss in Hartland Hollow Bridge.

Wilbur Miller, First Selectman of Hartland for 37 years from 1907 to 1944, would fit right in with today's "Green" philosophy of life. During his tenure as selectman, the Hollow was a thriving community full of self-sustaining farms, including his own on the East Branch of the Farmington River. One of Miller's most important achievements was negotiating with the MDC on the sale of Hartland Hollow's roads, bridges and schoolhouses before the flooding of the Doomed Town in the 1930's for reservoir and watershed purposes. Many journeys were taken over the bridges that spanned both the Farmington River and its tributaries as they meandered their way through the fertile farmland in the Hollow.

Meanwhile, a one-room school was erected in West Hartland in 1937. In 1953, West Hartland built an addition onto the school to be used as a Town Hall. Eventually, the school in East Hartland became the designated school for both the East and West Mountains, and so the one room school in West Hartland became the town's library. In recent years the library had fallen into disrepair and renovations were begun on both ends of the building.



Reclaimed bridge truss in Hartland Library.

During the attic portion of the reconstruction of the library, workers discovered a little bit of history. There holding up the roof of the library was one of the wooden trusses of a Hartland Hollow bridge. The truss is easily identifiable from Historical Society photos of the damaged bridges in the Hollow. Wilbur Miller may have authorized the repurposing of the truss after the demolition of the bridge in the 1930's. What once allowed Hartland travelers to journey through the Hollow is still helping Hartland readers to journey to wherever a book can take them.

Whoops!

Captain and Deacon Thomas Giddings, not Gideon as stated in the Fall 2010 issue of "The Chronicler," was the first permanent white settler in Hartland. To add to your knowledge, you should know that he moved from Lyme to the southeast corner of Hartland in 1754. Thomas Giddings' daughter Mary married Darius Case of Barkhamsted thus beginning the Hartland/Barkhamsted connection.

Santa Breakfast—A Hartland Tradition



If you've lived in Hartland for even a little while, chances are that the second Saturday in December has been circled on your calendar, and somewhere in your house you have a tchotchke lovingly purchased by a Hartland child at the Santa Breakfast. The Hartland Historical Society's biggest fundraiser of the year has become an endearing and delicious Hartland tradition. As always, the East Hartland Firehouse was the venue for last year's feast held on December 11. Children and children-at-heart gobbled down pancakes and sausages, and our "kids only" shop provided another round of holiday gifts for family and friends. And of course, Santa himself took requests for presents to put under the tree on the big day.

Letters to Santa accepted by the Chief Elf himself Another tradition that is highly valued by the Historical Society is the spirit of volunteerism in our small town. Our sincere thanks goes out to the following breakfast helpers:

Hartland School Elves—*Hannah and Liam Murphy, Caroline Watson, Greg Gunderson, Ryan Fairchild, Devon Gomez, Matt Gower, Chad Lillistolen, Kirstin Lindgren, Kallie Peters, Michael Way, Greg Watson, Alcide LaChapelle, Greg Wilcox, Dylan Wilcox, Lauren Bedard, Isaac Stevens.*

Boy Scouts- *Alex Watson, Gregory Watson, Gregory Wilcox, Dylan Wilcox.*

Adult Volunteers-*Ruth Klopfer, Carol Evonsion, Alan Hill, Leon Stoltze, Chuck Osborn, Gary Lovell, Neil Mueller, Rob Davis, Tim Kendrick and April Seidman.*

East Hartland Firefighters- *for graciously allowing us the use of their facilities.*



Monica and Lynn take a much deserved break.

May I have the Envelope, Please?

Have you let your Hartland Historical Society membership lapse? Or for you newcomers, do you want to learn about the rich cultural heritage of our small town? Joining is easy. Just use the enclosed envelope to join or keep your membership current (\$10 for an individual membership or \$20 for the immediate family). Remember paying dues to the Hartland Historical Society does not commit you to volunteer your services, but it does help us preserve a little of Hartland's past.

Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Home Tour Planned

The Hartland Historical Society is planning its members-only open house tour at Joyce and Neil Mueller's Moose Horn Farm built in 1815 on Sunday, June 5th, 2011 from 2-4. You need to have paid your dues to receive an invitation to visit this beautiful historic home. Watch the mail for your invitation.

Hartland Memorabilia Available at Your Fingertips

If you are on the prowl for gifts with Hartland connections, visit our website where a variety of great Hartland items can be ordered and delivered to your door.

If You've Got Questions, We've Got Answers

We haven't received any questions about Hartland lately and would like to encourage you to satisfy your curiosity about all things Hartland. Examples would be how a road got its name, local folklore, or any musing about Hartland history. E-mail your questions to 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 especially love to hear from the inquisitive kids of Hartland.

Exotic Treasures Free for the Viewing

The Gaylord House, Hartland's town museum located in West Hartland, will be open for visitors beginning May 1 and every first Sunday of the month until October. Treasures include a murder weapon, a cougar claw, and old fashioned calling cards. A stereoptic viewer is available as your personal time machine to the past (see related article on page 6). Our docents will guide your trip through memory lane anytime between the hours of 2 and 4 PM.

It's Not Too Late

The Hartland Historical Society has plans to publish its fourth book. We are looking for articles about people who lived in town, events you may remember, and other ideas of interest about Hartland. If you would like to add your memories to the collection or need more information, please call Judy Devlin (653-3958), who has graciously agreed to edit the book.

"The East and West mountains, so called by the towns-people, make two distinct divisions of the town. These mountain ranges, together with the rivers and running brooks of pure water and the wild woodlands on the mountain sides combine their advantages with those of the noble and generous people that swell there to place Hartland on the list, and not the least, of the good old Connecticut towns." - excerpt from "Connecticut Lore" Vol. 1, No. 2, 1933, from the writings of Judge Lucius Myron Slade.

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HHS board members and their spouses gather at the President's home for a quick pre-Santa's Breakfast meeting and potluck dinner.

Great company and great food make for a good time and productive meeting.





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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.

HHS board meetings will now be held on the first Thursday of the month.

Everything Old Is New Again

Chances are you have recently seen a movie in 3-D, but did you know that adventure seekers have been viewing the world three dimensionally since the 19th century? Stereoscopes were the way to take exotic adventures from the safety of your sitting room. Folks could travel to a land they would probably never be able to actually visit, get an eyeful of world events like the Chicago World's Fair, or watch the building of the Panama Canal. Humorous slides of a risqué nature were not uncommon. To produce the 3-D effect, photos were taken by a camera with 2 lenses. The 2 pictures were set 2 ½ inches apart which is the distance between adult eyes. When viewed together with the stereoscope, a 3-D image was seen. At first, the stereoscope was only available as a table model, but just as nowadays, the technology shrank to a hand held model, making it affordable for many more families. Eventually, the stereoscope morphed into the Viewmaster, which you may remember if you are a child of the 50's or 60's.



Table top Stereoscope c: 1870.