



The Chronicler

Newsletter of the Hartland Historical Society, Inc.
Gaylord House Museum, 141 Center Street, West Hartland

Mail to: P.O. Box 221, East Hartland, CT 06027—hartlandhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

HartlandHistoricalSociety.com

Spring Edition 2014

Hartland Town Treasure Hits Milestone!

**Be a part of it—Come Celebrate the 25th Anniversary
of the Opening of our Town's Gaylord House Museum!**

Friday, May 23, 7pm Town Hall

MEMBERSHIP MEETING & PRESENTATION

Hear from Joan Stoltze, Paul Eseppi, and Joe Alicata who were part of the project of renovating inside and out of the Gaylord House 1983-1989. Slide show too!

Sunday, August 10, 1pm Gaylord House

BLUEBERRY PICNIC

Dedication and first sale of "Hartland Remembers" book of *personal stories and photos of Hartland*. Guest speakers Karen McNulty, Marsha Ransom, and Heather Winegar Mudano. Look for invitation in July.

GAYLORD HOUSE RENOVATION BEGAN IN THE FALL OF 1983 WITH OPENING CELEBRATION AUGUST 1989.

History taken from 1991 HHS publication "The Paul Crunden Journal"

The Gaylord House, known as the Cornish House, was built in 1845. Samuel B. Gilman sold the house to Giles M. Lawton in 1854. He later sold the house to George D. Cornish in 1873. The house was deeded to Eliza A. Cornish in 1888 and then to Edward A. Gaylord in 1891. The house was deeded to the Metropolitan District Commission in 1930 with the agreement reserving the right of Edward Gaylord and his wife, Harriet, to live out their natural lives at the house. The Metropolitan District Commission leased the house and 2.05 acres to the Town of Hartland for 50 years.

On September 21, 1981, by authorization of a Town Meeting, the property was turned over the Hartland Historical Society. The Gaylord House was dedicated as a meeting place and museum on August 12, 1989.

Part of the dedication in "The Paul Crunden Journal" tells of the beginning, written by HHS President at the time, Joan Stoltze:

"In May of 1983 the Society set up a committee with the charge to take a long hard look at the Gaylord House as the permanent home for the Society. Part of the task was to determine whether the structure was even worth renovating. Jack Myler, Bob Mocarsky, Leon Stoltze and Paul Crunden were charged with the investigation and visited the site at various times.

There was much gloom at a meeting at the Stoltze home one evening in July 1983. Those present recognized the Society needed a home for its collection, and the basic house showed much promise. However, the amount of work and money required to undertake such renovation far exceeded the resources of a small group such as ours.

Paul Crunden came to that meeting a bit late and was not part of the conclusion already reached. With eyes twinkling and hands itching to start the project, Paul said, "I believe it is possible." His vision was the catalyst for action. With Paul willing to oversee the work, the others present agreed the project should be undertaken. I pledged, at that point, that the Society would raise the \$50,000 that it was estimated would be needed to finance the task.

In the Fall of 1983, Paul began the long labor of love documented in these pages. He planned, he consulted, he cajoled for volunteers—and he worked. He became the pivot of our plans and the mentor of our volunteers. He made all those who assisted in this project proud to be a part of it.



We could not have envisioned the beautiful house we now have. Paul Crunden's gift to the Society and the Community reflects his vision."

GAYLORD FAMILY ARTIFACTS MAKE IT BACK TO HARTLAND

The Hartland Historical Society was excited to have received a call from a direct descendant of Rev. Nathaniel Gaylord. Pam Doerr who lives in Nevada, attended the 1989 opening and spoke in 1994 at one of our events, is the last living relative of one of his lineages. She has donated items that have stayed in the Gaylord/Merrill family up to 170 years - a seraphine/harmonium/melodeon (to be determined), blanket chest and photo of the Merrill Tavern in the Hollow.

The lineage (*notes in italic not about direct Gaylord/Doerr lineage but possible connections to instrument*): Rev. Nathaniel⁶ Gaylord was ordained to pastorate of the Second Church of Christ in Hartland in 1782 and continued for 42 years without assistance and did not end until his death in May 1841 in the 59th year of his ministry at age 90. Rev. Gaylord's son, Flavel, became a highly respected minister and preached in Ohio, New England and western New York State, having pastorates and teaching in Gorham, Hopewell, Naples, and Prattsburg. Rev. Gaylord's son Nathaniel⁷ Jr. (1791-1875) lived in West Hartland all his life, on land adjacent to his father's. Nathaniel⁷ Jr.'s son, Nathaniel⁸ Walter Gaylord also lived all his life in West Hartland and, like his father and grandfather, was active in *civic and church affairs*. Nathaniel⁸'s daughter Francis Emily (1846-1939) married (1868) Dr. Albert E. Merrill, (1843-1931) of Barkhamsted, where they lived for a few years. They then moved to Ohio where Monroe E. Merrill (1884-1974) was born, then they moved to Los Angeles. Monroe's daughter Mary who lived in Los Angeles is the mother of Pam Doerr. Nathaniel⁸ Gaylord's daughter Annie Persis (*sister to Francis Emily*), married Herbert H. Griswold, also of West Hartland. He succeeded his father, in 1866, as the Church's Music Master and for 22 years, he played the organ and kept the church singing.

Back to the new arrivals—We may not know the exact time Francis Emily Gaylord came to be in possession of the seraphine/harmonium/melodeon or blanket chest—did she have them in her possession before or after she married? What we do know is that Pam remembers the instrument and chest at her grandparents' house and being told the instrument was Rev. Gaylord's (was it Nathaniel or Flavel?) and the chest Francis Emily's. To think after all these years of staying in the family, Pam graciously has given them back to Hartland. Thank you, Pam!

See "A Familiar Chord Struck" ..story

A FAMILIAR CHORD STRUCK FOR TIME TRAVELERS by Pamela Doerr

"It's not my fault," I continually must explain to the spirits of my New England ancestors who wander in and out of my nightly dreams. Yes, certainly the groundwork was laid during a childhood spent surrounded by countless Merrill and Gaylord artifacts.

It all began with the 1945 death of my father (on the same day our country lost President FDR). Thankfully for me, it was at that time my Merrill grandparents' home became both a refuge and learning center. In actual fact, as I occupied my dad's repurposed youth bed (circa 1915), it was through its sturdy metal railing where I first began to observe objects yet to be discovered.

Nearby, one such item was a dark, oblong wooden piece which I was forbidden to touch. On occasion, however, the hinged lid was lifted so I could view what turned out to be a black and white keyboard. Its origin, however, remained unknown until I began music lessons, down the hall on the baby grand piano situated in the 1927 style living room. It was only then that I realized the melodeon was also a musical instrument and its story unfolded as having been used to accompany church services held by Rev. Gaylord.



It was midway, down that same corridor that a straight-back chair resided directly below a wall-mounted black (of course) telephone. With help and its bell-shaped ear piece, I was able to enjoy my first conversation with uncle, William Albert Merrill (1923-2000) whose overseas calls served to reunite his family as he continued to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps, assigned to post World War II Europe.

That same "walk don't run" hallway was home to a gallery of ancestral portraits and documents, landscapes and artwork acquired throughout the decades. A stiffly posed, sepia-toned photograph of a couple, in side by side frames, turned out to be family members staring down upon me. Beside them, there was a Yale Medical School diploma (1866) which Doctor and later Judge Albert E. Merrill (1843-1931) had earned following service in the Civil War. Also, group pictures from events and pictures of buildings, yet to be visited, added to the tales which my grandfather, Monroe E. Merrill (1884-1974) shared.



Within the room I shared with my grandfather's office corner, a library table took center stage. Its shelf was filled with books, both historic and religious in origin. Seating here was provided by a carefully positioned Hitchcock chair which had also followed the family from Connecticut. Perched upon grandfather's lap, I shared the new and old. The modern touch of a Motorola black and white television entertained us as we jointly viewed both boxing matches and the Ed Sullivan Show. As I grew older, the blanket chest would soon be revealed from the depths of a generous linen closet.

So, now that I am 70, it is my mission to continue sharing the journals, documents and artifacts which tell the story about a family, joined together by the marriage in 1868 of Albert and his bride, Francis Emily Gaylord (1846-1939) who celebrated 64 years of marriage, way out west in the town called Hollywood, California. And, my ancestors will live on thanks to the love, dedication and caring of the village(s) which I hope to again visit.

CAMP MERRITT CANOE DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF LEON STOLTZE & JOHN RAABE at HHS Fall Meeting

The HHS fall membership meeting on October 6, 2013 brought townspeople back to Camp Alice Merritt, this time to dedicate the restored 1930 Old Town canoe that had spent its first 38 years at the camp. After welcoming a room full of guests at the Nellie B. West House, President Joanne Groth gave a brief history of how the Girl Scout Council acquired the Cowdry property in 1925 and turned it into Camp Alice Merritt. The camp, named for Alice Pattison Merritt, commissioner of the Hartford Girl Scout Council, was operated as a summer camp until 1969.

CANOE DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF LEON STOLTZE & JOHN RAABE cont..

In 1992 when the camp was no longer going to be utilized, the Town of Hartland purchased 48 acres of the property from the Connecticut Valley Girl Scout Council. Although some buildings were deteriorated and eventually removed, the Nellie B. West House was renovated with funds donated by the First Church in Hartland, Congregational. HHS sponsored the rededication of the Nellie B. West House in June 2012.

Joanne then called upon the guiding force behind the restoration of the canoe, Wayne McCutcheon of Claremont, New Hampshire. He spoke of his friend finding the old canoe in a consignment shop and bringing it to his attention. The canoe number, showing in the stem, lead to obtaining the built sheet which revealed that the canoe was originally made for the camp in 1930. Accompanied by a slide show, Wayne told of the restoration process during 2011 and 2012.

Wayne had contacted Joanne in 2012 and the HHS Board of Directors voted to purchase the canoe. A donation campaign followed. Thanks to generous donations given to the Society by the community and those in memory of two beloved Hartland residents and dedicated Society members, Leon Stoltze and John Raabe, the purchase price was reached and the restored canoe was returned to Hartland.

Special guest, 88 year old lifetime Girl Scout Natalie Phillips of Hartford, recounted the glory days of her life as an Alice Merritt camper. Representing the Raabe and Stoltze families, Kristen Raabe Lehmann and Jane Stoltze Loftus spoke of their fathers' adventures on the water and their love of canoeing, sailing and Hartland. Kristen told how her father, like the Alice Merritt campers, enjoyed his canoe as a unique vantage point from which to survey nature and recreation. She spoke of fishing with her Dad in their canoe at the CCC Pond and taking swimming lessons at Alice Merritt's Girl Scout Pond. Jane spoke of how her Dad's heart was always with the water. It began when, as a boy, he rowed a boat on the small pond behind his home and it continued in the 1970s with the restoration of a sailboat for his family's use, fishing on Long Island Sound and swimming at Hartland Pond. Hallmarks of the lives of both men were a love of Hartland and a personal commitment to preserving its history. It seemed only fitting to dedicate the 1930 OTCA canoe in memory of Leon Stoltze and John Raabe.

A wonderful day of dedication and remembrance concluded with presentation of a plaque and refreshments. Pictured below are: Joan Stoltze and daughter Jane Loftus, Joyce Raabe (holding plaque) and daughters Kara Kluszynski and Kristen Lehmann, Natalie Phillips and daughter Janet Machol.



SANTA BREAKFAST HAS A HISTORY TOO!

It was another year of transition for Hartland Historical Society's Santa Pancake Breakfast. We say a huge THANK YOU to one of the Breakfast's founding members and Chairperson, Pat Davis. Thirty-three years ago Pat, Carol Evonsion, Lyn Robitaille, Betsy Henebry and several others established the Santa Breakfast, as the Hartland Nursing Committee, to raise funds for a scholarship given in the name of Hans Lorensen.

Hans owned a construction company in Bristol and quite a bit of property in West Hartland. He helped build the Crunden home and donated the land for the new West Hartland cemetery. He was a third selectman and resided on Lorensen Road. Mrs. Lorensen was very grateful for the exceptional care Hans and family received from the Granby Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice during his long illness. She wanted to honor her husband through a scholarship to those interested in the health field. (Ruth Ann Stocklen was the first recipient.) The Hartland Nursing Committee carried out Mrs. Lorensen's request until 1992. By then, they were awarding a \$1000 annual scholarship funded through the Santa Breakfast.

Fun Fact: They didn't serve pancakes! French toast was on the menu. Bread was provided by Pat's neighbor, Butch Vanty, who worked for Pepperidge Farm. Pat created and painted the large Santa sign and flyer design, so easily recognized by many. Later several of the committee members returned to full time work. Without missing a beat, the Hartland Historical Society served up pancakes the following year. Pat stayed on with the Historical Society and eventually became Chairperson for the event again. Carol Evonsion, too, has helped in the Children's Shoppe year after year.

Without a doubt none of this would happen without dedicated volunteers! These stories and memories are preserved in the archives of Hartland Historical Society. And that's our mission—to savor the moments of everyone's efforts to make this an extraordinary community. So thank you, too, for all who support us through membership, or serving, or eating pancakes!

In addition to HHS officers and committee members, who work tirelessly before and at the breakfast, we'd like thank our 2013 Hartland Elves:

Volunteers: Peter & Joan Avery, April Seidman, Ada Mae Parmelee, Chuck Osborn, Rob Davis, Tavin Krauland, Julie Graves, Sandy Lisella, Katelin Meyers, Brooks Martyn, Bethany & Jeff Makowski & Josephine Yanchak, Andy & Tom Fenn, Neil Mueller, Sheri & Nick Wesche, Jamie Parmelee, Lyn Robitaille, Carol Evonsion, Maureen & Caroline Watson, Carole Vincent, Jeff Fairchild, & Troop 121 Boy Scouts.





PO Box 221
East Hartland, CT
06027

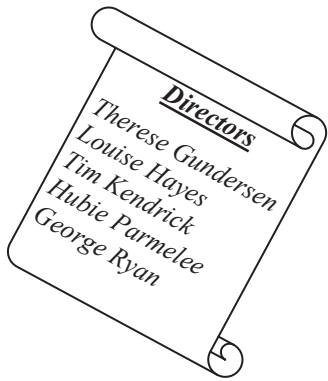
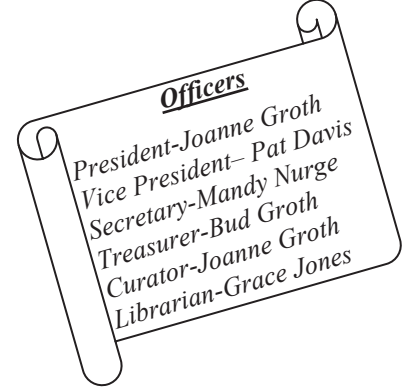
NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WINSTED CT
PERMIT NO 11

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.

Hartland Resident
Postal Customer

2014 Event Dates

- Spring Meeting** **May 23, Friday, 7pm**
- House Tour** **June 8, Sunday, 2pm**
- Carnival Booth** **July 23 only**
- Blueberry Picnic** **August 10, Sunday, 1pm**
- Fall Meeting** **October 5, Sunday, 2pm**
- Santa Breakfast** **December 13, Saturday**
8:00-11:00am



Contributing Writers:
Pat Davis, Pam Doerr,
Joanne Groth, Mandy Nurge

LOOK INSIDE....

- ◆ What are we celebrating this year?
- ◆ Exciting new arrivals to the Gaylord House museum!
- ◆ Membership Envelope

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!