



# 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](mailto:hartlandhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

[HartlandHistoricalSociety.com](http://HartlandHistoricalSociety.com)

Spring Edition 2015

**HHS looks to highlight Hartland Church Music and Instruments to celebrate our donation of the 1830s Rev. Gaylord instrument. Our exhibit this year will include our collection relating to music along with Hartland Churches and residents family instruments and stories.**

Friday, May 15, 7pm Town Hall

**Support HHS and attend the annual membership meeting where you will hear from our local Churches.**

Sunday, August 9, 1pm Gaylord House

## **BLUEBERRY PICNIC**

We have invited Nelson and Beverly Pease to speak. They own and operate the Pease Collection of Historical Instruments in Palmer, MA. Look for our invitation in July.

### **The Tavern, The Farm, The Post Office... A Matter of Perspective Rosemarie Day, April 2014**

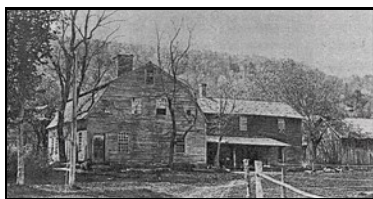
In one hundred and ninety three years, the Miller family has become the Day family and the land has changed from taverns to farms, from farms to reservoir. From this the family moved to West Hartland. There, the land held a farm and a post office. During the years, the land has changed based on the needs of the generation. Starting in the South Hollow District, the Miller family began a long farming history. When Elnora Miller became a Snow and her daughter became a Day, a new farm was established and the family moved to West Hartland. During this time the Center Hill Farm was established and ended.

If one stands atop Route Twenty North Hollow Road and looks out at the Barkhamsted Reservoir in the winter, he or she would see the sight of a rippling blue water scape covered in glazed white ice. The mountains surrounding are ordained in grey brown branches and coniferous trees. Above, the sky is covered in white puffs with a light breeze that blows through the branches. Five minutes either way and one will find nothing but trees. Ten minutes to the left and one will find the town hall, and ten minutes to the right is where Center Hill farm once stood. Looking out at the Barkhamsted Reservoir, one would see nothing but a natural landscape created by mankind.

Before the 1930s, the South Hollow District lay below the reservoir. Underneath the reservoir were a town hall, a cemetery, schools, and houses. A town was wiped away for the state's largest water supply. In 1928, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) began buying land in the South Hollow District and in Barkhamsted following the Farmington River. Most graves in the cemetery were moved to West Hartland, adjacent to the old Hartland Cemetery, while other graves were moved to either East Hartland or other locations based on the request of kin. Starting in 1931, the MDC began the construction of the Barkhamsted Reservoir, which would hold up to thirty billion gal-

lons of water. Later, in 1940, the Saville Dam and Barkhamsted River would be constructed.

Years earlier, in the land below the Barkhamsted Reservoir, Jonathan Miller settled down to start a family. Being a third generation American, Jonathan moved to Farmington, Connecticut in 1745. With the Revolutionary War in 1775, Jonathan joined the armed forces. Before the 1800s, Captain Miller settled in Hartland with his wife Sarah North Miller. The two bought one hundred and sixteen acres of land from Nathan Hatch in 1796, and settled here with their son Cyrus Miller.



In 1794, when Cyrus was just twenty four, Jonathan gave twenty acres of land to his son. Cyrus Miller and his second wife Damons Miller had a son also named Jonathan Miller. In the 1790s, Cyrus and Damons built the Cyrus Miller Tavern on the land given to him by his father. The tavern became a frequent stop for travelers on their way from Hartford to Albany. In 1810, Captain Miller died and was buried in the Hartland Hollow Cemetery.

*Photo: Cyrus Miller Tavern/Homestead*

Cyrus Miller spent his entire life on the land that his father gave him. Through his life, he continued to buy and sell the land around him. In 1849, Cyrus Miller died and left his land to his son Jonathan Miller. Jonathan married Georgiana Howd Miller, and the two spent their life together living in the Cyrus Miller Tavern. While living in the tavern, Georgiana cooked and served oyster stew. She served this stew when dances were held at the tavern in the upper rooms; two large doors were opened to make a larger open dance floor. Together, Jonathan and Georgiana had six children: George, Wilbur, Dora, Elnora, Waldo, and Leslie. Four of the Miller children would continue on living on the family land or start farms in Hartland. George Miller was the son that resided on the property with the tavern, until his death in 1908. His heirs sold the property to the Metropolitan District Commission in 1928.

Meanwhile, Wilbur Miller moved to a two hundred and fifty six acre plot of land west of the Farmington River in order to start the Wilbur Miller Farm. It was here that Wilbur grew broadleaf tobacco as well as operating a dairy farm for twenty two years. On the thirteenth of April 1928, Wilbur sold the farm to the MDC and moved to West Hartland. He died in 1950.

Waldo Miller had a farm roughly the same size. The Waldo Miller Farm was on two hundred and twenty acres of land West of the Farmington River. He also had a large dairy farm, grew broadleaf tobacco, and sold farm products in New Hartford and Hartford. Broadleaf tobacco needed to be grown where it could receive full sunlight. A full exposure to sun would allow the leaves to get thick and full of sugar. Waldo was a member of the CT Milk Producers Association. The association tracks milk prices and production in Connecticut as well as other surrounding states. By the thirty first of July 1928, Waldo sold the farm and moved to New Hartford. In New Hartford, he worked in a feed and grain business operated out of his house.

Having left the Hartland Hollow early on, Jonathan Miller's daughter Elnora Miller Snow married Clarence Snow. The two bought land in West Hartland before the Blizzard of 1888. The Center Hill farm is located after Route 20 becomes Route 181. Over one hundred and fifty acres of land sits between two parcels of People's State Forest. The farm originally held over five hundred acres of land. Four hundred acres of land were on the opposite side of the road from the farmhouse, adjacent to the Barkhamsted Reservoir. The land was undeveloped with no standing structures. The property was sold to the MDC during the creation of the Barkhamsted Reservoir. The other portion of the farm, roughly one hundred and fifty acres of land, was kept by the family.

Elnora loved being on the farm and, in 1905, the farm changed hands into her name. She spent her entire life on the Center Hill farm with her children. In 1916, after Clarence died of pneumonia, Elnora was put in charge of running the farm with her daughter Dorothy. The farm held a herd of cows and a team of horses, as well as pigs and chickens.

Before his death, Clarence's duties on the farm included: sawing wood for three wood stoves and a washing machine, churning butter he would later sell in Winsted, grinding apples for cider, and turning sweet cider into vinegar for sale. Cider vinegar was not as easy to make as it may seem. The first step was to get a glass or stainless steel container for making the vinegar, as other metals or aluminum will corrode in the process. When making vinegar, the temperature needs to be between sixty to eighty degrees Fahrenheit since lower temperatures yield an unusable product and higher temperatures interfere in the formation process. Lastly, the amount of oxygen was important when making vinegar; oxygen reaches the mixture through cheesecloth covers and stirring daily.

Clarence also sold eggs, timber, and blueberries. The Snow's Blueberry Lot was well known in Connecticut and operated as a "pick your own blueberries for one dollar" service. Some customers would bring lunches to a picnic after picking blueberries. Those who picked their blueberries tended to use them for canning or to bake pies.

*Cont. on page 4*

## Anson B. Tiffany of West Hartland

**An entrepreneur in the 1800s comes to life with artifacts collected by Rob Girouard & Paul Eseppi and now being donated to Hartland Historical Society. By Joanne Groth**

Anson Tiffany lived on Center Hill, just over the Hartland line. He was born Dec. 24, 1804 and died Nov. 17, 1881. He was the son of Consider Tiffany, Jr. & Amilla Rexford, whose property was both in West Hartland and Barkhamsted. Anson was a farmer, merchant, doll manufacturer and blacksmith in West Hartland. He did lumbering and quite an extensive business at blacksmithing and later he operated a doll factory on Center Hill. Hartland girls were employed to stuff and dress the dolls. When a wagon load had been made up he would take them to New York and sell them. Recent artifacts brought to light shows that during his years as a merchant Anson sold medicinal products. Anson, his wife Lydia (French) and four children were buried in the family cemetery near the old family homestead. They were moved to the Barkhamsted cemetery by the M.D.C. in 1940.

2015 - Rob Girouard emailed the Hartland Historical Society asking if we had any additional knowledge about an A.B. Tiffany and medicine bottles. Rob, an avid bottle collector since he was 8 years old growing up in East Hartford and now living in West Granby, purchased a 1850s medicine bottle on E-bay. It was described as being found 20 feet down below an outhouse pit in the state of Ohio. As many of us know, many Hartland residents moved to the Western Reserve lands in Ohio in the 1800s.

In his words: "I found an old bottle, circa 1850 from West Hartland. It is a small rectangular bottle in aquamarine colored glass. On one side of the bottle it is embossed A. B. Tiffany and on the front of the bottle is West Hartland, Conn. The style of bottle indicates it is likely some kind of medicinal bottle. I am wondering if you have one in your museum or have ever seen one of these bottles before. I can find no record of one in any bottle reference book or auction catalog. I also cannot seem to find any advertisements for it. I did learn Tiffany was a farmer, a blacksmith and also made dolls but can find nothing concerning him producing any type of medicinal products."

After receiving this email, I called Paul Eseppi, as he is knowledgeable about many people and places in Hartland history. As it turns out, Paul was given 2 of the same poster relating to A. B. Tiffany and medicine. They were found in a trunk in the attic of the old Gaylord House when Irene Shepard, granddaughter of Edward A. Gaylord, lived there. Irene gave them to Paul in 1969. It is said that there may have been a store located north of today's West Hartland Fire Dept. where Mr. Gaylord could have obtained artifacts. These posters are proof that A. B. Tiffany did indeed do business in the selling of medicinal products. The poster in part reads "Balm of Gilead. This invaluable medicine has been before the Public and sold by subscriber about eight years. The approval of Physicians, the extensive call, and universal approbation of it, are its greatest panegyric.....The above Medicine is Prepared and for sale by the subscriber, Wholesale and Retail, - also for sale by his Agents in many of the Towns in this and other States. Anson B. Tiffany. West Hartland, Hartford County, Conn., January, 1852."



Rob & Paul met and shared their enthusiasm for bottle collecting and the story of the bottle and the poster. Rob's knowledge explains that this bottle was most likely made on the east coast as CT though NY, NH and NJ had known glassmakers. It also was probably made in a small batch of 100 to allow the merchant to try out its product to see how well it would sell. This makes this bottle very unique. Rob expressed that back in those days the content of medicine bottles was mostly opium with fruit flavors. *Photo of Rob on left with Paul*

Rob further researched "Balm of Gilead," which he learned was some kind of medicinal perfume, so it could very well have been sold in the small Tiffany bottle he acquired. The name also represented a "universal cure" and the advertisement poster confirms this with all the ailments listed for which it could be used.

Hartland Historical Society looks forward to exhibiting these new items and history at the Gaylord House. Thank you Rob & Paul!

<sup>1</sup>"Balm of Gilead was a rare perfume used medicinally, that was mentioned in the Bible, and named for the region of Gilead where it was produced. The expression stems from William Tyndale's language in the King James Bible of 1611, and has come to signify a universal cure in figurative speech."

<sup>1</sup>Balm of Gilead-Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Together, Elnora and Clarence had three children: Mary, Sarah, and Dorothy. Dorothy Snow married George Day, and she would continue to spend the rest of her life on the farm with her mother and son. According to the Waterbury Republican, in 1942, the farm held twenty five cattle and sixty chickens. As well, Dorothy, Elnora, and George Jr. became Air Raid Wardens after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Being in Hartland on a farm made being an Air Raid Warden easier than some areas. The planes could be heard well before being seen and the Center Hill farm had been the only farm in the area that had a phone. When a plane was spotted, one of the three family members needed to call the operator and state "Army Flash." This statement would connect the farm to the nearest warning center. After being connected to a warning center, the phone call would continue with "This is 4-62 Ring 5." From there, one of the three would continue to speak over the phone detailing what the plane looked like, where it was headed, and how low it was flying.

After the death of her husband, Elnora went back to teaching and became the postmistress for the West Hartland post office in order to help support the farm. The post office was on the property in Center Hill. Elnora became the postmistress for Center Hill on the twentieth of August 1907. She was the last postmistress of the post office, which closed on the seventeenth of June 1935. The original post office desk now sits in the Hartland Historical Society with the postage prices from the late 1800s still attached to the inner cabinet.

In later years, the farm changed hands to Dorothy, who continued to live on the farm with her son George Jr. While on the farm, Dorothy and George Jr. tended for the cows and chickens. The cows were washed down and milked twice a day, living in the barn next to the house. The chickens were fed and taken care of. As well, eggs were gathered for refrigerating. The chickens were kept in coops on the farm.

Like any household, there were chores that were required in order to keep the house running smoothly. Household duties on the farm included cooking, washing, sewing, and mending. By 1942, Elnora was mainly confined to the house due to old age. She could not leave to take care of animals. This caused Elnora to spend much of her time cooking for Dorothy and George Jr.



During this time, George Jr. was only fourteen. Besides helping his mother and grandmother tend to the farm, George also spent much of his time hunting. George would take his dog Old Jones hunting with him. Old Jones was a husky cross-bred mastiff. With the farm being right around a good hunting area, George and Jones would head out to hunt woodchucks. In 1941, George held the record for hunting the most woodchucks. He bagged thirty woodchucks in total. *Photo left to right, unknown, George, Jr, Elnora & Dorothy*

In 1966, George Jr. and Dorothy purchased bulk tanks, a milk keeper, and a milking machine with a timer converter. The farm was one of the first to have refrigerated milk keepers. When the milk tanks were full, a refrigerated milk truck came to pick up the milk. To produce milk on a farm now, a farm must maintain a certain quality of milk that contains no: (1) sediment or debris, (2) weird flavors, (3) high bacteria counts, (4) high acidity, and (5) antibiotics or chemicals. The milk machines must be kept clean with good hygienic habits maintained on the farm.

George Day Jr. later married Virginia Day. The two had four children together, all of whom have lived on the farm: Chris, Todd, Jon, and Jeff. At the time, the farm held fifty to sixty Holsteins. The two barns on the property that held the cattle were connected with the larger barn holding the cattle in stanchions. Each cow was tied in a separate stanchion overnight. Sawdust was placed underneath each cow as bedding for cleaning purposes. Sawdust can easily be cleaned. When sawdust becomes wet, it clumps, making it easier to remove.

George Jr. bought the sawdust in town and used a dump truck to bring it back to the farm. The cattle were fed silage from the silo and water from a hand dug well on the property. According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, silage consists of hay or corn that is held in compacted silos that are airtight. The silage on George's farm was used to feed the animals throughout the winter months. Every so often, each cow was given a magnet to swallow to collect any metal the cow may have ingested while eating grass. This was done in hopes that the magnet would collect the metal and create less injury to the cow's intestinal tract. According to The Magnet Source, cows eat anything from nails to staples and more. Since cows eat what is lying in the ground, each one runs the risk of Hardware Disease. This is caused when metal is not removed from the cow but instead settles in the walls of the reticulum. When metal gets stuck, it can puncture vital organs or cause inflammation. Cows that contract Hardware Disease eat less and produce less milk.

For a period of time, the family moved to Millerton, New York between the 1970s and 1980s for a partnership with another farmer. The farm was a dairy farm that consisted of over two hundred registered Holsteins. The farm also had pigs, bulls, rabbits, calves, and heifers. The bulls were kept for breeding. Registered Holsteins are typically black and white or red and white in color, and can weigh 1500 pounds when fully matured. Their size makes them the largest dairy cow in the United States. For Holsteins,

four years is the average productive life. In the United States, Holsteins give off more milk than any other cow, “almost 9 gallons of milk per cow per day.”

The farm also grew many crops such as alfalfa, corn, and hay consisting of Timothy Grass. Alfalfa is planted on flat ground with not very many rocks and cannot be in acidic or infertile soil. One problem in growing alfalfa is having a poor seedbed; alfalfa needs to be put into drilled holes in the ground not broadcast seeded and tilled. Lastly, a farmer cannot plant alfalfa and expect to leave it alone. Cattle may eat alfalfa, but so do armyworms and blister beetles. Timothy Grass is a plant that grows well with alfalfa that is rich in its nutritional value. The grass is a premium feed for horses but cannot be grown in drought areas due to its shallow roots. Timothy Grass is usually harvested earlier on in the growing process due to being tender since the hay can begin to degrade in nutritional value if not harvested at the right time.

Sweet corn was taken by truck loads to New York City to be sold; it was usually taken in pickup trucks as these vehicles loaded much more crop than other trucks. Baling hay, the farm produced over five thousand bales a year. The family also grew a garden consisting of mostly vegetables to feed the family. The milk was sold in New York and transported by local dairy transports.

When the family moved back to Hartland, they brought back five cattle, a goat and a horse named Midnight. The farm in New York was liquidated with the Holsteins sold at auction. Each cow would pull roughly \$40,000 apiece. At times, the four boys would take a horse and buggy around the farm. When back in Hartland, the family started up another large garden. The eldest son, Chris, set up a nursery in a greenhouse on the farm. The greenhouse produced vegetables to be sold, such as tomatoes that sold by the flats. At times, the boys would collect apples from apple trees around the farm to make cider.

Virginia outlived George, who died in 1991. When he was sick, the farm was sold in 1989 to George Sakellaros. The land was seen as desirable due to the fact that it was surrounded by state property on three sides. People’s State Forest was on either side of the farm, and across the road was the MDC property. The back of the farm mainly consisted of unbuildable wetlands. After the property was bought, it was split into separate properties for a housing complex. The houses were not built. Some lots have sold and now hold houses on them. Many lots have not yet sold. More than thirty six acres are now owned by the town of Hartland.



The front two properties adjacent to Center Hill Road hold the original house and barn. Only one of the original barns is left standing. The other barns - older and beyond repair - were taken down before the property was sold. The original house on the farm still stands. This house was not taken down due to its historical value. Since the house could not be taken down, it was then renovated by owner. *Photo of house and barn in 2005*

For over one hundred and ninety three years, the Miller-Day-Snow lineage has transitioned from the South Hollow District to West Hartland. During these years, our families have had a tavern, three farms in Hartland, a post office and a partnership in New York. The farms change with the generations living on the land.

Hartland, Connecticut maintains a low acreage for a farm. To maintain a farm in Hartland, a farmer must have a minimum of five acres of land. These five acres must be used for agricultural purposes. This allows more people to farm in Hartland who cannot afford a large amount of property similar to the one hundred and fifty acres originally on Center Hill.

As for the future of the land, Hartland plans to stay rural even if there is no longer a farm on Center Hill. Looking at the “2014 Hartland” map, it is evident that roughly half of Hartland, Connecticut is made up of state land. This state land mainly consists of People’s State Forest, Tunxis State Forest, and Enders State Forest. With the surrounding state land, Hartland will maintain its rural nature.

*Many footnotes and works noted were part of this paper written by UConn student Rosemarie Day. Due to space issues for this newsletter it was decided not to include them. Complete copy of this paper can be found in the Hartland Historical Society files.*

**NOTE TO ALL HARTLAND RESIDENCE:** HARTLAND PHONE BOOK BEING UPDATED THIS YEAR!

LOOK FOR YOUR POST CARD IN MAY TO CONFIRM YOUR NAMES, ADDRESSES, PHONE OR CELL NUMBERS TO BE PUT IN BOOK. NEW TO TOWN SINCE 2014? CONTACT HARTLANDHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE ADDED.



PO Box 221  
East Hartland, CT  
06027

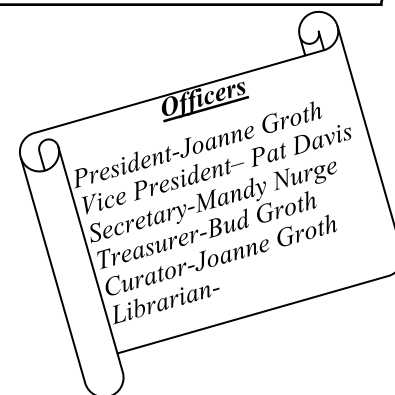
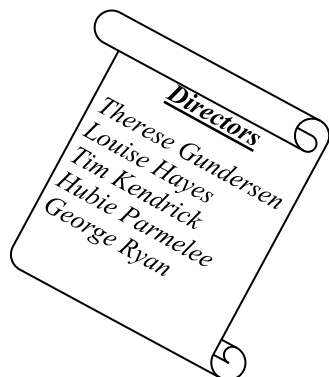
NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WINSTED CT  
PERMIT NO 11

**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

## 2015 Event Dates

<b>Spring Meeting</b>	<b>May 15, Friday, 7pm</b>
<b>House Tour</b>	<b>June 7, Sunday, 2pm</b>
<b>Carnival Booth</b>	<b>July 22-25</b>
<b>Blueberry Picnic</b>	<b>August 9, Sunday, 1pm</b>
<b>Fall Meeting</b>	<b>October 4, Sunday, 2pm</b>
<b>Santa Breakfast</b>	<b>December 12, Saturday 8:00-11:00am</b>



### LOOK INSIDE....

- ◆ Two stories of families who lived on Center Hill, West Hartland
- ◆ Membership Envelope

**YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!**