



The Chronicler

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

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HartlandHistoricalSociety.com

Fall Edition 2021

Please come to our Fall Membership Meeting
Library/Community Hall in West Hartland

Sunday, October 3rd at 2p.m.
Refreshments will be provided

ANNUAL BLUEBERRY PICNIC

HELPS BRING CLOSURE TO THE END OF HARTLAND BSA TROOP 121

RICHARD PEDERSEN, YOUNGEST IN HARTLAND TO RECEIVE EAGLE AWARD, By Richard Pedersen

I was thrilled to attend the Hartland Historical Society's Blueberry Festival on August 8 that honored long-standing Boy Scout troop 121. It was, however, bittersweet because the troop that meant so much to me during formative years; and in fact, for the rest of my life, was ending all operations. Joanne Groth arranged quite a program to honor the troop and its many participants over 75 plus years. There was a large appreciative crowd in attendance listening to several former members speak out about their love of the troop and scouting values in general.

My presentation was meant to pay homage to all former Hartland Eagle scouts and the significance of their attainment. When I moved from Webelos to Boy Scouts, I was 11 years old and right away I explored all the badges available in scouting. I asked my father, Peder, the scoutmaster, how quickly I could become an Eagle. He said there is a minimum time period between each badge on the journey and you could make it when you are 13 years old and 10 months. He also said if you set any goals in life, you are only measured if you make them. Whoa, the pressure was on and after a lot of work, a lot of fun, and many life memories, I made it right on time and was awarded Eagle in 1961 at Camp Lake of Isles as the youngest scout ever in our district to be awarded Eagle. A truly special moment in my life and a true honor, because I



was actually given the personal Eagle badge from the head of our scout district. He felt that after the grueling all day question and answer board of review in my home that covered every badge I had ever earned that I somehow was deserving of this honor. As a kid I only saw an old discolored badge and didn't quite grasp what an honor that was. I certainly do NOW! Photo: R. Pedersen far left with parents receiving Eagle.

Thank you Troop 121, you will live on in my heart and mind forever. You have positively touched the lives of hundreds of young people in Hartland, you will be missed.



1962 Troop 121 photo: All rows left to right

Front row: Gary Beeman, Warren Haag, Billy Lilliendahl, Artie Berg, Stuart Johnson, **unknown**, Greg Johnson

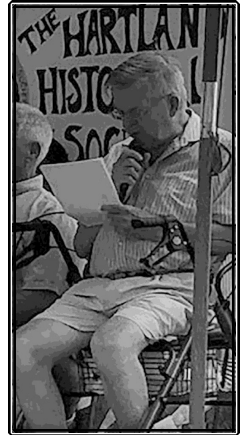
Second row: Larry Kraiza, **Unknown**, Billy Berg, Bill or Don Murray, David Ransom, **Unknown**, Dick Pedersen

Third row: Skip Berg, **Unknown**, Larry Pedersen, Bobby Cutter, Jay Robertson, Chuck Seidor, Tom Lilliendahl

Back row: Ken Swensen, Gilbert Austin, Richard Austin, Norman Paulsen

WHEN DID THE BOY SCOUT PROGRAM COME TO HARTLAND?

We don't know for sure, at this time, but we do know it was in Hartland in 1941. The story told by Hubie Parmelee at the picnic gives us this much: Hubie was handed down a Boy Scout shirt that belonged to Jimmy Barber (1928-2018) who lived in Hartland. Hubie knew him when he was a 9 year old. Jimmy turned 12 in December of 1940 and it is known you had to be 12 to start in the Boy Scouts at that time. (note: In 1949 it was changed to 11 years old) Hubie recalls when he was given the shirt in 1949, when he started scouts, the Troop 121 patch was on the sleeve and that Mr. Knose of Hartland was the scoutmaster. A side memory: Hubie saw TV for the first time at Jimmy Barber's house on Pell Road on an 8" round screen and watched Kukla, Fran & Ollie show before 1950. Photo of Hubie Parmelee



ANNUAL BLUEBERRY PICNIC by Lyn Robitaille

This year's HHS Annual Blueberry Picnic was an outstanding good time. Combined with great weather, great company, great desserts and a great theme there was little room left for improvement! Having been cooped up with Covid 19 restrictions for many months we were all ready and eager to socialize!



The theme was Memories of Hartland Boy Scouts of America Troop 121, as told by many past scouts and leaders. One name that is synonymous with Hartland Boy Scouts is Les Sindland. He and several other men, after Eric Olsen/Eagle opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, shared what being a member of this troop meant to them. The eldest of these was Hubie Parmelee who was a scout in 1949; youngest to receive Eagle Award Dick Pedersen in 1961; longest serving Scoutmaster Les Sindland 40 years (1964-2004) and longest serving Chairman/Institutional Rep. Norm Gundersen 25 years (1994-2019). Other scouts who spoke: Bobbie Beeman (1968-79), Brett Watson/Leader (1974-82), Scott Levan (1982-86), Ryan Nilsen/Eagle/Asst. Scoutmaster (1990-2001), Jason Sasportas/Eagle (1992-97) and Bill Winchester/Eagle/Scoutmaster (2006-09). One thing that stood out is that there were at least two men that had come to Hartland to join our troop from East

Granby/Granby and Suffield. I do not know if there was a troop in their respective towns but they chose Hartland because they saw it as a wholesome place to participate. And their parents were willing to drive them to this faraway place! Photo: front row; Dick Pedersen, Bill Winchester, Les Sindland, Bob Beeman, Hubie Parmelee. Second row: Brett Watson, Eric Olsen, Ryan Nilsen, Jason Sasportas, Scott Levan—Norm Gundersen not in photo

I must mention the reason for this choice of program is because Troop 121 is no longer in existence as of this year 2021. Each speaker mentioned this as a very sad time for them. And I dare say many of us agreed with this sentiment.

A few things particularly stood out - in addition to all their memories of campouts, jamborees and just plain fun. I was impressed with how they all mentioned their first experience with leadership and how well this has served them in life. They learned both how to follow a leader and how to be a good leader. And speaking of leaders, they all mentioned the respect they had/have for their leaders. Another theme rang true with all of them is the fact that they were allowed to make mistakes and learned so much from this! It seems they all also learned a lot just from being a part of a group and the responsibility that comes with this.

Also of great interest is the many Eagle Scouts there have been over the years. Eagle Scout is the highest ranking award available and represents many hours of hard work with civic duty in mind. There is one scout, Bud Groth who was the first in Hartland to also earn the God and Country, an award worth mentioning here. There have been many outstanding projects over the years thanks to our Troop 121. On a personal note I

would like to mention a few that I am personally aware of. My brother, Bob Desmond, tells of a trip they took to Mt. Washington. Tim Root was the Scoutmaster at the time, but unable to accompany the boys on this trip. His brother, Steve, took 12 boys on a bicycle trip to Mt. Washington...in the early 1950's. They biked for 9 days in all. Each night they would call back to Tim and give the details of their day and their present location. This info would be tracked on a map in Hayes General Store!

In the early 60's my Dad, Bob Desmond, Sr. was troop leader, again with Tim Root, and they built a boat in our basement with the scouts. They then took the boat on a trip down the Connecticut River. Unfortunately I don't have a lot of details other than it happened, but my Dad was so pleased with the outcome that I wanted to mention it here.

The presentation ended with Tom Desmond, also a brother of mine, reading some great memories written by Jack Roarke of picking and selling blueberries in Hartland when he was a very young man in 1949! This was how young folks in town earned money for spending at the Fireman's carnival!"



The main thing here is we all had a wonderful time visiting, eating and listening to these Boy Scout memories that I sincerely hope, if you weren't here this year, you will definitely join us next year!

TEAMWORK AND TOMFOOLERY— LIFE LESSONS OF BOY SCOUTING By Therese Gundersen

We settled our chairs alongside neighbors and friends on a warm afternoon in the shade of a large ash tree for the HHS's annual Blueberry Picnic. This was likely one of the few social gatherings many of us had attended since the beginning of the crazy lifestyle changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. As the light breeze carried the scent of the grilling burgers and hot dogs, I enjoyed watching the interactions as individuals updated each other on their lives, families and recent experiences.

It was a bittersweet day. I was happy to be at the Blueberry Picnic, but the title of the Historical Society's program was "Recognizing Disbanding of Troop." The Historical Society was going to recognize the importance of Hartland's Boy Scout Troop 121 with a presentation by former Boy Scouts and leaders. I was saddened by the thought that a group that had impacted so many young men in Hartland would no longer "exist."

Nationally, Boy Scouts of America, which was founded in 1910, counts Nobel Prize winners, astronauts, veterans, athletes, explorers, inventors, journalists, authors and entertainers among their scouts. Notable Boy Scouts include actor Andy Griffith and Martin Luther King, Jr. and Eagle Scouts like Mike Rowe of the TV show "Dirty Jobs" and President Gerald Ford.

While there was some debate about the date the Hartland Boy Scout Troop began, there is no debate about the impact that the Boy Scout program has had on the scouts who spoke at the picnic. They spoke of the incredible fun of scouting and how anxious they were to be old enough to join the troop. Their humorous and insightful stories pointed out how other scouts and scout leadership, the activities and adventures, had influenced their development into adults.

I believe our local Hartland scouts, like those of national fame, are also dynamic individuals. They embody characteristics described in the Scout Law which include being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, and brave.



They put God, our country and others before themselves. Scouting and positive scout leadership like that of Les Sindland, who was a Troop 121 leader for 40 years, guides these men to strive to do their best. My brother-in-law, Norm Gundersen, who was a Cub Scout as a child, didn't get involved with Boy Scouts until his oldest son, Torey, got involved. Yet, as a leader he taught as well as learned throughout his 25-years of Boy Scout adventures.

Troop 121 may disband, but the positive impact of the troop will not disappear. It has become part of who these men are. Incredibly, once an experience becomes a memory and is shared, it lives forever and continues to teach and guide others. Each of the funny stories that were shared at the picnic had a lesson mixed in. The common theme: Be Prepared.

The Troop 121 business owners, pastors, historians, civic and religious volunteers, construction supervisors, firemen, veterans, fathers, and grandfathers continue to be shaped by events from Hartland scouting and they will continue to lead the next generations.

After all the stories, we savored our blueberry dessert and checked out the extensive Boy Scout memorabilia on display in the Gaylord House.



Ada May Parmelee serves up her famous blueberry pie.



Cindy (Eseppi) Rines entertained before after presentation. Ending with her original "Blueberry Picking" song that tells an Eseppi family story.



Irene Eseppi, wife of Paul and Joan (Crunden) Winegar help serve up hot dogs and hamburgers. Both strong supporters of HHS and were part of the first Blueberry Picnic in 1989 celebrating the opening of the Gaylord House

Come on October 3rd between 2-4pm, the last day that the Gaylord House Museum is open in 2021. Special appointments will be considered, call 860-309-8016.



WHO ARE HARTLAND'S EAGLE SCOUTS?

Generations of Hartland boys were part of Troop 121 for a short time or the long haul—whether it was Cub Scouts for 5 to 10 year olds, or Boy Scouts 10 to 18 years old. No doubt that the scouting program in Hartland made lasting impressions on many.

HARTLAND EAGLE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Alfred S. Lilliendahl, 1960—first to receive
Harold P. Groth, 1961
Lawrence E. Pedersen, 1961
Richard Pedersen, 1961— youngest to receive
Brian Cole, 1967
Timothy Broderick, 1993
Philip H. Groth, 1994
Ryan Nilsen, 1994
Jason Eckley, 1995
Michael Johnson, 1995
Carl Seam, 1996
Jason Sasportas, 1997
Colin Groth, 1998
Christopher Gust, 1999
Kevin Lillie, 1999
Brian Eseppi, 2004
Derek Green, 2004
Eric Rubenstahl, 2004
Miles Groth, 2005
Samuel Nurge, 2005
Eric Olsen, 2006
Mike Collins, 2008
Matthew Gaynor, 2008
David Irwin, 2015
Spencer Antuna, 2017
Trevor A. Antuna, 2017
Thomas Fenn, 2018
Nicholas Wesche, 2018
Mark Dynluik, Jr., 2019



“Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America to this day. The requirements for obtaining this rank has stayed basically steady but some components changed or were added through the years.

The Hartland Historical Society has benefited from the Eagle Projects done by Ryan Nilsen, Jason Eckley and Sam Nurge. Ryan and Jason each took a portion of completing a brick pathway, on the side and the back of the Gaylord House that you walk on today. Sam’s was the handicap ramp at the back side of the house.

Eagle Scout Pledge

I reaffirm my allegiance To the three promises of the Scout Oath. I thoughtfully recognize And take upon myself The obligations and responsibilities Of an Eagle Scout. On my honor I will do my best To make my training an example, My rank and my influence Count strongly for better Scouting And for better citizenship In my troop, In my community, And in my contacts with other people. To this I pledge my sacred honor.

Thank you to all the scoutmasters, leaders, scout reps and parents and volunteers past and present who made Hartland Boy Scouts a great program to be involved with in at least the past 75 plus years.



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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.

Hartland Resident
Postal Customer

In This Issue

Hartland Boy Scout Troop 121 Disbanded

Blueberry Picnic brings family and friends together and closure to this unfortunate end.

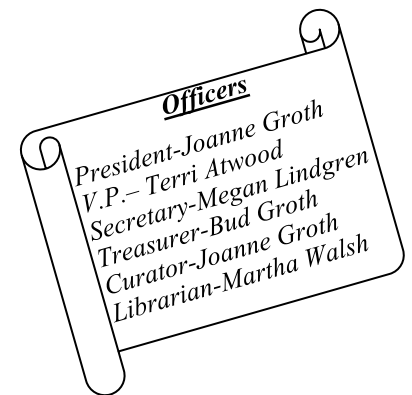
TOWN ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Event hosted by First Church & Hartland Parks & Rec. Dept.



Saturday, Sept. 25, 9am-1pm, Town Hall

You may bring: 2 banker's boxes **or** 3 grocery bags **or** 2 laundry baskets worth of papers. There will be people on site to help get those boxes out of your car.



Officers

President-Joanne Groth
V.P.- Terri Atwood
Secretary-Megan Lindgren
Treasurer-Bud Groth
Curator-Joanne Groth
Librarian-Martha Walsh

Directors

Therese Gundersen
Laura Guptill
Louise Hayes
Tim Kendrick
Hubie Parmelee
Randy Struckus

AmazonSmile

Choose Hartland Historical Society
when you shop on-line!

2021 Calendar

- ◆ Gaylord House Open, Oct.3, 2-4pm or by appointment
- ◆ Fall Meeting W.H. Library, Oct. 3, 2pm
- ◆ Santa Breakfast, E.H. Fire House December 11, 8:00 am—11am