



The Chronicler

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

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HartlandHistoricalSociety.com

Spring Edition 2021

Spring Membership Meeting will be held May 20, 2021 (Officers, Directors, Committees only)
Gaylord House Open for Visitors—Blueberry Picnic, Fall Meeting & Santa Breakfast will be held



Santa makes it to Hartland—Pandemic and All!!
Along with a successful Pancake Breakfast—
Thank You One and All!!

By Monica Cegelka



A novel coronavirus called for a novel way to hold the annual Hartland Historical Society Santa Breakfast. Many hours of planning and preparation went into our Drive-Thru and Pick-up Santa Breakfast on Saturday, December 12, 2020. We always knew that the Hartland community would come through for our biggest fundraiser of the year, even if our customers needed to adapt to some changes. Four decorated door stops among the Hartland School and the East Hartland Firehouse were needed for each car to complete the process of ordering freshly made pancakes with homemade maple syrup, sausage, orange juice, coffee and tickets for our gift card raffle. The fifth stop at Town Hall was by far the most important, because Santa Claus was in attendance at the breakfast waiting, at a CDC approved physical distance, to hear the Christmas wishes of Hartland's boys and girls. Santa looked very dapper with his face shield covering his long white beard as he posed for their photos with him. For those who wanted to be certain that Santa remembered their requests, a mailbox with air express delivery to the North Pole was available for the children who wrote letters to Santa. Someone reported that Santa even replied to the letters! Both student elves and adult volunteers managed their stations and spread holiday cheer as the carols rang out in the parking lot of the town complex, grateful to live in our special little town. The Hartland Historical Society wishes to thank the following big-hearted volunteers who put the



heart in Hartland:



- Hartland & High School Students:** Caleb Battistoni, Abigail Bennett, Evan Ferrari, Lily Napierata, Caylee Olsen, Kaley Ouellette, Julian & Anna Leigh Seidman, AJ Viksne and Abby Wutka
- HHS Supporters:** Sherice Bennett, Carol Evonsion, Lee Levin, Elise Lindgren, Dean Nicholson, Mandy Nurge, April Seidman, Enos & Laura Stevens, Peter Stred and Sheri Thomas
- HHS Officers/Committee:** Terri Atwood, Monica & Jack Cegelka, Joanne & Bud Groth, Cece & Tim Kendrick, Megan Lindgren, Kip Mentzer, George Ryan, Randy Struckus & Laurie Guptill

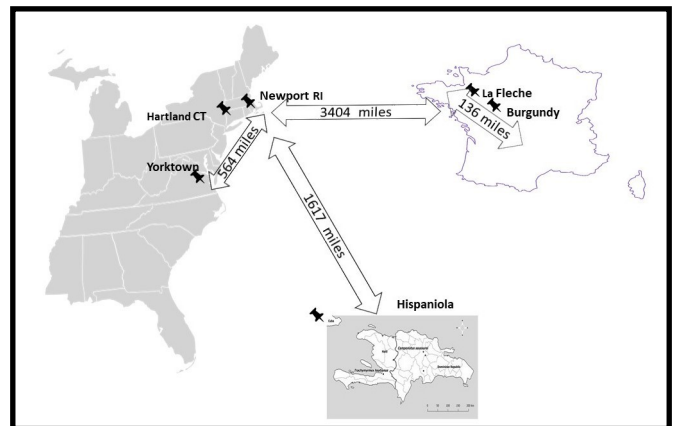
Hamilton to Hartland—The Revolutionary War

By Terri Atwood

The blockbuster Broadway show turned hit movie “Hamilton” re-introduced key players in American history to the public and put a focus on French support of the American colonies during the Revolutionary War. The Marquis de Lafayette, along with his countrymen including the Comte de Rochambeau (“code name – Rochambeau” referenced in the play during the battle of Yorktown), played key roles in America’s success against the British, along with the significant arms, ammunition, and troops provided by France. We can carry those French ties to revolutionary success directly back here to Hartland, Connecticut.

This is a story of two French families establishing lives in the new Colonial world, supporting America in our fight for freedom, and traveling to northwest Connecticut and making Hartland their home. The first story starts with **Peter Ganyard** (also known as Pierre Ganaïrd or Gaignard), born in La Fleche, Sarthe, France in 1734. Peter was brought to America by his brother James, a sea captain, to be educated as a Catholic priest. After he was left at school in Maryland, he had a change of heart and was later heard from in Boston, Massachusetts working as a cobbler, having lost touch with his brother during this time. There is a story documented by the family that a sailor came in wanting his shoes repaired, and that the owner of that ship proved to be his brother, James. Peter sent a letter in English back with the sailor, who upon his next trip, brought a reply reproaching Peter for forgetting his mother tongue and bringing his parents to an untimely grave through worry about his disappearance when they thought him dead. As the brothers reconnected, Peter took his family to the island of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) where his brother may have been the governor (his exact position on the island is unconfirmed), and was given a position as head superintendent on a plantation owned by James. Prior to the trip, Peter had married Esther Merritt of Killingworth, CT. Some history of Esther’s family notes that her father, James Merritt, may have also been known as Jaques Maurice with ties to France through his father or grandfather. Peter and Esther did not enjoy life on the island, with family notes saying he did not prove to be a very energetic supervising officer, and that many of the practices connected to slavery there were abhorrent to him and his wife. The family with their children moved back to America, and it is believed at this time they established themselves in Hartland. Peter and Esther had 11 children, the last two born in Hartland. Most of the children married into Hartland families, and **Mary, their third daughter (b. 1765 in Killingworth, CT) ties to the next French family.**

Charles Trunkey, born Charles Nicholas Tronquet in Burgundy, France in 1760, had a difficult childhood; his father died before his birth, and his mother passed when he was just seven years old. His sister “Babby” raised him and family lore credits her with red hair and a terrible temper. This probably contributed to his decision to join the French army at age seventeen. In the army, Charles came to America with Count Rochambeau as part of the support provided by the French for the American Revolution. He and his brother Etienne belonged to the Auxonne Artillery Regiment of Rumigny. The French troops landed in Newport, Rhode Island, and marched across Connecticut to join George Washington’s forces in New York, and then the combined armies marched overland to Virginia. On September 2, 1781, Charles, as part of the French forces, fought in the Battle of Yorktown. The battle ended with the surrender of General Cornwallis on October 19.



In addition to thousands of troops, the Treaty of Alliance in 1778 with France included supplying the revolutionary army with more than one hundred thousand arms and countless amounts of ammunition. The **Charleville musket** (manufactured by R.D Charleville in France) was an upgrade to the “Brown Bess” musket used in the colonies at that time. The musket became so widely used that that when the U.S. began to manufacture army muskets, the first model from the arsenal in Springfield (MA) in 1795 was an exact copy of the 1766 Charleville musket. **See story in this newsletter that has Hartland ties to a Charleville musket.**

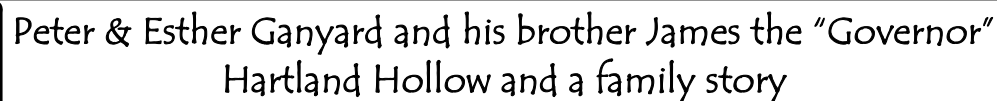
After the surrender at Yorktown, many French soldiers wished to stay in America, although this would have been considered de-

sersion from the army. Charles Trunkey was part of a guard of twelve men given permission to be absent over one roll call; during this time they marched out of town and decided to separate and each one to look after himself. Charles ended up in Connecticut, and asking about French families, took refuge with the Peter Ganyard family in Hartland. In 1783, Charles married Mary Ganyard (Peter's daughter) in Hartland, and in 1784, purchased their first property in East Hartland.

Charles and Mary had 10 children, five sons, and five daughters, all born in Hartland (area of today's Pine Street). At some point in time, the French "Tronquet" name became the Americanized "Trunkey", and all of their children were known by this last name. Most of the Trunkey family children followed the emigration from Connecticut to the Western Reserve in Ohio. One of the children, who did not move to Ohio, has a tragic story. Maria Trunkey, daughter of Charles and Mary, married Lester (known as Harvey) Moore of Hartland. The Moore's purchased papers of an indentured girl in 1842 – Susan Rice, aged 6. Within a year of the indenture, which was to have lasted until Susan turned 18, Maria beat Susan to death with a branch of a thornbush, for which she was tried and convicted of murder and sent to the Wethersfield (CT) state prison. Family notes document this story shared by Azariah Stebbins in 1850 at Maria's funeral: "Well, she set fire to a barn once and got clear of that; then murdered a child, got into States Prison and got out of that; but they have got her into a hole now where she will stay." Of local interest - Harvey Moore was the son of Rideout Moore who owned a tavern in Hartland, and this house (tavern) still stands today at the corner of Route 20 and Route 181 in West Hartland.

Charles Trunkey died in 1825 and is buried in the East Hartland cemetery. Upon his death Mary moved west to Vernon, Ohio and lived with her son Harvey until her death in 1853. Mary Trunkey Smith (daughter of Charles and Mary) honored her French ancestry and her new American heritage by naming one of her sons Samuel Trunkey Smith, and another Charles Tronquet Smith.

There is a famous line in the Hamilton play that always gets a rousing response from the audience – "Immigrants – we get the job done". This story of two French immigrants making their way from what they've known, traveling across the ocean, fighting for American independence, and building their families and lives here in Hartland is a uniquely American story.



Peter & Esther Ganyard and his brother James the "Governor" Hartland Hollow and a family story

Their property was in the Hollow, what is now the Barkhamsted Reservoir

Looking at the Town of Hartland Land Deed registry Peter's first Hartland land purchase was 13 acres in 1781. In 1785 he sold this property and obtained 240 acres from his brother James. It is also documented that James bought and sold properties in Hartland and in 1795 left a deed instructing what he owned to go to Peter & Esther and then to their sons. Peter or Esther also bought and sold properties with the last transaction in 1804 of 320 acres. Peter dies in 1802 with Esther in 1804 and they are buried in Hartland. Here is part of a story handed down and told by Festus Ganyard (1791-1868), a grandson of Peter & Esther that tells of Peter, gives a description of their property and speaks of the last items of this time that someone in the family may still possess.

"Peter Ganyard was one of those mild, easy tempered men, reserved in all his dealings, prudent in his conversation, much given to his books, a good scholar in French and a tolerable scholar in English. He would read and write both fluently. On Peter's return [from Hispaniola], he went to Hartland, Connecticut, and bought a farm. The farm was under good improvement, two large orchards, a large two-story house, barns, sheds, a spring of water running past the door; a stream, called the 'Little River', a branch of the Farmington, ran through the farm with plenty of speckled trout and the Green Mountains looming up at the East and West with oaks, hemlocks and ivies in abundance. The intervalle lands are first rate, and the mountains will hold the world together....

The Governors (Peter's brother James) cane and coat were brought to America by my grandfather [Peter] the last time he went to San Domingo (Hispaniola). The cane had a gold head of an apple shape, and as he wanted something to give the Methodist Preachers he took the cane to Hartford and sold the head for ten dollars and gave it to the Preachers and hid the cane, it was not found until after his death and then it was sent to my father in the state of New York and from there it was brought to Ohio, it now is owned by my brother James. The Bible and the cane are the only things now in existence."

A Revolutionary War Charleville Musket treasured at the Gaylord House

Read the Hamilton to Hartland article herein for musket's relevance to the war

The Hartland Historical Society was gifted what is believed to be an authentic French-made Charleville musket. Research by Fred Crunden (d.1971), an antique collector, shows it to have been owned by Jonathan Rice, who fought in the Revolutionary War which was from 1775-1783. Through Ancestry we see he served as a private in the Connecticut Regiment in 1779 and the 2nd Regiment in 1780. Listed in the Hartland History book by Stanley Ransom we see him included in the list of 359 Hartland men who served. One could imagine he brought this musket back home and it was kept and possibly used by the family for many years. The family member that seems to have had it last was Mary A. Rice who is listed in the 1880 Federal Censuses as living in Granville, MA along with one Elisha Mallison who is listed as a servant, carpenter. Now, Elisha owned property in Hartland starting in 1863 and was first married to Emeline Gillett. Sometime after 1880 Mary Rice becomes Elisha's second wife and they purchase property in Hartland in 1890. The musket must have come with them as it now has the initials E.M. etched on the butt. Elisha dies in 1895 with Mary in 1901 and are buried in Hartland. After Elisha's passing Mary lives with his son George (1st marriage) and he sells the musket to Frank Case in 1898. This makes it 119 years that it was kept in the Rice family. Frank D. Case (d. 1957, age 91) was a notable artifacts contributor to the Hartland Historical Society along with David N. Gaines (d.1941, age 87) being our notable historian. This musket was presented to the HHS in 1957 by David's son Charles H. Gaines and is proudly on display at the Gaylord House Museum -now 242 years since Jonathan's service in the war.

Small Pox epidemic occurs during Revolutionary war time. George Washington fights it on a large scale, inoculating 40,000 soldiers in 1777, even though it was prohibited. History of Hartland book notes "the matter of inoculation was just coming into practice and there were some who doubted the effectiveness of this system. The only way to settle was to have a town meeting, which they did on Feb. 3, 1783. It was voted that the inoculation for the small pox might be set up in this town, voted that Dr. Emmons (East Hartland's first doctor) was to have the liberty to set up a pest house and voted that the Selectmen give direction as to what restrictions those who take the infection for small pox shall be under. Then again at a town meeting Dec. 1784 it was voted that Dr. Emmons should stop inoculations from this time forward. Three smallpox deaths were recorded; A. Sanders 1784, Kellogg father and son 1785.

Gaylord House Museum Gets Needed Care

Ongoing maintenance is required for "antique" homes like the Gaylord House Museum. In addition to normal upkeep, the hail storm in May 2019 caused roof damage that needed repair, and the house also badly needed a new coat of paint, which had been on a worklist while funding was in progress. With the Covid safety measures keeping us from large gatherings in 2020 it was a perfect time to get things done. Your donations, along with a substantial anonymous donation and insurance coverage allowed us to make great progress. With the support of Bud Groth, Stan Karoliszym, Josh Hackett of Hartland Homes and Kip Mentzer the Gaylord House now has new roof shingles and a new coat of paint along with several boards being replaced and minor window and door frame repairs done.

To finish off the year at the museum HHS voted to plant two blueberry bushes with a sign commemorating our annual blueberry picnic that we were unable to hold in 2020. The bushes were planted, then a fierce wind took down the flag pole where it landed right between the newly planted bushes! Yikes! Kip Mentzer came to the rescue with repairs, resulting in a bit shorter flagpole. Today the daffodils, blueberry bushes, commemorative sign and flag make a lovely focal point for the museum.



Gaylord House – Did You Know?

**Following excerpt from
“A Portrait of Elias Gilman,
1816-1887, and the
Greek Revival Style in Hartland by
Karen McNulty, Librarian,
Wadsworth Athenaeum 1988.
Karen is a Hartland resident and a
supporter of HHS since 1987**

“It is no coincidence that in the year noted architect Asher Benjamin’s death, 1845, architect and wagon-maker Elias E. Gilman designed and built a Greek revival home in Hartland which we know today as the Gaylord House. It is certain that Gilman highly regarded Asher Benjamin’s accomplishments in the field of architecture, both being natives of Hartland, of Connecticut and of New England. The Gaylord House is a magnificent tribute to Benjamin’s zeal for the Greek revival style and a prominent testimony to American domestic architecture during the interval from 1830-1850, when Greek revival became the “National” style.

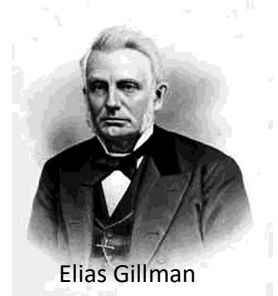
In contrast to Benjamin, Gilman found the elaborative and decorative details of the style –such as columns, capitals and full-height or full-façade entry porches – to be inappropriate to the character of the community. He scaled down the embellishments, envisioning a home current to popular standards yet complimentary to the simplicity of local architecture and the rustic mode of living. Because the principal industry in Hartland in 1845 was agriculture and because of Gilman’s wagon-making trade, functionality preceded adornment”



Built 1805 by J. Ensign, Gilman home 1850 and stands today at 192 Center St., W. Hartland, photo 2021

Notable Architect and Hartland Native Built 1845 home now known as the Gaylord House Museum

Gilman’s son leaves mark in Hartland and Winsted - Epaphras and Hannah Clark Gilman came from East Hartford and purchased 46 acres in 1776, built a home and raised their family. This house was located south of the Gaylord House and was torn down in 1850. Epaphras served for Hartland in the Revolutionary war as a private and town records show him as an inn keeper. Capt. George Clark Gilman, one of their sons, owned the home-stead 1815-1843 and raised a family of six with his wife, Hartland native Sarah Blakeslee. George and Sarah’s third child Elias E. was a wagon-maker and noted architect. He lived on Center Street in West Hartland in 1838, just south of the 2nd Congregational Church in the 1760s house built by Hartland first settler E. Ensign. Elias sold this to his brother Deacon Samuel in 1845 and built a new house there in 1852. This property remained in the Gilman family until 1881 (43 years). Thereafter Dean, Foster and lastly Swenson owned this house until a fire in 1965 ended it’s 113 years of providing shelter. The house next door was built by E. Ensign’s son Joel in 1805 and became a Gilman home in 1850 and still stands today (see photo below). Elias was thirty years old when he sold his property and wagon making business in 1845 to his brother Samuel. Records show that it was this same year that he designed and built the house that we now know as the Gaylord House Museum (see sidebar). His brother Chester had built his home next door on the site of a 1790 house just 3 years before, which is now ruins and the property of MDC. The ownership of these homes stayed with family relations until the 1880s. Elias moved to Winsted in 1854 where he founded the Gilman Carriage Company. He designed and built his company’s building and two others and possibly his own home on Main Street. He also became a banker and real estate broker, a state representative in 1866 and probate judge from 1871 to about 1882, leaving this world at the age of 71. (Photo below of still standing buildings on Main Street, Winsted)



Elias Gillman



70-72 (1872) & 66-68 (1866) Main St., Winsted, Designed & constructed by Elias Gilman. Photo 2021



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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

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Officers

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

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Therese Gundersen
Laura Guptill
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Tim Kendrick
Hubie Parmelee
Randy Struckus

AmazonSmile

Choose Hartland Historical Society
when you shop on-line!

Mark your 2021 Calendars

- ◆ Gaylord House Open, 1st Sunday of each month 2-4pm or by appointment
- ◆ Carnival Booth, July 28-31
- ◆ Blueberry Picnic Aug. 8, 12pm
- ◆ Fall Meeting W.H. Library, Oct. 3, 2-4pm
- ◆ Santa Breakfast, E.H. Fire House December 11, 8:00 am—11am