



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 2022

Fall Meeting and Presentation

THE UNLIKELY LEGEND AND AMAZING HISTORY OF THE CHARTER OAK A REVEALING NEW LOOK AT CONNECTICUT'S OLDEST AND MOST ICONIC LEGEND

STATE HISTORIAN EMERITUS WALT WOODWARD DUG DEEP INTO THIS TIME-HONORED TALE, AND OFFERS A NEW, TRUE, AND SOMETIMES AMUSING LOOK INTO THE AMAZING THREE-CENTURY-PLUS HISTORY BEHIND THIS FOUNDATIONAL LEGEND.

OCT.

ALL WELCOME—MEMBER AND NON-MEMBERS

2 October 2022

Refreshments

2022

2:00 PM

Free

Hartland Public Library

West Hartland

Hartland Historical Society to Launch Updated Website by Terri Atwood

The Hartland Historical Society volunteer Board, in addition to discovering and preserving Hartland history, maintaining and running our Gaylord House museum, and many other research and collaborative projects, had a goal of improving our digital presence and online availability to Hartland history. We were fortunate this year to receive a grant from the CT Humanities (CTH) (with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature). Part of that grant was used to create a new website, with many new features, including search capabilities, a photo gallery, access to past newsletters, and an online payment option for donations.

With heightened interests in genealogy research, and access to online material, we hope you will take some time to review our new website, and let us know what else you might find interesting or helpful as we continue to add content.

As always, if you have some time to volunteer a few hours, or would like to take on a larger role with our all-volunteer group, we'd love to hear from you; you can see what volunteer opportunities are available and contact us via the new website. We thank you all for your support and interest.

You can access our website at the same URL as always - <http://hartlandhistoricalsociety.com/> **Look for us in OCTOBER**

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Blueberry Picnic 2022

The HHS Blueberry Picnic on August 14, 2022 brought family, friends and neighbors together to share stories about weddings, wedding dresses, Wade Cole, Hartland early settlers and the Crunden Family Homestead. Many attendees declared the Wedding Dresses 1851- 1980s Exhibit at the Gaylord House a must see!



Here are just a few of the dresses on display until June 2023:

1851, 1920, 1956 Ransom Family—Dresses worn by a “Charlotte” (see photo)

1930s & 1960s Mother and daughter dresses (4 sets)

1947 Wedding gown made from World War II Parachute

1979 Wedding dress on the cover of “Bride” Magazine

Historical Society receives Herbert T. Crunden painting

The house in this painting was built by George Treat sometime after 1780 and was located in West Hartland on Stillman Road Ext. The painting was done in 1903, the year that Herbert T. Crunden purchased the property. The artist was Paul Soderstrom, brother-in-law of Herbert. Paul was married to Herbert’s sister, Florence. Paul & Florence lived in NY as did Herbert in 1903. The house was last occupied in 1909 by Herbert, his wife Edythe and two children born there- daughter Marjorie, born in 1908 and son Frederick, born in 1909.



HHS received this donation from Vera Crunden Hadad. Vera’s father was Herbert and Edythe’s son, Frederick James. The painting was passed down to Frederick, then to his son Raymond. When Raymond moved to CA in 1981 it came into the possession of his sister Vera, who remembers it on the wall of her childhood home in Fairfield, CT. It had adorned her home since 1981. Vera had this painting restored and with great pleasure passed this Crunden family and Hartland treasure to the Hartland Historical Society at its Blueberry Picnic August 14, 2022

Herbert T. Crunden Homestead by Joanne Groth

The following history of the property on both Stillman Road and Herbert’s family and second home on Mill Street, W. Hartland is both paraphrased and quoted from various local historical resources.

STILMAN RD: “Daniel Steel was the original proprietor of lot 32 containing 191 acres. Elkanah Fox, who was born in New London, CT then living in East Haddam, Ct purchased on May 11, 1769, at the age of 40, 90 acres of lot 32. In 1770 we find from the Land deed recorded in Book 1 – page 45 - It states that for the consideration of 45 pounds (\$54.41 today) he becomes the owner of Lot 32 – location 3rd division – Hartland, CT. Elkanah built a house, opened a blacksmith shop, harvested a crop of corn, and paid his local taxes. He and his wife were parents to 8 children, losing one in 1773.

In 1776 Elkanah age 46, his wife Mariam (Hayes) age 42, and their son Elkanah, Jr a newborn died. Although the cause of their deaths are not stated, it is safe to say that it was an epidemic of Small Pox. The remaining children were separated and went through the process of selecting a guardian, all being neighbors. David Fox, Jr brother to Elkanah, Joseph Brace, Samuel Borden and Daniel Seward opened up their hearts and accepted Elkanah and Mariam's children into their homes.

About 1780, the heirs of Eklanah Fox convey same property to George Treat and he builds a new house. No mention of what happened to Eklanah's house. It is stated that George Treat is in the house that he built in 1810. Upon his death in 1826, it descended to his son, George, who died in 1838. In 1846, heirs of Treat sell to Zelotes Gillette. In 1850 Gillette to Henry Tyrell. Home to John Babbitt 1855. In 1865 or 1875 Tyrell sells to Elisha Mallison this property along with sites No. 88a and No. 89a on the Tiffany/Gaines map, making it 300 acres for \$1,200. Mallison sells to Jule Feley. Feley sells to Herbert T. Crunden in 1903 for \$1,100. (see photo). Six years later in 1909, property now 400 acres, Herbert sells to Thomas Howell for double the amount. In the deed Mr. Crunden reserves the 'right to occupy the dwelling house and the right to remove my livestock, and other movable personal property until Nov. 15, 1909 with the further privilege of removing any hay that I may have in the barns on or before Jan. 1, 1910'. By the 1920s the house had fallen down and at some point Howell sells to State Park & Forest Commission."

Stanley Ransom says of this farm, "This must have been one of the nicest farms in the northwest section in its day. The house was a gambrel roof type and I remember it well as a boy."

Selectman Wade Cole's Memorial Bench Tied to Herbert T. Crunden Homestead

The stones and step stone from the Herbert and Edythe Crunden homestead built on Stillman Rd. Ext., West Hartland CT sometime after 1780 were obtained by their son Frederick, possibly in the 1930's. Fred brought them to his home in Fairfield where they stayed until his passing in 1971. At that time his brother Paul, a lifelong resident of West Hartland and a mason, brought the stones and step stone to his daughter Joan and husband George Winegar's West Hartland home. They then travelled to Simsbury in 2010 when Joan and George moved in with their daughter Heather. As far as it is known, the stones were always used as a bench. (It is well known that the Crunden boys loved stone! They would stop while traveling if an unusual stone caught their eye to investigate, appreciate and decide if they could use it.)



These same stones and step stone were donated by the descendants of Herbert & Edythe Crunden for the memorial bench in memory of Wade Evan Cole. The dedication was held on May 22, 2022 at the West Hartland Cemetery. What a wonderful Crunden legacy and honor has been bestowed to our beloved selectman Wade.

Who was Herbert T. Crunden?

Family Name	Given Name or Name		
CRUNDEN	HERBERT THOMAS		
Title and Location of Dept.			
SHERIFFS COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY			
Date of Naturalization	Volume Number	Page No.	Order of Record No.
AUG-9-1899	121	-	35
Address of Naturalized Person			
25 HANCOCK PLACE			
Occupation	Birth Date or Age	Former Nationality	
BICYCLE MFR	1874	NONE OTHER SIDE	
Part of Arrival in the United States		Date of Arrival	
N.Y.C.		1892	
Name, Address and Occupations of witnesses to Naturalization			
1 THOMAS SHRELOW-624 COLUMBUS AVE			
2 COUSIN MERCHANT			

Herbert Thomas Crunden came to the U.S.A. from England June of 1892, at the age of 18. He opened a bicycle shop in NYC, N.Y. and stated on his naturalization card that he was a bicycle mfr. When visiting friends in West Hartland in the early 1900s, possibly the Donohues, who lived on Whisker Hollow, Herbert T. fell in love with the country side and purchased the farm on Stillman Rd. Ext. in 1903.

He married Kate Elizabeth Berryman of NY in 1897. Their first child was Adelaide born 1898 in NY. A second child,

Florence Kate, is born in 1899 but both Kate and baby Florence died shortly after birth. Herbert purchased the property on Stillman Rd. Ext, West Hartland in 1903 and most likely came here on vacation or get-a-ways with family and friends as he was still working and living in New York. It is in 1903 that his brother in-law Paul Soderstrom did a painting of this homestead. Herbert married Edythe Saunders Birkins on April 14, 1906 in Manhattan, and it is said that Herbert helped her financially to obtain a divorce. The year that he and Edythe moved to West Hartland is uncertain, but it is known that their first child Marjorie was born here in 1908, with the second, Frederick, in 1909. *(photo to right of Herbert & Edythe in Hartland 1905)*



MILL STREET: “After selling his Stillman Road property in 1909 to Thomas Howell, Herbert purchases a house and property, No. 141 on the Tiffany/Gaines map, from Jane Osborn, wife of Orton B. French in 1909 on what we know today as Mill Street. Original proprietor was Rev. Samuel Woodbridge, No. 25, middle tier, at west end, to his heir Rev. Timothy Woodbridge. In 1786 this land of 100 acres or more was sold to Silas Hayes for taxes against Charles Cadwell. In 1791 Hannah Cadwell sells to Phineas Holcomb and Phineas builds house and occupies until 1795 (part of house standing 2022), when he sold land and house to Samuel Barber. Barber sells to Samuel and Paul Parson. In 1818 Parsons sells to Calvin, son of Samuel Barber, 103 acres, house and shop, for \$2,070. In 1832, Calvin sells to his brother Francis who sells in 1836 to John Green. About 1858, Truman Osborn traded his farm and house No. 154, to Green for No. 141 plus \$1,000. Truman dies here in 1864 at the age of 89. Property goes to widow, Orpha (second wife), to Flavel Merriam and then to Jane E. French (daughter of Truman & Orpha Osborn) in 1874. 25 years later it is sold to Herbert T. Crunden “deed states property known as the Orton B. French Place”

It is in this house at 51 Mill Street that Herbert and Edythe have their next 8 children; Herbert T., Vera F., George



R., Clayton E. Paul H., Warren A., Phyllis C. and Clarissa A. Clarissa is born May, 1924 and that following year on Jan. 19, 1925 Herbert dies at the early age of 50. There are 11 children to raise - Edythe remarries 7 years later to Henry Joseph LeMire in Millerton, NY in 1932. Lands records show that Edythe B. Lemire sells to Henry in 1932 with notation “a valuable sum in dollars and for the further consideration that the Grantee herein is to supply me with proper support care and maintenance and to supply proper support schooling and maintenance to my four children, Paul-Warren-Phyllis and Clarissa until they respectively arrive at the age

of 16”. Both their names are on the deed. A 1935 & 1940 census shows them living in Winsted, listing only the daughter Clarissa. The Hartland property and house are then sold to Gus W. Durst then to his widow Annie and children. Looks to be that in the 1950’s some of the property is sold by Annie or Ralph Durst to the Metropolitan District. Durst sells property and house to Nicholas and Lucy Bosco. Bosco splits up the property selling this house and some acreage to Richard Caine in 1972, he to his son Richard and Donna Graham in 2000 to James Parrott & Melanie Gibson in 2007, with the latest owner Karin Lawrence in 2021, who is in the process of doing updating renovations.”

What became of the children of Herbert and Edythe?

“Adalaide from first marriage, married, lived and is buried in CA, age 84; **Marjorie, married Hartland born Laurence Ransom**, lived in Meriden CT, buried in Winsted, age 79; Frederick married lived and buried Fairfield CT, age 61; Herbert married, lived in Redding, CT then to Falls River, MA where he ran a tree farm and is buried, age 90; Vera dies at the age of 14, buried Winsted; **George married Hartland born Pauline Emerick, lived and is buried in Hartland**, age 42; **Clayton married, lived in Hartland** then moves to New York state and runs a farm, buried in Win-

sted, age 81; **Paul married, lived and buried in Hartland**, age 84; Warren was a soldier of war, dies at 39 at the Veterans Hospital, buried Winsted; Phyllis married, lived in Winsted and Riverton, buried Pleasant Valley, age 75; Clarissa married, was a nurse, lived and buried in Simsbury, age 97. Of note brothers George, Clayton & Paul were partners in a building construction business, for a time, under the name The Crunden Brothers here in Hartland."

Paul was the instrumental "project manager" in the renovation of the Gaylord House that the Hartland Historical Society calls home and its museum of Hartland artifacts. Many family members contributed to this Hartland Historical Society project and continue to do so through sharing family history, volunteering, membership and donations.

Memory of Jack Roarke's Christmas Tree Farm by Joan Roarke Carew

A great delight for my twin brother Jack was selling Christmas trees at "Roarke's Tree Farm" on Route 179 in East Hartland. He had an old expensive camera that required rolls of film, not an instamatic and definitely no "selfies"!! Jack would take a picture of the family and their tree in front of the Red Barn that our sons, John and Mike built for their uncle. He had a pad and would take down the number on the film and write in the name address and something significant with each photo, ie: five people, little girl with pink snowsuit. He had many rolls of film and by the following fall they were all developed and the pictures matched to the list. His wife Pat would make a Christmas card and each photo was pasted to the front of a card with a greeting inside: "It is time to get your Christmas tree". He would bring all these cards to the Post Office and mail them out to arrive just after Thanksgiving. He was open each weekend from then until Christmas.

Photo: Christmas Card from Jack & Family to Joan and husband John



Patrons were treated to walking the fields to tag or cut their unique tree and bring it to the barn. In the barn there would be a fire from the wood stove we had in our grandparents' living room at one time, hot coffee, hot chocolate and cookies for the children and a lovely Christmas tree with beautiful ornaments Pat made for the moms. There was a lot of activity there, truly a Currier and Ives moment. Jack just loved it!!

Of interest: Jack and Joan along with their sister Gail are direct descendants, on their mother's side, of the Bates family who came to Hartland around 1795.

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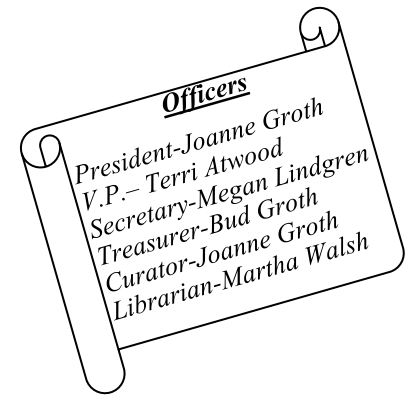
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The Hartland Historical Society's mission is to discover, procure and preserve whatever historical facts may be available relating to the civil, military, literary, cultural, and ecclesiastical history of the town of Hartland; and to investigate and 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
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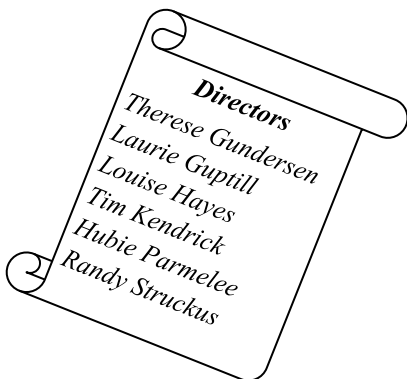
In This Issue

- ◇ **October 2nd Presentation, 2pm, W.H. Library**
The Unlikely Legend and Amazing History of the Charter Oak by State Historian Walt Woodward
- ◇ **HHS to launch updated Website in October**
- ◇ **Herbert T. & Edythe Crunden legacy—Painting, Step Stone, homesteads, family**
- ◇ **Memory of Jack Roarke Christmas Tree Farm**



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2022 Calendar

- ◆ Gaylor House Open
Oct. 2, 2-5pm
- ◆ Fall Meeting W.H. Library,
Oct. 2, 2-4pm
- ◆ Santa Breakfast, E.H. Fire House
December 10, 8:00 am—11am