



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 2023

Start the Memorial Weekend off with some Hartland History
Join us at our Spring Meeting and Presentation

**AFTER A BRIEF MEETING MARTY PODSKOCH AN AUTHOR AND HISTORION WILL
GIVE A POWER POINT PRESENTATION ON**

**The 90th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps:
It's History & Work in CT, noting Hartland's Camp Robinson**

**May
2023**

ALL WELCOME—MEMBER AND NON-MEMBERS

26 May 2023, Friday

Refreshments

7:00 PM

Free

Town Hall

East Hartland

HERE IS an aerial view of Camp Robinson in East Hartland during the summer of 1933 when the young enrollees lived in Army tents. By the fall wooden barracks were built and other buildings were constructed. The camp was located on Rt. 20 on North Hollow Rd. where the present State Highway Maintenance garage and facilities are. The camp operated for eight years and closed in July 1941. *CT CCC Museum*



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Hartland "National Parks" By Jerry Zimmerman

Our National Park Service is steward to some of America's greatest treasures, including the Grand Canyon and the State of Liberty. But the park service also has an official list of historic places called the National Register of Historic Place that are significantly worthy of preservation. Two of these places are in Hartland.

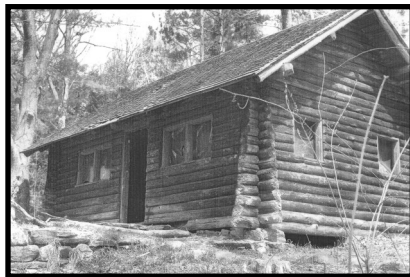
It all began with the Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp Robinson in East Hartland. It was part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal to help young unemployed, unmarried men during the Great Depression. These men built trails, infrastructure and buildings all across the nation.

In Hartland, the first was the Tunxis State Forest Headquarters House in 1936. One of the few surviving houses built by the CCC, it was the administration building for Camp Robinson. The 1 1/2 story timber frame rustic structure with the end walls made of fieldstone measures 40 by 20. Inside there was a living room and kitchen downstairs and upstairs there were 3 bedrooms and a bathroom.

After the CCC program ended, the house became the residence of Tunxis State Forest's local forester until 1948. Then it was a private residence until 1974. After being vacant for a number of years it became part of the Wilderness School, a state-run program for at risk youth. We all have gone past this property on Pell Road (Route 20) on our way to and from East Hartland Center. *Headquarters photo 1985*



Building two, located on Balance Rock Road, is the familiar Tunxis Forest Ski Cabin built in 1937. The impetus came about during the time when men at Camp Robinson began cutting ski trails and a downhill ski slope. *Ski slope photo*



This 17 by 25-foot log structure with dove-tailed corners is one of the few surviving ski-related structures built by the **Civilian Conservation Corps**.

The roof extends to an overhang. Inside is a large stone fireplace that kept skiers warm. Culverts and retaining walls around the ski cabin also survive. The cabin is now on private property. Both the CCC headquarters and the ski cabin were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. *Cabin photo 1985*



The National Park Service also looks after the Farmington River, which is a National Wild and Scenic River. Federally designated in 1994 and measuring 14 miles, another 1.1 miles were included 2019, making this scenic section of the Connecticut River's longest tributary, just over 15 miles. The designation begins at Goodwin Dam to the confluence on the Farmington and Nepaug Rivers. Of that, around 1 1/2 miles are in Hartland.

This section of the Farmington is known for fishing, wildlife watching and biking or walking along the river on Hogback Road. There is a designated put-in area for canoeing and kayaking at the intersection of Hogback Road and Route 20. All land on either side is state or privately owned, the federal government only has jurisdiction over the river. In 2023-24 we look forward to a 1/2 mile walking trail presently being developed on this state land that was Hartland's Ward Family property for over 150 years. They deeded to the State in 1990. It will be reachable at the end of School Street in Riverton along the bank of the Farmington River.

While these three are not truly National Parks, we do have a couple of National Historic Sites close to Hart-

land. Weir Farm National Historic Site, Connecticut's only designated park located in Redding, explores the life of impressionist painter, J. Alden Wier. The other is Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Springfield, Massachusetts which produced arms for America from Revolutionary times to 1968 and has the largest collection of historic American firearms in the world.

The 2023 Nomination Slate will be voted on at meeting.

President, Joanne Groth, Vice President, Secretary, Megan Lindgren, Treasurer, Bud Groth; Directors: Therese Gundersen, Laurie Guphill, Louise Hayes, Tim Kendrick, Kip Mentzer, Hubie Parmelee, Randy Struckus

Apple tree at Gaylord House museum succumbs to heavy snow. The storm that swept thru Hartland in February took down many trees and power in town. We can count ourselves as one. The tree took down the houses electrical wire but we are back up and running. Ben Lovell has graciously offered to take care of clearing the tree. We look forward to him counting the rings and letting us know the age. We have some ideas of what we might do with pieces of this tree. Stay tuned...



What's new at the Gaylord House museum?

Do you have a "cottage industry"? HHS would like to know to get a read on what makes Hartland Hartland in present day. Also if you would like to get the word out, maybe we can help. Email hartlandhistorcalksociety@gmail.com and someone will be in touch to hear about you. Personal information will be kept confidential if that is what you choose.



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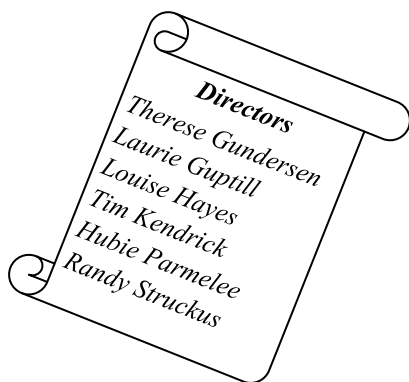
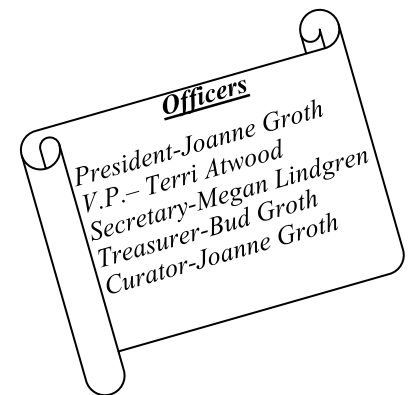
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The Hartland Historical Society's mission is to discover, procure and preserve whatever historical facts may be available relating to the civil, military, literary, cultural, and ecclesiastical history of the town of Hartland; and to investigate and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

In This Issue

- ◇ **May 26, Town Hall, 7pm Marty Podskoch presents**
The 90th Anniversary of the CCC & Its Work in CT
- ◇ **2023-24 Nomination Slate to be voted on**
- ◇ **Hartland "National Parks" & the CCC**
- ◇ **Apple Tree** at Gaylord House succumbs to heavy snow.
- ◇ **Jeopardy Game** to be introduced on Website
- ◇ **Fun Scavenger Hunts** to be introduced at Gaylord House Museum. **Bring the family!**
- ◇ **Do you have a "cottage industry"?**
- ◇ **Would you like to get involved with developing a Cemetery Tour Event?** Email: hartlandhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



2023 Calendar

- ◇ **May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6 & 13,**
Sept. 3, and Oct. 1 Gaylord House Open 2 PM
- ◇ **May 29 Memorial Day Parade, 10am**
- ◇ **July 26-29 Fire Dept Carnival, 6-9pm**
- ◇ **August 13, Blueberry Picnic, Gaylord House Museum 2-4pm**
- ◇ **Sept or Oct. fall Meeting TBD**
- ◇ **TBD Cemetery Tour Event**
- ◇ **December 9, Santa Breakfast,**
E.H. Fire House & Town Hall 8:00am-11am