

THE HARTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 297

HARTLAND, VT. 05048

www.hartlandhistory.org

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2008

HARTLAND GRAVEYARDS

With all the focus lately on the removal of the Aldrich cemetery, I thought it might be a good time to study the history of our graveyards. We have been extremely fortunate to have had surveys made at different times over the years. Stones that were present in the 1907 survey by Byron Ruggles are not always still to be found. If a stone breaks and falls over, it doesn't take long for nature to do its job of hiding it forever under leaves and grass that turn to dirt. People who are interested enough to carefully probe can sometimes find these stones and bring them back to light. The following was written by Byron Ruggles in 1907.



"To the Editor of the Standard;

During the summer of 1907 I visited all of the thirteen graveyards in town and copied the inscriptions on all of the stones I found. Some of the yards are so neglected and overrun with trees and weeds, brush, briars, vines and weeds that I am not sure that I found all of the gravestones, some being broken and down and covered with leaves and brush. Two or three of the yards are in fairly good condition. Two or three are barely passable and others are sadly neglected.

All of the yards are fenced and all but three or four with stone walls, but the walls are not all in a good state of repair. Eight of the yards have stones with dates previous to 1800, three dates at 1800 and the other two started at 1832 and 1844.

There are also from two to seven graves in each of six other places in town with eight or ten lettered stones in all of them I have been told but only a part of them can be found now. Only one of these family lots was ever fenced.

The smallest of the thirteen yards has 19 lettered stones, the next larger has 27 and the others range from 52 up to over 600 in the yard or cemetery at Hartland Village.

I found 2043 graves with stones having inscriptions and counted and estimated 431 graves that never had lettered stones.

Of the lettered stones, the oldest is the wife of Moses Barnes dated 1768. The oldest person is Grace Totman, died in 1832 aged 102 years.

Some of the inscriptions are quite short and some more elaborate. Among the later are those of Judge Elihu Luce, Dr John Harding, Griffin who was killed by the breaking down of a bridge, Elisha Gallup, the founder of the Vermont Medical College (this should be Joseph. CYM), Ephraim Carey, Peter Gilson and Granger Marcy, revolutionary patriots, and Capt. Timothy Lull, the first settler in town.

One of the shortest inscriptions reads: Frederick Remington, on a nicely polished Ascutney granite stone, and another on a marble stone is just Dr. Daniel Hall.

Some of the older gravestones are of hewed slate and soapstone, later sawed slate and soapstone, marble of five varieties, granite of eight varieties and sandstone and zinc.

On the more than two thousand stones there are 345 mottoes, quotations and items of original and selected poetry, from which I give a selection;

“She has left us to dwell with the angels on high,
She has gone to her home beyond the blue sky,
She has gone with the holy, the perfect to dwell,
She has gone and has bade us a final farewell”

Mr Ruggles has many more quotes but I would encourage you to go find your own. Beautiful fall days are a wonderful time to explore your local cemeteries and put yourself back in time. Finding a gravestone can be like opening a book to the story that lies within. The internet, the Clerks office and the Historical Society are great places to discover the life of the person you have just met. With that in mind, I decided to see what I could find out about the Aldrich family that for so many years made their home in one of the most beautiful parts of Hartland.

THE ALDRICH'S

Isaiah Aldrich was the first settler on the land that we think of as containing the Aldrich cemetery. A beautiful place on Town Farm Hill Rd, it's not hard to imagine the joy he must have felt at being able to live and work in this setting. Isaiah was the son of Noah 1, who was born in 1709 at Scituate, R.I., and he was born in Glocester, R.I. in 1749. Noah was a member of the Society of Friends at East Hoosuck, Adams, Mass. Isaiah had five children with his first wife, the

third being Noah 2, born Jan 21, 1787 in Hartland. Noah and his wife, Lydia Herrick had eleven children. Two of these children are of special interest to us but we must not forget the larger family when we imagine life on the Aldrich farm. At some point Isaiah disappeared from the Hartland scene and we don't know where he went, where he died or is buried. He was listed on a school list in 1823 as a head of a family, along with Noah for five students in the 11th School District. Isaiah did have a second wife and maybe they moved out of Hartland. At any rate, Noah stayed in Hartland and is listed on the school list of 1827 as having five school age children and in 1831 with four. His daughter, Rebecca appears to have owned the next farm up Town Farm Rd. with her husband, Jude Adams. In 1831 they are listed as having 1 school age child. Staying also in Hartland was his son Lorenzo who was born in 1817 and married Sarah Strank of Hartland in 1840. It seems that he most likely stayed on the farm settled by his grandfather and occupied by his father and mother.

Noah Aldrich 2 died Jan 15, 1848 AE 61. As they would not have been able to bury him in Jan. the gathering on the hill would have been at a later date, but as far as we know, his was the first Aldrich body to occupy that hallowed ground. There are three unmarked stones that we will never know the story of. They may be the bodies of still born children or they may not be Aldrichs at all. Perhaps someone who worked for them or someone they had taken in out of charity. The gathering for Noah 2 would have been substantial. Not counting friends, there was a large family in the area. How I would love to have a diary entry from that time, but unfortunately we have none that go back that far. The family provided Noah with a substantial stone and this verse,

“Unveil thy bosom faithful tomb,
Take this new treasure to thy trust,
And give these sacred relics room,
To seek a slumber in the dust”

Imagine the sadness, two years later when two small daughters of Lorenzo died on March 28 and March 29, 1850. I have heard that they died from smallpox but can't seem to verify that. One of the problems in research is that you get different information from different sources. I have 3 names for their mother. I have a genealogy listing her as Louisa, marriage record as Sarah and the gravestone says Laura. These were children # 3 and 5 in the Lorenzo Aldrich family. They eventually have nine children. There is also a fine stone for these children and the verse,

“We have wandered to regions more glorious far,
Mid flowers that never decay;
Unto him who did bless and receive such as thee
Bright spirits ye've soared away”

Moving on to the census of 1850 we find Jude and Rebecca living as neighbors of Lorenzo and Laura (Laura in the census) with 12 members in their household, including Lydia, widow of Noah and 2 of Noah and Lydia's children . Also two young Adams boys and a 77 year old woman that we know nothing about, as well as four individuals in their 20s. Hired help?? I

wanted to make this out to be the poor farm but that didn't happen until 1870. More mysteries.

Lydia dies in 1852. She is 61 when she joins her husband and grandchildren. It is June so the burial would have been prompt. The top of a hill in Vermont in June. How much closer to heaven can you get?? How they must have loved that land and that hilltop. Lydia's stone got knocked over, broken and buried. However we do know its location and were able to expose the name Lydia with careful probing and hand digging. We know from Byron Ruggles that her verse is:

"Our Mother
Now gone from earth and it's cares
To realms of bliss above
From grief and pain and trouble here
To meet a Saviour's love"

In December of 1853 Jude Adams and Rebecca Aldrich Adams sold the Aldrich farm. All the lands were sold with the exception of the area designated as the "burying ground". It was never intended that that special parcel ever be anything but a place for the dead to rest. The members of the Aldrich family never appear in a census of Hartland again but I must admit that I did not follow married children, particularly daughters, to see what paths they may have taken.

It is my understanding that many family members relocated in Illinois.

My thanks to Clyde Jenne, Hartland Town Clerk, Lori Bullock Sullivan, an Aldrich descendant from Burlington, Vt., Diane Bibby's sister Hazel for a D.A.R. Descendants Database Search, Arthur Peale from West Hartford, a specialist in gravestone repair and cleaning and member of V.O.C.A. and our own records here at the Historical Society.

Carol Mowry, Editor

President's Note

We take this opportunity to invite all to our fall program presented by our Webmaster, Brad Hadley, who will conduct a session on our website. The first part will be an overview of the website, how you can participate, and discussion of what else we might do on the site. The second part will be a more in-depth discussion about preparing articles and pictures for the website and submitting cemetery and gravestone information. **The session will from 10 am to 3 pm on October 8, in the community room at the Hartland Public Library. Admission is free.** Even if you are not a computer expert, you will enjoy this look at one of the ways we share our Hartland History with the world. Morning refreshments will be served. Lunch is available locally or plan to bring a picnic lunch.

The Vermont Historical Society will present at the 2008 Weston Antiques Show, "A Vermont Collector's Story: Harold Rugg's Legacy". There will be an illustrated lecture on October 4, 9:15

– 10 am. The lecture is free with the show admission. For information on the Weston Antiques Show call 802-824-5307 or visit www.WestonAntiquesShow.org.

Carol Mowry will host a tour of the Center Cemetery for a group from the Brick Church Sunday School on September 28.

We thank the following people for their thoughtfulness in donating the following items:

Center School Memories and a story of the Eshqua Bog – Rosemary Morancy
Complete set of Heart-Land Voice – Judy Winam
Group photo of Center School and Jersey bull & self – Steve Howard
Boy Scout ephemera – Avery Howe
2008 Hartland Old Home Day Photos – Rosemary Morancy
Book of Aldrich Cemetery news clips & correspondence – Rosemary Morancy
Brick Church Stained Glass Windows book – Carol Mowry
Hamilton Store Ledger 1844-1847, post cards, programs, Nancy Richardson school report card – Marian Martin Kenyon
The Economy of Misery by Dr. Samuel Eugene Stevens – Marian Martin Kenyon
Bound copy of D. H. Sumner – Pioneer Developer by Howland F. Atwood – Rosemary Morancy
Darling family tree, photos, clothing, autograph book & more – Lillian Marcotte
Old photos – Sherry Spaulding Fay
Old photos found in town vault – Clyde Jenne
Hosea Doten 1855 map of Windsor County – Gordon Tuthill
Cash donation – Deborah Luquer

We are open to the public on Mondays 1:00 – 4:00 pm & Fridays 9:00 – 11:00 am.

ROSEMARY MORANCY