

The Hartland Historical Society

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Hartland, VT 05048

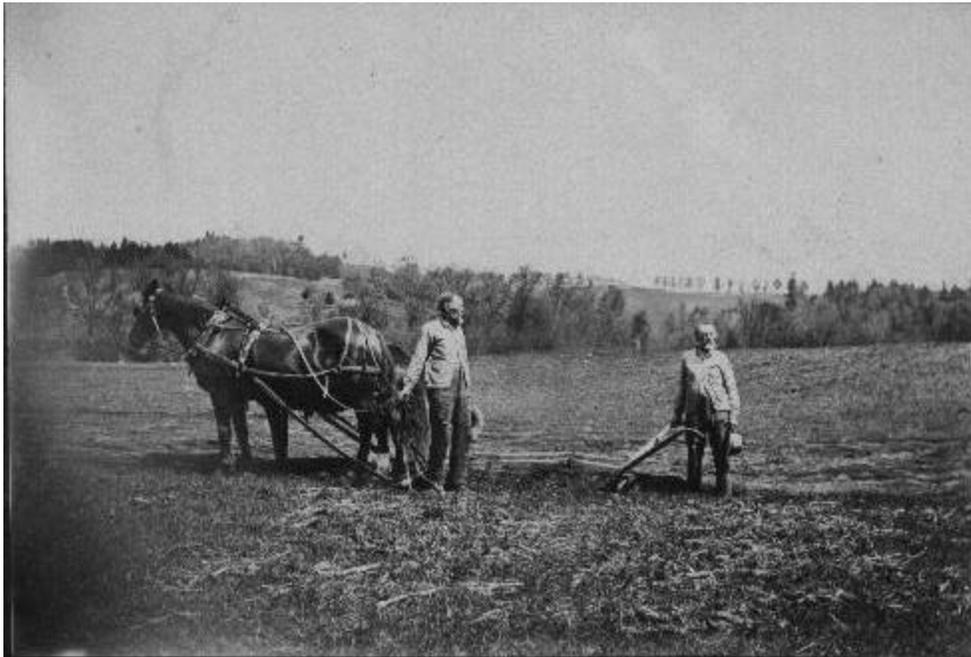
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

Byron P. Ruggles 1938 – 1917

Remember the last newsletter when we visited Snail Swamp and learned about the muck found there? Of course, muck would be a wonderful compost and Mr. Ruggles, whom I consider to be a genius, mixed it with manure to reduce the acidity, spreading it to bring back his poor farmland. Here is an excerpt from Farm Journal Dec. 1896

“ I bought my farm in the fall and had the next winter to get together my tools and stock; all of which I bought cheap at auctions. The tools were second – hand, of course, some of them requiring repairs that I made myself. I bought an old wagon that I repaired so that it lasted until I was better able to buy a new one. I borrowed a cultivator two years, then bought a set of teeth and made the rest of it. I hired a mowing machine four seasons, then I bought one, that with good care, has run twenty one seasons, and does good work yet, and so of all my farming tools, I got along at first with the least possible expense and turned the greatest amount of money I could toward paying for the farm. I began with one horse that did all of my team work except plowing and mowing when I hired another horse of a neighbor.”



This is a Byron Ruggles “trick photo” showing Mr. Ruggles doing 2 jobs at one time.

“ I was decided on being a dairy farmer and bent all my energy in that direction. My plan was to keep the best of cows, that they should have plenty of good feed and good care, that I would make the best of butter, if possible, and get as high a price for it as I could , and all other branches of my farming should be subordinate.

I began with three cows for the farm had less than one hundred acres, and was so run down it would not well keep more. I hired the use of thoroughbred Jersey bulls, raised my heifer calves, named them, made pets of them, kept them pets as cows, and always call them by their names. I a few years I had some first rate high grade Jersey cows. I mowed weeds in the pasture so as to have more and better feed there. I set water tubs there so the cows would have better water to drink than the stagnant puddles that the springs really were

I dug muck in the driest part of the summer from a swamp in the sheep pasture and drew it in the winter to the amount of two or three cords a year to mix with manure and have found the mixture equal to all manure. A pond formed in the swamp where I had dug muck and I found it a convenient place to get ice in the winter for my ice house; some of my neighbors saw the advantage of getting their ice there. I sawed out ice for them ,more and more as the pond grew larger from digging muck. I have sawed as many as forty four cords of ice there in one winter, at seventy cents a cord.”

I promise that this is the last you will hear about Mr. Ruggle's muck but maybe not the last you will hear about him

The Hartland News

Town Meeting from March 15 , 1955 issue

What was happening 50 years ago ???

There were about 185 voters at Town Meeting. A tax rate of \$7. 92 was approved, the town manager system was retained, the Australian ballot lost by one vote, and the meeting adjourned around 4:30!!

The meeting started right off with a bang with the election of Moderator. Ogden having been nominated for the office, turned the meeting over to Town Clerk Rogers. There were no further nominations. Woodruff, however asked for the floor and set out to show that Ogden was a poor man for the job. To prove his point he recited a list of incidents from Ogdens school days, such as the fact that he flunked out of college, only won second prize in a declamation contest, once interviewed Norman Thomas, etc. After 5 minutes of this, Moderator pro tem Rogers, with the support of the Selectmen ruled Woodruff out of order with the comment that his charges were of no consequence; that, if he did not care for a certain candidate, all he had to do was vote against him. This stand was hailed by vociferous cheering and clapping and Woodruff resumed his seat. Ogden was then elected unanimously to serve as Moderator.

The Town Report was accepted with very little discussion. Woodruff criticized the Officers for not including , in full the report of the State Auditors. The Selectmen explained they did not think it worth the expense and that the report was in the Clerks office for anyone to read that might want to. The Town Manager system was discussed

next. James asked for an opinion from the Selectmen concerning the system. Ginter replied that there are only three problems in Hartland: Roads, Schools and Taxes; that the School Directors attend to the Schools, the Selectmen have charge of the Taxes and that leaves only the Roads (and the Poor) for any Town manager to contend with. He stated that the cost figures in the Hartland News , while not absolutely accurate were basic that the Managers salary comes only partly from the road money. In general he stated that the Selectmen did not recommend the system for Hartland. Woodruff gave a speech in favor of the system. In reply to Mrs Alfonse, Blaisdell presented figures to show that the salaries for the old system during its last full year were:

Road Commissioner	\$3,216
Overseer of the Poor	315
Selectman – bookkeeper	25

	\$ 3,556

Town Manager salary for the current year was \$3,600 , leaving a difference of only \$44. The question was settled by ballot, 110 in favor, 50 against. Later in the meeting, Blaisdell received a unanimous vote of confidence.

Town Meetings are known for providing good entertainment, whether that is the intent or not. As for Mr. Ogden, he was certainly qualified for the job, and served for many years as a State Senator . Like Mr. Ruggles, he was a man of many opinions. We'll visit him more some other time.

Spring means new starts on the farm, new starts for the Town and perhaps a new start for your heart. I think this is the real New Year . Here is a portion of a much longer poem by J. Howard Flower , Four Corners, Hartland, Vt.

The Free Soul April 1917
 Spring is Coming
 That's One Good Thing Nobody Can Prevent

The Duel Natures now begin
 To rime with passing sweetness
 The God without, the God within
 Are teeming with completeness!!

I mark thine advent, hailing Spring'
 As blithest of assurance:
 It comes to pass, a heavenly thing
 Above mankind's concurrence.

All night premonitory throes
 Of change came perseverant
 And this chaotic dawn o'erflows
 With voices incoherent.

The social powers that bear the purse
 May thwart, and mete denial
 To many things,- but not reverse
 The tide upon the dial!!!

In lofty solitudes afar,
 Where hilltop snows are thawing'
 I know the fir –shut hollows are
 Now full of crows and cawing

Don't Miss This !!!! Connie Tessier will once again present her program of **Reminiscences** led by Nancy Lewis on Sunday April 24 at 2 P.M. at Damon Hall. This year's participants will be people who attended the various one room schools in Hartland. If you have been to one of these before you know how wonderful the program will be. If this is your first, be prepared for great entertainment. Free and refreshments !!

Spring days gone by. *What were people doing ???*

Lyndon Shedd March 5, 1904

"16 below at village- rehearsal at Kellys paid music 25 " (Mr. Shedd ran a singing school at what is now the Flower Farm)

Sebastian Cabot Jenne (Clyde's great grandfather) April 2,3,and 4 1856" I worked on wood A.M. P.M. I went to the sugar place taped 20 trees. I went to the sugar place. Started a fire. I went to the sugar place with oxen broke carried the tubs around saved a little ware."

Mildred Varney (*I do love Mildred!*) April 1, 1911

"I got up about 7 o'clock. I went down and helped **Mrs. Backus** (This is Mr. Shedd's daughter, also a musician) and took my music lesson. Had an extraordinary one. I made some little pies for myself. **May Fallon** came in. She and I went to the L.A. (Ladies Aid) meeting. I rode home with **Nora Plumley** (*Leon Royce and Ginny Dow's mother*). She and I went down by Martinsville. There were four members present and **Miss Nelson** (a Hartland teacher for many years) and **Miss Sturtevant** (*Ruth Flanagan's aunt*) was with us today and **Mrs. Rogers**. I have been "April Fooling" people and got "April Fooled " myself. I got a postal from **Allen Rice** and a letter and a postal from **Flora Blanchard**. I have been in Laura's She has been in here Papa had some fish come this morning (*Alfred Varney had a fish route*). I have been over to **Mrs. Rich's** this evening. I got a library book, *Lavender and Old Lace* by Myrtle Reed. It is nice and interesting.. Not a very good day, snowed some and cold "

More New Acquisitions !! We are so very grateful !!

Fan, hairpiece, ribbon and book mark from Mrs. Charles Darling's wedding outfit in 1861. from Lillian Marcotte

Jason Stewart and Minnie Harlow Darling's bible given to them from Janet McIntyre Darling on their wedding day , June 29 1904 , from Lillian Marcotte

Traveling salesman's case belonged to Leslie B. Hatch from his granddaughter, Lillian Marcotte.

Old Home Day photos, 1986 from Rosemary Morancy

"A Town for Peace" 2 poster size collections of photos and newsclippings , April 7, 1983, from Melissa Ambros

A very ornate small stove that was in the Temple home on Rt 12 from Meriel and Temple Hood

HARTLAND: June 1877

Two women, each with a young child and a man by the name of Shattuck, ran away from the town farm last week.

An eagle, measuring four feet and three inches from tip to tip of wings, was shot by a man in the employ of Cyrus Ayer, last week. The nest was found, which contained besides three young eagles, two squirrels, two chickens and a young woodchuck.

The Universalist society at the Four Corners seems to be in a flourishing condition. Good audiences greet the new preacher from Sunday to Sunday, and the probabilities are that preaching will be sustained through the year. There are fifty scholars in the Sunday school.

A Note From Carol

We are tremendously gratified at the response to the first quarterly newsletter that came out in Dec. 2004. Again we will send to an expanded list, beyond our membership, with the hopes that more of you will join the Hartland Historical Society. Dues paid now will carry you to May 31, 2006. A number after your name indicates when dues are next due for those of you already part of our membership. If you become a new member now and want a copy of the first newsletter just indicate your desire on the application form and we will get it to you. We have openings on our Board of Directors. If you are interested, please call Edith Hoose at 436-2530 or Bob Guillette at 436-2488. You do not need a knowledge of Hartland History to serve on the Board, only an interest. We have good places for artists, writers, educators, persons with library skills, , computer skills, and more. It is not a huge commitment and a lot of fun.

Our Annual Meeting to elect officers and Directors will be held at the Historical Society on May 15 at 3 P.M. I will send out a notice of the slate when it is closer to the date.

Hartland Historical Society Officers and Directors	
Carol Y. Mowry, President	Directors :
Beverly Lasure, Vice President	Robert Guillette 3 year term
Edith Hoose, Secretary	Nancy Lewis 3 year term
Clyde Jenne, Treasurer	Jay Boeri 2 year term
	Charles Jeffries 2 year term
	Ruth Flanagan 1 year term
	Maureen Martin 1 year term
	Edith White 1 year term

Please visit our website *hartlandhistory.netfirms.com*