

# Hartland Historical Society

## Newsletter – Spring 2022

Editor: Les Motschman

We should like to remind people that subscriptions for 2022 are now due. We should also like to thank those of you who have already renewed their memberships. We really appreciate your support. Whilst the Society was generally quiet last year due to the pandemic, the calendars that we had printed proved very popular and quickly sold out. The revised HHS website is currently under construction and so currently some features may not always be available for which we apologize. We are now open most Monday afternoons and we look forward to being able to resume our programs at some point during the coming year.

HHS Board

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*From the archives (advertisements & photos added by HHS):*

### **HARTLAND'S ABANDONED INDUSTRIES**

**By Byon Ruggles, February 28<sup>th</sup> 1914**

**Potash Making** was one of the earliest industries in many towns. The first work of the settlers was cutting down the forest and clearing the land for crops. The trees were fallen in masses. After lying for some time to allow for some of the moisture to escape by the small limbs and leaves, the logs were cut into suitable lengths and drawn or rolled in log-heaps and burned. The resulting ashes were not thought of to be of use for fertilizer, but some would gather up the ashes and even buy his neighbor's, and establish what was called a Potash. Leaching the ashes and boiling down the lye yielded potash, a saleable product (*Les's notes: potash was actually used in making soap at the time.*)

**Brick Making** was commenced in town at an early date. There was a brickyard on land owned by Henry Britton, and one on Guy Graham's land. The latter was peculiar in that there were layers of sand among the clay so that by careful management sand and clay were properly mixed right there. There are several brick houses in town that were built from bricks made on the spot. The Conant House on the plain is one of them. A Mr. Gilson told me he was a boy when the house was built. The clay was dug from the bed of a small brook nearby. Young Gilson's job was removing stones from the clay.

**Tanning.** The tanning of hides for leather was an occupation in town up to about forty years ago (1870's). A.Perry was running a tannery in Foundryville when Charles Warren worked there and later became the owner for thirty years till about 1871 when it burned down. The building across the road where Walter Jenne now lives was a currier shop. Leather was finished there. Horse power was used for grinding hemlock bark at first. Then a fifteen horse power steam engine, built by N.F.English was used to the last. Levi Marcy had a tannery at Fieldsville for many years.

**CASH PAID FOR HIDES.**

**T**HE subscriber will pay cash for hides—he has on hand for sale Upper leather, Calfskins, and harness leather, will furnish Harness Makers from one to one hundred sides, in few days notice, and as to quality and finish of the above, is not surpassed by any person in the county. All orders from abroad either by mail or otherwise will receive immediate attention.

**CHARLES W. WARREN.**  
Hartland Nov. 29, 1842. 36

**Distilling.** The large barn at the Lamb place was built and used for a distillery where cider brandy, rye whiskey and perhaps other liquors were made for many years. I have learned that potato whiskey was made in the Densmore district. Someone once told me there was a cider distillery where the Warren tannery used to be before the tannery was built.

**Cloth-making.** Many years ago Frederick Silsby was running a woolen factory in the foundry building as we call it. He had two men working for him by the name of Sturtevant. After a time they bought out Silsby. Later they abandoned the building and bought the grist mill at the head of the gorge near Hartland village. Then they built a larger building down below and then ran quite a large factory. It was in full blast in 1861 when I came to town. After a while the Sturtevants closed out and one Ashworth wove horse blankets until the factory burned thirty years ago. L.H.Merritt put in a woolen factory where Earl Martin's shop is and it ran a number of years until it burned. There is now a large cloth factory

**Hartland Woolen Manufactory.**  
**C. F. STURTEVANT**

**W**OULD respectfully inform the public that, having purchased the WOOLEN FACTORY at Hartland, and become sole owner of the same, is now receiving Wool to manufacture into Cassimeres, and will be happy to furnish his customers with a good article, and usual variety.

Hartland, August 11, 1856.

**CUSTOM CARDING.**

Good Rolls made at the above-named establishment, for all those who make their Wool clean, and have it well prepared with about one pound of LARD or OIL to twelve pounds of Wool, or in that proportion. 9-11

running in North Hartland. The Sturtevant factory as well as most factories in those times had carding machines. Wool was carded into rolls for hand spinning and cloth making in the many farm houses. My mother used to spin and weave webs of cloth every year in my early remembrance. I never wore a garment she did not make until I was sixteen years old. This domestic work has all gone by now. Many a middle aged woman today don't know how to thread a darning needle with woolen yarn.

**Clothes pins.** After cloth making had been discontinued in the foundry building it was used for a variety of work. Clothes pins were made there in great quantities, also pastry rolling pins and hand hay rakes. George Hayes made coffins there until his brother took the business to Four Corners.

**Foundry.** Finally in 1862 Darling & Gilbert from Woodstock established an iron foundry and did a large stroke of business there until both had died and the dam had gone.

**Machine Shop.** N.F.English bought land across from the tannery and well down the brook from the bridge built a dam and well equipped machine shop. He did a good deal of work for a number of years. His son Ernest English now has the machinery in his garage.

**Tinware** was made and repaired by E.H.Bagley where Mr.Temple now lives. Also by Mr.Fletcher at Hartland village. (Les's notes: Bagley's house and shop was where Dick & Edith White live, second house up from the fire station.)

**Boots & shoes** in early times were all made and repaired by local shoemakers. There has been several such shops in the villages since 1861. Now all footwear is bought ready made at the stores. Very little repairing is done.

*Les's notes: Foundryville is between the Three Corners and Four Corners, on both sides of the brook. The foundry was next to where Bowers Road begins. One can still see the stone foundation at the side of the brook. The tannery was on the other side of the brook. The leather finishing shop was across the road from the tannery. It later became Jenne's house. The English house and red garage-shop are still there in good condition.*

*Byron Ruggles farmed just up the road at what is now known as the Horton Farm. HHS has some of Mr. Ruggles diaries that depict what life on the farm was like over a hundred years ago. Both Ruggles and English were early photographers. HHS has hundreds of Ruggles glass plates. Ruggles was a naturalist as well.*

**New Firm.**  
THE subscribers have commenced the **BOOT & SHOE MAKING** business, a few rods north of the Meeting-house in Hartland, under the firm of  
**A. B. Mott & Co.**  
where they mean to accommodate friends and customers of having their work done on the shortest notice, and in the best and most fashionable style that now exists in New-York or Boston. They wish to inform the public that they have on hand almost all kinds of Morocco work, cheap for cash, or approved credit. They think that they can make Boots and Shoes almost as well as that great Jonah that come so near the whale's belly that she cast him by the shore.  
**A. B. MOTT & Co.**  
Hartland, March 9. 1818. 0



## Foundryville in 1864

The tannery occupied the first two buildings on the left. The building towards the center of the photo, beyond the wooden bridge over the brook, is the foundry.

*Les's notes: Ruggles mentions brickmaking on the Guy Graham farm. The resulting brick house across from the fire station was still in the Graham family when I was growing up nearby in the 50's and 60's. There was a small pond about 300' from the house. We kids used to shovel it off so we could skate. It was decades later that I realized that the pond was created by removing material for the brickmaking. There is no open water there now. Nature has repurposed the area into a brushy, weedy wetland. We don't know when the house was built but we do know that brick houses were being built in the 1820's. We don't know if any of the other fine brick houses in the village were constructed with bricks from the Graham land. Raymie Durphey has lived in the house for many years.*



*This photo of the house was taken in 1896. Joseph Graham, father of Guy, is standing by the fence. Annie Graham is seated, holding Lee Graham, and Guy Graham is standing to the right of her.*

## **The Graham Family**

The newspaper advertisements added to the previous piece written by Byron Ruggles were taken from the ongoing HHS project to catalogue early newspaper items relating to Hartland. Coincidentally another recent interesting discovery arising from this project was the fact that the Guy E Graham mentioned above was actually born Jerry E Grimes!

It began when I came across a newspaper advertisement from 1868 in which a Joseph K Grimes was trying to sell his 112 acre farm near Hartland Four Corners. (The farm was later reported as sold to George Hadley of Windsor for \$3900 in 1870). Before I catalogued the information, I checked to see who Joseph was and to find out more about him. The advertisement subscriber was one Joseph Kimball Grimes. He was born in Lebanon, NH in 1809, the son of Alexander Grimes & Lucy Kimball. His wife had the rather unusual name of Submit. She, Submit Ross Grimes, was born in Vermont in 1822, the daughter of Abiatha & Mahitable Burt.

I then followed the census trail. In the 1850 census, Joseph K & Submit Grimes were living in West Windsor with two children, Ellen M (b.1847) and George (b.1850). Joseph was a farmer,

In the 1860 census Joseph K & Submit R Grimes were living in Claremont, NH. Joseph was still a farmer. They now had six children at home, Ellen (b.1847), George (b.1850), Mary J (b.1854), Emma (b.1857), Julia A (b.1858) and Laura (b.1859).

In the 1870 census Joseph K & Submit Grimes were farming in Hartland and had four children living with them there, Emma A (b.1857), Julia A (b.1858), Laura E (b.1860) and Jerry E. (b.1862). Eldest child Ellen was still living in Hartland but working as a domestic servant for Galo Crosby. She never married, and later worked for John Lamb and then Robert Britton. Her death certificate gives her birth as 1846 but her gravestone says 1847. She died in 1912. Son George had also left home and at some point he moved to Illinois where as George H Graham he married Fanny Berry in 1884 and died in 1934.

In 1875 Mary J married Charles Blakely in Bethel and later moved to Connecticut where she died in 1939. Interestingly Mary J's marriage record in Vital Records is recorded as Mary J Graham, with parents named as Joseph & Submit Graham, even though the marriage was before the rest of the family changed surname since the following year father Joseph & sister Emma were still using the surname Grimes. It may have happened that when the records were re-recorded the names were changed retrospectively to Graham.



In 1876 Joseph K Grimes of Hartland Three Corners placed another newspaper advertisement, but this time wanting to purchase a farm in the Windsor County area. It was also in this year that fourth child Emma Alnette Grimes (actually b.1856) married Edward Temple. Her marriage details in Vital Records give all the surnames as Grimes rather than Graham. Emma died in 1946.

However, by the 1880 census Joseph K & Submit R **Graham**, still farming in Hartland, have just two children still at home, Laura A (b.1860) and **Guy E** (b.1862). There is also a grandson William H Graham (b.1871) living there. So sometime between 1876 and 1880 the family changed their surname from Grimes to Graham, and Jerry E Grimes became known as Guy E Graham. In 1884 Julia Graham (actually b.1857) married Fred Gilson, whom she later divorced in 1919. She died in Massachusetts in 1927. In 1886

Laura Adiliza Graham (actually b.1859) married George Jenne. She was living in Brattleboro at the time of her death in 1934. Willie H Graham died in 1892 and is buried in the Village Cemetery. It is unclear as to who his mother actually was. Unfortunately the 1890 census records were destroyed in a fire so we don't know where he was living or his occupation just prior to his death.

Guy Graham (actually b.1861, d.1942) married Annie Harlow in 1890. They had two sons, Lee Henry Graham (1892-1961) and Earle Harlow Graham (1896-1988), pictured above. Both sons are buried in the Village Cemetery. Lee never married. Earle married twice. His first wife was Madeline Gardner who sadly committed suicide in 1946. His second wife whom he married in 1948 was Edith Barrett who was previously married to Kenneth McCrae. Earle & Edith had one son.

Joseph Kimball Graham (d.1900) is buried along with his wife Submit (d.1898) in the Hartland Village Cemetery. Ellen, Emma, Laura and Guy are also all buried in the Village Cemetery. I have no idea why the family surname changed from Grimes to Graham.

Pip Parker

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# Newspapers from the Past – Charles W. Patch

*Another outcome of the newspaper project has been the discovery of some interesting or unusual facts & stories that otherwise might have remained forgotten or even unknown. I started to collect these so that they would not be forgotten. Some are amusing. Some are sad. Some are just interesting in that they show how life in Hartland has changed over the years. This is just one of those stories:*

In Nov 1859 a Mr. Patch of Hartland was reported as driving a herd of cattle across the bridge over the White River when then timbers gave way and 18 cattle fell onto the rocks some 20' below. Amazingly only one was seriously injured. Mr Dutton, of the local selectboard, was soon on the spot and paid Mr. Patch \$40 as compensation.

Interestingly I could find no Hartland head of household called "Patch" in either 1850 or 1860 census records. However there was a Daniel Patch, aged 20, in 1860 working as a farmhand for John Shattuck. There was also a Charles Patch, aged 7, who along with an Adaline Patch whom I thought could possibly be his mother was listed in 1850 as a pauper at the poor farm run by James Follensby. It seems feasible that either Daniel or Charles could have been moving cattle in 1859. This however was not to be the first time that I was to come across Charles or Daniel Patch. In 1868 the name of Charles W. Patch would appear in the newspapers when he was killed in a terrible accident whilst working on the railroad as a freight conductor, and Daniel would turn out to be his brother.

Charles W. Patch appears to have had a tragic life. He was born to William and Adaline (Wright) Patch in 1843. His father William died that same year and by the 1850 census, Charles and his mother Adaline were paupers living at the Hartland poor farm. Charles had two brothers and a sister, all of whom were older and had been placed with other families. His mother Adaline died in 1854. In 1862 Charles enlisted into Co.K of 4<sup>th</sup> VT Infantry. He then seems to have transferred to Co.H of 10<sup>th</sup> VT Infantry in 1863, then transferring to the Veterans Reserve Corps in 1864 before finally mustering out in 1865.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1868 Charles was working as a conductor on freight train no.5 travelling from St. Albans to Milton. His mangled remains were found on the track just outside the Milton yard. It is thought that he slipped and fell from the top of one of the train cars (it had been raining) and was then run over by the following cars. Charles was just 24 years old.

His brother Daniel was also working as a freight conductor on the railroad at the time of Charles' death. This turned out to be the same Daniel Patch that had been working for John Shattuck in Hartland in 1860. Daniel died in 1916.

The eldest of the three brothers, George, in 1850 was living with Adaline's brother David Wright in Hartford, VT. George was determined to get an education and become a minister. He graduated from Thetford (where his patron is listed as his uncle David) and then attended Dartmouth in the Class of 1862. George moved to Washington DC where he worked as a clerk at the US Treasury. He finally became a minister and founded the Unity Presbyterian in DC. He died in 1898.

Pip Parker

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# Words from the Mouth of Lull Brook

*This poem was printed in the Vermont Journal in November 1892. Author unknown.*

Never before since they named me Lull,  
Have I opened my mouth to speak;  
But this untalkative life grows dull  
And converse now I shall seek.

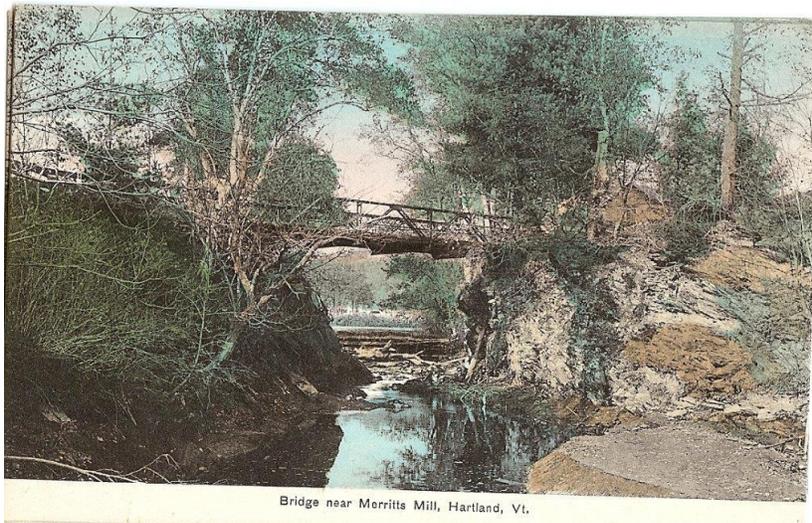
First, then, for at least ten thousand years,  
I wrought on this rock with a will,  
Cutting the chasm that now appears  
And makes possible Martinsville.

Though Merritt my throat unfeeling fills  
With his sawdust hour by hour,  
Yet I am proud of the many mills  
That took me for their power.

And proud am I of the rich, green fields  
Through which my journeying lies,  
And of the ever bountiful yields  
This valley for man supplies.

No brook has traversed a fairer town,  
Or made fertile richer farms;  
None rests in a bed of such renown,  
Or sings among greater charms.

And sweeping along my flower-grown path,  
Where farming neighbors reside,  
It makes me foam with an inward wrath  
To hear my people belied.



Bridge near Merritts Mill, Hartland, Vt.

## Membership Form: 2022 - 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (\$5 individual or \$10 family): \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: The Treasurer, Hartland Historical Society, PO Box 198, Hartland, VT 05048. Thank you!

HHS

PO Box 198

Hartland

VT 05048