



## WEST WINDSOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

### West Windsor Historical District

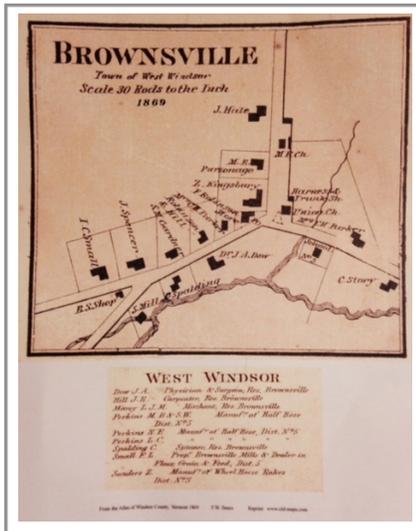
At the Vermont History Expo held this past June, there was a display of older maps of areas around the state of Vermont. An 1869 map was found, and a copy purchased, of the historic village of Brownsville

In "The Heritage of West

Windsor" written by local author Erla Bear Scull in 1980 and published by the West Windsor Historical Society, a different map of the Historic District is found. That map is of the

"Brownsville Historic District" compiled by the Division of Historic Sites in October of 1973. It limited the historic district to within 500 feet of

the intersection of route 44 and the Brownsville-Hartland Road. The distance limit applied to the west-north-and east and it appears to have a border of Mill Brook to the south.



Further it appears to have, in part, as a strong basis of the 1972 map the building's architectural appearance, conformance, and integrity along with history associated with the site.

Nothing indicates that the Division of Historic Preservation was aware of the 1869 map.

Inspection of the 1869 Brownsville map indicates the basis for the map was the 1869 F.W. Beers Atlas of Windsor County. The Beers Atlas has long been recognized for being extremely accurate.

Your WWHS is now investigating, with the blessing of the West Windsor Select Board, possibly recognizing the Brownsville Historic District as

displayed in the 1869 map to be the official boundary of the historic district. Further, the primary basis for recognition will be based on the history of each building or the history

*Continued on page 3*

### Calendar of Events

*Look for more details on the website and Facebook page in the spring*

#### **Fundraising Auction**

*May 3, 2015*

#### **Spring Picnic**

*May 17, 2015*

#### **3rd Annual Daniel Cady Day**

*May 31, 2015*

#### **Homecoming Weekend**

*July 2- July 5*

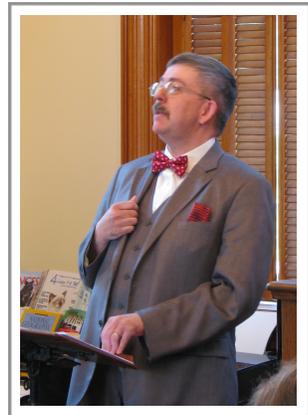
#### **Vermont History Expo**

*June 2015*

### 2nd Annual Daniel Cady Day *(Continued on page 5)*

June 1st marked the date of the second annual Daniel Cady Day. Once again, over 50 people came to the Mary Blood Library to participate in the event. We are fortunate to have among us Adam Boyce, who has developed a historical monologue and performs in character as the esteemed Daniel L. Cady. After Daniel Cady provided us with ample material from his storied past, along with some of his favorite poems from

his books, *West Windsor's Hour Has Struck*, *"Coming Along" in Vermont*, *Vermont Covered Bridges*, *How Did it Happen?* and *"He builds Too Low Who Builds Beneath the Skies."* Community participants chose poems to read as well. Edson Pearce, *Farming it in Vermont*, Jennifer Bodnar, *The Last of May in Vermont*, Tom Kenyon, *Vermont Breakfast*, Tony Pikremenos, *Overdoing It*, Bill Stillson, *Boiling Sap at Night in Vermont* and Peter



*Adam Boyce as Daniel L. Cady*

# Building Report

The building is in good shape with the exception of the kitchen door threshold, which we think, is part of the original doorway installed in 1915. Repairs are underway. During the year the building has been used for a number of receptions for birthdays and there was even a wedding reception.

Thanks to your financial generosity your Society was able to purchase the associated hardware and software for the much desired computer system. The workstation purchased makes for a wonderfully productive workplace. The Museum folk have made excellent progress but much more remains to be done.

We can use more volunteers to assist in the full implementation of our computer project.

A special thanks goes to the Village Beautification Committee for the beautiful flowers in the barrels outside the grange hall Thanks also to Ann D'Anna for watering the flowers all summer long and to the committee for maintaining all the flowers along the downtown area.

Discussions are underway of how and when we can meet the obvious demand for additional space for the museum and historic records. We are looking forward to the building being connected, at no cost to the WWHS, into the proposed waste water project coming to the village in 2015. The removal of the septic tank gives us additional options as to where to put the needed building addition. *Tom Kenyon*

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS:

### FROM THE SECRETARY.....

When there is a firecall, on our fire department's radios, at first, there is often much radio talk, then the talk back and forth decreases over time until the firecall is concluded. This reduction in radio communications is often because the firefighters are extremely busy working at the firescene.

Concerning WWHS communications we regret there has not been more communications with you our members. Our volunteers have been extremely busy and thus we have had less time to communicate the ever important work that is being accomplished.

The Museum Committee and the Historic Records Committee have been working tirelessly -- many projects are, or soon, will be in the works. On a positive note, we are excited to announce two new members who have volunteered to help organize several projects. Projects, we could only dream of completing. We all welcome Ava Emerson, who retired after many years working at Albert Bridge School, who will help organize several projects involving

her amazing photographs taken during the Bicentennial. We also welcome Chelsea Monroe-Concillio who along with her husband, William, own and reside at the former John and Mary Howland home located on Cemetery Road. Her expertise in computer software will be a big help when the huge



*Home to the WWHS: The Grange in Fall*

collection of photos is organized for computer searches.

Also, those of us writing articles, have been frustrated in completing them. i.e., on the new pellet plant, on Edson Pierce's Historic home,

on businesses now active in West Windsor.

We hope you enjoy the latest newsletter and will renew your membership and support the newsletter costs, and maybe give a financial gift to assist the museum and our historic record's projects.

### FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT.....

The Board of Directors recently reviewed the budget for 2015 as proposed by Treasurer Wesley Alexander. Some minor adjustments were made and the budget has been accepted. The 2015 budget calls total expenses of \$14,020. The \$1065 increase in the budget is due to projection of increases in fuel oil and insurance. Thanks for your support.

### FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.....

Enclosed in this newsletter is your membership renewal. This will save us sending out a separate mailing in December. Please consider not only your renewal but a financial gift to help with the newsletter expenses but also a gift to assist in the Historic Records and Museum projects.

HISTORIC DISTRICT NEWS (CONTINUED)

involved with the building lot. Recognition of an historic building or lot does not require any compliance or strict maintaining any architectural features. An example of recognition is the present home of Leanne and Lewis King located on the south-west part of such a district. It was the site of the historic sawmill and chair manufacturing business. There are numerous stories associated with that site.

A number of present homes have significant historic interest associated with the people and their contribution to the town. An example is the home of The Leland Company, owned by Alan and Louise Hudson. These structures were the home of Town Clerk Ray Blanchard who served as West Windsor's Town Clark and Treasurer for 50 years.

In addition, there is the West Windsor Fire station built around 1962, survivor of Irene, and the many years of history associated with the fire department. It was also the location of a large ice storage building in conjunction with the nearby famous milk shipping facility. *Tom Kenyon*

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO



West Windsor's Historical Society annual presence was made at the 2014 Vermont History Expo at the Tunbridge Fair Grounds on June 21 and 22nd. *The Expo is one of the top ten summer events of the year.* This year's theme was "Artists and Artisans:

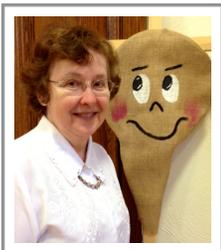
Vermont's Creative Heritage"

and the WWSH display well represented the theme.

The display, drawing on our museum's collection, included local paintings by Marion Hastings and Shirley Pierce Ouelette. There were photos by George Swallow and others, painted art on stones and slate. There was art made of needle and thread. Thanks go to museum of the WWSH for making our display possible.

The theme for 2016 Vermont History Expo has not been selected but we do know the Expo will be held on a weekend in June of 2016 at the Tunbridge Fair Grounds. *Tom Kenyon*

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



*Mary-Anne Boyce and scarecrow kit.*

Our annual meeting was held at Story Memorial Hall on Sunday, October 19, at 4pm. We welcomed in new members, reviewed the year's successes and highlighted some of next year's events

and goals. If you have never been able to attend an Annual Meeting, put it on your calendar for next year (Sunday, Oct. 18). We start off with 30 minutes of social time and then enjoy a delicious

pot-luck supper. My favorite is Bill Stillson's *Oxbow Chicken*. Thank you Bill! Great salads, seasonal side-dishes and fabulous deserts!

A big thank you to Mary-Anne Boyce for all her work on the Membership Committee. She is stepping down after several years of dedicated work. And to Adam Boyce for entertaining us yet again. This time as Charles Ross Taggart: The Old Country Fiddler (and a musical humorist and entertainer) from Vermont.

*Jennifer K. Bodnar*



*Adam Boyce as Charles Ross Taggart.*

FOURTH OF JULY!



*Annual Bicycle Brigade*



*Gratitude for our Veterans*



*Celebrating in Style with Mary Fenn.*

## Historic Records Unveiled

You may wonder what the Historic Records Committee does on a weekly basis. Here below is a record of their Report dated 9/24/14. Many thanks to local residents from far and wide who are committed to providing access to valuable items and records to our Society. Also, many thanks to Mary Jane Wentworth and Fran Cady for their patient and meticulous cataloging of these items.

### HISTORIC RECORDS YEARLY REPORT Sept. 24, 2014

#### Accessions - From Diane Sanborn

"Houghton Cemetery" located in Windsor, VT. This book includes burials, military service, and some family histories. Compiled by Diane.

"The Brick Dwelling House" - tracing the owners of the Pierce house and its many uses through the years. Compiled by Diane.

"The Dake Family" - a complete record of this family (forbears of the Pierces). Compiled by Diane.

Postal Card Album, showing various scenes of Mt. Ascutney.

News clippings and various brochures and photos of Mt. Ascutney.

Ledger kept by Carl Herrick, store owner, 1937-40. Diane obtained this off E-Bay from someone in Reading, VT.

#### Jigsaw Puzzle of the Best Bridge

5 Small Books: Country Stores in Early New England, Roads & Travel in New England, Architecture in Early New England, The Story of Old Vermont in Pictures, The New England Galaxy

Photos: Charlie & Bessie (Donoghue) Gibson, Ruth Blanchard, Kenneth Pierce, Brownsville area photos, Doris Ranney Stillson, Rev. & Mrs. Barnes, Rudy Gaynor

Scrapbook prepared for Eleanor Sawin Pierce by Ellnor Blackington and Rena Edson. This is a delightful and funny little book, which must have taken a few hours to put together.

Diane Sanborn gave a Vermont School Register for 1874 -75, District 3

Edson Pierce brought in the following:

Nine black and white photos of the washed out bridge on the Brownsville-Hartland Road near the south side of Hammond Hill Road. This damage was caused by the 1927 Flood and washed out the cotton seed oil mill dam located there.

A Windsor Chronicle article regarding the reunion of the 99<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (WWII). Former West Windsor resident Bill Smallwood was a member of that outfit and wrote a book recounting his experiences.

Information on the first post office in West Windsor and two letters - one postmarked in the 1860's and the other in 1938.

Vermont School Register 1872-73, District 5, also two fire insurance policies dated 12/19/1876 and 12/19/1882 and a Windsor County Mutual Fire Insurance Company postcard.

1890 Town Report

Bill of Sale, Robinson Store

Wedding Photo of Ernest & Bertha Dimick dated 1912

Paul and Vera Hoisington gave four school photos dated around 1916-1920 which belonged to Paul's mother, Liona Clough Butterfield.

Ken Davis of Lakeland, Florida, sent a poster dated 1868 advertising a variety show and oyster supper in Brownsville, sponsored by the Methodist Church.

Maria Hale gave us two Agriview newsletters, addressed to her father, Ferris Hale.

Margaret Hannah gave photos of her grandmother's (Margaret Thomas McFadden) 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party, a picture of the Sawin House and another house (unidentified), a baby picture of Sue Sawin and a picture of Ethan Allen (we think).

We received a collection of Lucie Best Hudson and Muriel Best memorabilia from Bill and Doris (Best) Stearns.

Dalmar Kittredge gave us a number of Kittredge family photos circa 1890-1920.

We received a box of Grange memorabilia, kept by Christine Sykes, from her daughters Leanne and Linda.

Mary Fenn gave a photocopy of a painting of Brownsville done by Horace Brown.

Adam & Mary Ann Boyce - gave a collection of old books (useful for reference by Museum & Historic Records)

Albert Bridge School Plans - 1990

From Melvin Banister - Four letters from Melvin Banister to his father Elisha Banister and Medal "Grand Army of the Republic" Civil War - 1862.

Agreement between George A. Tarble and E.G. Adams regarding halves on wool/lambs, dated Nov. 23, 1883.

From Bill Samways - CD he made for Fred Jenks memorial service

Ann Niles gave an apple head doll made by Marion Hastings, photo of the Vietnam War memorial replica when it was in this area.

#### Genealogy

Barbara Rhoad and Kathy Hoyt visited us on September 9<sup>th</sup> looking for information on the Morrison family.

Louis Lehmann (via e-mail to WWHS): Looking for information about George Lamphear, accused of murdering his wife Amelia on Nov. 3, 180?, at Windsor, VT. His mother, Eunice Lamphear was charged as accessory. Both found not guilty in 1807. Eunice was a

HISTORIC RECORDS YEARLY REPORT: Sept. 24, 2014 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

widow who married Rev. William Ewing in July 1804. Rev. Ewing is the ancestral uncle of Mr. Lehman. Rev. Ewing & first wife Elinor had a daughter, Hannah (Ewing/ Train) Bishop, estranged wife of Capt. Levi Bishop, who is buried in the Sheddsville Cemetery. I have responded to Mr. Lehmann, advising him that we have nothing in our records about George, Amelia, or Eunice Lamphear and suggested he contact Barbara Rhoad of the Windsor Historical Society. I also told him we had an inquiry in June 2012 from Mr. Hal Ewing. Rev. William Ewing is his ancestral grandfather.

John Jackson of Thetford, VT inquired about his ancestor, Levi Bishop, who had a brick factory in West Windsor and build the "Howland House" on the corner of Brownsville-Hartland Road and the Sheddsville Cemetery Road. A copy of pertinent pages from the "Bishop Ancestors of Ira Elmore

Bishop" and two pictures of the Howland House were sent to him. We have no photos of Levi Bishop in our files.

We also received requests for the following:

- information on Bathsheba Banister
- the Underground Railroad in Vermont
- photos including Donald Balch, requested by his daughter, Katrina Hill. Only one school picture was found; perhaps one of you readers might have a picture?

During the past year the Board made a decision to purchase new computers, scanner and printers. This new equipment will enable us to efficiently record our files. We are

developing forms to record pictures and burials. With that in place, it will be possible to use volunteer help for this time consuming task.

We helped prepare a mailing, which included a membership letter, a newsletter and membership envelope to approximately 410 people on the checklist who were not WWHS members.

Visitors  
There were a number of visitors during the May Baked Bean Supper and the Fourth of July open house as recorded in our guest book

We have continued to file away many news clippings and update the Brownsville and Sheddsville Cemetery card files on 2013 burials.

Mary Jane Wentworth  
WWHS Historic Records Yearly Report 9.24.14

**Second Annual Daniel L. Cady Day (Continued from page 1)**

Money, *Fashion in Vermont*. Tom Kenyon had been noticeably absent and missed his cue to read his poem, but arrived shortly thereafter, (a bit dishevelled, but nonetheless gleeful) to announce that he had been successful at prying the mausoleum door open! After his surprise announcement he didn't lose a beat, picked unfolded his typed version of his poem from his pocket and read his selection. We were fortunate to have a beautiful spring day to enjoy the potluck picnic outside at Tribute Park following the question

and answer period. After a bit, we all drove up Strawberry Hill Road to walk up to the mausoleum. Sophie Bodnar, a resident and employee of CATV, the cable access television station in White River Junction, came to videotape the event. They provided the Library and Historical Society with a complementary DVD of the event. Many thanks to them and to all the participants and attendees for a fun filled event. We are looking forward to next year!

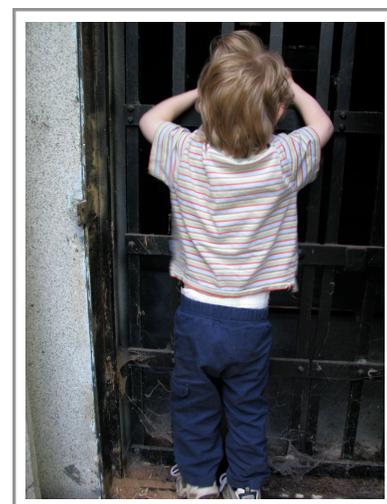
☺ Jennifer K. Bodnar



Mary Fenn shares a story.



Edson Pearce reads *Farming It in Vermont*, by Daniel L. Cady



Ryder Pikramenos gets a peek inside.

**DIRECTORS ELECT OFFICERS:**

*After the annual meeting the Directors elected the following officers:*

TO BE ELECTED IN DECEMBER	President
JENNIFER BODNAR	Vice President
TOM KENYON	Secretary
WESLEY ALEXANDER	Treasurer

**DIRECTORS**

LEONE BUSHKIN	HILDA CONN
KAREN DIOP	GENEVIEVE LEMIRE
NANCY LOUX	COLIN MCKAIG
COURTNEY MCKAIG	JANE STILLSON
LAURA STILLSON	MARY JANE WENTWORTH

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

<b>Student</b> (Age 17 or under)... \$5	<b>Patron:</b>
<b>Senior</b> (Age 65 or older)..... \$5	• Individual..... \$100
<b>Regular:</b>	• Family ..... \$200
• Individual..... \$10	<b>Life Member</b>
• Couple..... \$15	• Individual ..... \$250
• Family..... \$20	• Family..... \$400
<b>Sustaining:</b>	Photographs By:
• Individual.....\$25	<i>Jennifer Knight Bodnar</i>
• Family..... \$50	<i>Tom Kenyon</i>

**Fall Newsletter Sponsors**

*In memory Joel Hale*

- Lawrence R. Blood**
- Mary Dalton**
- Rena Lustberg**
- Edward and Ruth Perkins**
- Bill Stillson**
- Donald VanDusen**
- Mary Jane Wentworth**

✍ Thank you for all the generous donations, which contribute to the printing of this newsletter. If you have sent in a donation, but do not see your name above, it will be applied to future printings. We acknowledge sponsorship chronologically and appreciate your donations and continued support.

If you would like to make a donation to the printing of this newsletter, please send a check to: WWHS, PO Box 12, Brownsville, VT 05037. Memo: Newsletter.

***Friend us on Facebook!  
West Windsor Historical Society***

*The Directors and Officers express their deep appreciation to Mary-Anne Boyce for her many years of service and dedication to the WWHS!*

**West Windsor Historical Society**  
 P.O. Box 12, Brownsville, VT 05037  
 FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED