

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Nov. 15th, 7 pm, CBMS

- Wreath sale is underway! Place your order now.
- Annual bake sale is November 11th.

Let's Make a Deal Sale

Our Let's Make a Deal sale was a huge success that saw many donations and lots of visitors and buyers. We netted \$1358+. Thanks to all visitors, donators, buyers, and also everyone that helped in any way to make this a great day for all. We are looking forward to next year!

Our next DHS meeting is planned for Tuesday, November 15th, at 7 p.m. in the Crossett Brook Middle School library. After the business meeting, Skip and Donnie will present an array of post card photos from the past showing many buildings and interesting sites. This should bring back many memories from our youth. With winter right behind, this should give us a moment to reminisce and enjoy. Refreshments will be served. If you have questions, please call Donnie at 244-7558.

Dues Reminder: Dues expire December 31, 2022. Dues for 2023 are being accepted. Please mail your dues to Mark Morse, Treasurer (see back of newsletter), which will help defray postage costs of reminders.

The following individuals have their dues paid through at least 2023, therefore there is no need to remit any membership dues at this time:

Ada Alger, Janet Bisbee, Eileen Chittick, Dale Christie, Judy Douglas, William Doyle, Thelma Forkey, Larry Frasier, James Gingras, Joyce Gingras, Ed Gormel, Marge Gormel, John Grace, Richard Grace, Harold Grout, James Hanley, James Harvey, Martha Jillson, Brian Lindner, Rosemary Mallin, James McCarthy, Ethel Montuori, Bonnie Morse, Mark Morse, Willis Morse, William O'Brien, April Schwendler, Ben Smith, Laura Titus, George Welch, Josh Welch, Shari Welch, Rhoda Wimble, Robert Wimble, Gordon Wood, Theresa Wood.

Wreath Sale

Our annual wreath sale is on again for this year! Call Mark at 244-7080 or Donnie at 244-7558 to reserve your order. Wreaths this year will cost \$22.00 each. We will also have mailing boxes available for your convenience at \$4.00 each. Everything else will remain the same as last year.

Annual Bake Sale

Our annual fall bake sale is scheduled for Friday, November 11th, from 9 a.m. until noon, in front of Kinney Drugs in Waterbury. Please bake your favorite cookies, muffins, brownies, donuts, pies, bread, baked beans, etc., and donate them to our sale so we can make it another successful fundraiser for the society. Thank you to all of our society members and friends that surprise us each year with their bake sale donations. Questions? Call Donnie at 244-7558.



SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

Members: Eulie Costello, Lori Morse, Bonnie Morse, Mark Morse

The committee did not meet during the summer months. The next scheduled meeting is October 22, so we will not meet this newsletter deadline. We will have an update in the February issue.

Mark Morse and Brian Lindner provided research support regarding a traffic accident that occurred on currently named Main St. in the early 1970's.

Assisted Brian Lindner with research into a structure fire that also occurred on Main St. in the late 1960's.

Donated Artifacts/Documents/Ephemera

- Full report will be presented in February issue.

Monetary Donations

Anonymous * Ed & Marge Gormel

AUGUST PICNIC 2022

Our annual picnic was held on Sunday, August 21st, at 12:30 p.m., at the South Duxbury Church property. Historic artifacts were on display and folks who wanted to could tour the church.



Shawn Perry photos.

CIVIL WAR ACTIVE DUTY

Active Duty During the Civil War

Judge Steven Thomas of West Fairlee was commissioned a Colonel on November 12, 1861 after serving on a committee appointed by then Governor Fairbanks to develop procedures for raising troops in support of the war effort for the Union.

In January of 1862, Thomas, along with his appointed Officers, reported to Camp Holbrook (named for Governor Holbrook) in Brattleboro, to prepare the troops of the Eighth Regiment of Vermont Volunteer Infantry. The winter weather was one of unusual severity with heavy snowfall and temperatures frequently below zero. The troops were quartered in cheap houses and many were inflicted with disease and discomfort from the accommodations.

Prior to their departure south, what follows is a newspaper account of some less than dignified behavior on the part of some of the enlistees (however, probably not all that uncommon around many Army Camps, North or South). Note that this event occurred just 5 days prior to their departure to the battle front.

Vermont Phoenix, Brattleboro, VT – February 27, 1862

“Late on Saturday evening the police of this village were called upon to suppress a disturbance at a house of ill-repute on Flat Street occasioned by some of the soldiers of the 8th Regiment. The police declined to interfere unless accompanied by some of the proper military authorities. Accordingly the information was laid before Col. Thomas who, with suitable guard, proceeded to the aforesaid establishment and there captured a happy Lieutenant and sundry privates. The captive officer was ordered to report himself under arrest and the privates were sent to the guard house. Two of the privates escaped with one of the women by secreting themselves in the cellar. It is currently reported that these arrests were made upon information given by certain civilians, who had been temporarily supplanted in the affections of the inmates of this house by the aforementioned soldiers.”

The regiment remained at Brattleboro until March 4th, when it left for New York to board ships for duty in the deep-south around the Gulf of Mexico. A major portion of their three-year enlistment was spent in action in Louisiana. Quite a change in environment from that which they had left, but still a breeding ground for disease such as typhoid, dysentery and yellow fever to which many succumbed. The regiment later moved on to battles throughout Virginia. In April of 1865 the regiment was ordered to Washington and was positioned throughout the city to prevent the escape of the assassin of President Lincoln.

Of the 36 officers and 980 enlisted men, 345 died from various causes, 264 were wounded, and 185 were taken prisoner.

Despite their previous transgressions, the men of the 8th Vermont were determined fighting men who performed their duties admirably and were well respected for their efforts by the Union Army.

D A S C O M B P . R O W E ' S L E G A C Y

Dascomb P. (Dac) Rowe's Legacy
By: Steve Grace

The citizens of our town and our sister town, Waterbury, who immediately connect with the name Dascomb (Dac) Rowe diminishes with each passing year, I'm betting that a significant number of residents and visitors - maybe a majority - pass by the signs on North Main Street in Waterbury identifying the recreation field named in his honor and the house across the street from the library which also displays his family name on a sign in its front yard and muse, "Wonder where that name came from?" This is no insult to Dac. It's simply the passage of time. Those of us touched by Dac's contributions to our two towns are an old, rapidly disappearing group.

But to the huge majority of us who are former students at Waterbury High School who attended WHS when Dac was principal, math teacher, coach and disciplinarian, Dac remains a unique, revered man. I never appreciated Dac's greatness, his devotion to WHS, while I was attending high school. I was mature enough to know he



Dedication

For his unfailing interest in our activities, his many years of service, his cooperation and ever present humor, we, the Class of 1959, proudly dedicate this yearbook to Principal Dascomb P. Rowe, an inspiring teacher, and above all, a true friend.

A page from the 1959 Waterbury High School yearbook.

was a tremendous teacher and leader, but it took years of attending college, working for a living in the mathematics field, and getting to know him on a personal basis across from him at a bridge table to recognize his unique greatness and to realize what a significant influence he had on my life and the lives of hundreds of young men and women who were lucky enough to cross paths with him in the classrooms and halls of WHS.

I've written previous articles either featuring Dac or referring to him, so I'm not going to repeat myself. Suffice it to say that he was principal at WHS for almost three decades - from the 1930s to 1960. I graduated from WHS in 1959, so I was there very close to the end of his service as principal. I graduated from UVM in 1964 and took a job in Washington DC, working for the Navy Department, stayed there for twenty years, and returned to my beloved Vermont in 1983. At the urging of Ken Sabin, a longtime Waterbury resident, a graduate of WHS, and close personal friend of Dac Rowe, I became an active officer in the WHS Alumni Association and started playing bridge with Dac, Ken, and various former students of Dac. I played bridge in that group for at least ten years, every Wednesday night at the insistence of Dac. I got to know Dac on a personal level and my admiration for the man increased the more I talked with him - and suffered his curses when the bridge game went in my favor rather than his.

The WHS Alumni Association gathers every two years in Waterbury to reunite with old friends, schoolmates and classmates, and revisit our years as students at WHS. We have a great time. I was asked by the association officers to serve on a committee which selects Harwood Union graduating seniors for scholarships awarded from a fund donated by Dac's former students, members of the WHS Alumni Association. I've served on this committee for years. The association currently awards three scholarships each year, each in the amount of \$3,000.00, to deserving graduates. A few years ago, this scholarship fund was the beneficiary of a gift of \$20,000.00 from Steve Barney, Class of 1960, a gift which ensured that the scholarship awards could be continued for years to come. Hail, once again, to my friend, Steve.

Last year, Dac's daughter, Merry (Rowe) Hermans, died. I remember Merry and her husband, George Hermans, well. Dac would alert me when they were visiting him at his home in Waterbury and tell me to be on the alert for a call to serve as a fourth in bridge games while they were in town. Merry, like Dac, was an outstanding bridge player - George was more like me, a decent player but not in the same league as Merry or Dac.

Early this year (2022) our WHS Alumni Association president, John Vincent, called me to tell me some star-

D A S C O M B P . R O W E ' S L E G A C Y

tling news. George Hermans called John and told him that, at Merry's request at the end of her life, he was donating \$100,000.00 to the WHS Dac Rowe Scholarship Fund. I was dumbstruck by the news. But then I realized that no one knew Dac any better than his daughter, Merry, and Merry knew how deeply Dac was invested in his long role as an educator at WHS.

So graduates of Harwood will be receiving scholarships in Dac's and Merry's names for years to come, almost certainly beyond my lifetime. Dac Rowe will be just

some unknown name, unknown person to most of these young men and women, and that is not a bad thing at all... It's simply reality at work. But for those of us who walked the halls of WHS with Dac, many of us attending multiple classes he taught in our four years there, these annual awards are a reminder of what a great man he was, how significantly he touched us, and how fitting it is that he is positively contributing to the education of future American citizens.



First Row: Miss Kennedy, Mrs. Bisbee, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Rowe, Mr. Doran, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Gough, Miss Mitiguy, Second Row: Mr. R. Rowe, Miss Weston, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Hoskiewicz, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Tadejewski, Mrs. Harlow, Mr. Erickson.

Waterbury High School Faculty

PRINCIPAL DASCOMB P. ROWE A.B., M.Ed.
 University of Vermont

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|--|--------------------|--|--------------------|
| GORDON CURTIS, B.S. in Ed.
University of Vermont
Industrial Arts | Mathematics | STEPHEN A. DORAN, A.B. in Ed.
University of Michigan
University of Vermont | Social Studies |
| EDWARD TADEJEWSKI, B.S., M.S.
University of Vermont
Science | Mathematics | DOROTHY B. GOUGH, A.B. in Ed.
University of Vermont | Mathematics |
| JOHN WAGNER, A.B.
Muhlenberg College
English | Guidance | HERBERT ERICKSON, B.S.
Ithaca College | Coach |
| JOHN HOSKIEWICZ, B.S. in Ed.
University of Vermont | Physical Education | ROBERT ROWE, B.S. in Ed.
Johnson Teachers College | Science |
| M. PATRICIA KENNEDY, B.S. in Bus. Ed.
Trinity College, Burlington
Commercial | Social Studies | ROGER J. CUMMINGS, B.S.
Johnson Teachers College
Social Studies | Mathematics |
| MARIANNE MITIGUY, B.Mus., M.A.
Manhattanville College
University of Vermont
Music | Drivers' Training | DONALD SHORT, B.S., M.S.
Boston University
Instrumental Music | Mathematics |
| MARCELLINE BISBEE, Ph.D., M.A.
University of Vermont
Middlebury College | French | CYNTHIA M. HARLOW, B.S. in Ed.
Tufts University | Physical Education |
| HARRIET WESTON, B. in Ed.
Keene Teachers College
Home Economics | English | ANNE WILSON
Lyndon Teachers College | Reading |

A page from the 1959 Waterbury High School yearbook showing the faculty that served with Dac on his final year leading the school as principal.

D A S C O M B P . R O W E ' S L E G A C Y

Editor's Note: Steve added the text below to his story to give the reader a feel for the devotion Merry Rowe had to her father, to the value of education, and to Dac's and Merry's beloved Waterbury High School.

A bit of background on Dac Rowe's daughter, Merry (Rowe) Hermans:

Merry Hermans died in Maine in 2020. Her obituary, published in the Portland Press Herald, portrays the lady and her connection to her father, Dac Rowe, and her husband, George, better than I could possibly describe. So I quote from this obituary of June 26, 2020 in that newspaper:

"Brunswick - Merry Hermans died June 20, 2020, 10 days after her 92nd birthday. In November, 1927, as the Winooski River in Waterbury, Vt. rose 20 feet over its banks, Dascomb Rowe carried to safety through the rushing and turbulent waters and up three flights of stairs, his pregnant wife, Ruth, and their two young children, Ernestine and Alan. Two months later, on a brutally cold winter's day, Ruth was thrown from a runaway horse drawn sleigh. Miraculously, she gave birth on June 12, 1928 to Mary Ellen Rowe, who soon realized that her essential soul - joy, grace, sunshine, optimism - was better reflected as Merry.

And at age 13, so she became.

Merry, Ernie, Alan and their younger brother, Steve, were raised in a tradition that highly valued education. Her father, Dascomb P. Rowe, was principal of Waterbury High School. Her mother, Ruth McLaughlin Rowe, was a professor of English at Vermont Junior College. Of course, it was not always so easy being the principal's daughter and she would recall jitterbugging down the school hallway only to see the commanding presence of her father. "You all go to class. Miss Rowe, you go to my office." Merry graduated valedictorian and noted in her yearbook a favorite quote, "Knowledge is Power." Love of sport was also a foundational belief. "Stretch," as Merry was known, played varsity basketball for four years, winning the gold ball during her state championship season her junior year. Love of music, as well, was a driving force, and she sang throughout the town as a young woman with her trio: The Sunshine Lassies, and wondered aloud about a possible future as a nightclub singer.

Instead, she continued her education at Syracuse University, which turned out to be a wise decision indeed. She earned a B.A. in English and, more importantly, met the love of her life, George Hermans, at a local drinking establishment, The Orange. After a wonderful and spirited romance, George and Merry were married in 1950 in Vermont..."

Merry was a delightful person. I played bridge with Dac, Merry, and George on multiple occasions when Merry and George were visiting Dac when he was an old, old man. He was still sharp as a tack and vied with Merry as to who was the best bridge player at the table. Reading Merry's obituary brought a smile to my face and brought back warm memories of our bridge games and her presence at that bridge table - a highly intelligent, warm, humorous, free spirit. Let's hope she infuses at least some of those students who will benefit from her and George's generosity with some of her virtues.



Merry and George Hermans.

Photo courtesy of George Hermans.

'TIS THE SEASON

'TIS THE SEASON

By: Mark Morse

The months of November and December are commonly referred to as the "Holiday Season" due to the Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year celebrations.

Another traditional celebration during this time of year for many Vermonters is the annual whitetail deer hunting season. Traditionally held for 16 days in the month of November, many a hunting sportsman is excited and determined to get out into the forest to attempt to harvest a mature buck to pack the freezer with high protein, low fat meat.

Many a young lad missed a day or two of school to go hunting with their fathers, brothers, or friends. Today many a young girl has joined in the sport and I suspect at least a few skip a day of class as well. In years past, the majority of deer hunters only hunted the November buck season, but now many also partake in the bow and muzzleloader season as well. The limit for deer has changed several times in recent years with multiple deer of either sex capable to be harvested. Many of the seasons have been expanded to allow hunters a better opportunity for success. Of course, there is often disagreement and debate as to how the deer harvest should be handled. The game biologists and the hunting community seldom agree with how the deer herd should be regulated and harvested.

Duxbury is the past home of the well-known deer hunting Benoit family. The Benoit residence was a popular site for viewing the trophy deer that hung on their porch pole. In the 1950's and 1960's the majority of the deer they harvested were taken in Vermont. Father Larry and boys Lanny, Lansing, Lane, and Shane hunted primarily in the Northeast Kingdom at this time. Later, as the boys got older they hunted throughout the forests of Maine, New Hampshire, and Canada. They were noted for their tracking ability and their endless pursuit of their quarry once they were on the track of a huge buck. The deer they harvested were mature, large racked, and high weight animals. No one can dispute their dedication to the sport. Occasionally, one of the daughters would also harvest a fine buck.

Larry also crafted hunting knives and sheaths. I am fortunate to own one of his creations as does my brother Bill, which was presented to us one Christmas as a gift from our mother. We have never used the knives for their intended use, instead we cherish them as a souvenir from a neighbor and friend. Larry was also a published author, writing about his deer hunting expeditions. He and the boys' (especially Lanny & Lane) hunting prowess was the topic in several hunting periodicals chronicling their hunting exploits.

Many other longtime Duxbury families of less notoriety also take part in the tradition. They include the Lewis, Sherman, Morse, Griffith, Merchant, Williams, Grace, Rutledge, and Welch families and probably others I have omitted who enjoy the pursuit. Many new residents also partake in climbing the many hills in town in an effort for success, but regardless of the result, it is just nice to be binding with nature's beauty at this time of year.

Most of us are not as vigilant as the Benoit family. We just enjoy being in the forest and seeking out the elusive whitetail. Many men go off to deer camp for several days leaving their homes in the care of the rest of their family.

The comradery we share with our friends and fellow hunters provides us with great satisfaction. Of course, we are excited when fate allows us to harvest one of these beautiful creatures. It takes a certain amount of effort, luck, and skill to be successful. Whether the goal is to get a trophy buck, put quality meat in the freezer, or just enjoy being in the woods of Vermont, deer season is a local tradition.

So, as we hunters approach another of Vermont's seasons with anticipation of success, let us be thankful to live here in Vermont and to all those who allow us take part in this annual activity. If you aren't successful, fear not, there's always next year, and enjoy the opportunity to be out in nature in this great State.

D U X B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y , I N C .
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**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - NOV. 15
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM**

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S O C I E T Y , I N C .
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