

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Feb. 19, 7 pm, CBMS

- Annual elections will take place at the meeting.
- We will host the potluck luncheon at Town Meeting 2019.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 19, at 7 p.m. at the Crossett Brook Middle School cafeteria. The business meeting will include our annual election of officers and those scheduled trustees for the ensuing year.

The program for the evening will be a PowerPoint presentation by Kathy Grace on reconditioning black and white photos that were damaged catastrophically. This will be a very interesting program and will provide valuable knowledge for our community as we go forward. Refreshments and fellowship will follow. We hope to see you there!

GUESS WHO?



Last Issue's
Mystery Photo:
Shane Grace



Wreath Sale

Our Christmas wreath sales were very successful again, thanks to all involved! Our proceeds were approximately \$750. We wish to thank Lisa Ireland for all her efforts as usual in making this another nice event for the community.

Town Meeting 2019



Our next fundraiser will be on Town Meeting day. Our society will once again host the potluck luncheon. The cost will be \$5.00 per person. If possible, please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert (NO nuts or peanut oil) to add to the feast. Beverages and rolls will be provided. Our society will also have coffee and donuts available on sale in the morning. Any questions, please call Mary Ethel Welch at 244-7558.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

- Catalogued latest artifact donations & continue to review/update existing documents to ensure they are properly identified and stored.
- Family genealogy files for families whose last names begin with I, J, K have been transcribed and placed in the archival files. Transcribing continues as time permits with a goal to have all families completed by 2020.
- We are always looking for Duxbury family photos to add to our collection. Please contact us and we can scan them in and return the original to you if you wish. Today's photo is tomorrow's history!

Donated Artifacts/Documents/Ephemera

- * Copy of the presentation materials relating to "Infant Werner" which was shown at the November quarterly meeting. ~Don Welch & Skip Flanders
- * Photocopies of newspaper articles, photos and genealogical information relative to the Crossett/Mears family and their ties to the Crossett Hill cemetery. ~John H. Mears, III

Monetary Donations

Mary Whitcomb * Catherine Palermo * Wendy & Jim Welch * Stephanie Koonz
 Audrey & Alan Quackenbush * Rhoda & Robert Wimble * Marcia & Mike Woodard
 Rachel Straw * William O'Brien * Connie Dolloff * Eileen Chittick * Kim Greenwood
 Barb & Mo Lavanway * Brian Lindner * Anonymous Donor

November Food Sale

We held our annual bake sale on November 10, in front of Kinney's in Waterbury. Our proceeds were \$120. A big thank you to Kinney's for allowing us to set up our table again this year. We also wish to thank the bakers, the volunteers, and everyone who stopped by to support our society. We appreciate your time and support!



Alison Magnani photo.

P O T P O U R R I

Town Meeting

Pipes puffing
feet wiggling
mouths wagging
people wishing the ballot-counters
would hurry up.

A rare time when
young and old
eager and tired
all come together
for as many different purposes
as there are people.

Some come for the simple fun
of seeing each other.

Others come because they have a gripe.
A few are affected by some new ordinance.

Some want to run.

Still others come
because it's one remaining thing
untouched by time,

and reminds them
of the way things **used** to be.

Few go home unhappy;
because for those,
tired of always being told what to do,
it's a chance for them
to have **their** say.

By Carol Johnson Collins
March 7, 1972

L E S T W E F O R G E T

By Donnie Welch

As a young lad playing with the neighborhood children, we were often in the cemetery currently known as the Crossett Hill Cemetery. I was amazed at the time by the large pine trees that so majestically stood reaching for the skies that had been planted among the marble headstones. I can vividly recall many more headstones than there are now and most of them had Grand Army of the Republic medallions in front of their stones, signifying they were either Civil War Veterans or casualties of that dreadful war. Where these headstones are today will probably remain a mystery. But at least I remember (and want you to know) now why my dad, Ferd. C. Welch, and my grandfather, James L. Welch, always referred to this burial site as the Civil War Cemetery.

For years I have been active in searching for records that produced evidence to indicate that more people were buried there than we now know. So, the following is an example of what I believe lies below the surface in this cemetery.

Bruno Werner was born in Germany in 1882. It has been said that he joined the German Army as a young man. At some point he fell out of favor with his superiors, left his native land, and settled on Crossett Hill. He purchased a small farm on the end of Hayes Road, as it is currently known. He met and married Amanda Wilde, a neighbor from Wescott Road. Currently this same road is named Westcott Road.

In the wee hours of August 21, 1914, Amanda gave birth to a son. It was obvious to the couple that their son was in a fight for his life so Bruno went for the doctor in town (Dr. George Bidwell). Soon after Dr. Bidwell arrived at their home, the baby passed, due to premature birth. On Dr. Bidwell's trip back to Waterbury, he stopped at the Duxbury Town Clerk's home and made out a birth and a death certificate for the town's records.

During that day, Bruno made a casket for their son. After darkness set in, he took the casket containing their son, a shovel, and a lantern, and walked down the long driveway and up into the cemetery. Secretly, he buried their son in an unmarked grave.

In 1915, a daughter Anna was born, and they moved to Hoboken, New Jersey, where Bruno worked in a poultry factory for a short time. The couple then moved back to Crossett Hill, in a farmhouse now owned by John and Cindy Senning. Today this road is called Pollander Road. Harold was the next to be born in 1923. Their last child was Alyce, born in 1933.

Anna became a school teacher in upstate New York. Harold entered the armed forces, where it became his career. In 1947, Amanda died unexpectedly. This left Bruno alone to care for Alyce. After graduating from Waterbury High School, she attended and graduated from Johnson State College. Alyce eventually married and taught school in Oregon. This left Bruno (as I remember) alone, secluded and in a solitude state. He remained for a few years on the hill and as life became difficult, Anna relocated him close to her in upstate New York. In 1966, Bruno passed on and he and Amanda are buried in the Duxbury Corner Cemetery.

On September 26, 2007, I was surprised by a visit from Alyce (Werner) Stephens. She had visited the Crossett Hill Cemetery and told me of her oldest brother's short life. It seems her mother showed her the burial site when she was around 10 years old and only once and never again mentioned this story. I asked Alyce to write down, sign, and date what she remembered of the story.

After she left, I researched town records and found Dr. Bidwell's certificates. I then asked permission from the town cemetery officials to erect a homemade headstone, which I placed at the site. I also contacted Alyce and sent her applicable documents.

LEST WE FORGET

Infant Werner's grave at the
Crossett Hill Cemetery.
This stone was inscribed and
placed by Donnie Welch.



Bruno and Amanda
Werner's grave at the
Duxbury Corner
Cemetery.

MAPLE SUGAR PARTY, 1908



This photo was taken in 1908 in front of the Waterbury Inn. The maple sugar party was organized by the CVRR and traveled to the Henry Carpenter sugar woods in Duxbury. The newspaper clipping below explains the trip.

A newspaper clipping from April 9, 1908

The agents of the New England Passenger association, representing all the New England railroads, accompanied by their wives, sons and daughters, arrived at Waterbury in a special car March 31. The party numbered between forty and fifty. They remained at the Waterbury Inn two days, during which the Montpelier Military Band orchestra furnished music. They were all loud in their praise of the arrangements prepared by J.H. Hanley, general passenger agent of the Central Vermont railway, who saw that every comfort was provided for the visitors. Mr. Hanley accompanied the party as far as White River Junction. Not the least pleasing part of the social program was the visit to the sugar woods of Mr. Carpenter in Duxbury. Few of the fifty members of the party had ever visited a sugar orchard with operations going full blast, and pleasure over the new scenes was expressed by them all. They ate all the new sugar they could and took more away with them. The trip to and from the sugar orchard was in itself a novelty, the party being conveyed in five large ox-teams. On their return to the Waterbury Inn, the men of the party got down to business and discussed various matters of interest to them, including passenger rates, etc. They were not prepared, however, to give out any of the results of their deliberations. Regret was expressed that F.W. Morse of Montpelier is to retire from the position of general passenger agent of the Montpelier & Wells River railroad.

SUGARING IN DUXBURY



Ralph P. Davis and Charlie Kennedy gathering sap. Undated photo.



The Davis Sugarhouse in North Duxbury. Photo by Malcolm Wilder, undated.

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 - FEB. 19
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM**

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