

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
November 19th, 7 pm,
CBMS library

- Memberships expire Dec. 31. Dues for 2020 will be accepted at the meeting.

Mystery Photo or Trivia Question?

Do you have a photo or trivia question we can feature in an upcoming newsletter? The newsletter committee is eager to hear from you! Please submit to the committee and we will place it in the next available issue. Thank you for your participation.

Last Issue's Mystery Photo: Jill Smith



Our next historical meeting and program will be in the library at CBMS on Tuesday, November 19th, at 7 p.m.

The program after the business meeting will be an interesting narrative by Mark Morse accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation run by Skip Flanders. Mark's methodical and documented presentation will unveil the truth surrounding the mythical beliefs that have been handed down through many generations. This subject will be on the two tombstones and their shortened lives that are in the Sprague Cemetery on Crossett Hill. If you are not aware of this cemetery, it is directly across the road from Moose Meadow Lodge. Don't miss this one—it will be an interesting evening and will give you a great lesson on how involved research can become.

*Reminder: Memberships expire December 31, 2019. Dues for 2020 are being accepted. Those who can renew at the meeting are urged to do so. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please mail your dues to Mark Morse, Treasurer (see back of newsletter), which will help defray postage costs of reminders.

Wreaths Sale



Attention members and friends of the Duxbury Historical Society! It is time again to order holiday wreaths! Our always beautiful and decorated wreaths will be available for delivery by the week of November 11th. They are \$20 each. We will also have mailing boxes available for your convenience at \$4 each. These wreaths make wonderful gifts. For questions or ordering, please call either Mark at 244-7080 or Donnie at 244-7558.

Annual Bake Sale

Our Duxbury Historical Society will be holding its annual bake sale on Friday, November 8th, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. in front of Kinney Drugs in Waterbury. The sale will feature a variety of homemade baked goods and baked beans. This will be a great opportunity for deer hunters to stock-up on their way to camp, and also to benefit our local historical society. Questions: please call Mary at 244-7558.



SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

- Catalogued latest artifact donations.
- Currently transcribing family genealogy records with the last names that begin with 'S'. Those with last names beginning with 'A' thru 'R' are completed and available for viewing.
- 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

- Dave/Don Welch Collections: Copies of poems written by students of Crossett Hill School to teacher Janus Crossett in 1854.
- Peter Merriman: Embroidered patch of Duxbury Elementary School.
- Al Young: Student desk from Duxbury Elementary School.
- Steve Barney: Ephemera collection of his father's (Friend 'Bud' Barney) including military items, hunting items, diary transcript, family photos, etc.

Monetary Donations

* Harold & Shirley Grout *

If you are not already, please consider receiving the newsletter via the website only instead of USPS. Each mailed hardcopy of the newsletter costs approximately \$2.50 per member. A good portion of our membership dues are used to publish and mail the newsletters. One perk of receiving the newsletter via the website is that you can print it yourself at any time in color. Please contact Mark Morse if you are willing to switch to receiving the newsletter via the website only.

A Recipe to Share

Do you have a recipe you'd like to share? Of course you do! Please submit it to the newsletter committee and we will feature it in the next available issue.

Honey Apple Griddle Cakes

1 ½ cups sifted flour	¾ cup milk
3 tsp baking powder	3 Tbs melted shortening
1 egg well beaten	1 cup finely chopped, pared and cored apples
¼ cup honey	¼ tsp cinnamon

Sift dry ingredients together. Combine egg, honey, milk and shortening. Add to dry ingredients and stir until smooth. Add the apples and mix well. Fry on a hot griddle.

The honey is wonderful in these griddle cakes, also maple syrup may be substituted. Maple syrup or sugar, and apples are a natural combination.

Mrs. Everett Atwood

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Our D.H.S. "Let's Make a Deal" sale was held on Saturday, September 14. It turned out to be successful, even with the weather. We had lots of great assistance from our Society members and friends, plus we had very good attendance. For ALL of you that helped -- we say a big "THANK YOU!" We also thank our many contributors that made this sale possible. We had a good time and netted approximately \$800.

~Mary E. Welch



Shawn Perry photos.



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100 YEARS AGO

ALBA J. DURKEE DIES.**Duxbury Representative Taken Ill Day
After His Election.**

A. J. Durkee, town representative, of Duxbury who never was able to take his seat because taken ill the day following his election, died Sunday evening at 6:45 of cancer of the stomach. After being taken ill he went to the Fanny Allen hospital in Winooski and received treatment but did not gain any relief for a long time.

Alba Durkee, who was one of the most influential men of Duxbury as well as one of the leading business men, was born in Fayston 49 years ago, being the son of John and Mary (Boyden) Durkee. As a young boy he came to Duxbury, entering into the lumber business with his father later in life. At the time of his death he owned large tracts on the road leading to Camel's Hump. He had been chairman of the selectmen for many years and was one of the wheel horses in the administration of the town's affairs.

Mr. Durkee married Miss Bessie O'Neil and she survives him, together with three children, John, Mary and Ida, the eldest of whom is not quite seven years old. He also leaves one brother, L. J. Durkee also of Duxbury.

The funeral which was held from St. Andrew's church at eleven o'clock Tuesday morning, was largely attended. The requiem mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Robert Devoy. The bearers were Homer Kennedy, Howard Kennedy, Thomas O'Neill, Frank Callahan, Wiley Thomas and Frank Lewis. Among those present from out of town were: Mrs. Dodwell, Mrs. Champagne and Winnie Burke of Burlington and Mrs. T. E. Phillips of Bolton. Interment was in Holy Cross cemetery. There were many beautiful floral tributes.

DIED AT ADVANCED AGE**Frank Callahan Passes Away in North
Duxbury**

Frank Callahan of North Duxbury, one of the oldest residents there passed away at his home last night after a short illness.

He was born about 85 years ago in Ireland the oldest of a number of children of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Callahan. When he was a young child they moved to this country and for many years they have resided in North Duxbury. He is well known throughout this part of the state as their farm was the last one on the Camel's Hump trail and those climbing the Hump would always stop there. In former days they used to hold dances there and the couples would come for a number of miles to attend them. He has been a voter there in North Duxbury for a great many years, probably 60. His mother and father, who lived 93 and 89 years of age, have been dead only a few years. He has been twice married and both wives are dead.

He is survived by one son, Frank Callahan Jr., with whom he lived, and he also has two married daughters who live away. He has two brothers and one sisters, Patrick Callahan of this city, Jeremiah Callahan of Malone, N. Y.; Mrs. Katherine Maloney of Waterbury and Mrs. Michael O'Brien of Duxbury. There are also a number of nephews and neices.

The funeral will be held Thursday morning from St. Andrews church in Waterbury and the interment will be in the Catholic cemetery there in Waterbury.

February 1919

FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES

Reuben Munson
Moved to Stowe, fall of 1858
1781 - 1871

Anecdotes:

- ◇ He was a large, powerful man. When it came time to build his barn, he had no team of oxen or horses. He carried on his shoulders rafters 18 feet long and proportionately large. Mr. Munson, however, ruined his health through such exertions and hard work. A farmer as long as his health permitted, he was finally forced to sell his farm and moved onto the "main road." The property he bought was that next to and around the little old cemetery in South Duxbury. There was a water-privilege on the property where he built a shop in which he made wagons, sleighs, and did miscellaneous work.
- ◇ His son told this story of him: "During the War of 1812 the British threatened Plattsburgh. A call came in the middle of the night for my father to help resist them. Out of bed he jumped, my mother packed his knapsack while he got dressed and bade good-bye to his children who were still sound asleep, and was on the road in 20 minutes. Such was his promptness in all matters." He was 31 years of age then. Two more children were born to him after the war.
- ◇ "In the old days when the use of strong drink was universal, he erected a grater cider-mill, operated by water power. For 2 or 3 years he did a brisk business. The temperance movement arose, and he early enlisted under its banner. One day one of Mr. Munson's neighbors, addicted to the use of intoxicating beverages, was talking to him. During the conversation Mr. Munson pleaded with the neighbor to stop his vile habit and to sign the pledge. After a few minutes the neighbor retorted, "You are a pretty one to preach to me about habit, when you yourself are indulging in a habit as obnoxious as mine! My taking an occasional glass of good New England rum or mug of good hard cider certainly is no worse a habit than snuffing that yaller stuff like you do!" Reuben thought a moment, then took out his snuff box and emptied it, saying, "I thank you; never more will I indulge in so much as one pinch of snuff!"

Church Folklore

May 6, 1843: Br. Smith gave notice that he wished to resign the office of Deacon of this church giving as his reason conscious unfitness. Stated that it was not a recently formed determination. After vainly endeavoring to induct Br. Smith to remain as he was, the Church voted to accept his resignation.

~Reuben Munson, Clerk

November 5, 1844: Complaints being made to the church of unchristian conduct in Sister Orlana Jonson, she was visited and faithfully labored with by her pastor and by many members of the church. All efforts to reclaim her proving ineffectual: regular steps of labor were commenced by Brother Earl Ward, second by Brother Philemon Ashley and then the case was laid formally before the Church, embracing the following charge viz...

"Unchristian conduct and breach of covenant in attending balls and nightly assemblies, regarded by us as sinful." After faithfully considering the subject and adjourning from time to time to give space for repentance the following resolution in substance was finally unanimously passed "Whereas Gospel Steps having been duly taken to reclaim Sister Orlana Jonson from her wandering without the least appearance of success. Therefore resolved unanimously that Sister Orlana Jonson be "separated from our company" and the visible church of Christ.

~Reuben Munson, Clerk

March 10, 1847: At a regular meeting voted to withdraw fellowship from Stephen Thornton and Benjamin F. Meads for breach of covenant.

~Reuben Munson, Clerk

P.S. Munson was clerk of church 22 years; 19 in Moretown - Duxbury set up, 3 years in Duxbury.

MAPLE SUGAR

April 30, 1880

WATERBURY.—Judge Cressett of Duxbury has made 4,000 pounds of maple sugar. In the best of sugar seasons he makes 5,000 pounds. This is about a fair proportion of the yield of maple sugar this year, as compared with other seasons. Sugar orchards on the high hills have done better than those on the lower lands. The average crop is about eighty per cent of what is made in the best seasons. Timothy Wheeler of Waterbury Centre, the "old prob." for sugar makers, wrote in his memorandum, January 1, 1880, "Sugar season will be good, but not the best." Wheeler has been for several years making extensive experiments with maple trees. He can stop the flow of sap at will and make white, fine-flavored sugar, and colored sugar that "tastes of the bud" from the same tree on the same day.

Luther Davis is building a three story building, 40 feet square, opposite the bank, to be used for stores and offices, which, in addition to the block built last year, is a great improvement to the place.

1892

Growth of Maple Sugar Industry.

The growth of the maple sugar industry in the United States is shown by the superintendent of census who has issued a report dealing with the subject. Maple sugar is made to a greater or less extent in 24 states, the total number of producers being 62,074, of whom 23,533 made 500 pounds or upward. The total production of maple sugar for the year ending May 31st, 1890, was 32,952,827 pounds, and of maple syrup 2,258,376 gallons, as compared with 36,576,061 pounds of sugar and 1,796,048 gallons of syrup reported at the preceding census. A study of these figures indicates the marked change which has taken place in this industry during the past decade, many of the producers making maple syrup instead of sugar owing to the increasing demand for the former.

It is significant that Vermont is credited with nearly one-half of the total maple sugar product of the United States, this state having produced 14,123,921 pounds and New York 10,484,633 pounds; as compared with 11,261,076 pounds and 10,693,616 pounds at the preceding census. This is a handsome showing for our state but the figures given only a fraction of what is sold for "pure Vermont maple sugar."

A Prolific Sugar Tree.

"There is as much difference in maple trees for sugar as there is in cows for butter. Sixteen quarts of average sap will make one pound of sugar. There are some trees that, if tapped, will not flow sap, while there are others that have been known to discharge one hundred sixty gallons in one season." So says Dr. H. A. Cutting in the *St. Johnsbury Republican* for April 16th last. The most prolific tree that I have as yet been able to find is in **Duxbury, Vt.**, on the farm of C. W. Kellogg. There was made from it last spring fifteen pounds and five ounces, and sap enough lost to have made in the whole twenty pounds—so estimated. Only one spout was used, bored with a half-inch bit one and one-fourth inches deep. Ten quarts of this sap made twenty-six ounces of sugar. A few years ago there were made from this tree, in one spring, thirty and three-fourths pounds, with only one tub but two spouts. I would say that this tree stands immediately beside a very cold spring, which accounts for its quantity and quality of sap, as I find in every instance where a tree is thus or similarly situated it discharges much and sweet sap. The colder the water the sweeter the sap. Who can explain this?

TIMOTHY WHEELER.

Waterbury Center, Vt.

[Has the coldness of the water in these observations been tested thermometrically, or only by the senses?]

EDITOR.]

1880

Found in the archives...

Terms Used By Vermonters:

- Low'ry (dark, gloomy day, with showers intermittently).
- Sugar snow (large flakes, wet, and numerous; coming about time for sugaring to start).
- Frog run (last run of sap).

P O T P O U R R I

Vermont Homespun ~ As broadcast by "Old Squier" WDEV ~ Copyright Lloyd Squier

On Repairs

Once you've begun to make repairs
You can't just stop 'em anywheres—
You start to do a little thing,
And first you know this one will bring
Some complication, 'fore you're through,
Requiring that you also do
A lot of things you didn't plan—
And likely hire an extra man!

You think a ceiling needs repair—
The white is off, and here and there
The plaster's bad and loose and cracked—
You think perhaps it can be tacked,
And so you start, right near the door.
First thing you know it's on the floor—
Quite often that's the aftermath
When ceiling loosens from the lath.

You start anew and clear the room,
Get out your overalls and broom—
A ladder helps you to explore,
And right away you find some more
That might as well be peeled away.
You're in this thing, and anyway,
No half-way measures ever won
A prize for anything well done...

Resolved to do this really good,
You clean that ceiling to the wood;
By now your quite unhappy spouse
Complains of dust all through the house—
You sweep and vacuum all the floors,
And fin'ly get the mess outdoors.
Right now, the job that you began
Is ready for a hired man!

So, soon the carpenter arrives;
Before you know it he contrives
To sell you tiles and furrin strips,
A helper, too, to save him trips,
And soon the room is new—on—top—
But then you see no place to stop!
You do the walls and then the floors,
The while the waste pile grows outdoors.

On Thanksgiving Tradition

When kitchens buzz from morn to night
It means a holiday's in sight.
We know the spouse has found a book
With recipes she'd like to cook,
So when our friends start comin' by
She'll have a good old-fashioned pie—
And always at this time of year
It means Thanksgiving's drawing near.

The folks who sought their freedom here,
And held tradition very dear,
Might well look quite askance at us
With all our plans and frills and fuss.
The way this generation feels
It's time and cash that make the meals,
But both of these we have to spare
When there's tradition we can share.

Both you and I well know the truth—
Oldtimers, but no more than youth
Still have traditions they stand by—
Like serving cheese with apple pie—
Assorted pies, but always mince—
Preserves galore, including quince—
No fancy cake that can be bought
Can touch the fruit cake Grandma brought!

We never see these fancy moulds
In homes where old tradition holds—
For Uncle gets a cabbage head
And whittles 'till the finest shred
Is ready for the dates and such—
He always thinks he's made too much.
But when the meal is mostly o'er
He vows next time he'll make still more.

Out Aunt brings good old candied sweets,
And if some gourmet thinks he beats
This treat folks have Thanksgiving Day,
Just let him drop around our way.
She'll never use a fancy blend
To carry out some brand new trend,
But sweetens with that famous staple
We natives know as Vermont Maple.

If cousin Betty's coming by,
She'll likely bring boiled cider pie—
No fancy top with lattice crust,
A two-crust pie, for that's a must—
Her mother thought no meal complete
Without dessert a cider treat—
Thanksgiving's made the same old way
That Grandma did, back yesterday!

Tradition's still much more'n a word,
For what's the day without the bird—
A turkey—big—well stuffed to roast
Is still the pride of very host.
We toss calories to the winds
The minute that the meal begins
And eat until our innards ache—
But only for tradition's sake.

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 .
C O N T A C T I N F O R M A T I O N

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DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - Nov. 19
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM

D U X B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L
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