

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Feb. 18th, 7 pm, CBMS Library

- Annual elections will take place at the meeting.
- We will host the pot-luck luncheon at Town Meeting 2020.

DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF A PERSON OR PLACE WE CAN USE FOR A MYSTERY PHOTO? IF SO, PLEASE SUBMIT TO A NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBER TODAY! THANK YOU!

Our next historical society meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18th, 7 pm, in the library of Crossett Brook Middle School. The business meeting will commence at 7 pm. During this meeting we will once again act on the normal election of officers and those scheduled trustees.

The program following the meeting will be about the migration of the Crossett family to Duxbury, but more indicatively will relate to the lives of Roswell and Eunice (Wells) Crossett and their association with the Crossett Hill Cemetery. There will also be a presentation of the 2003-2004 year when volunteers, cemetery commissioners, historical society members, and other public officials all assisted in the clean-up effort of the Crossett Hill Cemetery.

All are welcome and we hope to see you there! Refreshments will be served. Any questions, please call Donnie at 244-7558.

*Reminder: Memberships expired on December 31, 2019. If you haven't paid your dues for 2020 by Feb. 1, you will be removed from the membership list.

Wreath Sale 2019 Update

One again we had a successful fundraising by selling Christmas wreaths. We sold 80 wreaths and received donations which provided us with a net profit of \$873. Thanks to all who purchased wreaths and assisted with deliveries!

Town Meeting 2020



Our Duxbury Historical Society will be hosting our town's luncheon and we will be selling coffee and snacks for the morning session again this year.

We would appreciate support in this endeavor by donations of either a hot dish, salad, or dessert. Please do not bring food with peanut butter or nuts. We will be accepting dishes in the morning but please have them arrive by 11:30 am. The cost to eat lunch is \$5.00 per person.

Thanks for all of the past support and we look forward to seeing friends and neighbors at town meeting!

Questions? Call Mary at 244-7558.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

- Catalogued latest artifact donations.
- 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

- Photos of the 1997 closing of the Duxbury Elementary School. [Skip Flanders]
- Discharge Paper of Civil War Veteran Luke Monroe Lewis. [Martha Lewis]

Monetary Donations

Stephanie Koonz * Martha Jillson * Maureen Harvey * Audrey & Alan Quackenbush
Barb & Mo Lavanway * Chila & Bill Russell * Jill Smith

Bake Sale 2019 Update

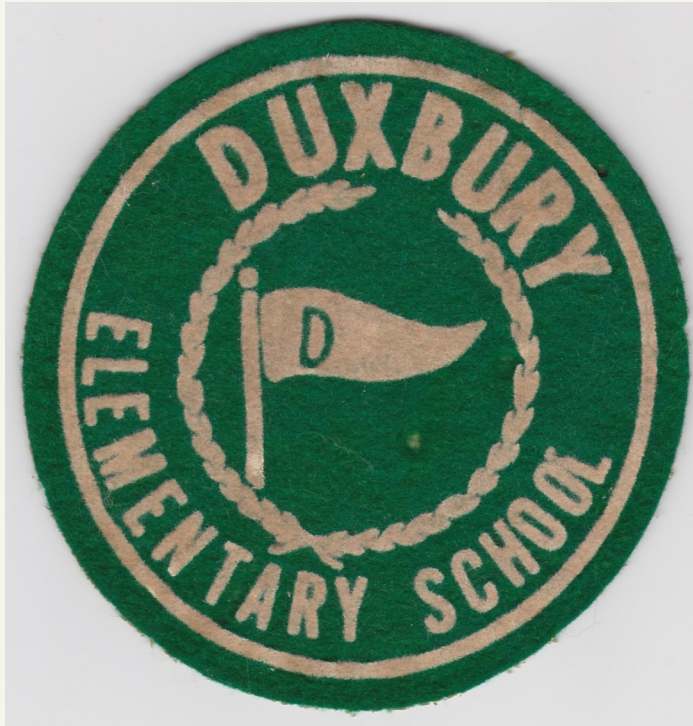
Our Duxbury Historical Society annual bake sale was held on November 8 in front of Kinney's in Waterbury. The sale featured a variety of homemade baked goods and baked beans. Our profits were \$154. A big thank you to Kinney's for allowing us to set up our table again this year. We also thank the bakers, everyone who stopped by to support our society, and the volunteers who braved the cold weather to make this a success!



Left to right: Bill Morse, Mark Morse, George Welch, Don Welch.

P O T P O U R R I

At our August 2019 picnic, the artifact below was presented by Donnie Welch. It appears to be made of felt. We are not sure how old it is or what it was used for but if anyone knows, we would like to hear from you. The artifact has been donated to the Society by Donnie Welch through Peter Merriman.



November 19, 1942
Waterbury Record

225 Share \$6500 in Christmas Club Funds

More than \$6500 in Christmas Club funds will be paid out to two hundred and twenty-five people here next Wednesday, it was said this week by B. R. Demeritt, President of the Waterbury Savings Bank and Trust Company, as part of the nationwide distribution of Christmas Fund Savings of over four hundred million dollars to more than eight million club members, an average of a little less than \$50 per member. Based upon an estimate given by Herbert F. Rawll of New York City, originator of the Christmas Club plan, thirty per cent of it will go for Christmas gift purchases, a little more than twenty per cent will be added to permanent savings, thirteen per cent will go for taxes, a little less for war bonds and a little less than that for insurance premiums. Smaller amounts go for year-end bills, education, charity and miscellaneous purposes.

The figures indicate that about four million people in this country use the Club plan as a means of accumulating permanent savings on a week-to-week basis, and it is anticipated that an even larger percentage of the total fund will be used for such purposes this year because of the patriotic incentive to invest in War Bonds.

To encourage a better understanding of the need for every form of savings during the war, Mr. Rawll stated that the Christmas Club is announcing a Victory Through Thrift slogan contest for members who enroll for 1943, with prizes of \$5000 in war savings bonds and stamps for the slogans that best express an incentive for more people to save for post-war security, for war bonds and for tax purposes.

The total amount to be distributed in Vermont in Christmas club checks this year amounts to about a million dollars.

A War-Time Christmas Should Be Free of Financial Worries

JOIN THE 1943 CHRISTMAS CLUB

Popular Weekly Payment Classes Are

25c a week for 50 weeks	\$ 12.50
50c a week for 50 weeks	25.00
\$1 a week for 50 weeks	50.00
\$2 a week for 50 weeks	100.00
\$5 a week for 50 weeks	250.00

The Nation's theme song this Christmas is INVEST FOR VICTORY—SAVE FOR SECURITY. Millions of Christmas Club members are using their accumulated funds for the purchase of War Savings Bonds for Victory and for permanent savings accounts for Post-War Security.

THE 1943 CHRISTMAS CLUB STARTS DEC. 1st

**Waterbury Savings Bank
& Trust Company**

Member Of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



SPRAGUE CEMETERY



Alison Magnani photo.

Soundings from the Grave
Research of the Sprague Cemetery
By: Mark H. Morse

On the south end of Crossett Hill approximately .6 mile from Route 100 intersection, sits a two grave cemetery perched upon a rise in the landscape close to the traveled portion of the highway.

The inscriptions on the grave stones are:

Sprague, George; son of Jonathan & Synthia Sprague
D: Jan 19, 1848, aged 21 yrs 4 mos

Turner, Ann Maria; Wife of G. M. Turner
D: June 28, 1852; AE 19 yrs 10 mos

Over the years, several tales were spun of how these two individuals were connected and why they were the only two buried here. The most common story is that the two were involved romantically; perhaps even engaged. It is believed that at least one of the pair died from diphtheria.

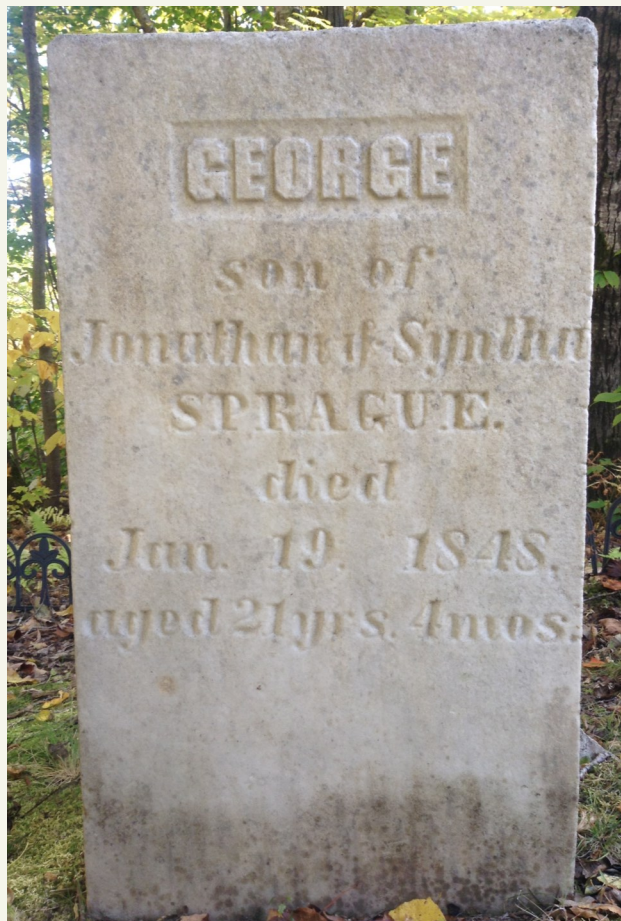
In January 2019, Don Welch contacted me regarding what I knew of the two individuals, since my parents had owned the property from 1954 to 1965. I related to him the same tale (more or less) as described above. Don had done some research on the couple by reviewing census records but was at a roadblock as to the couple's connection or relationship. He asked if I would be willing to look into historical records and perhaps make a connection. I agreed to see what I could find.

Since most official records prior to 1850 are limited in information it became a very tedious job to locate reliable data. In any documents you research from this era require some interpretation as to content. Correct spelling of names is always suspect (many are spelled phonetically), and names may appear in documents as nicknames or middle and first names reversed.

In researching George's background it was relatively easy to verify his ancestral data, as his death record held in Duxbury clearly indicated his death date, age and parents. Unfortunately it did not indicate the cause of death. (This record had been copied from the original in 1919.) The data on the grave marker was accurate with the vital records reviewed. His burial in that area is logical since his parents owned the property at the time of his death.

My research in Ann Maria's background was much more difficult. I began by attempting to obtain a marriage record from which I hoped to obtain her maiden name. I could find no marriage record for her and a G. M. Turner. I next turned to her death record which of course was transcribed from an original document and it indicates her name as Ann Maria Turner, wife of S. (or so it appears) M. Turner. The date of death matched the grave marker but the age on the certificate is difficult to discern but it could be 19. There was no indication as to her birth parents or cause of death.

SPRAGUE CEMETERY



Alison Magnani photos.

I searched all Vermont birth and marriage records for an Ann Maria but was unable to locate anyone who would fit in this age range. I also thought it was possible that her grave marker may have been inscribed incorrectly as to the first initial of her husband. I looked for an S. M. Turner in the area and located Samuel M. Turner who resided in Duxbury who was the son of Lyman Cook & Betsey (Bruce) Turner who was born in 1835. His age would be comparable to Ann Maria but again no marriage record could be located to indicate a union. I did find a marriage record for Samuel dated 12/26/1861 to a Phila Davis. The Duxbury Historical Society also holds extensive records of the Turner family and there is no indication of Samuel being previously married.

Becoming increasingly frustrated with my lack of success in researching Ann Maria, I returned to the gravesites to once again see if I could find anything there that could connect the two individuals. As the stones are marble and were somewhat soiled, I brushed off Ann's stone to make it more legible. Upon careful examination I could discern that the first letter of her husband's name was a "C" not a "G" as previously thought and certainly not an "S" as it might look on her death record. So I returned to my research and look for a C. M. Turner.

I located a Curtis M. Turner (also the son of Lyman Cook & Betsey (Bruce) Turner) from Duxbury born in 1828 which would put him close to Ann's age. Again, I could find no record of a marriage for Curtis to Ann but I did find an 1850 census record (the first year of the census to include female names) indicating Curtis age 22 married to a woman named Annett(e) age 18 and a son named Barton (identified as Burton in some documents) age 1. These ages would all correlate with the birthdate of Ann. Could Ann's first name really be Annette? I then searched the 1860 census for Curtis (age 32) and found him still in Duxbury with a wife by the name of Eliza (age 24), a son Barton (age 11), a son Frank (age 6), and a son James (age 3). Things are starting to add up, at least with some assumptions as to what has transpired.

After the death of Ann, Curtis marries Eliza Louisa Stewart (no marriage record found), the daughter of James & Polly (Marshall) Stewart. They subsequently had 4 children: Frank born 1854, James born 1857, Jennie born 1860 and Nellie born 1862. Jennie died in 1862 at age 2 from tuberculosis and Nellie died in 1864 at age 3 from dysentery.

I next checked the 1870 census and found Eliza, Frank, and James living in Moretown with her parents. I found that Curtis had

SPRAGUE CEMETERY

died on July 4, 1867 from tuberculosis and is buried in the Waterbury Center Old cemetery along with his two daughters. I could not find Barton in the 1870 census, so I had to contemplate why no record of him was available. I then considered the possibility that he had served during the Civil War, although he would have been between 12 and 17 years old during the conflict. Upon searching the Civil War enlistment records I found a Burton C. (Curtis?) Turner who had enlisted in Co. 'D', 2nd VT Infantry in October of 1863. This would mean he was about 15 years old if this was "Barton." This is certainly possible as many men lied about their age to join up (his military record identifies him as 18 y/o at the time he enlisted). Unfortunately, Burton died in November 1864 from disease and was buried in Weaverton, MD, later removed to Sharpsburg, MD Antietam National Cemetery. This would explain why I couldn't find a census record for Barton in 1870. I subsequently located a pension record for Burton which indicated his father as Curtis M. Turner, the dependent/recipient of his pension which was filed January 21, 1867 just months before Curtis's death. I could find no indication that the pension was continued to be distributed to his stepmother Eliza or half-brothers Frank or James after Curtis's death.

Eliza (Burton's stepmother) lived out her natural life in the central Vermont area, at times keeping house for relatives or residents. She died in 1903 in Montpelier, VT at the age of 64 from a cerebral hemorrhage and is buried in Green Mont cemetery.

I still could not identify the maiden name of the Ann Maria listed on the grave marker.

Don Welch has in his possession a scrapbook his brother Dave had created about much of Duxbury's history. It contained an entry indicating that George Sprague and Ann were siblings. Unfortunately, his entry didn't provide any corroborating evidence to support this statement.

My research cannot explicitly explain the relationship between these two individuals buried alone on Crossett Hill. Because of the lack of documentation both official and unofficial I think we can make some qualified assumptions based on the research. Perhaps someday more will come to light which can validate some of the assumptions.

- **None of the folklore can be proven.** All of the stories that were related of these two young individuals stem from individuals who were not living in the same era as the deceased. No information about George or Ann from people living during that time has been found. Therefore, we may never solve the "mystery" of George and Ann but I think much of what we can find allows us to make some assumptions regarding their relationship.
- **George Sprague & Ann (Annette) Maria Turner are siblings.** This is why they are buried together on the former Sprague property.
The 1840 census supports the fact that Jonathan and Synthia Sprague had a daughter at that time in her age range which would support Dave Welch's statement that she is sister of George. (No names were used for family members in the census prior to 1850, just the head of household).
- **George Sprague dies January 19, 1848.** Cause of death unknown, possibly from tuberculosis or diphtheria. Buried on parents Jonathan & Synthia Sprague's farm on Crossett Hill.
- **Ann (Annette) Maria Sprague marries Curtis Monroe Turner.** No marriage record located but assume circa 1848. Each were Duxbury residents. They resided in the Dowsville area in 1850. The 1850 census shows Curtis listed as 21 y/o and Annett (e) listed as 18 y/o with son Barton (Burton) 1 y/o.
- **Ann (Sprague?) Turner dies June 28, 1852.** Cause of death unknown, perhaps from diphtheria epidemic. Buried on Jonathan & Synthia Sprague's farm on Crossett Hill.
- **Curtis Turner marries Eliza Louisa Stewart.** Unable to locate marriage record but assume circa 1853. Four children born to this couple.
- **Barton (Burton) Turner dies November 4, 1864.** After being stricken by disease while serving during the Civil War. Buried in Antietam National cemetery in Sharpsburg, MD.
- **Curtis Turner dies July 4, 1867.** Buried in Waterbury Center Old cemetery along with his two daughters who pre-deceased him.
- **Eliza Turner dies May 01, 1903.** She never remarried and lived throughout the central VT area. Buried in Green Mont cemetery in Montpelier.
- **Other Gravesites on Property.** My father, Willis Morse, told me when I was a young lad that there were three other burials on this property without grave markers. These were slightly northwest of the graves of George & Ann Maria.
Cornie (Abare) Hough also stated that there were other burials but could not identify to me the location. Her family had lived on the property when she was a child. I can find no evidence of other burials in official documents or upon inspection of the grounds.

P O T P O U R R I

A poem by Carol Johnson Collins:

Myra Beaton
there's a red house high
on a hill nearby
Granny lives there
her door is always open to you
no matter who you are
or where you're from
or where you're going to
whether or not she's seen you before...
she listens as few do
and
you'll be invited... to have a chair
Some good brown bread
a cup of tea
and a bed upstairs.
she's found a way to live
that few will ever find
the young feel welcome
for she knows what mothers rarely learn...
that children need not earn....
their right to be.

the red house
on that hill nearby
is a place which many find
few want to leave
but when they do....
they always come,
again

March
1972

I wrote this while living in a
cabin at the base of
Camel's Hump.

(the cabin was owned
by Dick & Julie Floetz)

Myra M. Beaton

Myra M. Beaton, 97, died at her residence in North Duxbury on Tuesday, November 12, 1991.

Born in Waterbury on January 4, 1894, she was the daughter of Karl and Stella H. (Battles) Morse. In 1919, she was married to the late John Beaton in Waterbury.

She attended schools in Duxbury and for many years she worked as a licensed practical nurse at the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, retiring in 1956. She was a charter member of the Harry N. Cutting American Legion Auxiliary Post 59, and was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church and its affiliated ladies Aide of Waterbury.

She loved nature and enjoyed both fishing and hiking, and was an honorary member of the UVM Outing Club.

She is survived by four daughters, Stella Kennedy of Moretown, Myra Dow of South Burlington, Mariana Towne of Waterbury, and Kathryn Hallock of North Duxbury; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by a son, Robert Beaton, who died in 1938; a brother, Stanley Morse; and three sisters, Stella Perry, Mildred Rand, and Mable Buley.

Funeral services were private. Interment was in Hope Cemetery in Waterbury. Contributions in her memory may be made to Harry N. Cutting American Legion Auxiliary Post 59, Children and Youth Program, in care of Patricia Sherman, RD 2, Box 1500, Waterbury 05676.

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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If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

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DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - FEB. 18
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM

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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