

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, May 17th, 7 pm
CBMS library

- Saturday, September 10th will be our "Let's Make a Deal" sale. Save the date!

Our next historical society meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17th, at 7 pm, in the library at Crossett Brook Middle School. The program will be a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Skip Flanders and narrated by Donnie Welch. The topic of the presentation is the Alice Meaker murder which happened while she lived right here in little old Duxbury.

I, Mary Welch would like to thank all of our newsletter committee and Alison for the great job of preparing and editing the newsletter that she and the rest do, so our readers can enjoy them each quarter. THANKS to ALL of you!!

SAVE THE DATE!

Please save the date—Saturday, September 10th—this is our scheduled "Let's Make a Deal" sale! Now is the time to set aside your annual contributions for this sale. We will also sell baked goods made by our local great cooks. More information to come later.

Can you identify this longtime Duxbury Town Clerk & Treasurer?



Answer:
Stella (Hills) Merchant

Town Meeting Day 2022

Town Meeting day was March 1, 2022. Thanks to our neighbors making it possible, folks had the option of voting from their cars in the Duxbury Town Office parking lot from 7 am-7 pm. As you can see from the photo below and the one on the next page, it was a snowy and cold day but everyone made the best of it.



Maureen Harvey and Jill Smith braving the winter weather.

Shawn Perry photo.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

The committee has not met since our last report.

Mark Morse provided research support to Harwood Union students doing a report on the High School and South Duxbury Church properties prior to the construction of Harwood Union High School. Documents and live interview with students was provided.

Mark Morse provided information regarding the Wright & Wells families to a family descendant in Houston, TX.

Donated Artifacts/Documents/Ephemera

- ◆ Bruce Lewis – Sharps rifle circa 1863 owned by Civil War Veteran Luke Monroe Lewis.
- ◆ Sue Brooks & Andrea McMahan – Scrapbook regarding the Duxbury Elementary School addition.
- ◆ Bill Morse – Scrapbook of local news items and obituaries from late 1940's – 1970's.

Monetary Donations

April Schwendler * Don & Mary Ethel Welch

Town Meeting Day 2022 (continued from page 1).



Greg Trulson awaiting voters at the welcome booth.

Shawn Perry photo.

DR. HARWOOD

Sept. 8, 1963

**Dr. Harwood, Waterbury Area
'County Doctor,' Dies at 53**

Sept. 8 - 1963

WATERBURY — Dr. Charles E. Harwood, M. D., 53, whose selfless devotion to his medical practice inspired a series of unique public tributes, died on Saturday, after a long illness.

He had been a general practitioner in Waterbury since 1933. His life and interests were centered about his practice in the Waterbury and Mad River Valley areas. He was a modern embodiment of the traditional "country doctor," giving tirelessly of his time and skill. He delivered more than 2,000 babies, and was beloved in the communities which he served.

During the last year of his life, his fellow citizens had arranged several public tributes to his work, including a special award from the teachers of the district for his work with children.

He was the regional medical examiner, and on the staffs of the Heaton, DeGoesbriand and Mary Fletcher Hospitals, a member of the Vermont Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He was a graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

Dr. Harwood was born in Dorset, the son of Elmer and Emma Maranville Harwood, and is survived by his widow, Edith Pollard Harwood; a son, Brian; three sisters, Mrs. Olive Dern of Dorset, Mrs. Walter (Eleanor) Hayes of Manchester and Mrs. Clyde (Margaret) Bryant of Manchester; three brothers, Dr. Donald Harwood of Columbia, S.C.; Dr. Theodore Harwood of Grand Forks, N.D., and Dunning Harwood of Stoughton, Mass., and several nieces and nephews.

Private funeral services will be held at the Perkins Funeral Chapel in Waterbury on Tuesday at 2 p.m. Friends may call at the Chapel on Monday between 2 and 4 p.m., and 7 and 9 p.m. Memorial contributions to the Vermont Cancer Society are requested in lieu of flow-



Dr. Charles E. Harwood

ers. Perkins Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

WATERBURY
HARWOOD, Dr. Charles E., private funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the funeral chapel here with the Rev. Wesley Logan and the Rev. C. Arthur Hazen of Ludlow officiating. Several doctors from the staffs of the Mary Fletcher and Heaton Hospitals were present. Bearers were: Dr. Rupert Chittick, Dr. H. B. Schoenberger, Dr. C. B. Orton, Dr. L. E. Amidon, Everett Steele and H. L. Myers. Burial was in Hope Cemetery.

March 11, 1967

**HARWOOD
UNION
DEDICATED**

Mar. 11 - 1967

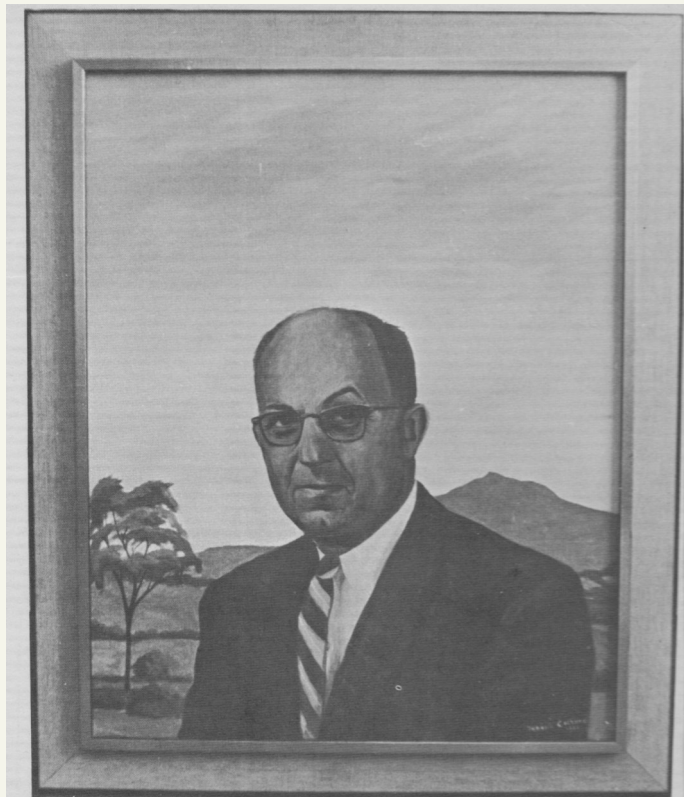
Harwood Union High School was formally dedicated in a ceremony on Saturday evening which included the unveiling of a portrait painted by Burlington artist, Francis Colburn, of the late Dr. Harwood, of Waterbury, after whom the school was named.

Master of ceremonies was Kieth Wallace, of Waterbury, president of the Farm Bureau. The Rev. Mr. Charles Parker, of Waitsfield, gave the invocation. Eleanor Haskin, of Waitsfield, unveiled the portrait and Brian Harwood, son of the late Dr. Harwood, accepted it in his family's name. Brian is familiar to WDEV listeners and WCAX-TV viewers.

Dr. Rupert Spencer, Director of Special Services for the Department of Education and formerly superintendent of the area schools, spoke.

Roland Whittier, of Shelburne, architect of the building, was present as was a representative of the building contractor. So was Add Bates, who designed and built the seating and wood planter in the lobby. The two stone-ware planters in the lobby, by George Scatchard, of Charlotte, were actually stand-ins for the ones he has made for Harwood. They are currently in a show of his work at the Fleming in Burlington.

Several student groups performed during the evening. The school band, under the direction of Dick Lombard, played and the mixed chorus sang. A group of gymnastic students maintained a continuous show of their skills in the gymnasium while guests toured the building.



PORTRAIT of the late Dr. Harwood by Francis Colburn, unveiled at the dedication of Harwood Union.

DUXBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION

The following four pages contain articles, artifacts, and photos found in the Duxbury Elementary School Addition scrapbook.

Duxbury School Vote Passes Amid Cheers

By DAN GILLMOR

DUXBURY — They're going to hold a school-raising.

By an overwhelming margin, 103-32, Duxbury voters decided Tuesday night to trust each other and authorize the spending of a large amount of money to build an addition on the elementary school — money they expect never to be spent because most, if not all, of the work and materials for the project are to be donated.

The vote was followed by an outburst of loud applause.

Construction is expected to begin late this summer and continue into the school year.

"Don't be alarmed by the amount," said School Board Chairman Howard Berno before the vote to authorize the board to borrow up to \$101,000 for the project.

Most of the voters weren't alarmed. Members of the board and a citizens committee that organized the volunteer effort said the vote was a legal necessity in order for the town to obtain state construction aid for the addition.

"The reason for this is mostly political," said board member Dennis Merchant. "The state won't approve until the town approves. They don't want to waste their time."

Andy Ripley and Susan Brooks, the two most active members of the volunteer committee, told the voters who gathered at Dillingham Grange that the project could be expected to cost as much as \$145,000 if it went through the normal bidding process with area general contractors. Pledged donations to date, plus expected donations, amounted to more than \$90,000.

The town will be able to collect 30 percent state aid on the project provided bills are submitted by a qualified general contractor, even if some of the work on the bills was donated, they said, predicting that about \$30,000 in state assistance would be forthcoming.

Thus, according to the volunteer leaders, the town needs to raise about \$21,000 to complete the project without causing a rise in local taxes. Fund-raising events have been scheduled this summer and fall to bring in the needed cash.

Not all Duxbury voters were convinced. Wayne Lewis, for example, said, "This is not a formality. It's an authorization...a blank check."

Board members assured the crowd they would not borrow the money if the volunteer effort falls apart. "It gets down to whether you trust one another and the school board," Merchant said.

Mark Morse, another dissenter, said the size of the proposed expansion was excessive and that it would lead to increased school budgets as the board found new ways to use the space. Though he was assured that would not happen, he said, "This step is too darn big."

Several Duxbury residents said they would not have supported the addition but for Berno's approval of the project. The board chairman has been outspoken in his opposition to other proposals here that would have led to increased taxes.

"This time," he said, "the community came to the school board and asked for a truly volunteer effort. Of course you don't look a gift horse in the mouth. We said, 'go ahead.' They put an awful lot of work and effort into it. It shows people can get things done if they really try."

Berno refused credit for swaying anyone. Pointing to Ripley and Brooks, he said, "It didn't have anything to do with me. It's the work they did."

Just before the vote was taken, Brooks admonished her neighbors that their vote meant only the beginning of the process, not the end of their participation. "You're making a truly personal commitment that you're going to see this through," she said. "Yes, we have to trust the school board. But the volunteer effort is all of us, together."

Moderator Wade Morse announced the results: victory for the addition. There was wild, emotional, sustained applause.

The voters also applauded loudly when it was suggested that the addition be dedicated to Fremont Fiske, longtime Duxbury resident and former school superintendent. Morse said of the motion to do so, "I'm not going to ask if anyone's opposed."

DUXBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION

November 29, 1983

Duxbury School Letters

By Mary Alice Edmonds

Because newspapers are mostly thought of as vehicles for reporting the news, seldom does one consider that the response to a newspaper article can actually be newsworthy in itself. However, this is exactly what happened as a result of an article about the Duxbury School Addition Project that appeared in the Boston Globe.

Dan Gillmor wrote a comprehensive article about the history of the project and about the construction and fundraising plans. He mentioned that T shirts and sweatshirts bearing the slogan "Support School Raising in Duxbury" were being sold to raise money for the project.

The article, which was published in the New England section of the September 4 issue of the paper, brought a flood of responses from readers. People mostly wrote to say that they wished the town success in the project. They sent money for T shirts, sweatshirts, and for donations.

"Your endeavor is a project we should all be proud of," wrote one woman. "Good luck with this large and wonderful task you've all taken on," wrote another. A man from Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, wrote the most moving letter. He began, "If someone were to tell me of a group showing the spirit and determination such as you (Andy Ripley) and the other parents are in Duxbury, I would be inclined to think the place would be in . . . Vermont. . . . Your actions are typical of what I would expect from the people I met during my time in Vermont."

"Let's hope this kind of spirit catches on," he went on to say. "I believe it is what is missing from our country today. It is the kind of thing that sets off a chain reaction of good will, optimism, and many other positive factors." And from another letter, just one word: "Bravo!!"

School Raising "Theme" Song sung by Duxbury students at the 1983 Christmas Program

We're going to work together
We're going to raise a school
It's time to pull together
We're going to raise a school
Duxbury has come alive
Working hand in hand
Friends and neighbors sharing
Giving what we can
The children will have a better school
And we will have a new pride

DUXBURY SCHOOL RAISING RAFFLE

LUNCH FOR TWO - 3 South * HANDMADE WOOD WINDMILL - Clifford Jennings * \$5 CASH - Georges Exxon * HANDMADE WOOD LAMP - Ervin CUT - Garfield's * DINNER NAME PLATE - Dennis & Pam Merchant * HAIR-CATE - P&C * DINNER FOR TWO - Villa Tragara * CASE OF COKE * HAIR-STICK FISHING ROD - Autobuchon * SIAM 10-12 lbs. - Ideal Market * CALICO MATERIAL 5 yds - Lowell's IGA * HAIR CUT - Village Hair Stylist * BROWN PILLOWS - V.L. Perkins * POCKET CALCULATOR - Collins * TWO THROW ELECTRONICS * GALLON MAPLE SYRUP - Ralph & Marsha Davis * HALF CASE OF MOTOR OIL - Napa * CASE OF COKE - Coca Cola Co. * \$20 PARTY PLATTER - Freds Place * GREASE OIL FILTER CHANGE - Waterbury Ditgo * AUTOMATIC DE-CORKER - What's Cookin' * TOY TRACTOR SET & UTILITY Vermont Bank * HALF CASE MOTOR OIL - Napa * LADIES WATCH - Ye Olde CATE - Agway * 8 BAGS OF LOG MATES - Harry's * \$10 GIFT CERTIFICATE - Agway * 8 BAGS OF LOG MATES - Eagle Oil * CASE OF SODA - Crossroads Beverage * CLOCK RADIO - Conti Appliance Furniture *

DRAWING HELD AUGUST 7, 1983 AT WASHINGTON COUNTY FIELD DAY, RT. 2, MIDDLESEX.

34 PRIZES

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TEL. NO. _____
NO. 000083
NO. 000083
\$2.00 TICKET or \$5.00-3 TICKETS

DUXBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION

School Volunteers

The Times Argus Weekly
Week of October 22, 1983

DUXBURY — The cadence of a dozen or more hammers driving in hundreds of nails rang with the sound of progress last week as volunteers worked furiously to frame in the town's new addition to its 69-year-old elementary school.

A sense of accomplishment rippled through the chilly autumn air as the first wall of the structure was hoisted by carpenters shortly after 11 a.m. and quickly nailed in place.

As more volunteers hauled roof trusses unloaded from a truck, wives of the workers and townspeople set up tables and spread out sandwiches, pizza, chicken and stew for lunch. A slow, but steady, stream of visitors had been dropping off the donated food items all morning.

Financing for the long-needed addition to the four-room red schoolhouse had been turned down by Duxbury voters repeatedly over the years. After the most recent voter rejection this year, Sue Brooks, the mother of four, two of whom attend the school, played a key role in helping to organize the tax-saving plan of using volunteer labor and cash and material donations to fund the project.

Because of overcrowding at the school, an alternative plan to an addition had been proposed to Duxbury residents, Brooks said. Under that proposal, students in the top three grades in the K-6 school would be taught in the Waterbury school system and the town would pay the tuition.

"This was a temporary solution because as soon as Waterbury (schools) got filled up, they would send the students back here," she said.

Prior to this year's town meeting, Brooks and a friend, Andrea Ripley, proposed the idea of building the addition with volunteer help. Consequently, Brooks and Ripley conducted a survey of townspeople to see if there was interest in the idea.

With positive results from the survey, a referendum was approved by a 103-32 vote on June 7 to allocate \$107,000 for the project to meet state Education Department requirements, Brooks said. While no town tax dollars are expected to be spent on the building, she said voter approval of the allocation was required to pay for the

addition if the volunteer effort failed.

Expected to be completed in time for the next school year, Ripley said the two-story structure will be worth about \$145,000, but will cost just \$50,000 to build with the volunteer crew. State aid is expected to pick up about \$30,000 of the project's cost while the rest will be paid by money raised locally, she said.

The old schoolhouse was so taxed for space that tutoring sessions were held in the hallway, Ripley said. Janitor closets and basement space were also utilized for educational needs.

The addition will provide a new classroom, a multipurpose room, office space for Principal Anna Lamos and storage space, Ripley said. New south-facing windows have been added to the old school while energy-wasting north windows will be eliminated. When completed, she said the enlarged school isn't expected to use more fuel than the current one does.

The volunteer effort in building the addition, Ripley said has involved over 60 families from the town that has about 900 residents.

Brian Forrest, a local

architect, donated the plans for the addition. Lumber for the building was donated by three local mills and hundreds of pounds of nails were contributed by a Waterbury hardware store.

The fund-raising effort, the volunteer coordinator said, has already collected about half of its goal. An August raffle of items donated by local merchants raised about \$2,000, she said.

Nearly 25 dozen silk-screened T-shirts with a picture of the old school carrying the slogan "Support Barn Raising In Duxbury" with the word "barn" crossed out and "school" written in its place, have been sold, bringing in \$700, Ripley said. With colder weather setting in, sweatshirts with the same emblem have started selling well, she said.

With the addition expected to be framed in through this weekend's concerted effort, Ripley said the interior and finished work will carry on through the winter months.



Photos of construction in progress.

DUXBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ADDITION



More photos of construction in progress.



Spotlight on Schools

The spirit of Duxbury

by Alexandra Houston &
Dorothy Blanchard

Valley Teachers Association
"Computers and assembly lines can create with abundance but only men and women with their hands, tools and love can create with feeling." This quote, written by Ted Benson and read by Sue Brooks at the Duxbury School addition dedication ceremony represents the spirit, enthusiasm and philosophy of the Duxbury community.

David Wilson, secretary to Governor Snelling, pointed out that they had followed the building of the addition to see if this same type of volunteer project could occur in any other community. The answer is no because there would be two main elements missing, Sue Brooks and Andy Ripley.

Where did they find the strength to continue, to make "that one more phone call?"

Andy and Sue are truly exceptional and have made an incredible donation to Duxbury and all of Vermont.

The addition has been dedicated to Fremont Fiske, a Duxbury resident, former teacher, principal, superintendent, board member, volunteer and friend of education.

In the dedication speech special thanks were expressed, by a former school board member, to Duxbury educators, past and

present, for their contributions to the education of the town's children.

Duxbury not only built an addition but proved that a strong belief in the value of education is worth many hard hours of work and perseverance. A real contribution to society and the future of Vermont has been made.

As teachers, we recognize and deeply appreciate the efforts put forth by these two very special women and the Duxbury community.

As you know, contract negotiations will begin again this year for Duxbury and most other teachers in the Washington West Supervisory Union school district. Negotiations is a hard time for teachers, school board members and the community, as witnessed by the current situations at Moretown and Harwood Union. As difficult as it is, it is a necessary process for professionals to obtain a contract outlining fair working conditions and benefits.

We want a contract settlement and we want to be valued as an integral part of the community in which we live and work.

We hope this mutual appreciation is not forgotten by all the communities as teachers enter negotiations this year.

Thank you Duxbury for your support of education!

Alexandra Houston and Dorothy Blanchard are the primary unit teachers at Duxbury School.

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 - MAY 17
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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S O U T H D U X B U R Y , V T
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