

# Under the Hump

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:  
Nov. 12, CBMS, 7 pm

- Waterbury and Duxbury Historical Societies are co-hosting a remembrance dinner on November 9. See details on this page.

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue's Photo:  
Breta (Berno) Grace



Following the business meeting, Steve Grace will host a PowerPoint presentation on the Bartlett/Howard Sherman Family. A time for fellowship and refreshments will follow. Please join us for an enjoyable evening! Memberships expire December 31, 2013. If you can pay your dues at the November meeting, it will be appreciated. Dues are \$10/year per person.

### Remembrance Dinner on November 9

On Saturday, November 9th, at St. Leo's Hall, 5:30 pm, the Waterbury and Duxbury Historical Societies will be co-hosting a remembrance dinner as a final event for each town's 250th celebration.

This will be a potluck dinner. Please bring a hot dish, salad, or a dessert to share.

Each town is requesting founding father family names that have had 200 years in either Duxbury or Waterbury. Please contact either Donnie Welch at 244-7558 (for Duxbury) or Skip Flanders at 244-5529 with your family information.

Duxbury's 250th Celebration — there are still fun things to do!

Climb Camel's Hump in 2013. Take a photo and post it on the Society's Facebook page. You may also post your photo on The Green Mountain Club Facebook page. Show your photo to the Duxbury Town Clerk and receive a special numbered certificate. All certificate numbers will be entered into a raffle that will be awarded at the end of the year. Visit [www.duxbury250.com/hike.html](http://www.duxbury250.com/hike.html) for details!

Enter the photo contest. In conjunction with the Society, the Duxbury Land Trust is sponsoring a photo contest to honor Duxbury's anniversary. The contest runs until December 1, 2013. Winners will be announced at the end of December 2013 or early January 2014. Visit [www.duxbury250.com/photocontest.html](http://www.duxbury250.com/photocontest.html) for details!

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

We continue to scan family photos to be added to our genealogy digital folders.

Research assistance of 2.5 hours was provided for an individual researching the Sherman family.

Research assistance of 3.0 hours was provided for an individual researching the Kennedy family.

## Donation Artifacts/Documents

- ⇒ Brian Lindner – WWI papers relating to Andrew Armington's service.
- ⇒ Jeff Kelson – Colorado Lawyer magazine containing article about James Wilson, sole survivor of the bomber crash on Camel's Hump.
- ⇒ Helen Davis –
  1. Ralph Davis' violin, music stand, music sheets
  2. 1984 photo of Irene Chapman house.
  3. 1987 photo of Vermont Farm Bureau gathering
  4. 1982 audio tapes of Irene Chapman, Duxbury children
  5. 1999-2000 audio tapes of Davis children, flood
  6. Undated audio tape of Don Fields music

## Monetary Donations

Richard Lindsley \* Don & Mary Ethel Welch \* Bernie Moreau \* JW Auto (Jim & Wendy Welch)

## ANNUAL PICNIC

Our annual picnic was held at Crossett Brook Middle School on Sunday, August 11th. The weather was pleasant and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time. Door prizes were won by Eulie Costello, Maureen Harvey, and Bob Wimble.



Alison Magnani photos.



(back L to R) Steve Grace, Marjorie Gormel, Breta Grace, Mark Morse; (front L to R) Ed Gormel, Jim Harvey, Maureen Harvey



(L to R) Betsy Allen, Eulie Costello, Mary Ethel Welch

## DUXBURY'S DISTRICT #1 SCHOOL DAYS

By Donald Welch

When reading of Duxbury's early history, wouldn't it be easy to ponder on this question: whoever was the very first to walk on this "wild" land?

Of course the native Indians that lived in tribes all along many of the rivers and tributaries leading to Lake Champlain were in this region (that would later become Vermont) long before any settlers.

The battles of the French and Indian War, which were fought on and around Lake Champlain, enticed many soldiers from southern New England to pass through this area on their way to and from this conflict. They were impressed by the landmarks along the Onion River, such as: the valley deltas fertilized by many floods, the narrow gorge with the high rock walls (now called Bolton Falls) and the majestic "Camel's Rump" (as named by the Indians) which stood in a state of solidity overlooking the valley below. After returning home from the war, these soldiers had a good understanding of this area and also what a new adventurous life it could offer.

Subsequently after June 7, 1763, when the then Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth signed the charter for Duxbury (and other towns nearby) the proprietors of the newly issued land grants who were mostly from southern New England did not want this "wild" land; so it became obtainable. So any of these veteran soldiers that were interested in this area had an opportune chance to purchase a land grant in what would eventually be in Duxbury.

Finally, after several years of unrest in this region between New York, New Hampshire and (who would later become the famous Allen boys) along with their persistent followers that seemed to emerge victoriously from this turmoil, two early settlers came to town in 1786. They were Stephen Tilden and Walter Avery. Walter and his family settled in the most north-easterly region of Duxbury

which was a segment of the "Governor's Right." Descendants of this family still reside in the community.

By 1791 Duxbury had a population of 39 residents. In 1792, the first town meeting held in Duxbury was at the home of Walter Avery, and he was elected town clerk for the ensuing year.

At the March meeting in 1796, the voters elected to form school district #1 and #2. District #1 was to include Governor's Right and also westerly along with Winooski River to a point it met with District #2 that was to serve the North Duxbury area. During this early period, basic education consisted of scholars gathering around a kitchen table in each hamlet

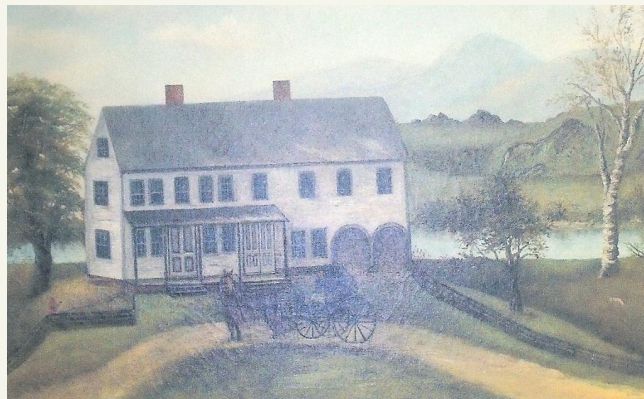
throughout the town. The teacher was someone that had some basic qualifications and usually lived locally. School during this early era was normally held in late fall and winter months so children could help with family chores the rest of the year which were busier times.

On July 6, 1838, Horace Atkins by virtue of an indenture deed sold a parcel of land to the school district #1 for their school. Currently this home is owned by Rhoda Wimple, and is the fourth home on the right, above the former Duxbury Corner School.

Now let's turn our sites on the former Duxbury Corner School and also turn the clock back to 1824. At this time, Nathan Huntley built (on this site) a hotel. This building consisted of rooms for traveling guests, a stagecoach stop, a pub and a mail depot. Nathan operated this for several years and subsequently sold this property to

Ann Eliza (Crossett) and her husband Richard Lyman. This business was very busy right up until 1849; that is when Richard died, and to make matters worse, that was the year the railroad came to Waterbury, but Ann Eliza managed to operate the business alone. She managed this way until 1870; and then her younger sister Cornelia and her husband Edwin C. Crossett assisted in the business operations.

Eventually, Ann Eliza transferred ownership of the hotel and business to her sister and brother-in-law. Cornelia



Painting of the original building on this site, "the old hotel."



Duxbury Town Hall and School after it was the hotel which was owned by Richard and Ann Eliza (Crossett) Lyman.



## DUXBURY'S DISTRICT #1 SCHOOL DAYS

managed the hotel and Edwin was a Duxbury Corner farmer. This continued until November of 1881 when Edwin died. Cornelia Crossett managed here until 1894, when the old hotel caught fire and burned to the ground.

That same year Cornelia Crossett quit-claimed a deed to the town for the site and Duxbury would build a two-story building; the lower level (with two rooms) for the school and a large open hall upstairs for the town functions. After construction the students were relocated to this site and even though this school was actually still district #1, the townspeople then referred to this as the Duxbury Corner School.

The life of this building was rather short lived; as the article in the Waterbury Record on March 24, 1915 related "Fire at Duxbury Corner" in which they reported this town hall and school accidentally burned.

**The Town Hall Burned to the Ground  
Last Monday Afternoon.**

The Duxbury town hall, located at Duxbury Corner, just across the river from this village, was destroyed by fire early last Monday afternoon, together with part of its contents. The loss will be in the neighborhood of \$3,000, and there is some insurance.

The fire was discovered at 12:30 o'clock by Frank Broadwell and word was at once communicated to B. F. Hart's home. At that time the flames had made so much headway that little could be done to save the structure, so the efforts of the volunteers were turned toward taking out some of the contents and to saving property nearby. Fire caught on the buildings of J. F. Somerville and John Weir, but was easily extinguished. Some of the contents of the town hall were removed to safe places.

The building was a two-story, wooden structure, built about 10 years ago at a cost of \$2,500. The lower floor was used as a schoolhouse and the upper floor as the town hall, as well as for the grange meetings. Members of the grange were at the hall that forenoon engaged in cleaning the hall. They left at noon and there were no signs of trouble then, there being but little fire left in the stove. It is presumed, therefore, that the fire started from a defective chimney. The large safe of the town, containing some of the older town records, was in the building, but it is thought that the safe and contents will escape damage.

At 2 o'clock the flames had covered the entire building and the roof had fallen in, so it was certain that the property would be a total loss. Surrounding property was being wet down thoroughly, and those buildings were not considered to be in danger at that hour. A special town meeting is to be called early in April to see about rebuilding.

The Waterbury Record, March 15, 1915

The original one room schoolhouse temporarily served the district #1 well during the reconstruction of the new Duxbury Corner School after the fire. It was used once more after the 1927 flood; which did some damage to the corner school. This knowledge was passed on to me by past conversations with Katherine Sherman.



District #1 school—Duxbury Corner. The building after 1915 and before the addition in the 1960s.

In the late 1940s a granite monument was placed on this front lawn to commemorate those that served our country during WWI and WWII. John Dillon (selectboard chair) spearheaded this effort to honor those that served so we could live in a free country.



Left to right: Gladys Sherman, Carol Kidder, Connie Sherman, Victory the dog (named for our victory after WWII), Rachel Sherman, Rodney and Becky (partially hidden). Photo courtesy of the Sherman family, who at the time, lived next to this school.

## DUXBURY'S DISTRICT #1 SCHOOL DAYS

Consolidation in 1950 was a big change for education in our community; and a HUGE difference to all of us students that had previously attended one room schools in outlying areas of town. We left our outhouses and the water buckets for a chance to have hot lunches, and actually have students enough for a ball game during recess. However, I must admit the one room school atmosphere did indeed have some educational advantages; such as personal attention and learning from upperclassmen.

Duxbury Corner school had some modifications to address consolidation; each room downstairs had two classes each with one teacher. Pearl Williams (class 1 & 2), Ruth Phillips (3 & 4), and upstairs Anna Lamos (5 & 6), Bernice Dolloff and later Marjorie Petersen (7 & 8). A sliding partition was installed at the mid-point upstairs to make the two classrooms, which could open to accommodate town functions. Along the south wall (upstairs of both rooms) a narrow cloak room was devised with doors and one top shelf. During school, this was used to hang jackets and your lunch with books on the shelf. For town meetings, these doors were opened for the voters to step in between and this gave them voting privacy.

This school and town hall continued until the 1960s when the classroom size became an issue and the need to offer more to our young students. An effort by the town to alleviate this concern resulted in an addition to the east, but that was short-lived and in 1997, School District #45 (C.B.M.S.) was formed.

Duxbury Corner School, now privately owned remains an integral element in our community and its future; yet its heritage will never cease.

Sources: The New England Gazetteer of 1839, Hamilton Child's Gazetteer of Washington Cty., past conversations with Anna Lamos and Katherine Sherman, The Waterbury Record, John Dillon's obituary, Crossett Family Genealogy, D.L.R.



Duxbury Corner School 8th grade graduation held at the South Duxbury Church. Left to right: Anna Lamos, Bernice Dolloff, Eleanor (Farr) Haskins, Ruth Phillips, Marjorie Petersen. Photo taken in 1950s.



Gladys (Gilmore) Wisley, teacher at Duxbury Corner School.



Pearl (Towne) Williams. Photo taken in 1950s.



Teacher's chair at Duxbury Corner School. This was used by Anna Lamos 1950-1986 and is now an artifact of the Duxbury Historical Society.



## DUXBURY IN THE CIVIL WAR

## Chapter IX

## A Shift in Strategy

By Mark H. Morse

During the 1863 winter break while both armies hoped to rebuild the regiments with new recruits and give the battle weary veterans a needed respite, the administration and commanders were evaluating how they would proceed once the spring fighting began.

The North, now with some notable victories, still had not forced the south into submission. By increasing its manufacturing of war materials and through continued recruitment and reenlistments the Union was hoping to force the Confederates into a position where they would be out-gunned and out-manned thus forcing them to submit to defeat. With the Emancipation Proclamation now in effect, the North was ready to employ the use of the Negro in its army.

The South knew it could not compete with the North's manufacturing capabilities or manpower without outside help. Having been the underdog, certainly in soldiers on the field in virtually every battle thus far, they had demonstrated their prowess and determination by being victorious more times than not despite sometimes suffering high casualty rates. Generally fighting from defensive positions thus far, General Lee felt it was time to take the war to the North. If he could get a foothold on northern soil and win some crucial battles, European nations especially France and England, might decide to provide aid to the Southern cause by supplying material and financing.

At the start of the spring campaign, the Union forces numbered 125,000 to battle the Army of Northern Virginia which numbered 61,000. With the fighting taking place on southern soil it was common for local and 'part-time' soldiers to take part in the fighting on the Confederate side thus boosting their numbers.

Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> VT Cavalry and the 5<sup>th</sup> NY Cavalry were issued orders to locate and capture Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby who was known to be operating in the area just outside of Washington, DC near Leesburg, VA. On April 1<sup>st</sup> these units thought they surprised Mosby and his men who were occupying a house at a well fenced in plantation. Mosby's men had been warned of the approaching cavalry and were themselves surprised as they attempted to proceed through the gate to gain access to the yard and conduct a charge. The Confederates rallied with heavy fire, of which 6 shots immediately killed the Vermont commander Captain Henry Flint, thus causing mass confusion and disruption which led to retreat and failure of their mission. Though 4 Confederates were wounded, the Union suffered 25 killed or wounded and 80 captured many while attempting to flee through the

narrow gate. Although Duxbury had no men assigned to the cavalry for this engagement, men from other area towns were present. Those included Albert George and Tertullus Ward of Middlesex, Henry & Silas Farnsworth of Bolton, and George Woodward of Waterbury who was wounded here and died from those wounds on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The battle at Broad Run provided the Union with another defeat, though minor by military standards, certainly devastating to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont Cavalry.

April 30<sup>th</sup> brought about the start of the battle at Chancellorsville, VA. Pitting Union General Joseph Hooker and the Army of the Potomac with a strength of nearly 134,000 against Northern Virginia's Army commanded by General Robert E. Lee with a strength of about 61,000 produced the second bloodiest day of the civil war on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Vermont infantry units from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> regiments were engaged on the field as well as Company 'F' of the United States Sharpshooters (USSS). Considered one of Lee's greatest victories, it came about when General Hooker planned to attack Lee from the front and rear simultaneously. However, on May 1<sup>st</sup> Lee split his army having a portion at Fredericksburg to thwart the rear advance of Union forces while attacking Hooker's main thrust at Chancellorsville. The next day Lee split his forces again to provide flanking movements by General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's corps against the Union line while the rest of his force advanced in front. The heaviest fighting occurred on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Lee advancing to Hooker's front line which had now taken up a position of defense, and Union General John Sedgwick defeating the small Confederate force in Fredericksburg and turning west to advance against Lee. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May Confederate forces successfully forced Sedgwick's forces to retreat at Banks Ford after surrounding his men on three sides. Sedgwick withdrew from the battle on May 5. Hooker realizing his strategy was not going to be successful withdrew his remaining forces on May 5-6. A great victory for Lee's army despite being outmanned 2 to 1. He did suffer one fateful loss, Stonewall Jackson, considered to be Lee's best tactician was mortally wounded on May 2<sup>nd</sup> by his own troops while reconnoitering his line. Jackson survived the amputation of his arm but died from complications from his wound on May 10. Union casualties numbered 17,197 of which 5,919 were captured or missing. Vermont casualties numbered around 75, among them was Duxbury resident Arnold Shonio who was wounded in the left leg on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, then taken prisoner on May 4. He was paroled by his captors two weeks later on May 16 and was discharged on October 17 due to his leg requiring amputation. He returned home and still farmed in the area. Confederate losses numbered 13,303 with 2,018 captured or missing. The Army of Northern Virginia had once again escaped defeat at the hands of the Army of the Potomac.

## D U X B U R Y I N T H E C I V I L W A R

Lee was happy with his recent successes but he was tired of reacting to the efforts of the Northern forces. He was also tired of fighting all his battles on home soil. Although he had made one attempt at fighting on northern soil, he began making plans to take the fight to his adversaries on northern soil once again, hoping this would inflame the residents of the north sufficiently to influence their leaders to end the war providing the South the independence they sought. Lee assembled his forces and began his move north through Maryland and up into Pennsylvania meeting the Union forces at the small town of Gettysburg. It is ironic that in this battle, which took place on July 1-3, 1863, that the Confederate forces (totaling 71,699) approached from the north and the Union forces (totaling 93,921) from the south. Vermont units played a major role during the battle with the following regiments either actively engaged or held in reserve: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> infantry units; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> US Sharpshooters; 1<sup>st</sup> VT Cavalry. The 13<sup>th</sup> infantry probably being the most prominent unit during the three day fight, their efforts in repelling Pickett's charge on the Union line center on Cemetery Hill helped ensure a Union victory. I'm sure most of you have read or seen countless accounts of the battle or may have visited the battlefield, so I will write little of the battle itself. Of the total Union casualties of 23,055, Vermont's totaled approximately

401. Fortunately only two men from Duxbury are reported on the casualty list. They are Lester Dow who was wounded and Joel Smith killed in action, both on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the last day of the battle. With Confederate casualties numbering 23,231 and their unsuccessful attempt to split the Union forces in half at the stone wall in the Union center, Lee was forced to retreat back to southern soil in defeat. The Union forces unable to follow-up its victory on the field by attacking Lee's army while in retreat garnered criticism from President Lincoln, but the Union troops were exhausted as well and had received virtually the same amount of losses to its army. With Lee back in Virginia it assured that the war would continue for some time to come, but it would now be more difficult for him to resupply his units and he would have to fight from a more defensive position when he encountered the Union forces.

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**Sources:**

US Census Reports; Town of Duxbury – Vital Records; Duxbury Historical Society Archives; [www.vermontcivilwar.org](http://www.vermontcivilwar.org); National Archives and Records Administration – Washington, DC

## D U X B U R Y T R I V I A

At a special town meeting held on April 20, 1812, 1 pm.

(Every freeholder in each town was to read the resolutions and preambles passed on March 19th at Montpelier and were to have their names recorded for or against same.)

- A. To see if the town will raise money to procure lead and powder as the law directed and to deposit it as town stores.
- B. To see if the town would "take into consideration agreeable to the vote passed at Montpelier on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March last the situation of our beloved Country and deliver our sentiments on the same." [It was really a question as to: Shall we fight England for the abuses She has perpetrated against Us on the sea.]

The actions taken at the meeting:

- A. It was voted to raise 1 cent on the dollar on the grand list to be paid the 1<sup>st</sup> of October next into the treasury of Duxbury to procure powder, flints, and lead as the law allowed. And, that Jesse Arms procure the articles and that his house be the place of deposit or arsenal.
- B. Results of a vote taken by those freeholders present:  
23 voted 'yea'  
27 voted 'nay'

D U X B U R Y   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y  
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If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

**[www.DuxburyVT.com](http://www.DuxburyVT.com)**

**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - Nov. 12**  
**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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