

# Under the Hump

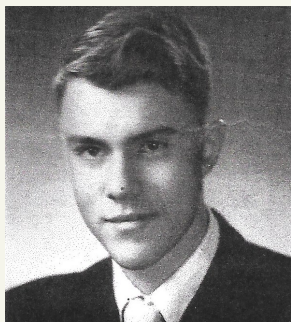
## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:  
Feb. 9, 7 pm, CBMS

- Annual elections will be held at the meeting.
- We will be selling morning snacks and lunch at Town Meeting. Please see this page for more details.

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SOCIETY MEMBER?



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, at 7 pm in the cafeteria of Crossett Brook Middle School. Our business meeting will include the annual election of officers and those scheduled trustees.

Following the business meeting, our program will feature a presentation by Brian Lindner on the history of the Vermont State Police. Brian is a talented speaker and is also very knowledgeable of our community's past. Please bring a friend to enjoy a free evening of both history and fellowship, plus refreshments.

### Update on Fundraisers

Our annual November food sale outside Kinney Drugs in Waterbury netted \$147.50. We wish to thank Kinney's and all of you that assisted in this fundraiser in any way.

The annual holiday wreath sale was also a great success thanks to you and all in our community that supported our Society. We made just shy of \$400 on this fundraiser. Again, many thanks to all of you and especially Lisa Ireland who supplied and made the wreaths. We had numerous compliments on her wreaths and decorations.

### Town Meeting 2016

The Historical Society will sell coffee, snacks, donuts, etc. during the morning meeting and hosting the potluck lunch around noon, per usual. Any snacks for the morning meeting will be appreciated. For the lunch, please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert. Price for the lunch will be \$5.00. If you have any questions, please call Mary Welch, 244-7558.

Thank you for your participation!



### Dues Reminder

Annual memberships expired on December 31, 2015. The bylaws state that if membership dues are not received by February 1, 2016, your name(s) shall be removed from the membership list. We hope you wish to continue supporting the Society. If so, please remit your dues to treasurer Mark Morse at the address shown on the last page of this newsletter to avoid this being the last newsletter edition you will receive.

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

At the December 2015 meeting we catalogued the latest donated artifacts. We also scanned in several photos and filed them in the appropriate notebooks.

At our January meeting we began the process of actively reviewing all of our non-family file folders. Our goal is to ensure the materials in them should be in a separate folder or combined with another making it easier for researchers to locate the information. Much of the content of these folders are from the Alice DeLong donation which have not been reviewed as yet because we have not had time to devote to the effort.

## Donation Artifacts/Documents

- ⇒ South Duxbury Cemetery Association – records of the organization
- ⇒ Helen Davis – photos & slides
- ⇒ Linda Devlin – soapstone foot warmer

## Monetary Donations

James Hanley \* Kim Greenwood \* Richard & Camille Grace \* Dale Christie  
Jill Smith \* Bill Morse \* Kathryn Hallock \* Brian Lindner \* Alan & Bev Young \* Jim & Wendy Welch

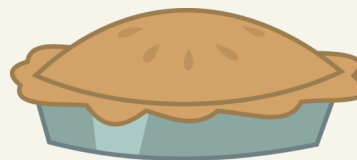
A Recipe to Share

Our Society members are great cooks and we'd like to feature some of your recipes in the newsletter. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please submit it to the newsletter committee. The recipe in this issue is courtesy of Breta Grace.

*Cheesy Apple Pie*

6 cups peeled, sliced apples  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 Tbsp. brown sugar  
2 Tbsp. flour  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/8 tsp. salt  
one 9-inch pie crust, unbaked

Crumb topping:  
1/3 cup sugar  
1/2 cup flour  
3/4 cup grated cheddar cheese  
3 Tbsp. butter



1. Preheat oven to 400. Combine sugars, flour, cinnamon and salt. Toss with apples.
2. Spread apples in pie crust. Bake for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350.
3. Prepare crumb topping. Mix until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly on the pie and bake for 30 minutes more, or until the apples are tender and the topping is golden.
4. Serve with vanilla ice cream, caramel sauce, or both. Makes 8 servings.

## THE OLD HOTEL

By Donald Welch

### History of The Old Hotel

The Old Hotel was built originally by Nathan Huntley in 1824. Nathan was the son of Isaiah Huntley who farmed and resided on the land directly southeasterly (and across the road) from the hotel. Nathan also operated this hotel as a pub, a stagecoach stop, and a mail depot. Our history does not reveal that this building was ever used as a post office.

After several years, Nathan sold the hotel to Ann Eliza Crossett and her husband Richard Lyman VII. They continued the hotel operations in the same manner which proved to be rather lucrative until the year of 1849. This is the date of the arrival of the iron horse in town and also the date that her husband passed away. Their volume of stagecoach business naturally diminished especially the east and west stage traffic. The widowed Mrs. Crossett continued managing her hotel for many years.

During the 1870s Mrs. Crossett sold the hotel to her younger sister (Cornelia Ann) and her husband Edwin C. Crossett, who was her first cousin. They had earlier farmed on Crossett Hill, later called the McMullen Place. They both assisted in the daily operation of the hotel until his death on November 3, 1881. Duxbury's early history does claim that the hotel did interrupt business for financial reasons for a spell due to the railroad service, however, the Crossett family did continually own the hotel until 1894 when this building burned to the ground.

On August 27, 1894, Duxbury Land Records reveal that Cornelia Crossett deeded this lot to the town of Duxbury for two hundred dollars for the future use as a school and also a town hall. This new building served the town in both functions until 1915 when the building burned to the ground. With the help of quick-thinking neighbors and firemen, some articles were salvaged.

During the 1880s prior to the hotel burning, an unidentified artist painted (on canvas) his or her illustration of this building and the background at that period of time. To the best of my knowledge, this is the only remaining image of "The Old Hotel." How this painting survived two fires plus the 1927 flood, remains a mystery to me and most likely will never be resolved.

### OCTOBER 24, 1894.

The dedication of the town hall at Duxbury Corner was a very enjoyable affair. Mr. D. A. Gray, with appropriate remarks, presented the hall and key to the town. Mr. E. W. Huntley accepted the same for the town, and, with interesting remarks in regard to town affairs, exhibited the records of 1794 in contrast with the record of 1894. His remarks were very entertaining to the large audience in attendance. Judge Crossett gave an account of the old-time way of holding town meetings in school-houses. Mr. E. F. Palmer of Waterbury very pleasantly contrasted the past with the present, and congratulated the people of Duxbury upon the fine and commodious hall and beautiful and pleasant school-room. The exercises closed with the singing of America. The first supper was served at nine o'clock. Bryant's band furnished music for the dance, which commenced at nine o'clock, Walter Hazelton, the builder of the hall, leading the first dance. With

good music, good order and a fine hall, the evening's entertainment was complete. The tables were beautifully arranged in the school-room, and the second supper was served at two o'clock. The ladies of North Duxbury, Crossett Hill and Duxbury Corner were very generous in their contribution of cake, etc., for which the managers were very thankful. There were 125 couple in attendance; seventy-five couples participated in the dance. Nearly fifty dollars were realized after the expenses were paid.

The building was the second built on the original foundation for "The Old Hotel." The third built was in 1915 for the former Duxbury Corner School.

"Another landmark is gone. The old hotel building at Duxbury Corner was burned early last Sunday morning. The fire, from a defective stovepipe, was discovered in time for the inmates to escape. The building was erected by Nathan Huntley seventy years ago and used as a tavern until the railroad was built. Since then it has been occupied by tenants. The old dancing hall was made useful up to the present time for holding meetings. The building was insured for \$100. No insurance on contents. An organ, owned by the Methodist Society and used for religious services, was destroyed."

(Taken from a newspaper clipping in the scrapbook of Mrs. Electa Louizell)



## THE OLD HOTEL

**Finding the Painting**

This excerpt was personally told to me by Alice DeLong in her twilight years. Alice was by trade a teacher which was in her younger years in one room schools. She was very interested in Duxbury, where he was born, and served in her town well on several boards and offices. Alice was also a staunch Republican, opinionated, and quite capable of defending her beliefs and virtues.

One day during school summer vacation at Duxbury Corner School, Alice and others were in the school basement taking an interest in the building and its inventory. While walking along the corridor Alice noticed a painting in an old unused coal bin amongst a pile of broken chairs. The group carefully removed most of the chairs and to their disgust, they noticed the painting had a broken chair leg protruding through the painting. They removed the chair and evaluated the damaged painting, pondering their next move. The group decided to allow Alice to take the painting home with her for safekeeping.

Naturally, the selectboard heard of this and asked Alice to discuss the issue with them since it was town property. With Alice's personality, it didn't take her long to tell the board their options. One option was to allow her to keep it at her home where it would be safe. Another option was to have it professionally repaired, appraised, and insured if valuable, and then display it publically for everyone to enjoy and appreciate. The latter is what they decided and currently it hangs on a wall of Duxbury's town office.

As a footnote to the above, every time I view this painting, I think of this story and I'm ever so grateful for Alice, her vision of the future, and yes—her good virtue.

**The Painting**

The painting shows the old Duxbury Hotel, which was popular with stagecoach passengers. However, when the railroad came to Waterbury in 1849, and a fancy new hotel was built just across from the station, the Duxbury Hotel went out of business. Subsequently, the building was used as a community center for church services and musical entertainment. Alice DeLong particularly remembers a women's orchestra from Waterbury playing there. In 1894 the building burned and shortly thereafter the Duxbury Town Hall was built on the site, using some of the foundation of the old hotel.

In addition to depicting the Duxbury Hotel, the sheep grazing in the foreground remind us that in the 1840s sheep-raising swept the state, after the introduction of merino sheep which American ambassador, a Vermonter, brought back from his service in Spain. The Worcester ridgeline, which forms the background of the painting, is accurately depicted and provides proof that this is a Duxbury scene.

Jackie Calder, curator of paintings at the Vermont His-

torical Society, examined the painting during the winter of 2001. She did not recognize the style of the artist and was certain that it was not painted by any of the professional artists working in Vermont at the end of the nineteenth century.

**What We Can Surmise About the Painting**

Engraved on one of the four stretchers holding the canvas are the words "Patented 1895," suggesting that the painting was done in the late 1890s. The artist had some technical difficulty showing both the front and the end of the hotel, leading us to surmise that he or she had little formal training. On the other hand, the trees and the carriage are painted with such accuracy that it is possible the painting could be dated by researching what year that specific expensive-carriage model was manufactured.

"Painting from Nature" was a popular hobby in the 1890s and many people took art lessons. The fact that this painting was put in a very grand and expensive frame suggests that it was highly valued by its owner who must have been someone of means.

It seems almost certain, therefore, that is artwork was painted by someone from Duxbury or Waterbury, someone who could stand on the hillside opposite the hotel and paint the scene he or she saw. It seems most likely that this person must have been a well-to-do merchant or professional person, or the wife of such a person, and therefore its highly probable that this painting hung proudly for many years in the front parlor of a home in Duxbury or Waterbury.

Perhaps later on as styles changed, the heirs did not want the painting and it was given to the Duxbury Elementary School where it might have hung in the principal's office for a few decades before being relegated to the furnace room.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Weather-Wise and Season-Wise

When the kettle boils dry, a storm is brewing.

Horses lapping with their tongues means dry weather.

Frogs freeze up three times before spring comes.

When the chick-a-dee says "Phoebe," sugaring is nearly over.

If the red and black caterpillar had more black than red, it was the sign of a hard, long winter.

If the wind blew the leaves of the trees up, it meant a storm was coming.

A dry year will scare you to death. A wet year will starve you to death.

When the cat plays unusually long or hard, look for a storm.

If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb (and vice versa).

When the quarter moon is straight up and down (won't hold water), it will be dry weather. When it has both points up (will hold water), it will be stormy.

Six weeks after you hear the first locust (or katydid), look for a frost.

If enough blue sky for a pair of Dutchman's britches shows through storm clouds, it will clear off.

When anchor ice forms along the side of a brook, look for the weather to warm up.

Rain before 7:00; clear before 11:00.

When cattle lie down instead of feeding in a pasture or field, it's a sign of rain.

### Old Sayings

Slick as:

- (a) a hound's tooth
- (b) a greased pig
- (c) a school ma'am's leg
- (d) a whistle

Faster than greased lightning.

Hotter than:

- (a) love in haying
- (b) the hinges of Hades

Knee-high to a grasshopper.

Looks as if it was sent for and couldn't go.

All in but the shoestrings.

Always behind like an old cow's tail.

Madder than a wet hen.

Not on your tintype.

Not by a jugful.

As far as you could throw a cat by the tail.

Everyone to his own notion, said the old woman as she kissed the cow.

## P O T P O U R R I

**Shonio's Mills**

**An Industry Which Has Been In One Family For 100 Years And Because Of Far Sighted Policy Does Not Exhaust Resources.**

An instance of the effectiveness of a far sighted policy in the conservation of resources in order that an industry may go on through an interminable number of years, is that pursued in the management of the Shonio mills in Duxbury. This industry was founded about a century ago and so far as exhausting the supply of lumber goes, it can be operated for centuries to come if the present policy is followed. At the present time the mills are operated by Crossett Shonio, the fifth in his line of the original settler and, the fourth to operate the plant.

The Shonio mills consist of a lower and upper mill, situated on Crossett Hill. Here are turned out rough and dimension lumber, stanchions, chair stock and wedges which find a ready market. The stanchions are to be assembled in Elmore but the rest of the product goes to New York and other places to be used in factories.

The mills have ample power and the upper plant is new, having been rebuilt to replace one which was destroyed by fire last fall. Connected with the mills also is an ample timber supply for the Shonio interests hold 2,300 acres of maple, birch and other woods which are desirable in manufacture of the lines which they make. Where the conservation comes in is that no fly by night policy is pursued in the cutting off of the timber and

the woods are made to produce the most possible year after year. Nothing less than twelve inches at the base is cut and 42,000 trees have been set out in reforestation. The growth on this acreage takes care of the wants of the factory and can continue to do so. With an adequate supply of the raw material, adequate manufacturing facilities and a ready market which the reputation of the concern has made for itself, Shonio's mills look like as permanent an institution as is possible. The mills are well enough known so that at the present time one of the greatest saw manufacturers in the country is testing out a new product in them.

The first of the family to arrive in the location was Edward Crossett who settled on the hill which bears his name, much more than a century ago. He was the great great grandfather of Crossett Shonio, the present operator. He lived in one of the old original log cabins before the days of dressed lumber in those parts. His son, Janus, started the mill which has been operated by the family ever since.

One employee, Fred Ravlin, foreman, has served four generations of the Crossett family in mill work and intends to add one more to his record. The Crossett home place has been occupied by direct descendants of Janus Crossett, who built it over a century ago, for six generations.

*Waterbury Record*  
June 18, 1930

*Waterbury Record*  
Thursday, August 27, 1942

#### Kenley Squier Injured

Kenley Squier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Squier, was painfully injured on Wednesday evening while at play in the field behind the Squier's home on Union Street. Neighbors reported seeing him running around with a stick, when he tripped and fell, the blunt end of the stick piercing his neck to a depth of three inches. It broke off and the boy had to be rushed to the Mary Fletcher Hospital, where he underwent an operation to have it removed. Luckily, for Ken, the blunt point just missed two arteries, although the thyroid gland was exposed, but an injury which might have been extremely serious will result in nothing more than a very stiff, sore neck and a few days' sojourn in the Hospital. Ken is under the care of Dr. Truax, who performed the operation.



P O T P O U R R I

*Waterbury Record*  
May 25, 1930

Fred LeClair

Has A Remarkable Record for Accomplishing Things In Building  
Line And Has Helped This Section Industrially By Opening Mill  
Which Was Closed For Years And Operating It Full Time Since.  
Erected 49 Houses In 18 Months In Burlington.

Fred LeClair has been a good argument for business wherever he has been and he has helped to send things ahead. He has a record which seldom has been equaled in Vermont or any where else for achievement. For the length of time he has been in the building and mill business he has probably built more homes than any one man in the State and this is in addition to some pretty big jobs and many other activities.

In Burlington a few years ago there was a distressing shortage of houses. People were hanging back from building because of the high prices and tenants were obliged to live in uncomfortable quarters and pay exorbitant rents for the privilege. Mr. LeClair sensed the opportunity and went to work with the results that in forty-eight months Burlington had forty-nine new houses, a little more than one a month, built by him. They were in the growing section of the city and some of the nicest looking homes in the town stand there today as a result of his work. Along with the construction of houses, which did much to alleviate the shortage, he accomplished much other work there, one of the contracts being the alterations and repairs to Mt. St. Mary's College which amounted to about \$75,000.

Following the disastrous fire in Hardwick, a few years ago Mr. LeClair rebuilt the burned area. He has done extensive building operations all over Vermont. Montpelier, Barre and Cabot are among the places which have his buildings.

LeClair has been a big asset in this community for a short time before the flood he bought the old Elliott mill in North Duxbury which has been idle for several years. He put it in condition and by adapting it to the changing conditions has kept it operating full time ever since. This meant the employment of at least a half hundred men and during the recent slump when many of the old concerns were laying off men, this mill operated full time. At present he is getting out a large amount of chair stock which is going down into Massachusetts. In addition to that he is turning out railroad ties for the Central Vermont railway and a large amount of dimension lumber. By turning out his own lumber he gains a big point on the economy side of production.

The first building project he has taken in Waterbury is the construction of a home for Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carroll on Butler Street and that is now in process of erection.

While Mr. LeClair spends a considerable amount of time at the mill in North Duxbury and at different places in this vicinity where he has interest, he retains his office in Hardwick.

I Want To Sugar Off

I want to go back to old Vermont  
For it's maple sugar time,  
I want to taste the welling sap  
And hear its dripping chime.

I want to tramp in the soggy snow  
And smell the maple steam;  
I'd like to climb Vermont's brown hills  
And once more drive a team.

I want to be where the south wind sweeps,  
To see the snow-flakes go  
When mother earth is waking up  
And brooks begin to flow.

I want to be back in old Vermont  
When the robin's cheery call  
Tells to the world there's swelling buds  
In every tree-top tall.

I shall go back to old Vermont  
Though I sink in April mud;  
I long for the green hills of my youth—  
It's spring time in my blood.

~Ruthe McGrail

**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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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 - FEB. 9  
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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