

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
Tues., Feb 21, 7 pm

- Please note that the date and place change for the next meeting is: CBMS library, Feb. 21. 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.

Last Issue's
Mystery Photo:
Bonnie (Davis) Morse



CAN YOU
IDENTIFY THIS
SOCIETY
MEMBER?



Our next scheduled meeting and program will be held at Crossett Brook Middle School on Tuesday, February 21st, at 7 p.m. upstairs in the LIBRARY (note the date and place change). The school is equipped with an elevator for easy access. The business meeting will be brief and first. This will include election of annual officers and those scheduled trustees. We will also discuss what our society would prefer for our August meeting.

Our program will feature "The Community at the Crossroads," memories of the events that shaped Waterbury. This is a DVD produced by Peregrine Productions (Vince Franke) and Bill Doyle's Vt. History and Government Class at Johnson State College.

All are welcome to this free event and refreshments will follow the program. Hope to see you there!

Dues Reminder

Annual memberships expired on December 31, 2016. The bylaws state that if membership dues are not received by February 1, 2017, 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.

Update on Fundraisers

Our annual food sale, held on Nov. 19, 2016, in front of Kinney Drugs in Waterbury, netted \$138. We had a great variety of baked goods, breads, cakes, baked beans, and chili, to name a few. We also had a Christmas wreath on display and received some orders. Thank you to all of our members that baked, donated items, and helped with the sales. Shawn Perry and Kelly Welch, thank you for being present during the morning. Thank you for everyone's support! ~Mary Ethel Welch

Our annual wreath sale went well again this year! Our proceeds from the wreath sales and extra donations netted our society about \$400. We especially want to thank Lisa Ireland and her family for the many hours of labor they toiled to make the beautiful wreaths. Many thanks to the members that helped make this fundraiser a success.

Town Meeting 2017



The Historical Society will sell coffee, snacks, donuts, etc. during the morning meeting and will be 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!

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

Catalogued latest artifact donations & continue to review/update existing documents to ensure they are properly identified and stored.

Donation Artifacts/Documents

- ⇒ U.S. Cancellation Stamp for Duxbury from 250th Anniversary – **U.S. Postal Service**
- ⇒ Articles & Anecdotes of Nathaniel Wesley Lewis and family – **D. Stoddard**
- ⇒ Military records & information regarding the death of Myrle Haskins – **Brian Lindner**
- ⇒ Information regarding the 1977 discovery in the Winooski River of the body of Wendall John Emslie – **Brian Lindner**
- ⇒ Duxbury Town Reports 1912-1957 except 1933, 1935, 1939, 1941, 1952 – **Robert & Wade Morse**
- ⇒ Copied newspaper articles related to the Crossett Hill Association Reunions 1933-1967 – **Skip Flanders**
- ⇒ Newspaper advertisement and cast information regarding “*The Cuban Spy*”, a 4-Act play by Frank Dumont which was presented at the Duxbury Town Hall on May 6, 1899 by the Crossett Hill School students and teachers. – **Skip Flanders**

Monetary Donations

Brian Lindner * Dale Christie * Stephanie Koonz * Alan & Beverley Young * Dave Fuka & Shelly Welch
Harold P. Grout * James Hanley * Mo & Barb Lavanway * Joan Haskins * Mary Whitcomb * Anonymous

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 Willie Docto, Moose Meadow Lodge.

Sweet Rice Flour & Oat Pancakes

(Gluten-free) Serves: 4

This is a wonderful gluten-free alternative to regular pancakes. Adding oatmeal gives it some fiber and good nutrition. No need to use an electric mixer, as a hand whip will be all you need.

Dry ingredients:

Mochiko sweet rice flour – 2 cups
baking powder – 4 tsp
baking soda – 1 tsp
sugar – ¼ cup
salt – 1 tsp
gluten-free quick oats – 1 cup

Liquid ingredients:

eggs – 2
milk – 1 1/2 - 2 cups
canola or vegetable oil – 1/4 cup
vanilla – 2 tsp

Mix dry ingredients. In a separate bowl, mix the liquid ingredients. Thoroughly combine the ingredients into one bowl to make the batter.

Cook on a non-stick griddle with a little bit of oil, approximately 2 minutes on the first side and 1 minute on the other, or until cooked.

Serve with butter and pure Vermont maple syrup warmed with blueberries.

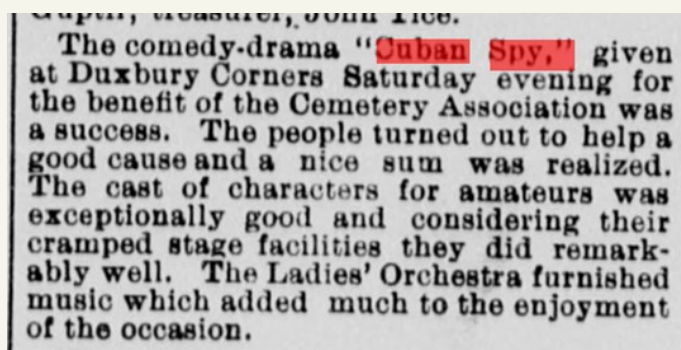
"THE CUBAN SPY"

The Cuban Spy, a comedy-drama by Frank Dumont
Presented at Duxbury Town Hall, May 6, 1899

By Skip Flanders

While looking for postcards on eBay, I came across an advertisement for "The Cuban Spy," a comedy-drama in four acts held at the Duxbury Town Hall to benefit the Duxbury Corner Cemetery Association. I purchased the advertisement. The advertisement did not have a date but searching through old newspaper articles, I found reference to the event and the date was May 6, 1899.

I found four references in area newspapers to the event. On May 10, 1899:



The comedy-drama "Cuban Spy," given at Duxbury Corners Saturday evening for the benefit of the Cemetery Association was a success. The people turned out to help a good cause and a nice sum was realized. The cast of characters for amateurs was exceptionally good and considering their cramped stage facilities they did remarkably well. The Ladies' Orchestra furnished music which added much to the enjoyment of the occasion.

The drama was so well received that it was repeated again on Tuesday, May 16, 1899. The drama was performed by a cast of some of the young people from the Crossett Hill District.

The following comments were published in the Waterbury Record, May 10, 1899:

"The play at the Corner Saturday evening was a perfect success. If the rest of town had the public spirit that Crossett Hill has more improvement could be made."

The paragraph in the article preceding that one read:

"Attention should be given to the Lewis grave yard which is sadly neglected. Something should be done at once. The graves, with a few exceptions, receive no attention, only once a year when they are mowed. Stones are falling and graves caving in."

The play was to benefit the Duxbury Corner Cemetery Association, perhaps to fix the poor conditions at the Lewis graveyard.

The news articles recognized Tressa Healey for her part as Little Cuba "Elenora," the Cuban Spy, a lead part in the play. Tressa was likely a teacher in Duxbury at the time and was probably the director of the play as well.

This play was a comedy-drama written in 1899 by Minstrelsy Frank Dumont around the Spanish American War. Minstrels were plays with singing and dancing. Frank Dumont was a popular minstrel show performer and manager who lived from 1848 to 1919.

The actors in the comedy-drama "The Cuban Spy," performed in Duxbury, were as follows:

Tressa Healey: The lead "Little Cuba "Elenora," the Cuban Spy," was played by Tressa Healey. Tressa Healey was the youngest daughter of John and Mary Healey, being 21 years old at the time. Tressa and her sisters Alice, Annie, and Mary were teachers in the Waterbury and Duxbury Schools. Tressa married Martin Spellacy a granite worker in 1910. Tressa died in 1955 in Framingham, MA, and is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. There are many different spellings of Tressa's first name.

William S. Healey: "Richard Carson, a young American," was played by W. S. Healey, William S. Healey, Tressa's older brother. William was 23 years old at the time. William died in a horse riding accident in 1907 at the entrance to Healey Court on South Main Street where the family lived.

Tressa and William were part of the John and Mary (Haley/Healey/Healy—there are many spellings of the Healey name) family living on Crossett Hill. John was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1841 and came to America at the age of 9 years in 1850. He spent a couple of years in Boston before coming to Waitsfield and later to Duxbury. The family made a home on a farm on Crossett Hill. He married Mary Harrington in Manchester, NH, in 1866, who was born in Kerry, Ireland, in 1840. There were five girls and one boy in the family. Tressa and William's siblings were: (1) Annie Laura who also taught school in the area and died in 1953 and never married. (2) Francis Ellen who married Robert Grace and died in Burlington in 1941. (3) Mary Agnes who married John Keefe and died in 1954. Mary Agnes also taught schools in the area before she was married. (4) Alice V who taught school in Duxbury, Waterbury, and in Barre. Alice never married and died in 1959, the last surviving of the siblings. There are numerous descendants of the Healy sisters in the families of Robert Grace and John William Keefe living in the Duxbury and Waterbury area today. Both parents, John and Mary Healy, and all of the children are buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Duxbury.

Raleigh Evander Battles: "Roderigo Valdez, secretly in pay of Spaniards" was played by R. E. Battles. Raleigh Evander Battles, known as "Rollie," was born in Waterbury and was 18 years old in 1899. Raleigh died in 1960 and is buried in Hardwick, VT.

Phillip Shonio: "Jasper Gomez, Officer in Valdez's Command" was played by Phillip Shonio. Phillip Shonio was 30 years old in 1899 and lived in Duxbury. Phillip was married to Tenie May Crossett. Phillip died in Elmore in 1944. Phillip lost a leg in a construction accident before moving to Elmore. Phillip is buried in the Duxbury Corner Cemetery along with his wife.

“THE CUBAN SPY”

Ernest Fred Clifton: “*Lopez, Officer in Valdez’s Command*” was played by E. F. Clifton. Ernest Fred Clifton was 19 years old at the time of the play. Ernest is the father of James E. Clifton and Ernest F. “Junior” Clifton Jr. Ernest was likely living with the McMullen family on Crossett Hill at the time of the play. Below is a photo of the McMullen Family at their farm on Crossett Hill adjacent to the Crossett Hill School. Ernest F. Clifton and Harry Gochee are in the photo and were both in the play. Ernest F. Clifton died in 1961 and is buried in the Duxbury Corner Cemetery.

James C. McMullen: “*Phelim McNab, Irish comedy*” was played by J. C. McMullen. J. C. McMullen is James C. McMullen, born in Fayston and was 47 years old when appearing in the play. James is the brother of Mary Jane McMullen who was the wife of James Crossett. James McMullen died in 1927 at the Vermont State Hospital and is buried in the Duxbury Corner Cemetery.

Christopher Clifton Corse: “*Carl Weisbeer, Dutch comedy*” was played by C. C. Corse. C. C. Corse is most likely Christopher Clifton Corse, born in 1854 and living on Crossett Hill in the 1900 census. C. C. Corse would have been 45 at the time of the play. Christopher Clifton Corse died in 1928 in Claremont, NH.

Harry Gochee: “*Jerry, Negro comedy*” was played by Harry Gochee. Harry Gochee was likely born in Barnet, VT, in 1880 and was being raised by the McMullen Family on the farm on Crossett Hill at the time of the play. Harry is in the photo beside Ernest Clifton in the McMullen family photo.

Lena Morse: “*Bridget Monahan, who is looking for Phelim McNab*” was played by Lena Morse. Lena was the daughter of Edgar and Hattie Graves Morse who lived in North Duxbury between the Davis and the Preston farm. Lena was 20 years old in 1899. Lena married Edwin Goodheart and had four children. Two boys, Cecil and James, and two girls, Phebe and Amy. Amy married Hymen Myers and lived in Waterbury and was a longtime supporter of the Graves Cemetery Association in North Duxbury where her grandparents Edgar and Hattie, along with parents Edward and Lena Goodheart, are buried. Lena died in 1953.

Mrs. Philip Shonio: “*Sophie, a waiting maid*” was played by Mrs. Philip Shonio. Mrs. Phillip Shonio is the former Tenie Mae Crossett, the daughter of James and Mary Jane Crossett. Tenie would have been 23 at the time of the play. Her husband Phillip and Uncle James McMullen were also actors in the play. Phillip Shonio died in 1944 and Tenie, who died in 1957, are buried in the Crossett Lot in the Old Duxbury Corner Cemetery.



McMullen Family Farm next to Crossett Hill School

Left to right: Ernest Clifton, boarder; Harry Gochee, boarder; James C. McMullen, son; Tenie Shonio, daughter; Mrs. Jane McMullen, mother; Kate McMullen, daughter; oxen with muzzles; John McMullen, son.

"THE CUBAN SPY"

THE
CUBAN SPY!

A COMEDY-DRAMA IN FOUR ACTS,

—WILL BE GIVEN AT—

TOWN HALL, DUXBURY, VERMONT,

Saturday Eve., May 6

—FOR THE—

Benefit of Duxbury Corner Cemetery Association

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

Little Cuba "Elenora," the Cuban Spy,	-	Tressa Healey
Richard Carson, a young American,	- -	W. S. Healey
Roderigo Valdez, secretly in pay of Spaniards,	-	R. E. Battles
Jasper Gomez } Officers in Valdez's command,	-	Philip Shonio
Lopez }	-	E. F. Clifton
Phelim McNab, Irish comedy,	- - -	J. C. McMullen
Carl Weisbeer, Dutch comedy	- - -	C. C. Corse
Jerry, Negro comedy,	- - -	Harry Gochee
Bridget Monahan, who is looking for Phelim McNab,	-	Lena Morse
Sophie, a waiting maid,	- - - -	Mrs. Philip Shonio

SYNOPSIS OF EVENTS

ACT I.—All on shipboard bound for Cuba. "I tell you there's a hoodoo 'round here." "Mr. Richard Carson had best keep a quiet tongue in his head." "She is a stowaway and cannot remain in this vessel." "Down with the American if he interferes." Ireland and Germany to the rescue. "Your face and noble action will be engraven upon my heart." "Bind him to the cannon's mouth." "Little Cuba" to the rescue. "Speak the word to fire that gun and you are a dead man."

ACT II. Richard, the American must be squelched. Bridget has her say. "Little Cuba" again. "He failed to note my signal of warning; he is lost if he remains here." Phelim and Carl make love all around. Richard ill. "It means my fine American braggart, that you are drugged and in the power of Roderick Valdez." "Out of the way, no power can save him now." Phelim and Carl to the rescue. "Shoot, if you dare."

ACT III. Sophie in love. Germany or Ireland. "Unlock the door." "Oh! I don't know how this will end." Richard bound. "Make your peace with heaven for your time is short." Elenora in disguise. Escape of prisoner. "I go you one better." "Surrender in the name of the Cuban republic and the United States."

ACT IV.—At Pina del Rio. "The American Minister is expected here shortly." Mischief ahead. Message to Gomez. Cupid's darts. The message intercepted. "No power on earth can save him now." Little Cuba in danger. I refuse to shoot a woman in cold blood." Gomez to the rescue. Death of Valdez.

ADMISSION, 15 CENTS

GOOD MUSIC WILL BE FURNISHED.

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30. COMMENCES AT 8

Vermont Watchman Company, Printers, Montpelier.

This 1899 comedy-drama "The Cuban Spy" advertisement printed by Vermont Watchman Company Printers, Montpelier, has been donated to the Duxbury Historical Society as evidence of the events of those times enjoyed by early residents. The advertised 15-cent fee in 1899 for attending the play to raise money for the Duxbury Corner Cemetery Association, is the equivalent of a \$4.51 fee today. Interestingly, many of the actors in the 1899 play have their final resting place in the Duxbury Corner Cemetery, a short distance from where they performed to raise funds for repairs. May they rest in peace, these former Duxbury citizens, for their effort in making the Duxbury community a better place.

A FAIRY TALE

A Fairy Tale

by Steve Grace
December 7, 2016

At this time in my life, in my senior years, I derive great pleasure out of my memberships in the Duxbury Historical Society, the Waterbury Historical Society, and the Waterbury High School Alumni Association. I was born and raised in the Waterbury/Duxbury area, went to grade school and high school in these two towns, moved with my wife, Breta, and two infant children to the Washington, DC area upon graduating from UVM in 1964, and returned to Duxbury in 1983. Twenty years of big city life were enough for me; I'm back in the land of my youth and this is where I'll finish my journey.

I loved school as a child. When I hear a young student say that he/she hates school, I react with sadness; to me that is heartbreaking. It is impossible for me to comprehend how anyone could hate an experience that was so pleasurable to me. The education part of my school years was a pleasant, successful experience and the sports and social parts of the education process are still some of my fondest memories. We were very lucky here in Duxbury and Waterbury. We were blessed with effective, dedicated teachers. Marianna Towne, Ruth Phillips, Anna Lamos, Bernice Dolloff, Marge Peterson, Dorothy Goff, John Hoskiewicz, Ed Tadejewski, ..., and Dascomb P. (Dac) Rowe. I like and respected every single one of them—although I must admit I was on the receiving end of a bit of stiff discipline from all of them, as well. They all taught me well, but there is something special, extra special, about Dac Rowe.

Many of you readers have had Dac Rowe as a teacher. If you went to Waterbury High School, you had him as either a teacher, principal, or both. He was the principal at WHS for most of our lifetimes. I would be willing to bet that a great majority of those students would agree with my assessment of Dac Rowe as a special man, a special educator. He was a crusty old rascal when I attended WHS—he was well into his 60's, I believe. But the student body still respected him as a brilliant teacher, a stern disciplinarian, and the undisputed leader of our school. I need say no more—he was a hero in my eyes.

Dac Rowe now belongs to the ages and so does his beloved Waterbury High School. Many of the graduates of WHS belong to the Waterbury High School Alumni Association and have lasting, fond memories of their years at WHS and Dac. The association has established a scholarship fund, in Dac's name, and through the generosity of graduates of WHS, the association grants two scholarships each year to two worthy Harwood Union High School graduates. These scholarships are in the amount of \$3,000 each, which are among the most generous (possibly the most generous) of all the awards given at Harwood.



Stephen Barney
senior photo
1960

I am one of the officers of the WHS Alumni Association and with the other officers and trustees of the association, oversee the Dascomb P. Rowe Scholarship Fund. A couple of years ago, we were contacted by a gent who graduated from WHS in 1960, one year before I graduated. The gent—Stephen (Steve) Barney. I remember Steve well. He was a popular guy, a solid citizen, a strong student, and, I would bet, a fine math student in Dac's classes. Steve also ran cross-country, a team coached by none other than Dac Rowe. Dac wasn't exactly a touch-feely coach, Steve and his fellow runners had to be stout-hearted men. (I stuck with baseball, basketball and soccer—didn't want old Dac chewing or kicking my butt.)

Steve had a great tale to tell. A fairy tale, he calls it. And he told it well at the WHS Alumni Association gathering in June of 2016. Those in attendance loved his tale. Told it so well, in fact, that I wrote Steve an e-mail and asked him to put his tale to paper and send me a copy. I want to preserve this tale for historical purposes and to print it for the enjoyment of our Duxbury Historical Society. It gives me a lot of pleasure to recall my old hero, Dac Rowe, and to publicize the generosity and decency of a fellow WHS graduate, Steve Barney.

Here follows Steve Barney's "Fairy Tale."

A FAIRY TALE

Speech Given by Steve Barney on June 18, 2016

My name is Steve Barney and I graduated from Waterbury High School with the Class of 1960. I have a fairy tale to tell you, but first I want you to know that I knew Dac Rowe rather well. I was his next door neighbor as a child, although there was a railroad track between our homes. Mine was on Union Street and his on North Main Street. My brother Bill, whom most of you remember, and I would feed newspapers to Dac's goats. One time I broke a window in his home and I am ashamed to say I never confessed. I used to worry that he would bring up the subject during the assembly sessions. For four years I was on his cross country team and we rode with him to the track events. And, like most of you, Dac taught me math, geometry and trigonometry. So I'm proud to say I knew him well and I owe him.

Now for the fairy tale: Once upon a time, in North Carolina, was a little old man who owned a beautiful little Ferrari. He bought it brand new in 1967 at the Ferrari factory in Maranello, Italy for about \$15,000. He considered Mr. Ferrari and the US importer, Luigi Canaletto, to be friends. He drove the car a lot and let his friends drive it. My company in North Carolina was a Ferrari dealer and over the years serviced the Ferrari and developed a friendship with the car's owner.

For this 80th birthday, his son bought him a new Ferrari as a surprise gift. That was in 1999. But the old Ferrari was the one the old man drove to Ferrari club get-togethers and track events. Yes, in his mid-eighties he was driving the car on the track dressed in his Nomex driving suit and Kevlar helmet. I used to accompany him to these events, sit next to him at dinner, and make sure he got back to his room safely. The car never let him down.

At the age of 89 the old man died and at his funeral I was taken aside by his son and asked to store the car until they decided what to do with it. By then we figured it was worth at least one million dollars. I was asked to keep it safe, but drive it every so often to keep it in tune. Can you imagine driving a million dollar Ferrari at speed around the country roads of North Carolina? I forgot to tell you it was a convertible. Open air Italian tuneups! After three years of this, the son said that they had decided to bring the car to their airplane hanger in eastern North Carolina because they wanted to make a special room for the car and for the old man's memorabilia and awards. They even dressed a mannequin in his driving suit, racing shoes, gloves and helmet to stand next to the car.

A couple of years went by and they informed me that because the car had increased in value even more, that the family felt they could do more good by selling the car at an auction and giving all the money to charity. The old man had been from an orphanage so priority would be given to orphan organizations and needy young people. The car was sold for more money than anyone could have imagined. In appreciation for my help over the years in caring for the car and its owner, I was asked to designate the charities of my choice to receive a total of \$100,000. I picked several famous charities and then asked that they give \$10,000 to the Dascomb P. Rowe scholarship fund here in Waterbury. They agreed to all my choices but asked what the Dascomb P. Rowe scholarship fund was all about. After I explained, the son said that was exactly the type of charity the old man would have wanted to see the money go to. He decided to double the amount to \$20,000!

That's pretty much the tale I wanted you to hear. We had a few problems with legal issues regarding the Waterbury High School Alumni Association's status as a non-profit organization. Fortunately, Mr. Darby has resolved these issues and the money is in the bank! Dac Rowe would be proud! Thank you very much!



Dascomb P. Rowe

**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

**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - FEB. 21
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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