

# Under the Hump

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:  
May 13, CBMS, 7 pm

The plant sale has begun! Please help us make it a successful fundraiser this year. See details and order form within.

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue's Photo:  
Oops...not a historical  
society member but was  
a Duxbury resident.



Following the business meeting, there will be a presentation by Skip Flanders and Steve Grace on the electric railroad between Waterbury and Stowe. An array of old photos depicting the history and the route that it took should make this an enjoyable evening. Bring a friend and enjoy some of this community's past! A time for fellowship and refreshments will follow.

### 2014 Plant Sale



It appears that spring may have actually arrived. There was a while there that it was in doubt. Once again, we are doing the plant sale fundraiser. There is an order form enclosed which needs to be turned in to Maureen Harvey by May 17th. You can fill it out and bring it to the May meeting. Don't forget to ask neighbors and family if they would like to take advantage of having plants delivered directly from the greenhouse directly to their door while supporting the Historical Society.

This will be the eighth plant sale and it is time to turn it over to someone else. If anyone is interested in taking on this fundraiser contact Maureen Harvey to team up this year and see what is being done. You can take it from there and make it your own.

### Town Meeting 2014

Once again, our Town Meeting luncheon was delicious and enjoyable. We served over 100 lunches. The variety of dishes was impressive and everyone's generosity overwhelming. The morning refreshments and coffee sales were a success, making a profit of \$122. Thank you to everyone who donated food items, served the lunch, and helped with the cleanup. We appreciate it!

The Duxbury Historical Society  
Mary Ethel Welch, Food Committee

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

We are continuing to scan family photographs and transcribe family genealogy files.

## Donation Artifacts/Documents

- ◆ 250th Celebration Artifacts
- ◆ Richard Lindsley—Two booklet-type Civil War era framed photos. One photo is of Jesse T. Perry and his wife Angeline Crossett and the other is of three of their youngest children. The girl is Lilla or Lille Perry.

## Monetary Donations

Richard Lindsley

A HISTORY OF THE STATE HOSPITAL  
DAIRY FARM COMPLEX

By Donald Welch

To realize the role that the State Hospital Farm played in conjunction with the State Hospital, it was equally important to understand the need for medicine and care for mental illness.

Brattleboro was the first mental hospital in Vermont. Originally, it was called the Vermont Asylum for the Insane at Brattleboro. Today it is known as the Brattleboro Retreat.

The first patient was admitted to the Vermont Asylum in 1836, and by 1888, there were 461 patients in the overcrowded halls. It was then that Dr. Don Grout (Stowe) enacted a bill to legislature to: "provide for the care, custody and treatment of the insane of the state."

Waterbury was the chosen site and legislature appropriated the initial funding to purchase land (C.C. Warren property) and construct the original hospital buildings. This was completed in 1891 and housed 25 male patients.

In 1895, due to demand, they purchased Dr. Fales property on South Main Street, with 45 acres and an 18-room brick house for more patients. Then Ladd Hall,

Weeks, and the Medical & Surgical buildings were built.

In 1896, a new dairy barn was constructed on the south entrance (near the ball field). As patient demand grew, so did dairy production. It eventually housing 70 dairy Holsteins, many beef cattle, 250 chickens, a large greenhouse, and 10 acres of gardens. By 1920, a full-time dairy herdsman was hired.

By 1897, the Sommerville Farm in Duxbury was leased and in 1899 was purchased for the piggery to supply the hospital. The Sommerville barn was used as a winter barn for the hogs and the house was the piggery superintendent's home. In 1905, a new piggery, complete with slaughter house, was built on the old barn site.

The 1927 flood hit Waterbury and Duxbury Corner on November 3 and 4. The hospital was severely damaged and the whole dairy buildings in Waterbury were completely destroyed. All of the livestock drowned except 3 of the 6 teams of horses.

Mr. Bailey, the herdsman at the time, was responsible for the hospital buildings clean up. After that was done, the dairy barn was torn down, ending the era of the dairy farm operation in Waterbury.

1928 and midway through 1929 were a busy time for

## A HISTORY OF THE STATE HOSPITAL DAIRY FARM COMPLEX

the construction and relocation of the State Hospital Farm Complex to Duxbury. The new construction would now be completed except for the root cellar which was built in 1945 for \$33,900. The new two-story dairy barn was both massive and majestic, with twin silos on the north end, plus it had three ramps or high drives on the west side leading to the upper level. The ground level was equipped with two rows of iron stanchions (both facing in) so the cows could be fed in the center area with hay from above and from the silos from one end. This barn with the heifer barn housed up to 140 head of Registered Holsteins.

This entire complex: the horseman house, dairy and heifer barn, manure station, tool shed, horse barn, root cellar, silos and even the piggery group (up the road) was all painted yellow and trimmed with white paint.

Over the next several years, as the patient clintal numbers grew, so did the demand for produce from the farm. Land acquisitions included the former Moody, O'Brien and Arkley, Casey and Foss farms in Duxbury and the Randall meadow in Waterbury Village. The State also purchased two homes in Duxbury (near the piggery); one for the swine herdsman's home and the other to house the dairy farm boss.

At about 10:30 pm on Saturday, July 4, 1942, the dairy barn was intentionally set ablaze by a disgruntled patient, and burned to the ground. All of the cattle except one cow, six calves, and three bulls were saved due to the courageous act of three passersby.

The nearby tool shed was used for the next year as a milking parlor, while the Cummings Construction Co. rebuilt the new barn on the old foundation. This new barn was nearly identical to the old building, and it was in operation in July, 1943.

The next two decades saw an upswing in patient numbers to an all-time high so this impacted the demand on the farm production and its staff as well. The farm staff consisted of: Francis Forkas as the gardener, Mr. O'Brien the swine herdsman, Mr. Louizell (and succeeded by Harley Smith) as farm boss, and Ross Green was a longtime herdsman who kept the herd of prized Registered Holsteins in show condition. The staff also consisted of several employees who, in their own expertise, assisted certain trusted patients

(that had prior farm experience to continue doing what they loved on this farm) and yet had constant care and therapeutic farm duties, which was often not available back home.

Back in Waterbury at the Hospital, during the late 1950s and into the 1960s, the administration began focusing on patient rehabilitation in hopes of returning most patients back into a community and prepare them for an independent life. Over the next several years patient numbers declined dramatically and by 1984, there were only 144 patients at VSH.

With the reduction in patients, doctors, nurses, and staff, this of course had the same recourse with the State Farm Complex and the staff. It was easier and cheaper to buy the commodities for the remaining patients than to maintain the farm, so it closed. The cattle, machinery, support houses in Duxbury, and some land was sold to the town of Duxbury.

The State Agency of Transportation relocated a section of the then Route 100B through this farm corridor, which required removing the tool shed, horse barn, and also the piggery group. The State then named this road through Duxbury to be Route 100.

Raphael Lowe (a Blush Hill farmer in Waterbury) leased the farm buildings and remaining land for a number of years. In July 1994, the dairy barn accidentally caught fire and burned to the ground, thus ending any sights of dairy cattle on the old Sommerville property. The Stanley Scribner Farm has and continues to rent some of the surrounding land to grow field corn.



The piggery, seen from Duxbury Hill Road before it was removed for the relocation of Route 100.

## A HISTORY OF THE STATE HOSPITAL DAIRY FARM COMPLEX

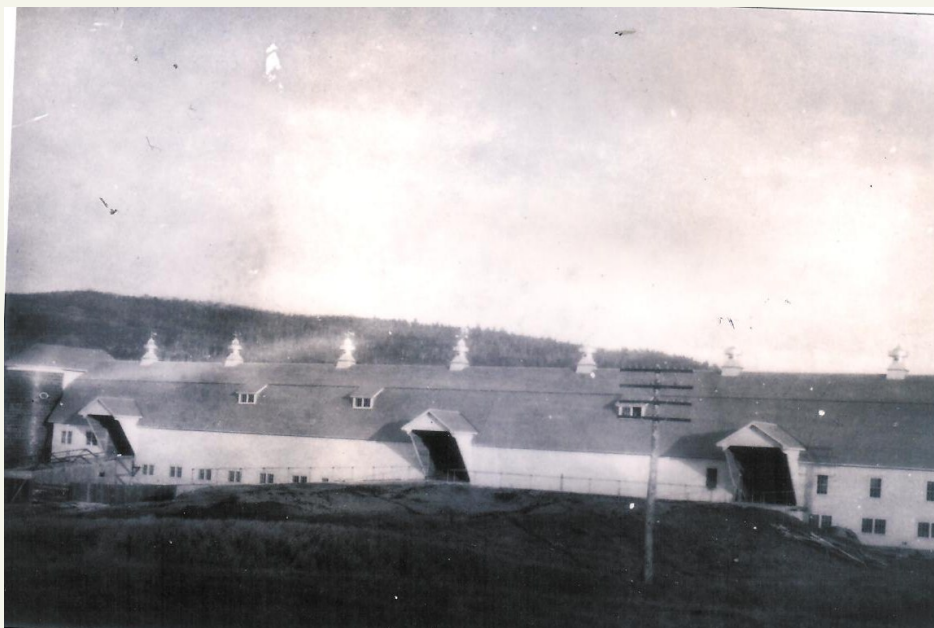
In 1997, Crossett Brook Middle School was built adjacent to the farm buildings to replace the Duxbury Corner School—now a part of Duxbury history.

Over the years, the State of Vermont has offered to sell the remaining land surrounding, and including, the buildings which sadly sit there—waiting for the next move. It has been said there is an interested buyer in negotiations with the State of Vermont.

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### References:

"History of Waterbury, Vermont (1915-1991)";  
"Empty Beds" by Herbert G. Hunt Jr.;  
"100 Years" (1854-1954) published by The Waterbury Savings Bank & Trust Company;  
Duxbury Land Records;  
Verbal individual interviews.



P O T P O U R R I

**BURLINGTON FREE PRESS and TIMES**  
**SATURDAY - JULY 23, 1932**

# **Saves Self From Death When Clothing Catches In Revolving Machinery**

*(Special to the Free Press)*

**DUXBURY, July 22.**—Clarence French of Bristol is resting as comfortably as possible at the Jackman Sanatorium here following injuries which he received while working on the Waterbury-Stowe cement road job.

French, employed by the D. W. Overrocker Construction Company, miraculously escaped a terrible death while oiling the shaft of the stone crusher about 30 feet from the ground. In some way, a leg of his overalls caught in the revolving machinery and had it not been for his presence of mind and coolheadedness, his escape would not have been possible.

His first thought was to drop the oil can which he was using to give warning to his fellow workers. Then, throwing himself backward over a beam, he clung there until the men below, aware of his danger, shut off the machinery.

Every particle of clothing except his heavy shoes was torn from his body and left in shreds. He was taken to the office of Dr. W. H. Wright, who took X-ray pictures, finding no broken bones. The flesh was badly torn and bruised and internal injuries were feared. Dr. Wright dressed the injured parts and French was brought to the Jackman Sanatorium in Duxbury.

The Waterbury Record  
 Thursday, October 25, 1945

**DANCE**  
**DILLINGHAM**  
**GRANGE HALL**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 29**  
 Auspices — Duxbury  
 Corner P. T. A.  
**DON FIELDS**  
 and His Pony Boys  
**DANCING 9 to 1**  
 Admission  
 Tax Included **50c**

**NOVEMBER 7, 1946**

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

## Chapter X

## Forward to Ultimate Victory

By Mark H. Morse

While Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was retreating back to Virginia after his 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt at invasion of the North and his ultimate defeat at Gettysburg, a similar fate was taking place with the Confederate forces defending the fortification in and around the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Vicksburg held a strategic position for the Confederacy due to its proximity to the Mississippi River supply route. The Confederate Army of Mississippi, under the command of Lt. General John C. Pemberton, had defended the city from all Union attempts to take over the city and control of the river. Until early July 1863 Union forces had been unable to penetrate through the defenses which enabled the confederate army active in the region to be supplied with goods and provide access to the west. After suffering several setbacks since mid-May attempting to breach Pemberton's forces, Major General Ulysses S. Grant, commander of the Army of Tennessee, brought forth the 13<sup>th</sup> Corps commanded by General John A. McLernard, the 15<sup>th</sup> Corps commanded by General William T. Sherman, and the 17<sup>th</sup> Corps commanded by James B. McPherson together to hold siege over the city for several days, until finally on July 4<sup>th</sup> the city was surrendered to the Union forces.

Once word of the victory of Gettysburg and Vicksburg reached Presidents Lincoln and Davis it was apparent to each of them that the war would be taking on a new direction. Lincoln knew he now may have the upper hand and could eventually bring the war to an end and restore the Union. Davis, though hopeful his armies could recover and keep up the fight, knew that his ability to provide adequate materials for his units would be seriously diminished and his forces will be taking on more of a defensive strategy. Both men knew that the war would continue as the final blow had not led to ultimate victory or defeat of either army.

With laws passed earlier allowing for the drafting of men age 18-35 into military service, both Confederate and Union armies continued to increase their manpower. The draft met with varying degrees support and success in both arenas. Only about 6% of the men drafted for the Union actually served, the rest either paid a commutation fee or found a substitute. The Confederacy fared a little better with about 25-30% serving (probably due to the substitution provision being repealed after a year and age limit increased to 50 y/o). In Vermont 2,948 men were drafted. Of those 1,927 paid the commutation fee, 660 found substitutes, and only 361 (12%) actually served

their draft enlistment. Men who served as a result of Vermont's draft (substitute or draftee) equaled about 35% of the total drafted.

Skirmishes and battles continued throughout the remainder of 1863 with lesser notoriety than Gettysburg & Vicksburg. However, these other encounters between the two armies were no less important to the wives, parents, and children back home should their loved one be wounded, killed, captured, or stricken with some horrible ailment.

The spring of 1864 rejuvenated the conflict, especially in Virginia. In early May horrific fighting broke out in the Wilderness. Fighting in the thick and burning underbrush brought about heavy casualties from May 5-10. Hundreds of Vermont men were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner during the battle, including seven from Duxbury.

From the Wilderness it was on to Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Winchester. The boys from the green mountains fought heroically but not without heavy losses. Fighting in these battles is described as some of the bloodiest under some of the worst weather conditions of the entire war. One soldier who had been at Gettysburg and now fought at Spotsylvania commented that Gettysburg was kid's play compared to what was taking place here. Six more men from Duxbury killed, wounded, or taken prisoner following the Wilderness battle.

In the midst of this fighting in the summer of 1864, two more men volunteered to enter the fray. James N. Ingalls and George Washington Jenna enlisted as privates in Co. 'G', 6<sup>th</sup> Vermont Volunteer Infantry on July 28, 1864. Both men mustered out of service on June 19, 1865 at the end of the war after having seen action at Cedar Creek and Petersburg as well as providing defense of Washington, DC.

James Ingalls was born 09/10/1831 the son of Horace & Eliza Ingalls. In 1860, he and his wife Ellen and three children Robert, Ida, and Eliza were farming in Fayston. After returning from the war he returned to farm in Fayston where he and his wife added two more children to the household. He died of cancer 06/04/1901 and is buried in the North Fayston, VT cemetery.

George was born 02/03/1833 in East Pomfret, VT son of James & Hannah (Cram) Jenna. Living in Calais in 1860 with his wife Mary and later moving to farm in Dowsville prior to his enlistment. Several children are listed in the 1870 census with them as they continued to farm in the area. The family, which included 9 children later moved to farm in Northfield. He died from tuberculosis 08/22/1891 in Langdon, NH and is buried there.

October 19, 1864 brought forth the pivotal battle of Cedar Creek. Confederate Lt. General Jubal Early commanding the Army of the Valley launched a surprise attack against Union Major General Philip Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah, inflicting heavy casualties upon the

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

Union forces. Initially, Early was able to force seven Union infantry divisions to fall back but they (many of them Vermont regiments) would later rally and claim victory despite suffering almost twice as many casualties as the Confederates. The Confederates failed to follow-up with offensive maneuvers which left the Union to claim victory despite nearly 5,800 casualties of its 31,600 combatants. Of the 21,000 Confederates engaged, 2,900 casualties were reported. This victory virtually guaranteed Lincoln's re-election as President and stymied any real chance for the Confederacy to be a threat of invasion of Washington, DC or any northern state.

November brings about William Tecumseh Sherman's march to the sea. His army takes Atlanta as he crosses Georgia pilfering supplies and destroying valuable assets to keep the Confederacy alive. Once, he reaches Savannah he virtually destroys the entire city and vows to turn his forces north and march to meet the rest of the Union forces in Washington.

The winter of 1864 provides the generals time to strategize for the upcoming spring campaign. Grant has instructed his underlings to hit the enemy hard and not to let up and keep moving forward. Most of the Confederate Generals know they can not continue much longer without ample supplies or replacements, but they vow to not surrender at this time.

Duxbury continues to supply a few men to serve out the remainder of the war. Certainly having provided its share of able bodied fighting men, volunteers to the effort were still welcome by recruiters. The last men from Duxbury to answer the call to duty are Amasa Plastridge, Frank Atherton, Myron Graves, and Eugene Norton.

Amasa Plastridge, the son of John & Martha (Robinson) Plastridge of Berlin, VT enlisted for a one year commitment of service in Company 'D', 17<sup>th</sup> Vermont Volunteer Infantry on March 2, 1865. At age 36 with two children, he was one of the older volunteers to enlist for Duxbury. He and his wife Mary (Woodbury) of Northfield had been married for nearly 16 years at the time of his enlistment. With the war nearing its final days he probably saw little if any action by the time the 17<sup>th</sup> was fully organized. He mustered out just 4 months later on July 14, 1865 as the war was over. He lived in Bellows Falls, VT, Walpole, NH and Keene, NH working as a conductor for the railroad until his retirement. He died in Keene on February 09, 1910 from pneumonia and is buried in Lot 41 in the Greenlawn cemetery in Keene. Although credited to Duxbury, there is no evidence the family ever lived in town.

Frank Atherton enlisted in Company 'K', 17<sup>th</sup> VVI on March 11, 1865. Born March 07, 1845 he had just turned 20. His parents farmed on what is now known as the Hart road. He was taken ill and was hospitalized in

Alexandria, VA at the time of his mustering out of service on July 17, 1865 at the war's end. He remained infirmed for an extended period after returning home. He eventually recovered and later married Miss Corilla Taylor, known locally as 'Lillie.' They farmed property on the River Road in the vicinity of the current James Harvey farm and raised their family there as well. Franklin died on November 28, 1900 and is buried in the Hope cemetery in Waterbury, VT.

Luther Graves, a neighbor of Frank Atherton's enlisted on the same date and in the same company of the 17<sup>th</sup> infantry. His service summary that he provided himself to the local GAR post indicates he was never engaged in battle, never sick, or injured during his 4 months of duty. He mustered out on July 14, 1865. After returning to Duxbury he continued to farm and raised a family with his wife Laurenstine "Laura" (Moore). He died May 12, 1907 and is buried in the Hope cemetery in Waterbury, VT.

Eugene Norton, age 21, enlisted for 1 year as a private in Company 'K' of the 7<sup>th</sup> infantry on March 16, 1865. His unit had been assigned in February to assist with the siege of Mobile, AL. Following the successful take over of Mobile, the regiment was assigned duty in Clarksville & Brownsville, Texas until their unit was mustered out of service on March 14, 1866, thus completing his full enlistment requirement. It appears that Eugene was not a resident of Duxbury but was filling a quota slot for the town. After completing his enlistment he returned for a time to Vermont but later moved to Allen Grove, Wisconsin where he died sometime after 1914.

With the war now officially over, all the fighting men can now return to their families back in their home states. Many of the men had to contend with the disease and wounds for months after returning, if not for the rest of their lives. The South of course was the scene of severe devastation and it would take years to rebuild its infrastructure and revive its economy. Have all the wounds of the war healed? To this day we still hear the occasional snide remark regarding one side or the other but we have evolved into the most prosperous and strongest country in the world. Let freedom ring!

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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   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 - MAY 13**  
**CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM**

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