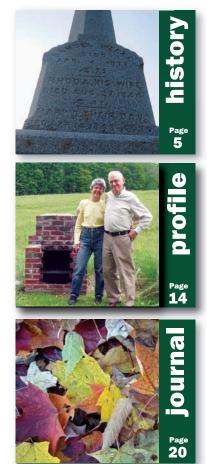
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#### DANVILLE, VERMONT

**OCTOBER 2009** Volume 22, Number 5



# Seeing the forest through the trees

#### BY NATHANIAL TRIPP

y neighbor's chainsaw needs sharpening again. I can tell by the way the engine runs too fast without working hard, just one of several tenor voices resounding in the valley below me in the annual weekend chainsaw opera.

"Sharpen me," it drones, accompanied by the whoops and moans of more distant saws. Then I restart mine, and take serene pleasure in the plume of chips it pours from the cut with its own baritone voice exercise. I love my chainsaw. I love the logging winch on the back of my tractor almost as much. Between us we can do more work in a few

>> Page 17

# Boots on the ground Afghanistan: a personal view



'Daily newspapers and hourly newscasts keep everyone's attention on the turmoil and hardships of the war in Afghanistan. These big stories of success and setback do not adequately describe the place and the people.'

#### BY COLONEL PAMELA J. HOYT, U.S. ARMY

As a "boot on the ground" I would like to offer my observations to the readers of the North Star Monthly.

#### » Part I. Life at Camp Eggers. Kabul «

**¬**he camp is a collage of various buildings from different regimes. Sovietstyle buildings stand helterskelter among structures from an earlier era, which were laid out in a more planned manner.

Thrown into this mix are American quick buildings out of containers welded together and various other modular buildings placed in any open space. It looks like many old European towns where a plan changed creating obscure side paths, dead-ends and mazes around the buildings. In contrast to all this, a lovely garden with trellises,



»As an analyst for the

U.S. Army, Ćol. Pamela

Afghanistan. She is the

daughter of Wayne and

Pat Reganall, formerly

of St. Johnsbury. Her

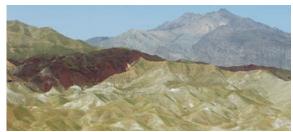
husband, Bruce, and

are keeping the home

fires burning until she

returns in July 2010.

sons Hubbard, Benjamin and Thomas



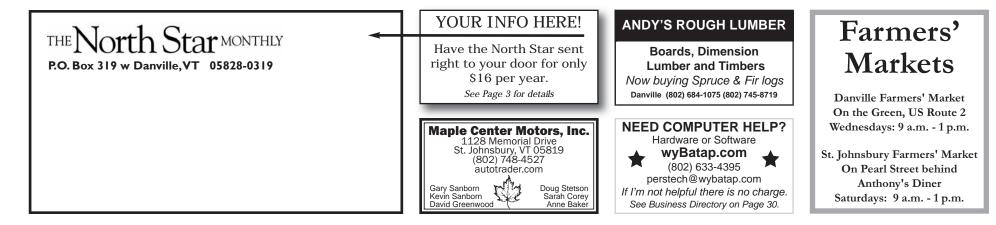




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Photos courtesy of photographer Vincent Larue and Col. Pamela Hoy



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For November: Autumn on the Green

### From the Editor

# Our own eyes

read with great interest Col. Pamela Hoyt's account of Afghanistan. Much like our lead article in September, "The Eyes of History," Col. Hoyt's vivid descriptions of a place few, if any, of us will ever see are fascinating for a number of reasons.

There is little doubt that we are living in the information age... I can't help but think something tips and we have the world's library in front of us as fast as we can type our questions. I can't help but think something is getting lost. Information moves so far and so fast, perhaps the carriers are no longer taking the time to adequately digest it. When it's passed on and then passed on again, maybe the inevitable filtering washes away the appropriate context. Most importantly, maybe the emotion of what's happening thousands of miles away suffers.

In journalism, it's often referred to as "letting the subject tell the story." It's not as easy as it sounds for the gatherers of

MONTHLY	EDITORIAL OFFIC P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Danville, VT 05828-03 (802) 684-1056	Street
MC	PUBLISHERS/OWNERS	: Justin Lavely Ginni Lavely
<u> </u>	EDITOR:	Justin Lavely
$\sigma$	CONTRIBUTING EDIT	DR: Lyn Bixby
び	ADVERTISING / CIRCULATION:	Vicki Moore Angie Knos
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Postmaster: Send address changes to **The North Star Monthly**, P.O. Box 319, Danville, VT 05828-0319. Periodical postage paid at Danville, VT.

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### is getting lost.

Like many others, I have developed a mental image of what's it's like in Afghanistan. This image is built upon the footage we see on the news, in magazines and in photographs. As is often the case, these preconceived notions are often incorrect. Col. Hoyt describes the landscape in ways I've never pictured. The living arrangements the military has set up seem to afford soldiers the "feel" of their home country, while the constant reminder of where they really are looms in the background, often on nearby flags flying at half mast.

There is little doubt that we are living in the information age. Google and Wikipedia bring knowledge to our fingerinformation. Stories often have holes, inconsistencies and some parts may require explanation. We trust our story tellers to do this tastefully, with accuracy and fairness, but often enough there is no substitute for the eyes, or the boots, on the ground.

Col. Hoyt may not be writing history like Mark Wheeler was in 1890 after his extended stay in Andersonville Prison during the Civil War, but her observations are important to the present. In the end, we will be responsible for passing along and filtering the stories of Afghanistan. We've all heard stories of what it was like during other important junctures in American history. Our anecdotal history can be just as important, and informative, as a formal text book.





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# Economists say business outlook is good, while Peacham drastically lowers squirrel population

# The Porth Star

1807-1889 Est. by Ebenezer Eaton Danville, Vermont



October 4, 1878 Dry Building Spots - If houses were built upon dry sites and of sufficient area, and with proper care for ventilation, and the water supply were pure and sufficient, the larger half of the great problem of sanitary science would be solved. The disposal of the refuse of life and labor is a simple matter. Wretched homes, impure hour, and fouled water lower the physical and mental stamina of men and women so much as to make them indifferent to dirt and passive almost under a disease. For all of the different modes of disposing of sewage or other waste there is a none so simple, direct or efficient for the rural districts, as its immediate application to the soil, and conversion into the growing crops of the garden allotment.

Business Outlook – The Economist takes a cheerful view of the fall trade, and believes that, "hard pan," has been reached and a prosperous future is ahead of us. It says, "Business in all its branches has revived,

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collections have been far better than was anticipated, profits, though small in general, have been satisfactory, merchants are in good spirits and trade has a healthy tone.

Lyndonville – A few weeks ago, four barrels and seven pails of sugar were stolen from the freight depot. Last Tuesday, Deputy Ide found the property all securely buried up in Alanon Fletcher's sugar place. Fletchers house was searched and a quantity of liquor was found. He was taken to the St. Johnsbury Jail Tuesday evening, he admits knowing about the theft of sugar, and there is sufficient evidence to believe he is the thief.

Squirrel Hunt – Peacham boys had a grand squirrel hunt on Thursday and Friday of last week. Frank Palmer had command of one company comprising 13 men and George Mears had command of the other. Palmer's side counted up 6,820, Mears 6,600. A large lot of game was captured including squirrels, crows, hawks, hedgehogs, raccoons and more.

#### October 11, 1878

A Rich Man – John H. Paddock of St. Johnsbury (so the papers say) has found a rich silver mine near his copper mine in Lyman, N.H., which assays at \$98 a ton. He will commence working the ore forthwith. It promises to be the most valuable mine in the section.

A strange case – Carpenter, the mesmeric performances in the town hall for the past week, was put under arrest Tuesday night on the charge of trespass on the person of Peter

Bibeau who lives on Maple Street. At the first of the exhibitions Carpenter called for volunteers to come forward and be mesmerized and among those who went on stage was Bibeau, a young man about 20 years old. He was pleased under mesmeric influence, and with others was put through various kinds of performances that evening and the next, after which he was taken sick with stoppage of the bowels and is not expected to recover. Bibeau's father sues Carpenter for \$3,000 damage for trespass, and he is now under charge of deputy sheriff Humphrey. It has been said that the young man has been previously troubled with the same disease and was not feeling well at the time he was mesmerized. It is not clear to the public mind yet, how Carpenter can be held accountable for Bibeau's condition.

**Personal** – Harley M. Hall, of East Burke, was taken seriously sick Wednesday and continues very dangerously ill, with little hopes of recovery. From an examination made by Drs. Bullard and Caheon, it appears that a fatty tumor which has been growing in the lower part of his bowels for some years, has so surrounded the intestines as to cause the present serious troubles.

Vermont Schools – The 25th Vermont School report from state Superintendant makes the following recommendations concerning modifications to the school law: That the superintendant be allowed, in his judgment, to substitute educational meetings for teachers' institutes, that teachers in attendance on institutes in their county be allowed pay for time spent there in, that the district be allowed to draw public money only upon certificate of the town superintendant that they have complied with the law, that the power of superintendants to revoke certificates be extended, that town committees for the selection of text books be provided for, that town superintendents be required to procure the introduction of books recommended, that towns voting so to do be authorized to purchase and hold text books for use in schools, that a state tax for school be levied, that a portion of that text be used for the support of high schools, that the time of continuance of normal schools be extended not less than 20 years, and further appropriations be made for them.

#### October 18, 1878

To shoe or not to shoe - It is indeed strange how long men follow extravagant, wasteful and useless habits, simply because they have always done so. One of these is shoeing horses, a practice not followed at all in the South American states and Mexico, and equally unnecessary in this country, which has imitated it from Europe. Nearly 20 years ago, the attention of the writer was drawn to the folly and uselessness of shoeing farm horses. Previous to that time, he had paid out about \$12 a year for this purpose, and had almost always been troubled with corns, corks, interferences and other evils. Since the discontinuance of this practice, all the split hooves have been healed up, the corns have disappeared with all the other troubles and no attention at is required except for the occasional trimming of an outer shell that has grown uneven. Perhaps it's necessary to shoe horses that travel upon hard roads or in cities, but even this is doubtful. It is not at all doubtful, if nearly 20 years trial is worth anything that is an entire waste of money and an actual injury to farm horses, to cripple them up by nailing iron shoes to their feet.

Grange Fair - Notwithstanding the threatening weather the Grange Fair in Lyndon last week Wednesday attracted a large crowd estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000 people. There was a fair show of cattle, about 60 head being shown. There was a fair show of sheep, horses, swine and poultry. Floral Hall was the great centre of attraction, and the exhibition was equal to anything we have seen at the county fair. In fruits and vegetables there were a large number of entries. Charles Ingalls exhibited a squash that weighed more than 118 pounds. Alanson Eastman had five pumpkins which weighed over 254 pounds, the largest weighing 37 pounds. The largest pumpkin had shown weighed 61 pounds. Some excellent butter and sugar was also shown. We cannot particularize as the articles were simply numbered, and in only a few instances did we learn the owners name. The fair may be considered as a very successful one and should encourage the society to hold another next year.



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<<October Films>>

# Government? It's you and me, friend!

BY ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

y summer reading and the raucous, poorly informed, discussions about Health Insurance reform have made me think about the role of government in a democracy. I have found this topic to be difficult, stressful and discomforting.

George Lakoff, a cognitive scientist at U. C. Berkeley, states in his book, The Political Mind, that, "American democracy was founded on the politics of empathy", and that the role of the government in this democracy is two-fold: protection and empowerment of its citizens. "From these flow the progressive ideals of equality, freedom, fairness, opportunity, general prosperity ... ", ideals that most of us would like to believe are fundamental characteristics of the education in all states, and by 1940 extended this through high school, is the fundamental tool of empowerment. Laws have been passed to remove inequities in the system based on race, sex, religion and physical and mental disability. When these laws do not always work as intended, it is more a reflection on communities and individuals rather than the federal government.

The federal highway system empowers us to get to school and work, and to travel with relative safety and ease. The federal government provides veterans' benefits such as health care and higher education. It supports public hospitals. Federal programs provide a safety net for children, the poor and the elderly. Without these programs more than 50 million citizens of all ages would be unable to survive. Where would they all go? To the Poor Farms, finally abolished

### "- government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

-Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg, Nov. 1863

United States today. These two roles of government cover so many things that we take for granted, that we may not associate them with government in our lives.

Protection seems clear. The changes that followed 9/11 were clearly based on the need to protect U.S. citizens. Some of the measures have caused divisiveness, and in many cases, inconveniences to society. They were enacted in great haste without due deliberation, including the Patriot Act, surveillance of telephone calls and email communications, extreme restrictions on air travelers and at border crossings. No one knows whether they have actually protected us any better than simpler, less invasive methods might have done, but the government was acting in its protective role. Our standing army, consisting of all the branches of the military is also clearly maintained for our protection.

Many federal agencies exist to protect us: against disease epidemics (CDC); against polluted air and drinking water (EPA); against untested drugs, toxic paint on toys and contaminated food (FDA); and from contaminated meats, fruit and vegetables from home and abroad (USDA). We are protected from nuclear accidents and radioactive spills (AEC). Workers are protected from unsafe working conditions and the legal and judicial systems protect our rights, personal safety and property. The FDIC protects our bank accounts and, most important of all, the Constitution protects our fundamental political and civil rights.

in 1950? Would they be "warned out of town", as inhabitants of Vermont towns who could not support themselves were until 1817? Or would they go to the streets or cemeteries of this land?

To those who say, "Keep the government out of my life," I say, "Be careful what you wish for!" YOU are the Government! This is the basis for President Lincoln's remark in his speech at Gettysburg, quoted above. It is our Constitution and Bill of Rights that protect your individual rights and allow you to make such statements without fear of reprisal. I recommend a rereading of those rights and the responsibilities that go with them!

Instead of opting OUT of government we need more public participation IN government. We need citizens who accept the empowerment offered by government, especially that of education. They then need to vote — and wisely. A poorly educated electorate is a recipe for the downfall of democracy. We need citizens who ask informed questions about all aspects of government, not those who foolishly rant about fantasies never contemplated by anyone. Health Insurance reform is just the current issue, there are many more to follow.

Change is always difficult. It can be frightening, and fear can lead to violent reactions. People who are afraid are easily manipulated by those for whom change would mean less profit and power. This is what has happened this summer in the Town Hall meetings on Health Insurance reform. Hopefully some clear, cool fall air will bring a dose of reality to this debate before it is too late. In a democracy each citizen is important, and each one deserves access to the fundamentals of a decent life, of which basic health care is a significant one. We are all vulnerable when people around us are sick and cannot afford to access health care or get the medications they need. Wait until the next 'flu season and you will agree! Our nation suffers when our citizens are poorly educated, malnourished, sick and out of work. Everyone needs to participate intelligently to help our government work better for us all. We need to show a little empathy!

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Our state governments provide protection with the National Guard and State Police. Our local first responders, EMT's, firemen and police protect us closer to home. Many of us take the work of these agencies for granted. We don't even think of them as government, and only when their efforts fail do we complain.

The federal government's second role - empowerment — is more complex because it takes positive participation by citizens for this government function to be fulfilled. Empowerment means helping all citizens to develop their full potential. Finally established in1870, the public education system that provided free elementary





Karl Armstrong, the mason, discovered the headstones when he came out to prop up our sagging porch, above left. A well-preserved headstone of Rhoda Weeks, wife of Samuel Weeks, middle. Right, the headstone of Rhoda's daughter, Mary. Cemetery records show she died April 14, 1848, four years after her mother.

# If these steps could talk

### by Dan Williams

arl Armstrong had a funny look on his face. The mason had come to our house in Lyndon Corner to take a look at our sagging front porch. He was staring at a 2-by-4-foot chunk of granite that served as a step.

"Is that a gravestone?" he asked.

He pointed to a sheered-off piece of white stone peeking out from beneath the granite.

"That's lettering," he said.

Sure enough, we could make out chiseled characters that had been cut in half when the white stone split.

Armstrong and crew went to work on the porch and lifted the granite block out of the way. The white grave marker read:

#### MARY.B. DAUGH. OF

A third line at the broken edge contained the half-characters, but we could make out:

#### SAML & RHODA

Saml & Rhoda who? The answer came next. Also lying beneath the granite was a complete headstone:

RHODA WIFE OF SAML WEEKS DIED AUG. 27, 1844, Æ. 41 YR'S.

Armstrong wasn't through. He also found a broken piece of gravestone that matches Mary's marker. And next to the stoop, beneath the outdoor water spigot, he unearthed a slender rectangle of marble reading:

ELSA
Infant
daugh. of
Saml &
Rhoda
WEEKS
DIED
Apr. 4,
1841.

Our first thought was that the ground beneath our house once served as a cemetery. Our property faces the First Congregational Church, which has stood on York Street since 1829. The church has no graveyard. We moved here from the South three years ago and figured every old New England church came with a place to deposit members. Back then, our lot would have been a tempting spot.

#### Evidently not.

A mid-19th century map of Caledonia County shows no graveyard. It also doesn't show a bridge across South Branch Brook, which runs between our lot and York Street. A church membership list finds plenty of people named Weeks, including a George who was kicked out in 1870, but no Samuels or Rhodas.

Our next clue came by way of Atlanta. We told a friend there about our discovery and he started digging through genealogy records online. Bingo. He found an 1850 census list that showed a Samuel Weeks, farmer, 47, in Wheelock. Living with him were:

Elmira Weeks, 41; Rhoda Weeks, 15; Betsy Weeks, 12; Asenath Weeks, 4; Elmira J. Weeks, 2; Samuel H. Weeks, 8. William A. Bean, 10; Louisa Bean, 12.

Now we were getting somewhere. After Rhoda died, Samuel must have married a widow named Elmira Bean. She contributed two children to the blended family: William A. and Louisa. They joined Samuel's surviving kids, Rhoda, Betsy and Samuel H. The couple had two children together: Asenath and

Elmira J. According to another record our Atlanta friend found, Betsy would go on to marry; a short time later she was dead. She lived 19 years.

We still did not know what had become of Rhoda, Mary and Elsa. Perhaps Elmira was the jealous type, couldn't bear sharing the family plot, and had the first wife removed. If so, where was the plot?

Signs were pointing to Wheelock. The old Caledonia County map shows an S. Weeks living just across the Lyndon-Wheelock line on present-day Buchner Road.

Samuel Weeks also shows up a few times in "Town of Wheelock," a history by Eleanor Jones Hutchinson. His father was Joshua Weeks, who built a gristmill and a sawmill on Millers Run where Wheelock Village sits. His mother was Susannah Morrill, the sister of the man hired to settle the area for Eleazar Wheelock, the founder of Dartmouth College. Samuel Weeks had two brothers, Ezekiel and John. He raised sheep. He also distilled potato whiskey.

The book makes no mention of Rhoda. Visits to the Wheelock Village Cemetery and South Wheelock Cemetery turned up no Weeks family plot missing three headstones.

Just as the trail was growing stone cold, we got a call from Linda Lee. Lee works >> Page 6







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# Summer delights have gone

BY JOHN DOWNS

the delights will be gone when you read this column. But tonight, almost a month before the next publication date, they are a sheer pleasure and wonder to behold. Here I sit on our lawn, small drink in hand, overlooking an unbelievably clear view of the distant White Mountains and nearby Burke Mountain.

This setting encourages me to ponder, mulling over how many of life happenings seems to come about without too much control on our part. For example, 25 years ago Virginia and I decided to move back to the Northeast Kingdom from Burlington where we had been living for seven years while I was practicing law. We wanted – yes, needed – to find a new home or a lot in the St. Johnsbury area as soon as possible. Winter was only a few months away. We had looked with no success for weeks.

Fortunately, we stopped to say hello to Dr. Harvey Stetson, a retired large-animal veterinarian living in Lyndon, only a mile from Lyndon State College, Lyndon Institute and the Interstate. After mentioning our land quest, Harvey said, somewhat impulsively, that maybe he had some land to sell. "Let's see it!" I replied enthusiastically. We walked out to a broad field a short distance from his house, and after observing the fantastic view, and exchanging glances with Virginia, I said to Harvey, "We would like to buy. When will you know if you will sell? After a few moments he replied, "Well, this is Friday. I should know by Monday." "We'll call from Burlington" was my eager reply. And call we did!

"I'll sell," said Harvey. Wasting no time, I asked, "How much land and for how much?" Harvey had done his homework over the weekend, as had we, and he laconically replied, "Five acres with the two-acre home site and a right of way." The price was reasonable. I replied with relief, "It's a deal – get a lawyer!" As it was already mid-September, we wanted to get started on the house before winter.

And so, here we are 25 years later, on this beautiful, early September evening. We have done many things to make our home attractive. Fortunately, nothing interferes with the view of Burke Mountain and the White Mountains that enchanted us many years ago.

It seems as if everything connected with our home on the hill has worked out well for us over the years.

We headed for Florida in mid-November,

and forgot all about the activity going on in Vermont, except to pay the monthly bills. When we came back to Lyndon in early May, the house was ready for immediate occupancy, and we moved in as soon as we could.

When I look down, I see a ten by five-foot fishpond. Six gold fish swirl around chasing each other, instinctively knowing when it is once-a-day feed time at about five o'clock, then fighting for the largest share. They are keeping company with a small tree frog that comes and goes at its convenience. Pink and white lilies wake up at noontime, and close their petals at about 6 o'clock. A small, gurgling re-circulating waterfall adds to the beauty.

Virginia is a talented amateur landscape artist. There are a variety of beautiful flowers around the pond. And nearby is a small bountiful vegetable garden that produces too much delicious lettuce, too many very edible small tomatoes, rhubarb that grows year after year with no help from us, and Swiss chard.

There are even more surprises! On the other side of the house, facing the sunset, Reg Switser fashioned a sloping rock wall with rocks blasted out of the foundation area. The crevices between the rocks are filled with colorful flowers. Across the lawn is another Switser masterpiece. There were two gigantic rocks left over from the excavation process - what to do with them? A tractor rolled them across the lawn, where they sit today out of harms way, snug against several tall fir trees and surrounded by a panorama of tall lilies.

Supervising all of our beautiful property from a small rise near the pond is Laocoön, a mythical Greek character killed with his two sons by giant sea serpents. It is a creature from Lake Champlain that washed onto our beach in a storm. It did such a fine job protecting us there that we moved it to Lyndon to continue where it has stood winter and summer (with the help of a little tree surgery) for these 25 years. We invite guests to think of a name for it — my favorite is Don Quixote.

As I am writing this column, the evening chill is descending. I will soon go indoors, but not before indulging my favorite activity, sitting by the pond - fantasizing and thinking great thoughts about life, death, the universe, and a multitude of thoughts that come so easily and often to a senior almost 90 years old.

This is enough for tonight. It is now quite chilly, the moon will soon be up, and Virginia just shouted that dinner is ready. All is well on Downs hill.

#### >> Page 5

at Lyndon Town Hall and had heard of our search. She had news: Rhoda Mary and Elsa were buried in Lot 21, Section 5 of the Lyndon Center Cemetery. So were Samuel and his second wife - Almira, not Elmira Number 21 is a nice, roomy lot with a monolith in the middle. On the west face of the tall stone, Rhoda is listed together with Samuel. He died in 1878 at age 75. On the south face, Almira is reunited with her first husband, William Bean. He was 34 when he died in 1843, a year before Rhoda. Almira lived to 85. Seven stubby stones poke from the ground in a line on the west edge of the lot. Carved into the tops of six are initials for Rhoda, Samuel, Mary, Elsa, William Bean, and a Bean infant named Helen. The seventh, Almira's, is engraved MOTHER. The person who called her

Mother is probably buried on the shrouded in history. A family that opposite side of the monolith. lived there from the 1960s to the Austin W. Bean purchased Lot 21. early 2000s never had cause to He died in 1914 at age 73, making him 2 or 3 when Almira's first husband died. Austin W. is likely the 10-year-old William A. Bean who was living in the Samuel Weeks household when the 1850 census was taken. Austin Bean lived a stone's throw from his place of rest, in a home on what is now Lyndon Institute's campus. He bequeathed the house to the school. Bean Cottage, behind Sanborn Hall, is now a dormitory. We never learned where Rhoda, Mary and Elsa were first buried, but Austin Bean surely knew. It must have been he who gathered up Samuel's dead wife and children - and his own father and infant sister - and had them reburied at Lyndon Center. He evidently had no use for the old stones. A previous owner of our house did, but his or her identity is

move the granite stoop, and was as surprised as we to learn about the headstones.

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From Linda Lee's cemetery records, we know Samuel Weeks died of a bladder infection. The records do not list a cause of death for Rhoda, but a clue may lie buried in a different plot: Lot 26, Section 11. There you will find Samuel H. Weeks of Wheelock, Rhoda's son, who died in 1896.

The 1850 census indicated he was born in either 1847 (which would have made him Almira's boy), or 1842. However, the cemetery records indicate he was born in 1844 - the year Rhoda died. Did she die giving birth? That is a mystery for another day.

As is the question: What do you do with three gravestones?

# Setting an example

# Civility at Peacham Town Hall

#### By VAN PARKER

n Aug. 23, Sen. Bernie Sanders spoke to those attending a town hall meeting in Peacham. I felt moved to write about the meeting to a group of friends, most of whom do not live in Vermont. Unlike so many town hall gatherings it was civil, courteous and generated far more light than heat.

As we drove into the village of Peacham, we noticed the cars. They were parked in front of the general store and in every direction from there. I let off our passengers and found a parking place up the hill near the old Peacham Cemetery. Walking back I saw the people, gathered in a long line outside the Congregational Church waiting to get into the town hall meeting with Sen. Sanders.

Everyone seemed to be in a good mood. At one point it started to rain but people shared their umbrellas and nobody seemed to mind. There were scores of signs, almost all calling for a single payer healthcare plan. We took advantage of the free meal in the church basement, and then went back to the line, which was beginning to encircle the church. A few moments later Bernie arrived, tieless, like virtually all the men in the crowd and looking a bit rumpled. He went through the long line shaking hands with everyone. He seemed energized by the size of the crowd, which even surprised him. All these people in little old Peacham!

When the sanctuary was full, they let others into the church basement. Then Bernie came out and asked the rest of the people to gather around the side of the church where he would speak to them. To those of you who are interested in numbers as I am we heard the church holds 300 people, the basement 150. I would estimate the crowd outside at about 150 plus an undetermined number of people with tired feet or aching backs, who went home.

We didn't get into the church or the basement, but Bernie made a point of speaking to us "outsiders" first. He spoke plainly of how a public option would keep the insurance companies honest and said that without such an option escalating health care costs for a family of four would increase from \$13,000 to about \$26,000 in 8 years He told about people denied health care because of pre-existing conditions and others dropped by their carriers because they cost too much. I'm sure many in attendance had their own stories to tell. For Bernie a public option is an absolute necessity.

Why is it, he thundered, that every other industrialized country guarantees health care to all its citizens and we don't? Why do we spend more (16 percent of our G.N.P) and get less? There is nothing ambiguous about Bernie Sanders.

As Lucy and I walked up the hill to get our car, the sounds of the town meeting fading into the distance, we noticed another couple getting into the car behind us. They had driven over from Brandon on the other side of the state, about 2 1/2 hours away.

We picked up our passengers in front of the church and headed back to Danville.

I don't know about other health care town halls. Only that here there were no visible signs about "death panels" or the government taking over everything. It was all very civil with a touch of neighborly lightheartedness, and underneath a sense that ordinary people can make a difference.

# Anecdotes from across the water

#### BY BETS PARKER-ALBRIGHT

Thave written recently about some of our experiences at a center for health and wholeness in Scotland called Westbank, which was under the direction of Major Bruce MacManaway and his wife Patricia. We loved being in Scotland and liked the idea of earning our keep while working at what interests us.

As is so often the case, no matter what you set your hand to, the people you're associated with provide the most interest and the most fun. This was certainly true at Westbank.

might take advantage of the situation and cause any mischief at the castle. One very rainy night, Dick was making his last evening round when he saw a woman wearing a full length raincoat and a head scarf covering her hair and part of her face. She appeared to be in great distress and was obviously in tears

He went up to her and said, "I don't know what you are doing here at this hour, madam, but this is not public property. I am sorry that you are upset, but you really must go along home and get some help with your problem." He reached out to take her by the arm and lead her off. The woman pulled away from him and drew herself up indignantly. She then said, "I am looking at the result of the fire that burned a good part of this building. It is a source of great distress to me, because this is my home. I am the Queen. I am sorry you are concerned to find me here, but I actually have more right to be here than you do - so will you kindly leave me alone!" Needless to say, poor Dick beat a hasty retreat after apologizing to Her Royal Highness!

Master Sergeant in the Gordon Highlanders getting some rest time from combat in France. He was assigned to guard duty at Buckingham Palace during this period. It was a gloomy rainy evening, not unusual for London. Security was very important at the palace, as the Royal Family was in residence the King and Queen refused to leave London during the Blitz.

Jimmy was part way through his shift, pacing along a sector of the courtyard. In the semi-darkness, a man in uniform came up to him and said, "My good man, why are you out here in the pouring rain instead of in the sentry box?" Jimmy replied, "I have to, sir. My superior said I was to walk this post, and I wouldn't think of disobeying."





There was one couple, whom we saw often and remember as Dick and Do. They were a bit older than we were, but really quite spry and also full of fun. Dick, like Bruce, was a retired Army officer who had seen much war service. His wife Do (for Doreen, I suppose, or perhaps even Dominique) was French, and she had a problem at times relating to the Scots, whom she found a bit straightlaced. She had a wonderful time exchanging jokes and stories with us, and enjoyed our appreciation of French cooking, which of course is quite different from everyday Scottish fare.

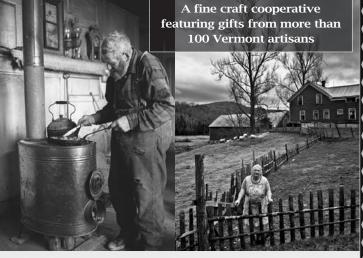
She told one unforgettable story about a time when Dick was assigned as a guard at Windsor Castle in the wake of the disastrous fire there a few years ago. He was to check out anyone who

We met another man at Westbank named Jimmy Wham - yes, his real name. Jimmy was tall, erect and well-built, though well past retirement age. He had a rugged Celtic face and he always wore a smile. He told us a similar story that took place at an earlier time during the War, in fact. He was a

"I see," the man said. "Well, you go on inside. Just tell your superior that the man who ordered you inside outranks him, since he is the King. I won't have you getting pneumonia out here when you can do the job as well from the box."

"Thank you, sir," Jimmy said in startled amazement, and strode away to carry out his King's command. One can only guess at the reaction of Jimmy's superior officer upon hearing the story!

We have always been amused by these water-soaked stories involving King George and his daughter, Queen Elizabeth, as told to us by the two soggy military men who experienced them!



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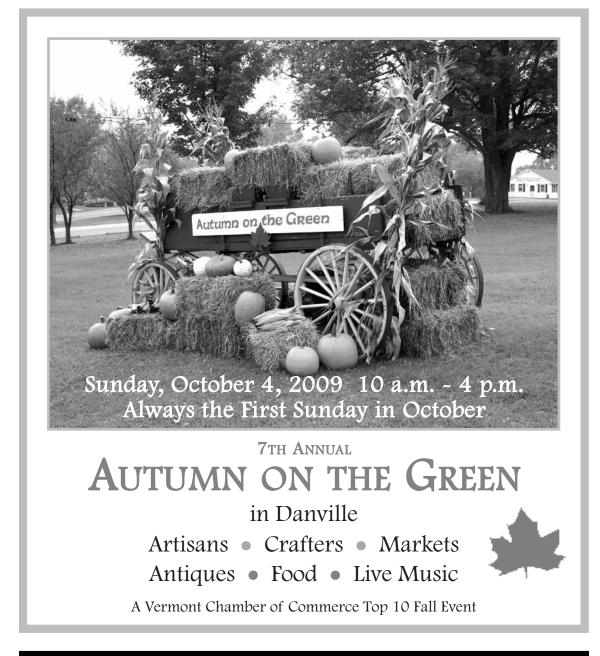
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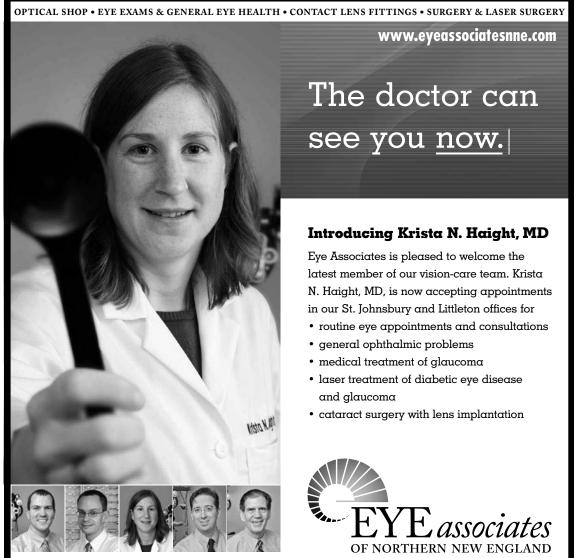
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#### >> Page I

arbors, walking paths, benches and a veranda stands in the middle of the complex. In the evening, the older people sit out there playing cards or dominoes. It looks like heartland America. Currently the roses are in bloom but not well tended. Despite the lack of attention they seem to survive, much like the people of Afghanistan, hardy and strong.

In many ways the camp is really a small city, shoved into a three-block area, housing over 2000 people with about 300 people who come daily to work. It has all the requirements of any city. Afghans perform most of the normal daily services. They are supervised by foreigners from all over the world, who work for the U.S. government and can speak English. The Afghans drive trucks for trash-collecting, SSTs and other sanitation type vehicles, donated by the German government with their purpose painted in German on the outside.

The kitchen workers are a mixture of Afghan males and robust, black southern women who always make you feel like they cooked the meal just for you. The only exception is the 'grill master,' a retired NCO who grills food to perfection.

The two dining facilities in the camp have distinct personalities. One with outdoor tables and umbrellas is a place for social gathering, and for eating in the shade of pomegranate trees. It is home to Drew, the grill master, and his team, known for their Friday onepound hamburger lunches and Friday night porterhouse steaks. The atmosphere is much like any outdoor café. People sit about conversing, laughing and putting the war far from their minds.

The other dining facility is much more quiet and refined. The cooks in the morning will prepare eggs to your liking or make an omelet with the freshest of ingredients. The room off to the side provides a wide selection of fruit, muffins, bagels, waffles, pancakes and an assortment of various other breakfast delights, to includinge pie.

Soldiers, as well as civilians, who like to stay physically fit in the limited space of the camp, find the fully equipped Warrior Gym is a nice place to work out. Two young Afghan men, who speak English, take care of the facility. They take great pride in keeping the gym clean and its equipment in perfect condition. One of the men, born in Kabul, enjoys conversing with the patrons, making them feel welcome. Besides working at the gym, he acts as a translator, teaches an English class, and works on his IT credentials. He wants to join the U.S. Army. There are businesses and restaurants in the camp; they range from stores offering jewelry, clothes, and rugs, to a beauty salon and barbershop. On Fridays, local merchants come to the camps with their wares. One gun dealer brings old Enfields, souvenirs of British colonial rule. Two restaurants overlook the gardens; one is Thai and the other Italian. There is also a coffee shop,

more of an austere Starbucks, but which serves excellent coffee and desserts. It even has Wi-Fi, couches and a patio.

In the square by the coffee shop there is a recreation building with a library of DVD movies, Internet service and pool tables. An entertainment shell located across from the coffee shop has nightly events including standup comedy, camp pick up bands, the camp gospel choir and occasional fashion shows. The lively scene in the open square, draws in young people who have come from all over the world and are anxious to make new friends.

The citizenry of this three block community is as diverse as New York City. Everyone lives in close proximity. The residences have taken on creative names given by their tenants. I have living quarters in Hotel California, which is 36 containers, 18 to a row, stacked two high, providing all the comforts anyone could need on a long camping trip, includinge indoor plumbing and air conditioning. Other places are named after European towns, mountains in Afghanistan and even after a Marine base in Virginia - Henderson Hall. Then there are other places named in memory of fallen comrades who have died in this conflict, including the camp's namesake, Capt. Eggers.

The post, according to some of our translators from this area, was once an upscale neighborhood in its time. Several of the houses are still owned by members of the Afghanistan government and military but rented to the U.S. government. Several of the houses have quaint gardens around back and sitting areas out of the mainstream foot traffic. One house even had a pool but it was filled in and used as a base for a temporary building. I was surprised to see one house with beautiful blue tile on the outside. Another had a detailed iron railing coming down from the outside balcony.

The generals work in a twostory building called the Ark. It looks like any temporary office space found on major construction sites in the U.S. A main road, called Gator Alley, passes in front of the Ark. The name comes from the small vehicles known as Gators, used to move supplies around the camp. On the other side of the road from the Ark are 24 flags of the countries involved in the conflict known as Operation Enduring Freedom. Each country is contributing its sons and daughters to the cause. When one of our allies' loses a comrade in battle, the flag of that country is lowered to half mast to remind everyone of their sacrifice. Last week, four countries had their flags at half mast. The display will soon be changing to 64 flags when the camp becomes a NATO headquarters and expands to accommodate the new contributors. In preparation for the growth, three other surrounding large plots of land have been leased. One property has a mosque on it and surprisingly belongs to a woman who lives in Virginia. This will provide more space to store

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Among all the buildings and containers are bunkers with sandbags. Cement structures with a bench inside and sandbags built up on all sides and covering the tops. These low culvert-like structures are tucked next to every permanent and temporary building. You notice them at first but after a week or two they almost blend into the scenery. A few nights ago I had to grab my flak jacket and helmet and run for cover as rockets came down near the compound.

Despite the bunkers, towers and the other force protection devices in place, the birds still come. Every morning there are doves that coo in the garden. It is a very soothing sound early in the morning. Occasionally, other smaller birds also join in the singing. In the past few days the night sky has become clearer as the sand-whipping winds have greatly diminished. With the clear sky, the stars and recently the full moon have been visible. Last night, at almost full moon, the planet Venus was clearly visible just below the moon. The stars are clearly visible at night since there isn't any artificial light from the city of Kabul and very little ambient light from the camp. The clearing weather revealed the snow-capped mountains in the morning.

As time goes by, the work here seems like a home town, and the people here with us feel like family. I was pleased to find a University of Vermont classmate here as well as several other Army friends. There's even a soldier from Lyndonville. We find comfort in being together. We share our concerns and interests. That caring extends to the long lines of brave Afghans who thumbed their noses at the Taliban threats and went to the polls to vote. It extends to the young man in our gym, whose best friend was just killed in Helmand Province. What we all have in common is a strong desire to support our Service members in the fight, and build the Afghanistan National Security Forces' capability as quickly as possible so they can defend their own country. It's no wonder we all work 15 plus hours a day without a complaint.

#### » Part II. Outside the Gates «

My job as an Army Analyst requires planning and funding for the Afghanistan National Security Force. It could be done from a desk in the Pentagon, but as in all things Army, accountability requires direct observation. I had to meet with a command at another site in order to coordinate issues on a contract. With our full body-armor, helmets, weapons and ammunition, we were loaded into a highly fortified SUV. Traveling outside the gate on that day revealed little evidence that a war was being waged in this country. Children of all ages were going to school in their uniforms with backpacks. Mothers in burkas and no burkas were crossing the roads to walk their kids to school. Everyone was busily attending to his or her life in a city that looked like any other in this part of the world. In many ways it has retained some of it the British ways with some of the cars' steering wheels on the right but everyone driving on the right. There were men dressed in very European business dress waiting for transportation while merchants were arranging their goods and others were pulling their goods in a cart either drawn by a donkey or themselves. (The joke is, if you see a man pulling his own cart it was a hard winter and he ate his donkey.) As we drove through the city,

As we drove through the city, past the U.S. embassy and Sovietstyle government buildings, it first appears as a dull city. Everything is light gray stone with a film on it from the sand that blows all summer long. What makes the exteriors interesting though, are the colorful



"Hotel California," above left, at Camp Eggers was built by welding 36 shipping containers together.

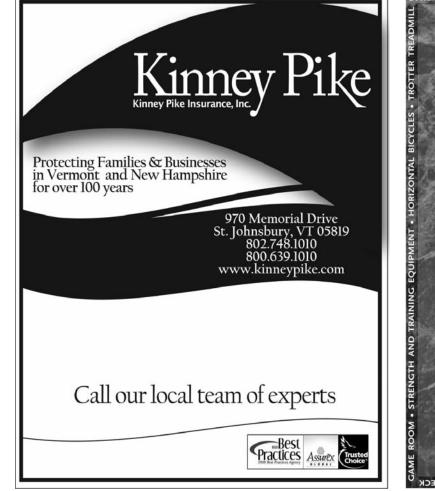
banners and signs that are outside, as well as the flowers. Amazingly, there are many flowers and trees along the city streets in Kabul. The traffic circle has beautiful rose bushes around it. The fountain is not working but still is a nice site. The traffic cop keeps everyone moving by waving his white paddle. As we headed towards the next camp, I noticed that many of the store signs were in English. There was everything from wireless phone dealers, to computer learning centers, to cafes. There was even Gold's Gym with a very large sign of a Caucasian male, rather buff, and without a shirt, flexing in the picture. The sign must have been over 12 feet tall.

As we moved to the outskirts of the town it became more industrial with cement factories, lots with large earth moving equipment, and places with various building materials. But the most prominent business I noticed was motorcycle repair and sales places. Every young male seems to be on some sort of motorcycle. Most appear to be around 125cc but, occasionally, we saw a true Harley Davidson hog with saddlebags and handle bar ribbons driven by a male dressed like he just came from the US. Then as we drove further outside the city there were more motorcycle parts than motorcycles. They were hanging like meat in a meat market or stacked neatly in a row. The myriad of parts hinted that just about anything could be assembled and some motorcycles passing us on the road looked as if that had been done.

As in any large city there were many taxis flying by us. There never seemed to be just one person in the vehicle, rather every bit of the vehicle's space was occupied. In one taxi that went by there were seven women in burkas all crammed in the car. The male driver did not even seem crowded even though he had three women plus a child up front with him. Then there are the minivan taxis. These are Toyotas, as is almost every vehicle on the road. The Toyota vans had so many people packed into them that it was impossible to do a count. The side door was open and all we could see were people crammed inside but always the same gender. I did not see any vehicle in which there were males and females mixed and a male always drove vehicles with females. This was a bit odd since the city seemed full of both modern dresses as well as traditional but driving seemed to be the one area where there is a clear division between genders. We returned without encountering any problems.

On the way back to our camp the kids from the German high school, located about one city block from Camp Eggers, were leaving from a day of school. Mothers were outside to meet their younger children; the older children dressed in their school uniforms of white shirt and dark blue pants, both on bikes and on foot gathered, obviously planning afternoon events, and teachers were departing with their arms full of work and books. The sign over the entrance into the school was in German and English as was the sign next to the security booth. The school was very typical German architecture seen in Europe. I am not sure if the school was a donation to expand education opportunities but it seemed well attended. Providing a safe environment for kids to learn will bring stability and opportunities to this country.

I witnessed the last oddity of my outside the camp adventure as we got out of our fortified vehicle. It was an advertisement blimp floating over the city. I am not sure what it was advertising but its intent was obvious. Marketers will use any gimmick to get the word out and techniques don't seem to change from country to country.



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# People & Places The Emperor's Gout

#### BY DICK BOERA

Since the popular comic Strip, The Katzenjammer Kids, ran in many of the country's newspapers from around 1906 to at least 1972, it's likely that many of our readers will recall the ill-tempered Captain who suffered the painful effects of the gout...as well as the humor-provoking situations created by the "Kids," Hans and Fritz.

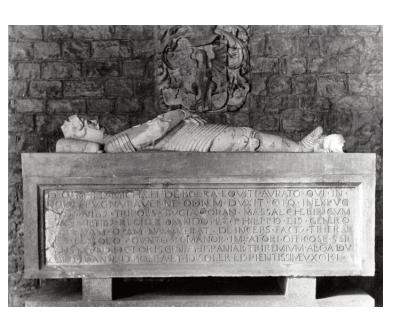
The last time we came across any reference to gout was in connection with Richard Nixon's case, seeing his foot elevated and an occasional wince while the former president was being interviewed.

The Mayo Clinic provides this description:

"You wake up in the middle of the night, and your big toe feels as if it's on fire. It's hot, swollen and so tender that even the weight of a sheet on it seems intolerable. These problems could indicate an acute attack of gout — or gouty arthritis — a form of arthritis that's characterized by sudden, severe attacks of pain, redness and tenderness in joints."

What do these introductory lines have to do with the title of this article? We'll get to that in a roundabout way. Bear with me...

In his book Iberia, James Michener wrote: "When I was a young professor, I used to daydream about what I would do if placed in charge of a college whose only responsibility was to provide a select group of students the best possible education. I would naturally sponsor only a general humanities pro-



gram, language, literature, science, philosophy, the fine arts and history. Regarding a history program, I would ask the student to spend a year, n studying one brief segment of history, but there has always been one period thatwhich has stood preeminent (to my mind). If I were now forced to educate myself anew, it would be to this period that I would direct myself, the period when more notable men were in power and more ideas in conflict than at any other time in world history.

"It would be sometime in the 1530s, when Catholic Spain (under Carlos I, from 1519 to 1556) and France (Francis I, from 1515 to 1547), Protestant England (Henry VIII, 1509-1547) and Muslim Turkey (Suleiman, 1520-1566) were contesting the leadership of Europe, when Hindu India was preparing itself for the advent of Akbar the Great, and Orthodox Russia was beginning its consolidation under Ivan the Terrible." Martin Luther was part of this mix.

I'd like to writetalk more about one of these titans, King Charles I of Spain, simultaneously the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, under whom an ancestor (Don Miguel de Boera) served as 'Capitán-General de Galeras' (Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet). This grandson of Isabella as well as Habsburg grandson of the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, inherited - at the age of 19 the domains of half of Europe, consolidated power, earned glory, and retired quietly to the monastery of Yuste in the mountains of Extremadura after nearly 40 years of battling the elements, the Cortes, Francis, Henry, the Muslims, the popes, Martin Luther, Barbarossa...and gout! This crippling arthritis obliged him to abdicate the throne of Spain (including the Netherlands and Italy) to his son, Philip II, and the Holy Roman



(Austrian) Empire to his brother Ferdinand.

In 1998, I had a set travel plan to head for Helsinki, Finland, where I'd join a tour group (of six) to St. Petersburg, Russia, arranged through FinnSov Tours, a company I found on the Internet. After this venture, the plan was to follow the train tracks, exploring places in Europe - via Eurail - that I hadn't yet been able to visit via military air transport. Somewhere in between, I hoped to see son Michael and his family in Germany and to visit my Spanish cousin, Maryló. That excursion eventually took me to 13 countries. (A Eurail pass is a great investment, particularly when not every conductor takes the trouble to punch out a day on the ticket.)

While visiting my cousin in Barcelona near the end of these meanderings, I happened to mention my long-harbored desire to visit Yuste. One day I went out to pay my respects to my great, great, great great....grandfather, the above-mentioned Don Miguel, whose sepulcher was enshrined at the Maritime Museum close to the port. (It has since been restored to its original resting place in the Church of Santa Ana at a re-consecration ceremony attended by a representative of King Juan Carlos, a descendant of the last Habsburg emperor, and the Bishop of his hometown, as well as our family.)

Our illustrious ancestor, Don Miguel, also served in Italy during the reign of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, under Ramon de Cardona, Viceroy of Naples. He participated in the conquests of North Africa in 1510-11 (Tripoli, Bugia, Oran and Mazalquivir) and in the following year he fought in the celebrated Battle of Ravenna against the army of the Duke of Nemours. During the reign of Emperor Charles V (King Charles I of Spain) he was put in command of the galleries (warships) in Italy as



Captain-General. Returning to Catalunya, he was made general in charge of the forces which guarded the French frontier against the invasion from Roussillon in 1543. For his services to the crown, he was made a "caballero de la Orden del Toison de Oro" (Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece) by the

usually rising on a hillside except for those towns that sprouted up along the railroad's right-of-way. A few castle ruins are spotted on ridges of ever higher hills. Poppies alongside the tracks sporadically for hundreds of miles as well as goldenrod-type plants and some cacti. More tunnels. Beautiful landscaping as we which ends it. Drop off to sleep looking forward to the morrow...

#### Friday, May 8

"Up at 8:30, breakfast at 9:00 (much better fare). Toni arrives right on time at 10:00 to take me on the 16 km. drive to Yuste. First we stop at Cuacos de Yuste, an historic

### When you come to a fork in the road, take it!

#### - Yogi Berra

#### Emperor.

During the time I was downtown on my pilgrimage, my cousin's ever-efficient daughter took the (generous) initiative of purchasing train tickets to the town of Navalmoral del Mata, the town closest to Yuste on the other side of the country, arranging a taxi from the station to a nearby "hotel" (a parador in an old castle), taxi to and from Yuste the following day, and train back to Madrid, then express to Seville, from where she knew I'd be heading home. Since I could use my Eurail pass for the train travel, I was able to return the tickets to Maryló for a refund, but I wouldn't have known how to take care of all the other arrangements. 'Que familia!'

Here's the rest of the story, excerpted from my trip log:

#### Thursday, May 7

"Off to Madrid and points west at 8:30 a.m...on another gorgeous day. Pass through Tarragona, Lleida, Zaragoza and Guadalajara.

approach Madrid....surprising; a lot of buildings, yet many flowers. Snow-capped mountains of the Sierra de Guadarrama loom prominently to the north around the great metropolis, Spain's modern capital. Change trains at Madrid-Atocha. Passing into the Extremadura region, it's a bit less sandy and somewhat greener; violet wildflowers blend nicely with the orange-red poppies.

"Arriving at 5:15 p.m. at Navalmoral - a town amid dairy cattle, goat and sheep farms - I'm met by taxi driver (An)tonio (holding placard with my name spelled out - almost accurately - with magic marker) and driven 33 km. to the 15th-century castle, El Parador Nacional Carlos V in Jarandilla de la Vera. These ancient quarters, restored and renovated by the government in recent times, were actually occupied by the Emperor for nearly three months in 1556 following his abdication - while he was waiting for his new cloister to

for

and quaint little town about halfway to our destination. On a hilly side street is the one-time home of Juan de Asturias, the Emperor's (illegitimate) son, who distinguished himself in later years in command of the Spanish galleons against the Turks in the celebrated Battle of Lepanto. Further down the hillside is the town square and fountain, with city hall (ayuntamiento) dominating one side of the square. Finally, we drive up the winding road in the mountains to the monastery. and it looks like I'm the only visitor this morning. For the admission fee of 100 pesetas (about 60¢ in pre-Euro currency) I get a half-hour guided tour with a full explanation of everything in every room in (Castilian) Spanish...which is so concise and clearly enunciated that I can almost understand it all...particularly since I know the story fairly well.

Having digested my 1874 copy of Robertson's History of the Reign of Charles V and Stirling's 1853 tome, The Cloister Life of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, as well as encouraged by Michener's Iberia account of his pilgrimage to this spot, I'm not at all disappointed by the isolation and forlorn appearance of the royal refuge I find here. This is a real highlight of the trip, second only to visiting the galleries of the Hermitage and the Uffizi. It is enough to simply be here...to pay my respects to Carlos Quinto - once the most powerful monarch in the world; to walk around the garden and lake he had built beneath his window so that he could fish for trout from his living room; to walk among his furnishings such as his canopied bed, the special "lazy-boy" device which was constructed to relieve the gout that plagued him, and the sedan chair in which he was borne over the mountains – with a retinue of over 100 attendants - to this retirement home, to gaze at Titian's painting (albeit a reproduction) of the beloved empress Isabel who predeceased him; to kneel in his chapel; to gaze at the leather-covered coffin which was his resting place for six years before his remains were "translated" to their final home in the royal pantheon of El Escorial, the massive edifice built by Philip II to memorialize his father.

"Just before I take leave, after I take a repeat tour (puzzling the guide) and rest in the gardens, a busload of German tourists arrives...camcorders "at the ready"

and less concerned about the history that transpired here than finding souvenirs to take home and/or refreshments, neither of which are to be found. Tonio picks me up at 12:30, wondering how I could be content to remain so long...it is beyond explaining even if we could communicate that well...and we drive to another colorful pueblo, Garganta de Olla. Buildings here are dated 1573, 1678, 1749, etc.; most are at least 150 years old and the weathered faces of the inhabitants make them appear to be nearly that age also. We stop off at a bar in the town square where we join Tonio's buddies for beer and grilled jamon sandwiches, then head back to Jarandilla and the parador. I learn that most of the kings and queens of Spain have lodged at this place, as well as Charles de Gaulle and other notables, on pilgrimages to the monastery."

The rest of the journey - after bidding "Adios" to my new chauffeur friend - was routine...or saved for another article. Once again, serendipity is key to enjoyment of the road traveled. But now you know...why the title, and why I have to smile whenever I come across the word gout in a story or report. In the future, you, too, might conjure up images of that diverse trio - a Captain, a President, and my favorite Emperor!  $\star$ 





# Fall season allows us to look back

### Market Musings with Jane Woodhouse

 $F_{cool}^{all is in the market air as}$ cool foggy mornings give way to warm, dry sun. I pause to reflect on this year's unique and challenging season. Each season is its own. We remember the year for successful or failed harvests.

Five months ago summer vegetables were not a foregone conclusion. We needed rain but when it came it didn't stop, not until the end of summer when true summer weather began, and hayfields were harvested in about 2 weeks. The featured crop changes position each year as the weather places its favor on this or that fruit or vegetable. It's a farmer's lottery as one takes a chance on an early planting or a large planting of what is hoped to be the next jackpot. An early planting to get the corn to market first or an unusual heirloom to corner a share of the market; all plans are made in the deep of winter when growing produce is merely speculation.

On this later end of the season, pronouncements are made on this summer's successes and failures. Cool weather crops were highly successful. Field grown tomatoes fell to the Late Blight -- stopped dead in their tracks while greenhouse tomatoes saved the day. Potatoes doomed to the blight appeared to sneak past it and make a grand appearance at market. Corn was better late than never and was enjoyed well into September. Apple crops were abundant and continue as late varieties are harvested. Root

crops gain in stature as they bulk for a more prominent place in the upcoming winter diet. Baby beets and carrots are faint memories. Their mature relatives are so earthy in flavor and satisfy an appetite for hardy foods appearing roasted, in stews and substantial salads.

Even the flowers of fall radiate strength as they outlast their fragile cousins. Sunflowers now bred for bouquets still hint of their wild sized past. Zinnias are classic and reliable. Chrysanthemums fill many pots in Amanda's space at market as a rich carpet of fall color. It is our last chance to hang onto the season's bloom.

A trip around the St. Johnsbury market in mid-September offers a rich visual record of this

year's season. Peaking inside one shopper's tote offers a commentary on a season of success. Tucked away with a secured looseness, the vegetables present as a modern epicurean still life.

Fall fruits are strong. Wild blackberries are the last berries of the season. Their deep rich flavor is more robust than their cultivated cousin, the raspberry. They are delicious eaten fresh, but can produce very satisfying pies or crisps in combination with apples. Apples are everywhere this year. It's difficult to find a tree that is not full, and the market has a list of varieties to choose from. Perhaps the most passionate apple grower is Tom Cantin from Biz A Bee Farm. He offers a lesson in apple culture, making it very clear as to his reasons for picking each varietydisease resistance. He wants to use no and low spray options to produce good healthy apples for

market. He grows newer varieties such as Prima, Pristine, Redfree, Dayton, and Liberts. He also told me about Murray, which is a disease resistant Mac.

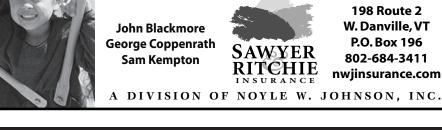
Fall brassicas grow into the cooler and even colder weather. Jill Rebillard's cabbages are well formed and colorful. Her large flattened green cabbages come with a recommendation for making sauerkraut. A good crisp cabbage is essential to kraut success. Kale from Little Way Farm will become sweeter and more flavorful as the temperatures drop. Protected kale can be picked all winter.

Potatoes that escaped the Late Blight were found at Wood's Edge Farm from Greensboro Bend. A bowl of garlic on the table indicates another success as many harvests were ruined by mold, another casualty of the rain this summer. The beet display offers respect

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Jim Wilson was spotted buying some of the summer's last corn at Too Little Farm, West Barnet. The season for corn was late. Getting a decent start was not easy. Corn likes warm soil and seed will rot in cool, wet conditions. It took persistence to get it up and growing. The farm's display of sunflowers reminds us of the flower's elegance.

Mary and Eric Skousted at Joe's Brook Farm, Barnet have presented the market with lush tomatoes due to persistence and dedication. Mary has spoken about her vigilance in destroying blight stricken plants and her passion for producing high quality tomatoes. It is worth noting that it was the only stand at market, when I visited, that had winter squash.

The Many Colors of Green, Barnet arrange their display from a painterly perspective. Each and every vegetable is placed as though a work of art. Multi-colored carrots, colorful varieties of peppers and green cabbages tinged in purple make this a visual feast.

Late zinnias sway in the breeze as we hold on to the last flowers. Trillium June Flower Farm in Plainfield delivers flowers every week to market. This week we see a small container of

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zinnias and smile. There is something that never gets old about zinnias.

Winding up the tour I found two stands that said fall is near and in one case so is winter. Eleanor Léger from the Eden Ice Cider Company in West Charleston, Vermont serves samples of ice cider, a sweet dessert wine made from apples that are pressed, frozen and fermented. The season for making the cider is specific and I suspect short. But the process is local and follows the local pattern of a cold winter for freezing the apple juice.

The tour ends at the table of Kate Abrams a prolific knitter and a vendor with a long history at the Caledonia market. Only in the last week or so has Kate been at market. Her wool sweaters and accessories are well recognized. A display of hats and mittens tells us that it is highly likely that history will repeat itself and winter will be cold.

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# Fundamentally Vermont

### New exhibition opens at the guild

Any visitors to Vermont come looking for what can be increasingly difficult to find – an authentic experience of the "old Vermont," something deeper down than brilliant fall color.

"Fundamentally Vermont," a new exhibition opening Oct. 2 at the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild, is one place to sample the treasures of Vermont's past through special lenses, the camera of Richard W. Brown, and through the vernacular pine furniture of Cookeville Woodworking. More information about the artists may be found on their respective Websites, www.rwbrownphotography.com and www.cookevillewoodworking.com.

Cookeville Woodworking in Corinth has been producing handcrafted furniture and accessories in Vermont since 1989. Richard Brown, of Barnet, also has given concrete form to his appreciation of Vermont and its history. Brown had the vision to photograph the vanishing Vermont of hill farms and country ways commencing some thirty-five years ago. His observations fill a number of treasured books on Vermont and other New England locales.

The exhibition will run from Oct. 2 through Nov. 20, 2009 at the Guild. A reception to honor the artists' work will be held there on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. Open hours at the Guild are between 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information visit the Northeast Kingdom Artisans Guild at 430 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, on its Web site, www.nekguild.com, or by telephone (802) 748-0158.



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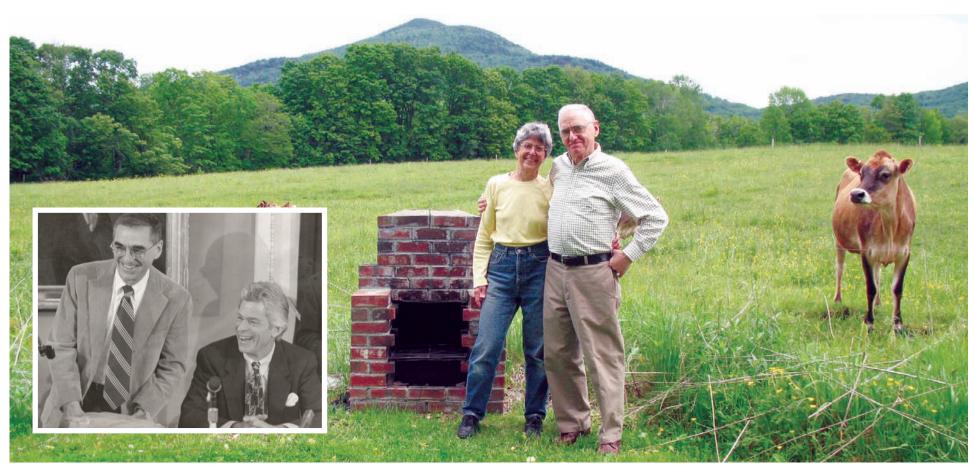
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Inset, attending the 30th anniversary of the founding of the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Vermont in September of 1997 were the Gensburgs, sitting next to Frank Kochman of Burlington who had served on a legal panel assisting Bob in preparation of the Brigham case the previous February. Photo by Jim Landon. Above, the Gensburgs on their property in Lyndonville.

# Bob Gensburg: defender of civil rights

### by Virginia Downs

ike many Vermont lawyers, Bob Gensburg has taken on many pro bono cases during his years of practice. He is one of three Vermont lawyers who represent Guantanamo clients along with David Sleigh, whose law office is in the same building as Bob's in St. Johnsbury, and Robert Rachlin of Downs-Rachlin-Martin's Burlington office are the others.

Bob spoke with me about what led him to practice law in Vermont and what it's like to be a part of an international controversy.

"My client is Abdul Zahir, of

Hessarak Village in Afghanistan," Bob explains. "I have met him only once. They brought him from his cell in Guantanamo to a meeting room, and because he didn't speak English I had an interpreter. He told me he had acted as a translator for a person coordinating Arabs fighting against the Northern Alliance in the civil war in Afghanistan before September 11, 2001. He was accused of riding in a grenade car carrying three Canadian journalists near his home. The government has not disclosed any evidence that he participated in the above attack. He is 37 years old now."

His client has been in Guantanamo since 2002 and was held in solitary confinement for three years. Bob says many prisoners do not want to see lawyers. "We have been singularly unsuccessful in getting people out of there. I think they may see us as useless appendages hovering around their misery."

What prompted Bob to take on a Guantanamo prisoner as one of his pro bono clients? It came about when he and his wife Leslie drove to Chatham, New York, the summer of 2005 to attend an annual family reunion arranged by Bob's younger sister, Lenore and a friend. "I met one of Lenore's close friends, Franklin Siegel, who is on the board of directors in New York City of an organization called 'The Center for Constitutional Rights' and teaches law at Brooklyn and Columbia Law Schools. He said to me, Would you like to work

with the Guantanamo prisoners?' I said yes, and that's how I got involved. He signed me up as a prospective attorney."

That same year he met his client in the Guantanamo prison.

"People like Abdul are extraordinarily poor," he continues. "We Americans have no concept of the poverty of these people's lives. He was a small farmer, doing odd jobs. He has three kids, the third who was born after he was captured, so he has never seen him. He graduated from an Afghan high school and is very intelligent - speaks Arabic, Farsi, and Dari, and was beginning to learn English."

When asked what made him decide to represent a detainee, Bob replied, "I believe first and foremost in the rule of law. Professor Fritz Stern, history professor at Columbia University, writes that you cannot have a decent society without the rule of law. That is why I went to law school – I learned in college that Stern was right and wanted to be part of that system. Guantanamo violates the rule of law and important American constitutional values. That includes suspension of habeas corpus, cruel and unusual punishment, deprivation of liberty without any process of law, using torture, and more."

I wondered what he felt should have been done with the so-called "enemy combatants."

"Imprisonment without an opportunity to be heard by a neutral decision-maker is unconstitutional and morally wrong. All I have been trying to obtain for my client is a





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For Dip Shop hours or questions Please call (603) 747-2008 hearing before a neutral decisionmaker. The military commissions created by President Bush, and then the Congress, violate the third and fourth Geneva Conventions, and they are fundamentally flawed, anyway. My client should have a habeas corpus hearing, or be charged and tried in criminal court, or be tried by court martial, all traditional and effective ways of sorting out the truth of the claims our government makes against him."

Lawyers representing Guantanamo clients communicate by mail. "I send Abdul letters, often reporting on his family. I keep in touch with them regularly. I can't send him mail. I have to send it to the Justice Department. It takes three or four weeks for a letter tions to decide these cases efficiently, fairly and in accordance with accepted legal procedures. Second, that the Congress has abdicated the role the founders created for it to jealously resist executive branch encroachments on fundamental rights. This is not surprising. I think some of the founders were somewhat naïve to believe that a popularly elected legislature would always be true to fundamental principles. Third that the American public really is both ignorant about our legal system and indifferent about adhering to fundamental principles. Fourth, that the military justice system is great. I have learned to admire it for its fairness and the real vigor Judge Advocate General officers bring to their work. I and met each other in their teens. Leslie attended the University of Vermont and Bob the University of Pennsylvania, followed by Albany Law School, graduating in 1967. They were married in 1962.

"We loaded up the U-Haul truck, I walked to law school to take my last exam, and when I walked back, Leslie had our twoyear-old son William in the car, ready to go," Bob recalled. "We had both decided we wanted to live in Vermont, especially after we took a trip though the state my second year of law school so I could see what it was like."

Bob and Leslie looked amused as they thought back to that day they boarded their truck on May 26th. "The sun was out and the leaves on the trees," Bob

### Talk about the rule of law. If I had to guess, I would say that the phone is still tapped, but that theyhave gotten better at it.

from me to get to Abdul and vice versa. He writes in Farsi and I have a person in D.C who translates it for me. It would be a godsend if they were moved to the United States, so I could see him. There seems to be an unwarranted block about moving them to such a place as the small community in Montana that has offered its prison, for instance. Our prisons have retained terrorists with no incident."

Does he find it difficult as an American to defend a suspected terrorist? His reply was, "It may sound corny, but when I defend a suspected terrorist or an American criminal, I'm defending the rule of law. I have no compunction about defending either. I took an oath of office to do just that. It is my duty as a lawyer to provide a zealous defense for any person accused of committing bad acts."

I asked him if he been criticized for taking the case?

"I have not had a single adverse comment other than from right wingers on the Internet. Other than being very time-consuming, the case has not had any adverse effect on my personal life or that of my family. Complete strangers have thanked me (and the other lawyers doing the same work) for taking this on."

A few years ago, Bob made

had military co-counsel in this case, Lt. Col. Tom Bogar, and I have the greatest admiration for his skill as a lawyer and his devotion to our client's cause. And, for the Army for requiring him to defend our client to the best of his ability."

This type of work is not new to Bob. Several years ago, Bob and Leslie became active members of the American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, an organization of Vermonters dedicated to the defense of individual liberties guaranteed by both the U.S. and Vermont Constitutions. A dramatic proof of its strength came in 1994 when Ernie Broadwater of Burke asked ACLU to challenge Vermont's education system. The issue was unequal local education funding in Vermont.

The upshot was that the ACLU chose Bob to serve as lead counsel in the class action suit of Amanda Brigham et al. v. State of Vermont. Six attorneys served with him. Amanda was an eightyear-old daughter of Carol Brigham, a school board member of the small town of Whiting whose school facilities were very inadequate for a good education.

In December of 1996, the Vermont Supreme Court heard oral arguments, and subsequently issued its opinion that the system of funding education through local property taxes was illegal. It directed the legislature to craft a law that would guarantee equal opportunity for all Vermont schoolchildren without regard to their town of residence. On June of 1997, the legislature passed Act 60, the Equal Opportunity Act. Bob and his six legal teammates breathed deep sighs of relief. As I interviewed Bob and his wife, Leslie, on a perfect summer day in Vermont. Burke Mountain loomed dramatically in the distance beyond farm fields, grazed by a neighbor's cows. It was the perfect setting to hear the story of their trip in May of 1967 to make their home in Vermont.

reminisces. "When we reached Whitehall the sky was grey, and in Fair Haven it was grey and cloudy. Barre was foggy and the plows were out in the streets. In Lyndon Corner, where we were renting an apartment, there were six inches of snow on the ground. We were too young to stop and think what we might find," he said with a laugh.

Leslie taught English for three years at the St. Johnsbury Trade school until it closed. Meanwhile, their opportunity to buy a farm in West Danville came a year later and she taught three years in Danville High School.

Bob started his legal career in St. Johnsbury in John Swainbank's firm, where he did some litigation, that involved a broad variety of insurance defense work while completing his six month clerkship to satisfy Vermont's regulations before taking the bar exam. He served on the board of bar examiners, as a proctor and for 11 years wrote questions for the exam.

In 1973, the Gensburgs bought property in Lyndon that had been in the Hunter family as a farm since 1834. "We were supposed to move the day of the '73 flood but had to wait a week," Bob says. A large barn provides storage they need and an upstairs floor is home to Leslie's large



local headlines when he discovered his office phone had been tapped, most likely related to his work with Abdul Zahir.

"This - the phone tapping is where the right wingers attacked me on the internet. My computer was invaded, too, and my Guantanamo files downloaded from it at the same time we discovered the phone tap. Talk about the rule of law. If I had to guess I would say that the phone is still tapped, but that they have gotten better at it."

What has this experience taught him?

"This is very important – first and most important to me as a lawyer. We cannot trust the courts to carry out the role assigned to them by the constitution. The district and federal appeals courts have failed miserably their obliga-

The Gensburgs had grown up 20 miles from each other, Bob in Westerly, Rhode Island, and Leslie in New London, Connecticut,

flock of hens. She also raises chickens for the family's consumption. Along with a thriving vegetable garden to care for, summers are a busy time.

Leslie and Bob have enjoyed being part of Lyndon. For several years Leslie has been a justice of the peace, trustee of the Cobleigh Public Library, local coordinator for the Fresh Air Fund, County Democratic Chairperson, and one of the founders of the Northeast Kingdom Classical Series. Bob has served as a member of Lyndon's Planning and Zoning Board and for ten years was town attorney. He laughs at what he calls, "the myth of the silent, reserved Vermonter. I always felt welcome from the first day we moved here. This is a very friendly town."  $\bigstar$ 

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### **Follow** the **Money**

### THEN AND NOW

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



In July 2001, the stock mar-Lkets were recovering from the tech bubble that had burst in 2000, with the Dow trading around 10,500 and the NAS-DAQ around 1,400. The gross national debt was ca. 57% of the gross domestic productwe owed about half the value of what we produced-while unemployment was 4.6%. The prime rate was at 6.75%. Home heating oil averaged \$1.28/gallon and the average price of a new home was \$209,300. That was then.

This is now. The markets are recovering from the real estate bubble that began to burst in 2007; the Dow is trading around 9,500 and the NASDAQ around 2,050. The gross national debt is estimated to be about 90% of our gross domestic product this year. Unemployment is ca. 9.6% and the prime rate is 3.25%: jobs are dearer, but money is cheaper. Home heating oil is averaging \$2.49 this season, and the average price of a new home is \$269,200.

Between then and now, we've changed Fed chairs, Treasury secretaries, and presidents. Argentina went bankrupt and we went to war. China got the Olympics, India got Jaguar, and Zimbabwe got cholera.

Oil prices, housing prices, commodities prices, and stock prices rose and fell. Interest rates fell and fell. The federal government has gotten into the auto, insurance, mortgage, and banking business, has flooded the credit markets with cash, and has arranged shotgun corporate marriages. Even so, consumers have stopped spending and businesses have failed. Unemployment rose but the trade deficit fell. Education and health care have become the growth sectors in our

#### economy.

The Fed turned 90, Social Security turned 70, the IMF and the World Bank turned 60, and "Atlas Shrugged" turned 50. Milton Friedman, Ronald Reagan, and Phil Rizzuto died, as did the franc, the mark, and the lira.

We argued about changing Social Security and about taxing consumption instead of income. We wondered about the morality of the corporation, the viability of accounting rules, and the availability of health care. We questioned the sanity of borrowers and lenders, the greed of entrusted brokers and experts, and the wisdom of crowds.

We worried that the dollar would be replaced as the reserve currency. We worried about debts, deficits, and inflation; about exporting jobs and importing labor; about the demise of manufacturing and labor unions, pensions and benefits; about wealth, income disparity, corporate bonuses, executive pay, and minimum wage.

We ruminated on the nature of markets, capitalism, corporations, taxes, and human behavior, and on their roles in an economy. We contemplated the value of liquidity and the cost of debt, and their roles in an economy and in our lives. We imagined what Karl Marx and Adam Smith would say.

Long after the apparent disgrace of communism, we've worried about socializing losses and privatizing profits, about socializing health care and privatizing retirement, and about supporting education.

Our personal concerns remain: providing for the material comforts and pleasures that make the struggle to do so seem at all reasonable and rational, hedging against the risks in our lives and weathering their consequences, and saving for our futures or for our future generations. Material comforts have taken a back seat as that struggle has become more wearying with less hope of changing jobs, less security in any job, and more benefits paid out of pocket. We are arguing harder about how involved the government should be in hedging against the hedgers, in guarding us from markets and markets from speculation. Saving seems more and more a luxury, as does anynever mind earlier-retirement.

Some of our most cherished beliefs have been cast, perhaps

rightfully, into doubt: that assets appreciate, that debt finances consumption, that risk pays off, or that anyone is smarter about finance. We have learned that the long run doesn't apply to mere mortals, because stuff happens.

Stuff has happened, and we've thought, worried, and learned about it, yet "we beat on, boats against the current." Just last week, the Wall Street Journal reported bankers' plans to securitize and market the very toxic assets that so critically poisoned our markets and our finances just a few months ago, confident that they'll have no problem selling them.

After the crash of 1929, Groucho Marx reflected: "I would have lost more, but that was all I had." But it was Chico who got the best line of all: "There's no such thing as a sanity clause."

Rachel S. Siegel, CEA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting dilemmas. She is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College. 'Follow the Money" has been a regular feature in the Northstar since 2001; this is the 100th column.



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#### >> Page I

hours than two men could do in a day with axes, hand saws and a horse. Or at least it seems that way to me, I've never tried it and can only imagine what the work was like before the internal combustion engine took over.

When I first began cutting up on this ridge it was mostly pole wood; maple, ash and poplar that was just about thirty-five years old and in serious need of thinning. The hurricane of 1938 had flattened this high place where the soil is thin, leaving only a few broken remnants of the former forest behind. I could easily read this story in the annual growth rings of the trees I cut, and 1938 seemed like ancient history to my young mind. Now 70 years have passed since that event, just twice that time, and I suppose that makes me ancient history, too, but some of the trees I've left standing here are magnificent now, highly marketable as saw logs or veneer. Not only that but we've heated our home for those thirty-five years while improving

the stand, with a better mixture of ages and types of trees, and a lush undergrowth of ferns and shrubs such as moosewood which simply wasn't there before.

About 20 years ago there was considerable worry on the part of Vermont foresters about the future of our forest. Nobody was talking about climate change yet, but acid rain was taking a heavy toll especially on the high places, and other syndromes such as "maple decline", beech necrosis, and frequent insect infestations had them worried. I became one of many participants in the "Take-a-plot" program, in which I carefully measured and assessed the health of every tree in a plot, which was then compiled by the state to create a data base. But real change comes to a forest so slowly that most everyone became bored and by a few years ago there was only me and one other person in all of Vermont still doing it. So the state cancelled the "take-a-plot" pro-

of Your Ear

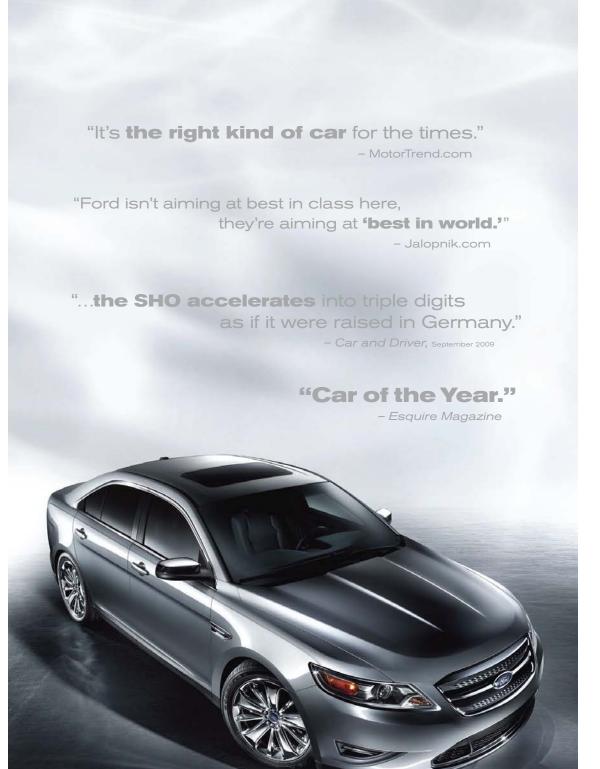
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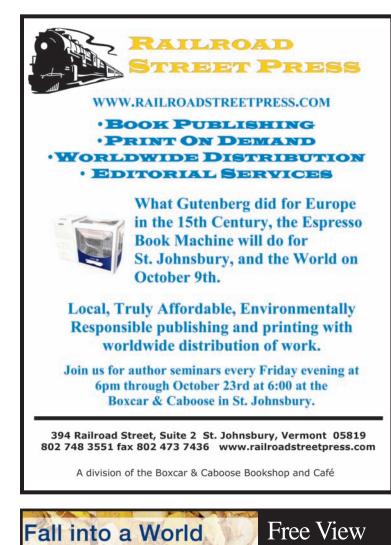
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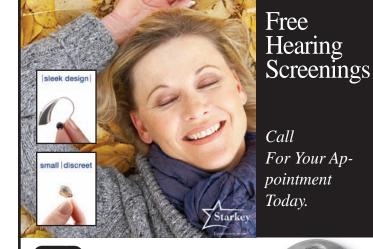
There is another spot in my forest you should know about. It is a small hardwood swamp where nobody has cut a stick of wood in at least a hundred years. It's too wet, with a spring oozing up out of the sweet calcareous soil, and it's low, too, sheltered from the hurricane of 1938. Here, maple and ash tower a hundred feet tall upon long, clear columns amidst chest high ferns. Here, the deep time of the forest prevails, where lifetimes are measured in many hundreds of years if not thousands. It's hard to tell, looking at the massive root flares, exactly where earth ends and tree begins amidst the wooly growth; ferns grow in handy crevices on the lower trunk while moss and lichen ascend all the way to the crown. It is a sight as evocative as the sound of geese flying overhead.

Deep time. More than one logger has attempted to convince me that all this is going to waste, that I'm losing money and these trees need to be cut before they become completely worthless. Their voices sounded like chainsaws, strident and appalled. But this is where deep time lives, time that goes back beyond the time of chainsaws and even crosscut saws. Cheap oil, which is the quick harvest of even deeper time than that, is but a moment flashing past in the life of the forest, not to mention the planet.

Standing in this place, I can witness life's balance in the delicate interplay of light and earth and air. This is where interdependency and co-evolution dominate like the crowns so high above my head. For the moment, my trees seem to be enjoying their extra breath of CO2. I'm still measuring them, which is more an act of vanity than science, but I'm more worried about the future of the planet than before. We need to evolve as a species, too, and do it quickly. If we fail, life's balance will still surely return but that will take deep time, and will likely happen without us.  $\bigstar$ 







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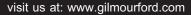
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# Fairwell to summer

Scenes from the the 2009 Caledonia County Fair held Aug. 26-29 at Mountain View Park in Lyndonville Photos by Jim Ashley

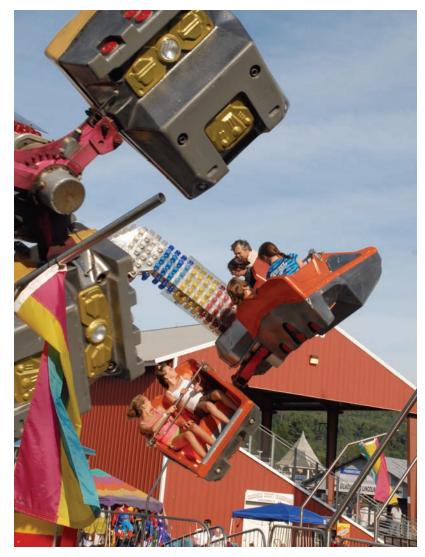
**REPRINTS:** These photos and more are available for reprint by visiting www.northstarmonthly.com. Choose from thousands of photos from the following events:

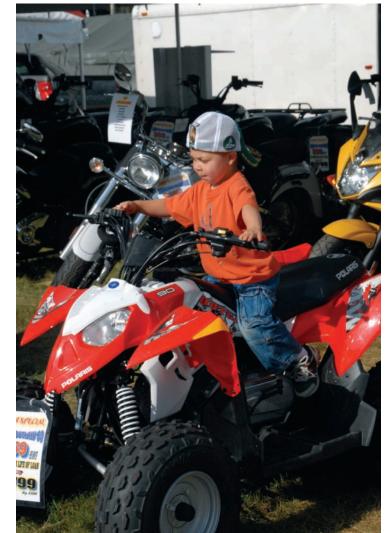
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**NEXT MONTH**: Scenes from the 2009 Autumn on the Green, Oct. 4 on the Danville Green.

















# Fall colors emerge

### Walden Hill Journal with Jeff & Ellen Gold

#### » Oct. 2, 2008

We've turned the calendar to more rain. It's been a week since we've seen Mt. Moosilauke. Fortunately the colorful trees have been there to fill in the view. Birds have been brightening the morning as well. I opened the quilts and was greeted by a delicate yellow warbler feeding near the bushes. Flocks of several different sparrows soon joined in, the most striking being the white crowned sparrow. Flickers have been flocking too as they join forces to migrate south. They flash their white tail patches as they take flight. Chickadees have returned to the feeder as have a nuthatch and colorful rose breasted grosbeak. So while the sky is gray and the weather dreary, the fall leaves and flocking birds (including the turkeys) brighten the day.

#### » Oct. 3, 2008

Took a chance on the weather today for our annual foliage back road exploration. We had full sunshine, rain and everything in between. Very gusty winds kept the weather in motion. We headed west on Rte. 2, made a brief stop at Molly's Pond, then took Danville Hill Road across to Cabot. The view en route was quite spectacular, especially once we crested the hill and were viewing the near valleys. We continued through town to Lower Cabot where we ventured up West Hill Road to West Hill Pond and from there across the Woodbury/Cabot Road to Woodbury. It's a well-traveled road but very intimate and picturesque as well as colorful with old maples lining the road. In Woodbury we crossed over Rte. 14 to the wetlands, then headed north into Hardwick. We made a snack stop at Buffalo Mountain Co-op and picked up some Grafton maple-smoked cheddar and rosemary flatbread. From Hardwick we continued West on Rte. 15 to the North Wolcott Road. We found this paved road too open and busy so cut in west for some meandering back roads. We joined up with Rte. 14 and climbed the Post Road into Craftsbury Com-



Cabot - Woodbury Rd

mon. A little very scenic late afternoon meandering and backtracking finally brought us into East Craftsbury. From there we headed to Greensboro Bend, then through Coles Pond area to hook up with the Noyestar Road in North Walden. Cobb Road led us across Walden Hill and back home. We discovered many nearby scenic roads and enjoyed peak foliage along the way. Jeff has it all well-documented photographically.

#### » Oct. 6, 2008

I'm writing my journal as I sit beside the woodstove, attending our first fire of the season. It's been a chilly weekend. Autumn on the Green stayed mostly dry but the temperature never made it much above 50°. Lack of sun and brisk winds dictated serious layering.

Molly's Pond



Fall leaves

Warm clothes, hats and mittens prevailed on the milling crowds. St. Jay Band braved the cold and played its final gazebo concert of the season. Today it's mostly cloudy again. Rain, textured rain and hail are falling along with the temperature. Heavy frost is in the forecast for tonight.

#### » Oct. 12, 2008

Our once red and orange twilight glow has faded down to a more subdued golden brown. Poplars are beginning to change, one of the last leaves on Walden Hill to give up the green. It's been a magnificently clear and sunny weekend, highlighting the remaining color against rich, blue, autumnal skies. I dug carrots today since the deer have begun grazing on the tops. The basil has succumbed to



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the frost and no longer produces the rich smell that deters the deer. Except for one row of chard and kale, the garden is harvested and tilled. 8 more spuds turned up with the soil. Most of the garden produced well this year. The only disappointment was the low yielding squash. I'm certainly not going to lose any sleep over less zucchini.

#### » Oct. 18, 2008

Hard frost overnight with the thermometer dipping down to 28°. Full morning sun is gradually erasing the thick white coating on the ground. Hills continue thinning, widening our valley view. Reds and oranges have given way to the final golds of Autumn. Shimmering golden poplars and flaming tamarack candles stand alone in an otherwise graying landscape. Beech leaves remain a rich brown and oaks at lower elevations hang on with their shiny maroon leaves.

#### » Oct. 22, 2008

A light dusting of snow this morning is our wakeup call that winter is fast approaching. We've been cutting back the flower beds but still need to spread our accumulated compost and start gathering kindling. We've taken down all of the window screens and cleaned

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them for storage. So now we have a much clearer view of the snow. The woodstove is in winter mode although sunny days have kept our fires minimal. Jeff hopes to get the snow thrower in for service today. We need to accelerate finishing up our last minute chores before snuggling in for a long Vermont winter.

#### » Oct. 24, 2008

The thermometer has been dropping into the low 20's overnight but fortunately the sun has been out to chase Jack Frost away. It's a late-rising sun though, not cresting the trees until 7:30. Sunrise is near Mt. Washington, a considerable ways downhill from summer risings. We're taking advantage of clear days to complete more outdoor chores. The compost bin has been emptied on the garden, the porch swing is stored in the bulkhead, 3 boxes of kindling are gathered for use and the snowblower is serviced and ready for action. Tobey the cat is sitting in the window soaking up the morning sun. That's her task for the day. We learned at the vet's yesterday that

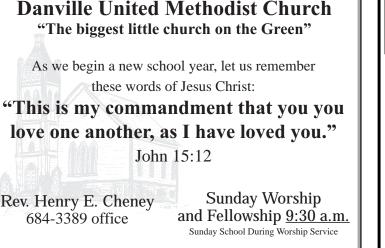
she's developed a heart murmur. We'll have to monitor her and see what develops. For now, she's still chasing up and down the stairs and bounding into the loft with considerable vigor and certainly shows no signs of distress.

#### » Oct. 29, 2008

Came home yesterday in the driving rain and woke up this morning to snow. It's been flurrying off and on all day in between intermittent visits from the sun. There's only about 2 inches of snow accumulation, just a tiny prelude to winter. I heeded the winter advisory forecast and harvested the kale. It was a good indoor day for cooking up a batch of Portuguese kale and sausage soup. A couple of garden spuds went into the pot as well. There are several servings in the freezer and enough for dinner tonight. An Ezekial Flatbread should top off the meal nicely.

#### » Oct. 31, 2008

The deer have been out "trick or treating", leaving trails of tracks in the snow. They found the kale and chard I had left for them in the garden and pawed under the snow to uncover the remains. It looks like they then headed out back to the cedars to nibble on the lower branches. Bright sunshine is ending the month of October and making waste of the snow cover that has persisted for the last two days. I'm hoping for bare ground over the weekend to continue work outdoors. Turning the calendar over to November adds a new sense of urgency to finishing those final chores. ★





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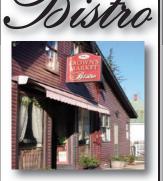
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# An epilogue

### Dolly was a Morgan mare

#### **By LOIS FIELD-WHITE**

"August 13, 1912: For pasturing Dolly and her colt (C. Way), \$1.00"

This phrase leapt out at me as I read Russell Bickford Kinerson's account ledger late one evening recently.

I had been trying to trace the lineage of our Morgan mare, Dolly, for several years. My mother, Jean Kinerson Field, owned, rode and drove Dolly in the 1920s, and Dolly was still on our Peacham farm in the mid-1940s. Jean's grandfather, James Richardson Kinerson, owned registered Morgans but I had never been able to make a connection between his mares and Dolly. My Kinerson cousins remembered Dolly but not her origins; they described the Kinerson Morgans as "feisty little critters."

Russell Bickford Kinerson was the second son of James Richardson Kinerson and Emily Bickford Kinerson and inherited the family farm one mile north of Peacham Corner. He apparently carried on the breeding of Morgans begun there by his grandfather and father. Russell's 1911 and 1912 ledgers contained the following notations of payments:

June 10, 1911: Pasturing colts, to C. H. Way, \$8.00

May 17, 1912: Cutting colt's feet (trimming hooves), .10

August 7, 1912: Service fee

for colt, to Charlie Houghton, \$10.00

August 13, 1912: Pasturing Dolly and her colt, to C. Way, \$1.00

I now believe that our mare Dolly was the daughter of one of the Morgans described in my March 2007 North Star Monthly article entitled "Dolly Was a Morgan Mare." Those registered Morgans were owned by my great-grandfather James Richardson Kinerson and his neighbor James L. Allen and were listed in Volume III of the American Morgan Horse Register. Roxy (Kinerson's), foaled 1902, is described on Page 601 of the Register; Barbara, foaled 1908, is described on Page 423 of the Register, and Winona (Allen's), foaled 1909, is described on Page 630 of the Register.

That one notation in Russell Bickford Kinerson's 1912 ledger, "Pasturing Dolly and her colt, to C. Way, \$1.00" provides the missing link. I now think that Russell acquired Dolly from either his father or neighbor James L. Allen, kept her for a few years for riding, driving and breeding purposes, then sold her to his brother, my

house, farm and sugaring operation, hired help and for shoeing "Kitty", his mare.

Russell's one mention of his mare Dolly and her colt in August of 1912 led me to his other

### People kept ledgers, account books, detailing incomes and expenses in those days.

grandfather, Charles F. Kinerson, who then gave Dolly to his daughter, Jean Kinerson Field, my mother. Hallelujah! I was ecstatic.

People kept ledgers, account books, detailing incomes and expenses in those days. Russell kept ledgers from 1904 to 1913. He noted his income from sales of cream to the South Peacham Cooperative Creamery and sales of eggs, maple sugar, apples, heifers and hogs. He also set down his cash expenditures, often in cents, for groceries, clothing, and supplies for the notations for trimming of the colt's hooves, pasturing colts and the service fee he paid to Charlie Houghton, who apparently owned the stallion who sired Dolly's colt. Russell's notes established for me the probability that Dolly was the daughter of one of the registered Morgan mares Roxy, (Kinerson's), Barbara or Winona (Allen's), and was descended from my great-grandfather's Morgans. And I owe it to the careful records kept by my great-uncle Russell Bickford Kinerson a century ago.







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# Up on the Farm Early

### **GRANNY STAKES**

#### BY LORNA QUIMBY

've a big handicap in the "Granny Stakes." I was 29 when Dick and I had our first child. One more girl baby completed our family. When you start with such a limited base, you can't begin to compete with those women who started early and kept producing babies year after year. Our girls did not marry right after high school nor did they start their families immediately after their marriages. I was over 60 before our first grandchildren were born. Being a grandparent is a wonderful experience that we've been grateful for. And who cares about the Granny Stakes anyway!

contemporaries and their progeny, Maw was a piker in the Granny race. She stopped at five girls. But family gatherings, after her 12 grandchildren "came to town," were an impressive sight. Five girls, plus their husbands, plus the 12 grandchildren, crowded around the dining table and overflowed to an auxiliary table in the kitchen. And because Maw and Dad spread their children over 18 years, one great-grandchild arrived the same year as the two last grandchildren.

The number of Maw's descendants doesn't begin to compete with that of an English woman whose picture I saw in Life in the English Country House by Mark Girouard (Penguin Books, 1980). Louisa, Duchess of Abercorn, is shown with 103 of her descendants. The year was 1894. Now, if Louisa were competing in the Granny Stakes, she'd win hands down.

I first became aware of the Stakes while reading Angela Thirkell's novels. Thirkell cast a satirical eye on the interplay between women of a certain age, their "lust for granny fodder" and their totally prejudiced view of the same. When I examined my fellow grandmothers, I, too, observed the phenomena.

The players at the poker tables in Las Vegas are in earnest. Card playing there is serious business. The contestants display few emotions while they ante up, raise their stakes, place their bets and rake in the pot. On the other hand, players in the Granny Stakes are relaxed and all smiles and chuckles as they automatically compete.

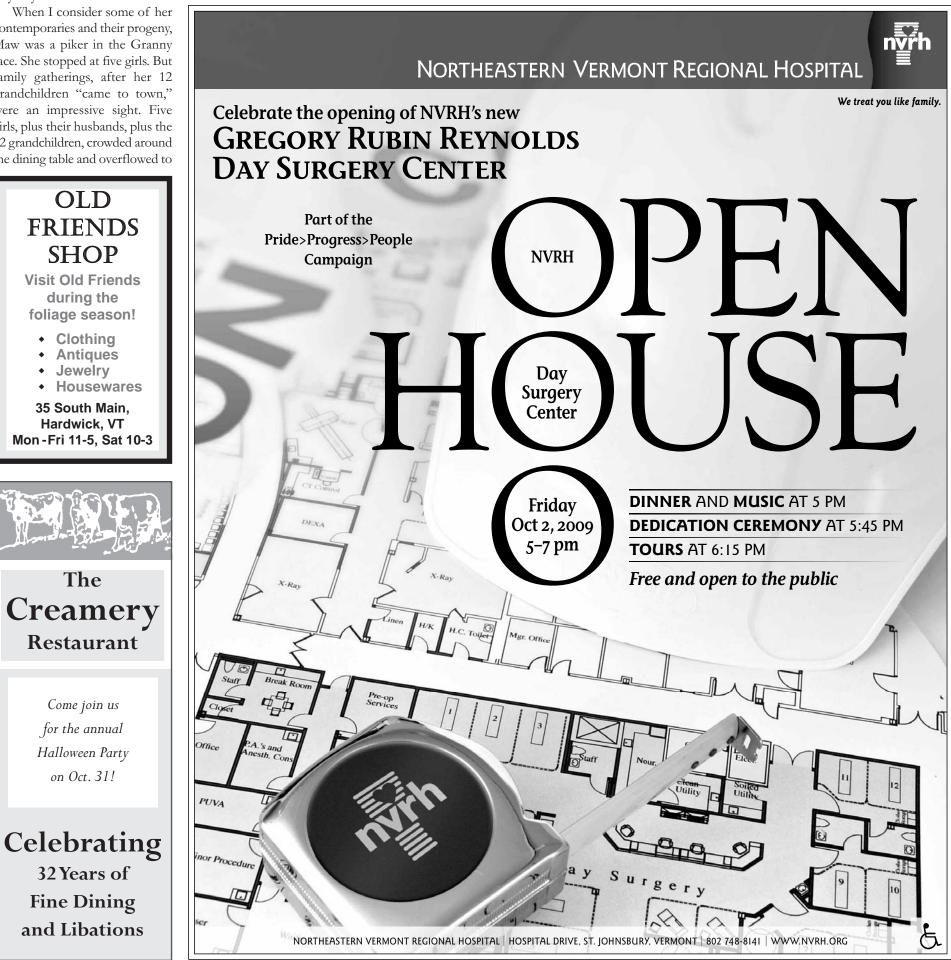
You know how it goes. If I say, "I have one granddaughter and two grandsons," you raise the ante by saying, "How interesting," (or "How nice"), then telling me the impressive number of grandchildren your sons and daughters have dropped on the planet. When we get to school performance, an honor student is topped by an athletic one (or vice versa). Both are thrown off the table by the grandmother of one of those all-around whizzes who shines in all aspects of school life.

By the time the kids go to college, the stakes are even higher. There are majors that bring extra points, especially if they involve public service, and there are those ho-hum courses that may bring a lot of satisfaction to the student but which don't give his gramma many bragging rights. Membership in sororities or fraternities may or may not count points. Study abroad, on the other hand, is always good to drop casually on the table. Going to a third-world country wins over a European university in the present market.

Entrance in the Granny Stakes is automatic. You need no coaching from Hoyle as to the plays. Beware of the grandmother who is modest about her grandchild. She's bluffing! You may think she has a lot to be modest about, but if you let down your guard, she'll lay some endearing trait on the table and scoop the board. Little grandson or granddaughter walked early, or late, talked early, or waited until he burst forth in full sentences, devoured books at four or didn't give up chewing on the pages until he started kindergarten. As you can see, everything is grist for the Granny Stakes.

Dick's mother prided herself on her liberal views. She thought of herself as unbiased, color-blind and broad-minded. When it came to her grandchildren, however, Grammy Quimby, as our girls called her, forgot all about being tolerant. So I told Mother I thought that all grandmothers thought their grandchildren extraordinary.

Mother's reply was, "But mine are!"







# Email: wheel56@together.net Lyndon Institute Athletic Events ~ Fall 2009 VARSITY FOOTBALL FIELD HOCKEY

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10/17/09	(H) MILTON	1:00	1	10/07/09	(H) MONTPELIER	4:00
10/24/09	(H) MMU	1:00	1	10/09/09	at North Country	4:00
10/31/09	(H) ST. JOHNSBURY	1:00		10/13/09	at Spaulding	4:00
	(.,		1	10/15/09	(H) MILTON	4:00



Peacham native Julian Walbridge Rix at the time of his graduation from the Peacham Academy, 1868. Tintype from Sargeant Photograph Album, gift of Beatrice Blanchard Freeland to Peacham Historical Association.

### Letters from the Past When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield

**Dear Alice** 



The 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire destroyed more than four square miles of homes and businesses, and killed more than three thousand people.

Of course, this wasn't the first major earthquake in the area. An earlier one, less disastrous, occurred in 1868, just weeks after a Peacham native moved to San Francisco. Eighteen-year-old Julian W. Rix left his home on the Watts farm in East Part and retraced his footsteps, or to be exact, waterways, taken in 1853 when he was only two years old. On that earlier trip, Julian accompanied his mother, Chastina Walbridge Rix, who went to join his father, Alfred S. Rix, one of the Caledonia County men who rushed to the gold fields in the early 1850s. Failing in the mines, Alfred decided to remain in the golden state and had his wife and son travel to join him. The family settled in San Francisco where Alfred taught school and then practiced law, and Chastina took in laundry, sewing, and boarders. A second son, Edward, was born in 1855. Tragically, Chastina died in 1857, and Alfred sent six-year-old Julian back to Peacham where he could be educated in the good New England schools and properly brought up by his grandmother, Roxana Walbridge Watts. After graduating from the Peacham Academy in 1868, Julian returned alone to California and took up residence with his father and stepmother.

Within weeks of his arrival, San Francisco experienced a major earthquake, the largest tremblor the city would suffer until 1906. In the letter printed here addressed to Peacham, Julian wrote to his aunt, Alice Watts (born 1845), more like a sister to him than an aunt, describing the event. In a later letter he wrote to Alice's younger sister, Ella (born 1847), that he "never hopes to be so frightened again. You can't imagine till you have felt one-how it feels. I was not afraid to die, but what bothered me was how I would feel buried up in the ruins." As with many natural disasters that result in little personal suffering, young Julian's life went on as before. In fact, shortly after the quake, he joined the Republicans in a political parade for the upcoming presidential election. Many people from the southern states had moved to California and were against the Republican party and threw stones at the paraders. Julian wrote at his desk in an office in San Francisco where his father arranged a job for him copying documents, hour after hour. After years of working outdoors on his grandfather's farm, he disliked the tedium of office work. He dreamed of more exciting work, like clerking in a store in Illinois, far from the earthquakes of California. He did like the pay, however, and enjoyed having his own money, perhaps for the first time in his life. Within a few years, Julian began working as a sign painter, and it was then his career as a landscape artist took off. Today Julian W. Rix's engravings and paintings are in many American museums from the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC to the Oakland Museum in California. This Peacham son is recognized as among the best scenic painters in the late nineteenth century, painting both western and New England scenes.

San Francisco Oct 30 1868.

There has been so many things going on L here lately that I hardly know how to begin. We are all well as usual and have been since I last wrote to you. Havnt been to Aunts [Clara Walbridge Rogers 1830-1918] for a while but Ned [his brother, Edward A. Rix] has,-for since the Earthquake there has'nt been any school on account of the damage it did to the building. I never want to experiance another Shake as we did for it is'nt so altogether funny as you might suppose. I can say with a clear conscience that I never was so scared or run so fast in my life. . ... It is very unpleasant to walk the streets now, especially in the lower parts of the City-where I am-for most two thirds of the buildings need repairing-and the streets are blocked up with bricks and Great piles of morter and every once in awhile you run against a rope streched across the side walk with a big placard written on it Danger so see we have reminders of what was, I think in about all we had 25 diffrent shakes and shouldnt you think that was enough for once

But for all the Earthquake the other night we had the biggest Torchlight procession ever on the Pacific Coast. I went in and marched about 2 hours steady over cobble stones,—and concluded it did'nt pay—and left. There has been quite an excitement caused cheifly by the Democrats throwing cobble stones in to the procession when it was passing and lots were severly hurt. I expect we will have a lively time Election day, and I believe they have appointed 500 extra policemen to keep order....

Now you may think this [letter] is rather hasty and it is, for-It is [written] before the bosses come and now days [I] havnt any time to write . . . in a week or so I

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL				
10/05/09	at Essex	5:00		
10/12/09	(H) NORTH COUNTRY	4:00		
10/19/09	(H) ST. JOHNSBURY	4:00		
10/26/09	at Hartford	4:00		

#### **FROSHMAN FOOTBALL**

10/07/09	at BFA	5:00
10/14/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:00
10/21/09	(H) NORTH COUNTRY	4:00

#### CROSS COUNTRY

-		_
10/03/09	at Thetford Invite	10:00
10/06/09	at U-32	4:00
10/10/09	at Peoples Invite	10:00
10/13/09	(H) KINGDOM TRAILS	4:00
10/19/09	at Lake Region Relays	4:00
10/24/09	at U-32 League Champ	10:00
10/31/09	at Thetford STATES	10:00

10/03/09	(H) HARWOOD	11:0
10/07/09	at Montpelier	4:0
10/10/09	at Peoples	1:0
10/13/09	at St. Johnsbury	4:0
10/15/09	(H) NORTHFIELD	4:0
		4:0
10/21/09	at Spaulding	4:0
10/23/09	(H) THETFORD	4:0
10/23/09	(H) THETFORD	4:0
10/23/09	(H) THETFORD	4:0 0CCE
10/23/09 /ARSITY 10/02/09	(H) THETFORD 7 & JV BOYS SC at U-32	4:0
10/23/09 /ARSITY 10/02/09 10/06/09	(H) THETFORD <b>&amp; JV BOYS SC</b> at U-32 at Northfield	4:0 0CCE 4:0 4:0
10/23/09 /ARSITY 10/02/09 10/06/09 10/10/09	(H) THETFORD <b>X</b> JV BOYS SC at U-32 at Northfield at Peoples	4:0 0CCE 4:1 4:0 4:0
10/23/09 /ARSITY 10/02/09 10/06/09 10/10/09 10/14/09	(H) THETFORD A JV BOYS SC at U-32 at Northfield at Peoples (H) STOWE	4:0 0 4:0 4:0 4:0 4:0 4:0 4:0

GOOD LUCK VIKINGS Paul Wheeler, Athletic Director will write about some private matters and a good long letter about things here in general

[Sideways in margins of first page:] You ask me if I ever wish I was back [in Vermont], if you want me to tell you the truth Yes-, but I couldnt make as much as here, unless I went out west, and since the Earthquake I have thought that if Ike [his uncle, Isaac N. Watts, born 1843, who at the time was visiting relatives in Illinois] opened that big store in Montecello I would like to clerk it for him,- and another thing, it is so immoral out here [in San Francisco], it is enough to spoil a minister but, for all that I try to keep straight, Give my love to all, and remember sometimes-

Felix [Julian's nickname]

remember me to Lizzie Mary Jane & the rest [Peacham neighbors, the Ways] write soon-

[Sideways in margin of last page:] I have written this in about 15 minutes, and as my time is up must close, so you must excuse all mistakes

The original of this letter remains in private hands. Letters in this series are written with no corrections of spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Eclipses denote words left out and brackets indicate information added by the editor.



# Gerald F. (Hap) Hutchins Sept. 2, 1924 - Dec. 30, 2008

There were so many reasons Why we Loved this guy. I can't begin to tell you All the reasons why.

His adult life started With a trip overseas. Being in the service Is never a breeze.

> He was always happy 'To do what he could. But to do it again I don't think he would.

He soon took over the farm on the hill, For 17 years it was special to him. He'd rather make hay Then to the gym.

To look over those hills, When the grass was green. The most beautiful view You have ever seen.

It was up in the morning Before the rooster crows. What the day brings No one knows.

Life was not easy Back in those days. It was darn hard work Without much praise.

Betty was always there To do everything she could. She helped to make hay And maybe even split some wood

> Hap had been thinking A family would be nice. But all those things Come with a price.

After some time Barbie arrived He had no idea what joy she would bring. Taking naps behind the stove with her Oh such a pleasure, not comparable to anything. The nicest truck he'd ever seen. He enjoyed that baby for years to come It was a long time getting another

one.

They went over the mountain For a picnic one day. And bought a camp Along the way.

> What a special place To have some fun, And sit and enjoy The summer sun.

As time went by And the kids got grown It was time for a change And buy new home.

They found a house In the village to buy, Well why not? Lets give it a try!

It took lots of planning For many days It was a big change In many ways.

He drove the school bus For 36 years Listened to many stories Through Laughter and tears.

Those kids were real special, He knew them all by name. He'd sit and wait patiently While they played a game.

He worked at Fairbanks And also for St. Jay Town, Everyone knew him From miles around.

The time came for his children to leave the nest This is when Gary and Cyndy came into his life They were so special to him, no one need to tell us. Gary married his little girl, and

# Outdoor Adventures Dracula in my house

#### By TONY SMITH

My cousin called me a month ago frantic on the phone.

"Tony you have to come over quick, there's the biggest bat in my house I have ever seen. Can you come get it out?"

Of course I said yes. That kind of stuff is always an adventure and I've had my rabies shots making it safer for me to get it out of the house than her. Since this wasn't my first bat rodeo, I knew what two items I would need to capture it alive and set it free: a bucket and a large piece of cardboard or other thin item to put over the top of the bucket. A good fish net works too, but can be a pain to maneuver inside a house.

My fiancé accompanied me over to the house because she too likes a good adventure. We get there and my cousin and her boyfriend are outside waiting. I like to think they were out there just to greet us, but instead they were afraid of the bat because it was so big.

There are nine species of bats in Vermont: little brown bat (brown), northern long-eared bat (brown), Indiana bat (brown), Small-footed bat (yellow-brown), Big brown bat (brown), Eastern pipistrelle (yellowbrown), Silver-haired bat (blackbrown), red bat (rusty/white tips), and hoary bat (yellow-brown/white tips). One of the more common species is the little brown bat, which I expected this to be.

They told me it was flying around when they came out, so I expected to see it still flying around when I went in.

But it wasn't.

In fact, we looked around for an hour and didn't find it. Usually they hide behind curtains, shades or something else high. We shook all the curtains, looked in the closets, bathroom, everywhere. I thought if we turn all the lights off it would feel more comfortable and come out.

It didn't.

Finally my cousin said, "It must have gotten out." Now I know it didn't, but I said, "If that will help you sleep better tonight, then yes, it must have gotten out."

Just as I got to the door to leave, I hear a shrilling scream, not from my female cousin or my fiancé, but my cousin's boyfriend.

I'm pretty sure he's not going to read this article, so I can say it sounded like a screech owl going through a wood chipper.

It was the loudest shriek I've ever heard, especially coming from a man's mouth. Out from behind the curtain came the bat. We checked there at least three times and it never moved when we shook it. Now I could see why they said it was the biggest bat they had ever seen.



Bat house

Heck, it may have been the biggest I had ever seen. It looked like an eagle flying through the living room, around in circles down the hall into the last room in the house.

At least we knew where it was now.

We got into the room and saw it sitting on the wood paneling on the wall. I figured this next part was either going to go real well or be a disaster. It turns out it went well. The bat just sat on the wall while I walked up to it, put the bucket over it and covered the top with the cardboard. I went outside and let it go with no problems.

You are probably wondering why anybody should be so concerned with saving such an ugly, non-charismatic animal.

The fact is bats are a huge part >> Page 27

# Are You Having Trouble Affording the Prescription Drugs You Need?

#### Our Health Centers May Be Able to Help

Our offices offer discounts on many of the most common prescription drugs. This discount is available to all our patients. In addition, for those with limited incomes, we apply an additional discount if you qualify for our sliding fee program. For more information, call for an appointment.

#### Concord Health Center (802) 695-2512

Sarah Berrian, MD (Pediatric, Adult and Obstetrical Care) Susan Taney, Nurse Practitioner (Adult Care) Jeniane L. Daniels, Physician Assistant-Certified Donna Ransmeier, Behavioral Health Counseling

#### Danville Health Center (802) 684-2275

Tim Tanner, MD (Pediatric and Adult Care) Sharon Fine, MD (Pediatric and Adult Care) Mariel Hess, Nurse Practitioner (Pediatric and Adult Care) Jeniane L. Daniels, Physician Assistant-certified

She was his shadow From Morning till night Trying to help Dad Do everything right.

After four years a little guy named Brent arrived. That was what he had prayed for. How he enjoyed watching him play with his trucks and trains, And who could want for anything more.

He saved his pennies for many, many days. Then went to town to buy loaf of bread, Gosh all heck wouldn't you know he Came home with a brand new truck instead!

It was a pretty shiny green,

Cyndy became Brent's wife.

You can't ask for better people. They were there with each new day Ready to help In every possible way.

> He walked many miles. In his walking days 7 or 8 miles he would go To Danville or St. Jay.

He was always there as a Dad and a Friend, When we needed someone, From the very beginning, To the very end.

Till we met again.

Written by Joyce Bennett Barbara H. Fontaine

#### Caledonia Internal Medicine (802) 748-5174

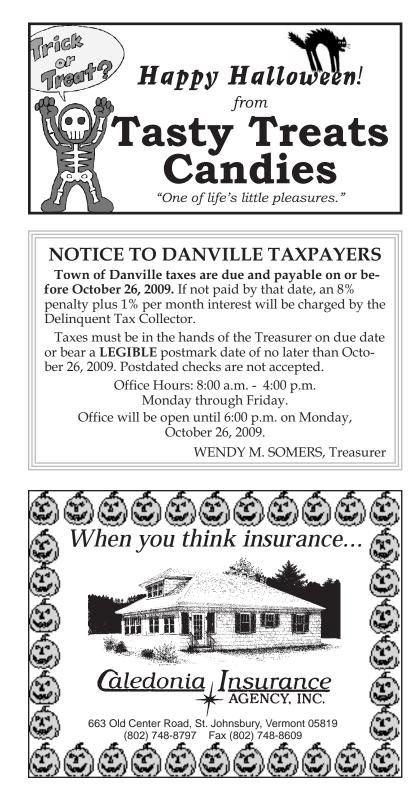
Frank Meierdiercks, MD (Internal Medicine) Thomas Ziobrowski, MD (Internal Medicine) Claudia Lee, MD (Internal Medicine) Elaine Robinson, Nurse Practitioner Betsy Fowler, Behavioral Health Counseling

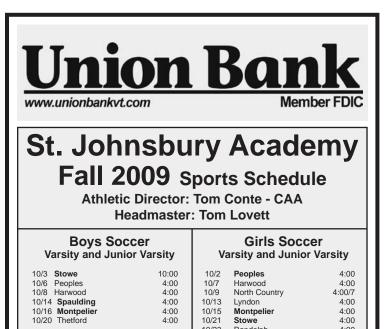
#### St. Johnsbury Family Health Center (802) 748-5041

Dana Kraus, MD (Family Medicine and Obstetrical Care) John Ajamie, MD (Family Medicine) Cathleen Besch, Nurse Practitioner Carey Brodzinski, Nurse Practitioner Diane E. Matthews, Nurse Practitioner (Adult Care) Betsy Fowler, Behavioral Health Counseling

These Health Centers are units of Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. - established in 1976 to bring health services to those in need in the Northeast Kingdom.







# To the point

Accupuncture: can it help?



#### By Donna Garfield

cupuncture – even the Aword sounds painful. Why would anyone lie on a table and let someone insert needles into various parts of their body? In November 2006 I decided to find out. I was experiencing severe anxiety attacks and depression in addition to battling chronic fatigue syndrome. I was under a doctor's care but searching for something in addition to traditional treatments.

After reading about acupuncture and the benefits it could offer, I called Stacey Clark at Lyndonville Family Chiropractic Health Center. The practice is owned by Stacey and Karson Clark, a husband and wife team of chiropractors who moved to Vermont in 2004. Stacey is also certified as an acupuncturist. I met with her for an hour-long consultation to ask questions about acupuncture and try to determine if it could help me. I decided to try it.

At my first appointment, I changed into a johnny and lay down on a massage table. The drapes were drawn. I could hear a fountain in the corner of the room with water trickling over rocks. Candles were available if I wanted them lit. Stacey inserted needles into my toes, lower calves, arms, chest, and one in my head. Once Stacey completed inserting the needles, she left the room but I could call her if I needed her. The light was left on in the room, and I listened to a meditation tape. I laid there the entire time thinking, "Why am I here? This is just not me." I am very conservative in my thinking so this was really stepping outside the box. After the session, I decided I would not come back again. I had experienced something new, but it was not for me. When asked if I would like to schedule another appointment, I surprisingly said yes. Before I knew

### The room itself is meant to induce calm. There are no telephones, fax machines, or cell phones to interrupt my solitude.

it, I was walking to my car, shaking my head, and wondering what made me say I would come back. I decided that since I had made another appointment, I might as well go back and try it again.

The second time things went much better. I was more relaxed about what would happen. Stacey is gracious and caring, so once I entered the room the stress level went down considerably. The room itself is meant to induce calm. There are no telephones, fax machines, or cell phones to interrupt my solitude. I have focused mainly on anxiety and chronic fatigue, but sometimes I have been treated for joint pain. I have found my comfort zone - no candles, the waterfall is soothing, the light is now out, and each time I listen to a meditation tape for 30 to 40 minutes. In the last year I have fallen asleep four times during the session. I wake up as soon again. The acupuncturist inas Stacey returns to remove the serts each needle until she feels

body and goes from the head to the toes. The lung meridian is the shortest and goes from the neck to the thumb of either hand. The acupuncturist inserts a needle at certain acupuncture points in a meridian.

The thought of needles bothers most people. There are many sizes and shapes to acupuncture needles. Stacey explains, "I use Chinese-style needles that are 0.25mm gauge in diameter and one inch in length, made of sterile disposable, surgical stainless steel." I was surprised at how thin the needles were. They come in single-use packages and are regulated by the FDA. The top of the needle has a one-inch long handle for the practitioner to hang onto while inserting the needle into the skin. The needles are biohazard waste products, disposed of accordingly, and may not be used the meridian and then carefully twists the needle to start the flow of energy. In my last session, I was experiencing joint problems in my left knee and left thumb. Stacey treated the joint pain as well as anxiety by using 32 needles at various acupuncture points. She always places one needle in the top of my head saying, "It will clear your mind." Stacey commented that she has had success with treating "fatigue, depression, anxiety, fibromyalgia, migraines, gall bladder and kidney dysfunctions, stomach pain, joint problems, bedwetting, and back, neck, and shoulder pain." The primary problem for people coming to her for help is dealing with stress and anxiety. She practices symptom-based

Coaches: Chip Langmaid, Tara Hemond and Richard Boisseau       & Hank Van Orman         0/10/12       Junior Varsity         0/10/12       U-32         4:00       10/12         0/10/12       U-32         Varsity and Junior Varsity All JV Games Follow Varsity Games       10/26	Coaches: Richard McCarthy JV - Adam Kennedy	10/23 Randolph 4:00 Coaches: Tracy Verge, Frank Leafe JV - Greg Roberts
Girls Field Hockey         10/5         Hartford         4:00           Varsity and Junior Varsity         All JV Games Follow Varsity Games         10/19         Lyndon         4:00           10/1         Montpelier         4:00         10/26         North Country         4:00           10/3         Milton         10:00         10/26         North Country         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00         10/77         Spaulding         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00         10/7         Spaulding         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00         10/7         Spaulding         4:00           10/14         Lyndon         4:00         10/74         Lyndon         4:00	10/3         Thetford Inv.         10:00           10/6         U-32         4:00           10/10         Peoples Inv.         10:00           10/14         North Country         4:00           10/19         Relays         4:00           @ Lake Region         10/24         NVAC Champ.           10/24         NVAC Champ.         11:00           @ U-32         10/31         State Champs         10:00           @ Thetford         10:00         10:00	Varsity           10/3         Hartford         1:00           10/9         BFA         7:00           10/16         Essex         7:00           10/24         Burlington         1:00           10/31         Lyndon         1:00           Coaches: Shawn Murphy, Craig Racenet & Hank Van Orman
10/3         Milton         10:00           10/7         Missisquoi         4:00           10/13         Harwood         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00           10/14         Lyndon         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00           10/14         Lyndon         4:00           10/21         Essex         4:00	Girls Field Hockey Varsity and Junior Varsity	10/12         U-32         4:00           10/19         Lyndon         4:00
Coaches: James Bentley & Joe Tomaselli	10/3         Milton         10:00           10/7         Missisquoi         4:00           10/13         Harwood         4:00           10/15         Rice         4:00	10/7         Spaulding         4:00           10/14         Lyndon         4:00           10/21         Essex         4:00           10/28         North Country         6:00

needles. My mood is relaxed and serene. The rest of the evening I am very mellow and that calmness can continue for days.

What is acupuncture? It is believed that acupuncture began in China about 2,500 years ago and is still prevalent there. Stacey says, "Acupuncture is based on the theory that there is energy flowing through your body in 12 pathways called meridians. Imbalance or blockage in the meridians lead to stagnation, inflammation, and pain that often leads to illness or disease. Acupuncture works by restoring the balance of energy flow or removing the blockage to restore health." The meridians are also called energy channels. The bladder meridian is the longest in the

acupuncture. People ask if it is a matter of believing in your mind that acupuncture will work. She says, "Acupuncture is physiological, so it can work whether you believe in it or not." Not all people tolerate acupuncture well. She says, "After six sessions, if I do not feel that I can help a patient, I tell that person."

Stacey is a Christian and feels that God has given her the ability to help others feel better by using acupuncture. Stacey works two days per week. Half of each day is spent on chiropractic care and the other half on acupuncture care. Her acupuncture patients have ranged in age from six to 85 years old. Stacey treats approximately 16-20 patients a week for acupuncture and has been providing this care for about five years.

When is acupuncture unsafe? Can organs be punctured by accident? Stacey responds that "Meridians are close to the surface so needles are not inserted very far. The lungs and esophagus are places where a needle could do serious damage." Near the lungs, she does not even go 1/2 inch deep. Acupuncturists study the body and know where and how to place the needles. Stacey says, "The most common side effects are sometimes turning black and blue where a needle was inserted, a welt that may last for a day, crying (that can have a healing effect), feeling tired, or feeling energized."

Stacey was born in Newport. She and Karson moved to Davenport, Iowa to attend Palmer College of Chiropractic where they graduated with doctorates in chiropractic. It was while she was living in Iowa that she became interested in acupuncture. She was dealing with her own illness and found that traditional medicine was not helping. Acupuncture helped her and she wanted to be able to do the same for others. In reflecting upon her study of acupuncture, Stacey says, "I studied under two licensed acupuncturists, Dr. Richard Lu from Taiwan and Dr. John Amara." She studied under Dr. Lu for five years in Davenport and then studied under Dr. Amara in Chicago. A search on the Internet for Dr. Amara shows a myriad of articles he has written and research he has done. He is well known internationally and is also a lecturer

Acupuncturists must be certified. The best way to see if someone is certified is by checking with the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture or with the Secretary of State. In Stacey's situation, she is considered a physician in Vermont so she added a certification for acupuncture under her chiropractic license. She must have 24 continuing education credits every two years to be a chiropractor and then takes extra classes and seminars to stay up to date on acupuncture.

Stacey has seen a trend of more doctors recommending acupuncture in conjunction with traditional medicine. She would encourage more cooperation and would like to help people avoid surgery or other invasive procedures if acupuncture can be used instead. Acupuncture is widely used in China during surgery. Stacey would like to see that happen in the United States. One problem is that few health care insurance companies will pay for the treatment.

I am very satisfied with what acupuncture has done for me. Now I go once a month for maintenance. Stacey remembers me as an ill woman who came to see her in 2006. Even she is amazed at the level of health I have attained by adding acupuncture to my health regimen.  $\bigstar$ 

#### >> Page 25

of our ecosystem. They can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes an hour. In Texas, one huge colony of Mexican free-tailed bats reportedly can eat a quarter million pounds of insects each night. That many insects weigh as much as 125 cars. Unfortunately they are on the decline dramatically due to a recently discovered disease called, "White Nose Syndrome." The disease gets its name from the white fungus that grows on its nose and face. It was first discovered in a cave in New York State in 2006, but has rapidly spread to several other caves killing millions of bats in its path. With a 90 percent mortality rate, few survive. Many endangered and threatened bats in the U.S. are getting to critical levels and could be extinct within a few years. Just imagine a world with 1,000 more mosquitoes and hour in it, per dead bat! I'm not sure I want to. The fungus wakes the bat up early in its hibernation period using up its fat reserves too early in the season. Bats have been seen flying around in February and March looking for insects that aren't there. Eventually they starve or freeze to death.

There are ways you can help! You can put up bat boxes around your house, which not only gives bats a place to roost and live for the summer, but also keeps your house free of that many more mosquitoes each night. Otherwise bats roost under bark of large dead or dying trees. Bat boxes are meant to simulate this habitat. You can also choose to save each bat you find in your house instead of taking the easy way out and hitting it to death with a broom. Below is a link to help "bat proof" your house and show you how to release them alive. Also, there is a picture of a bat box. You can buys these online or make your own.

www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/factsheets/nongame\_and\_ Natural\_Heritage/Bats\_in\_Your\_ House.pdf ★





# Annual \$999\* Eyewear Event

**\$99 Package:** • Single vision plastic lenses

#### \$129 Lined Bi-Focal Package & \$199 No-Line Bi-Focal Package

Plus FREE one year limited warranty with all packages
Frames ~ choose from a large group of stylish frames

\* Some restrictions apply. This eyeware event does not include eye exam. Offer Expires October 31, 2009



#### Winooski @ Danville 8 Thursday B/G 4:00 Wednesday Hazen @ Danville 4:00 16 Friday Danville @ Oxbow 4:00 Richford @ Danville 4:00 20 Tuesday **Girls High School Soccer** October Wednesday Danville @ Oxbow 4:00 7 9 Friday Danville @ Hazen 4:00 13 Friday Danville @ Lake Region 4:00 15 Thursday Danville @ BFA Fairfax 4:00 21 Thursday Winooski @ Danville 4:00 Danville @ Richford 23 Thursday 4:00 **Boys & Girls Middle School Soccer** October Thursday Danville @ Concord 4:30 G/B 1 5 Monday Lyndon @ Danville 4:30 G/B Danville @ Barnet 8 Thursday 4:00 Coed Danville @ St. J Rec. 12 Monday 4:00 girls/5:00 boys Thursday Cabot @ Danville 4:00 Coed 15 Monday Hazen @ Danville 4:00 G/B 19

#### High & Middle School Field Hockey

#### October

3 Saturday

Danville @ Harwood

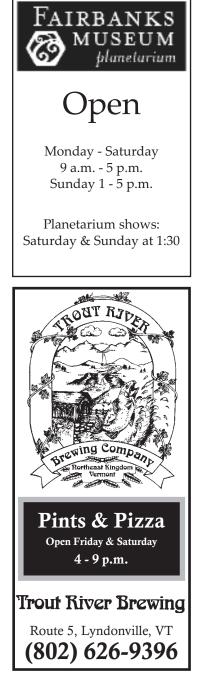
11:00 Round Robin

# What's happening at town hall

#### **Barnet**

Town Clerk: Benjamin Heisholt Selectboard: Ted Faris, Gary Bunnell and Jeremy Roberts

September 14, 2009 Boat Access - Lake Harvey Association members Jan Sherman, Wayne Berge, and Karla Cornelius appeared to discuss concern regarding Harvey's Lake public boat access at Sunny Beach Lane next to the property of Robert and Jane Perrin. They said money and energy was spent on preventing milfoil at the Roy Mountain Road access will be wasted if milfoil enters the lake at another access point. They suggested either closing the access altogether or putting up saw-



horses with signs informing about milfoil prevention. After brief discussion, the Board agreed to pursue the approach of putting up a chained entry to this access with signage attached. The chain will not be locked. LHA agreed to procure signage.

Harvey's Lake - Mr. Zita appeared to discuss any end-ofseason Beach matters and to discuss the concluding season in general. Faris said the only concern he was aware of was a request by James MacDonald that a fence be put up in the water between Beach property and his property. No such fence was erected in 2009. Zita brought up a concern regarding erosion along the beach-line, which is causing the potentially dangerous exposure of tree roots and a steep embankment between the grass and sand shoreline of the beach. Bunnell will arrange a meeting with Zita to look at the site and evaluate.

Spring Issue - Mr. & Mrs. Donaghy appeared to state a concern regarding a spring supplying water to their home on Comerford Dam Road. The Donaghys said a recent reconfiguration of the road brought the road to within one foot of the spring, creating a road hazard and rendering their water undrinkable. Faris explained that the Donaghys have expressed this concern before and he has viewed the site. Faris said in the past, a situation like this would have been resolved by the Town paying to replace the spring. However, current State regulations may render this ap-

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proach complicated. The Board agreed that Bunnell will go to view the site and give a recommendation.

Transfer Station – Members reviewed the current fee schedule for tire collection at the transfer station as compared with that of K-N-S Tire Recycling, the Town's new vendor for tire removal. The Board found that the Town's fees leave the Town in a slight deficit in terms of revenue generated versus funds spent for removal. After brief discussion the Board agreed to increase Transfer Station fees by \$0.25 per tire on all sizes of tires, effective immediately.

Passumpsic Village Store - The Board read a cover letter and reviewed report detailing the most recent groundwater testing for contamination at the site of the former Passumpsic Village Store. The report stated decreased contamination and recommended changing testing to an annual rather than semiannual basis.

High Speed Intenret - The Board read correspondence informing the Town of Barnet of Northern Community Investment Council's federal grant awards for planned projects to construct high-speed internet poles on the properties of Arthur and Debra Roy and John and Cynthia Bogie.

#### Danville

Town Clerk: Wendy Somers Town Administrator Merton Leonard Selectboard: Steve Larrabee, Denise Briggs, Doug Pastula, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

September 3, 2009 **ATVs** - Craig Vance representing NEK Wheelers ATV Club, was present to answer the letter of concern the Board had sent him after last meeting. The concern was with ATV traffic particularly on the Wheelock and McDowell Roads. Vance stated that the club, with assistance from the VASA the state ATV association, funded nine hours of sheriff patrol to determine the type of traffic that may be using the roads and to determine if any are not following the rules. He also informed the board that the club has built a connector trail from Webster Hill to Marty's.

Historical Society - A letter presented by Mary Prior as president of the Historical Society requested four items of consideration from the Board. The first item was assistance to helping preserve the development radius around the Old North Church. After some discussion the board concluded that they had no simple solution to this request. Some land has been donated to the Historical Society, but the remaining land has a value to the owners. There are no town funds available at the present time that have been set aside for the purchase of property or development rights. Any other funds, if appropriated, would have to be approved at a Town Meeting. They encouraged Mary to work with the Conservation Commission, to try to find any funds or solutions that may be available from outside agencies, for land preservation. Second, the Board did not have support for requiring all historic sites to bear markers stating such and requiring them to meet special requirements for alterations and use. They have no objections for anyone voluntarily subscribing to such an agreement, but they feel that should be up to the individual property owners.

Third they were in agreement that the balance of the book account of approximately \$2,456 could be used to reprint additional copies of the town history book. Fourth the tree fund specifies use only for plantings on town property. The Mason's building is not town property and was not considered for any plantings. The final item requested a Board member to become an ex-officio member of the Historical Society and the North Danville School Association. The Board felt that each organization is independent, and does not require a member of the Board to attend their board meetings as a member. They would appreciate a copy of any minutes generated.

The Green - The Board sent invitations to various VTrans and Arts Council representatives to attend activities on the Green. The following were able to attend at various times; Ken Robie, Gary Santee, Stuart Menard, Michele Bailey, Alex Aldrich, and Tom Brady. All visitations were met by Merton and various Selectboard members, assisted by Ken Linsley. The following changes were proposed for the Green Area.

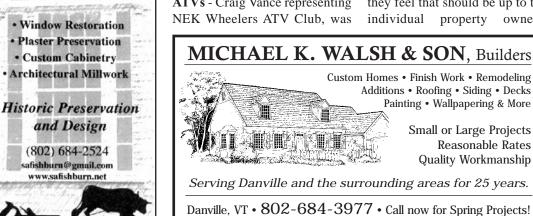
1. Remove white spruce trees from the front of green. While these trees were added for lowering noise, the concern is they will block vision and take up space.

2. Remove the sidewalk from the East side of Peacham Road and add slopped curbs around the Green wherever there is not sidewalk, for better access to the Green.

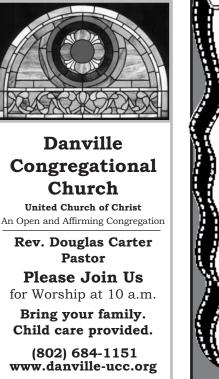
3. Remove cross walk from Diamond Hill to Peacham Road Sidewalk . The crosswalk as designed would be in right turn on red lane of the traffic light.

4. Make crosswalk at Town Hall,









the main Route #2 cross walk to Park St. The sidewalk will go all around outside of green and across the front. This crosswalk is now generally used as the main crosswalk for Green functions.

5. Add two wheelchair access points to Park Street along with Handicap parking, to provide better handicap access to Green.

6. Add bushes or plantings where danger may be present with stone Possibly structures. stones 18inches above ground, verses being level with ground. Michele was going tp follow up with the details on the stone structure.

7. Bandstand to be continued as a replacement of the existing bandstand, except the Board would require the removal of the wrap around seating changed to access steps in front and a place to mount the veterans plaque. Bandstand to be rededicated to the veterans after reconstruction.

8. Final placement of granite post and other artist's enhancements to be adjusted to the best location at final placement after observing other completed constructions.

#### Lyndon

Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett Administrative Assistant Dan Hill

Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins and Kermit Fisher

September 14, 2009 Cemetery Expansion - As discussed at a previous meeting, two bids have been received for the proposed project. The Board would like to look at further plans and gather more information about the boundary line. The item was tabled.

Chimney Repairs - Only one bid has been received to date, that being for \$2,500 per chimney to repair the chimneys enough so that they will last another seven years or so. The Board accepted the bid.

#### Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Andy Cochran.

August 19, 2009

Mapping - John Reiss discussed the mapping and recording status of various Peacham roads and rights of way. Specifically, he reviewed the discontinued portion of Bailey Hazen Road and parts of Penny Street, which are referred to in town record book #60, page 205-208. The town record book indicates the roads as being legal trails. He requested the "Military Road" designation of the obscure southern portion of the Bayley Hazen Road be reinstituted onto current maps. He stated that road discontinuance actions taken in 1955 had previously been instituted in 1883. The Board thanked Mr. Reiss for his investigative work. Mowing - Joan Churchill and Bill Goss expressed their concerns regarding the quality of the recent roadside mowing project. Ann also mentioned a missing

warning sign and vehicles failing to stop on Academy Hill Road and Maple Street. The Board indicated that local law enforcement will be contacted. Goss also mentioned that Green Mountain Power should be maintaining their rights of way. The road foreman will be contacted regarding the mowing and rights of way issues. Comments were read by the Board from the road foreman indicating that all road side mowing is complete, Martin's Pond culvert work has begun and the road should be reopened next week. The comments also included discussion of the new truck body installation and the Board requested that a separate warrant for this purchase be produced when the financial transaction occurs.

#### St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Gary Reis, Daniel Kimbell, Jim Rust, and Jean Hall Wheeler.

September 8, 2009 Community Justice Center -Dinah Yessne, director of the Community Justice Center, stated she has contacted numerous property owners in St. Johnsbury to inquire about affordable office space for the Justice Center. Dinah said Doug Spates owns the

building that was formerly occupied by NEKCA on Cherry Street. She said Spates has offered one large office space, two small offices, and access to a conference room - with heat and electricity included for \$400 per month. The space is handicapped accessible and is a convenient location in the community. The Justice Center Grant period ends on June 30, 2010 - so the initial rental agreement will be for Oct. 1 through June 30, 2010. Town Manager Mike Welch provided a copy of the current expenses in the Community Center account. A total of \$49,150 was budgeted, \$26,377 expended, with a balance remaining of \$22,772. Welch said rental expenses for the balance of 2009 would come from the savings of not heating the Community Center this winter. Beginning in 2010, the Town would need to budget for the rental payment for the Justice Center, and between payment for rent, and in-kind services provided, the Town will be able to meet the 25 percent matching requirement of the grant. Welch said this space will meet the needs of the Justice Center better than the available space in the Pomerleau Building. The Board approved the rental of office space in the Spate's building on Cherry Street.

#### Walden

#### Town Clerk: Lina Smith

Selectboard: Dave Brown, Doug Luther and Robert Bunnell.

#### August 25, 2009

Road Work - Road Foreman Robert Bell reported that the crew had replaced six culverts and expected to do three more. He noted they are ditching on Coles Pond Road right now. If landowners living in that area want some fill, they can call the town garage at 563-2504.

North Danville Rd. - The board asked the road foreman to look at the North Danville Road. There is concern that some culverts should be replaced. Brushing as soon as the weather cools down will also be done.

Bridges - The board discussed putting stay mat on each end of bridges to help with potholes. They will experiment with this as well as using some in bad spots. They also discussed the shortage of gravel. Putting up sand will begin Sept. 8.

New Computer - The Town Clerk reported that she had received a grant for a new computer for the town. She also updated the board on the status of delinquent taxes.





salad, biscuits and bread pudding.

Oct. 9 - Spaghetti, Italian bread, cole slaw and sliced peaches.

Oct. 7. Autumn stew, tossed

Oct. 14 - Shepard's pie, spinach, three-bean salad, dark bread and apricots.

Oct. 16 - Corned beff and cabbage, potatoes, turnip, carrots rolls and jello. Oct. 21 - Chile, tossed salad,

corn bread and fresh fruit. Oct. 23 - Baked fish, oven potatoes, cole slaw, home made bread and tropical fruit. Oct. 28 - Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, winter squash, bread, vanilla pudding and mandarin oranges.

Oct. 30 - Roast pork, potatoes and gravy, apple sauce, mixed veggies, rolls and cake and ice cream.

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# Fall means time for winter squash

### No Small Potatoes with Vanna Guldenschuh

Pumpkins, Turks Turbans, Butternuts, Buttercups, Acorns, Baby Blues, Hubbards. Just a few of the myriad of winter squashes to tempt us at this time of year. They come in all shapes and colors and I love the sight of a pile of them on a porch with a backdrop of fallen leaves and bright blue sky. Most of the winter squash are interchangeable in recipes, some are just easier to handle than others.

**»Sliced Squash** - Pumpkins or Butternut squash are the easiest to peel and slice. Hubbard squash is so large that you have to use a heavy chef's knife or cleaver to cut the squash into large pieces and slice away the meat. I have reverted to an ax with some especially large hubbards. The buttercup type squashes are best cut into large pieces and the flesh removed after cooking.

**»Pureed Squash** - I find the easiest way to puree squash is to cut any orange fleshed squash into large pieces (with or without the skin) and oven bake in a covered roasting pan with a small amount of water in the bottom. Cook until tender and then scoop out the meat and mash or puree. This method leaves you with a less waterlogged product and allows you to add the liquid of your choice to flavor the squash.

made (have extra on hand in case

you need to thin the soup)

1 cup cider

2 tablespoons butter

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 tablespoon curry powder (curry

powder varies in strength - you may

need more)

1/2 cup maple syrup (can substitute

 $1/2 \operatorname{cup sugar}$ 

1-2 cups heavy cream (heavy cream

will not curdle the soup and I sug-

gest you use it instead of milk or

half and half)

Salt and pepper to taste

Pinch of cayenne pepper (optional)

In a large soup pot sauté the onions

in butter until just soft and translu-

cent. Add the squash, beef stock

and water and cook until all is ten-

der. Add more liquid (water or

stock) if needed during the cook-

ing process. Puree the cooked mix-

ture in a food processor or blender

and put back in the pot. If it is very

thick you may have to add more

stock or water. You will want this

soup to be fairly thick so be careful

not to burn the bottom. Add the

cinnamon, curry powder, cayenne

and maple syrup. Cook for about

20 minutes to meld the flavors to-

gether. Add the heavy cream and

heat to below boiling. Serve with a

dollop of unsweetened whipped

»Scalloped Butternut Squash

This is a takeoff on an old winter

favorite. Sweet potato can be sub-

stituted in this dish for an equally

8 to12 cups butternut squash -

sliced into thin rounds

3 large onions - peeled and thinly

sliced

1 stick softened butter - almost

melted

1 pint heavy cream 1 cup flour

Salt and pepper

1/2 cup white sugar

Salt and pepper

1/2 cup bread crumbs

cream on top.

satisfying result.

**»Acorn Squash** - This beautiful bright green squash is best cut into quarters and rubbed with salt, pepper, butter and either sugar or maple syrup and baked in the oven until tender. Serve the quarter right on the dinner plate. It's so simple and so good.

**»Traditional Pureed Squash -**There are some new breeds of orange fleshed squashes available. One of them is ambercup. It is an orange skinned variety of the buttercup - very flavorful and sweet. 2 medium sized orange squash (red curry, butternut, hubbard or buttercup are all good substitutes)

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup maple syrup<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup new apple cider2-4 tablespoons buttersalt and pepper to taste

Cut the squash in quarters and place in a roasting pan with a small amount of water in the bottom. Cover tightly with foil and place in a 350 degree oven for about a hour or until the squash is very soft. Let cool to make it easier to handle. Scoop out the flesh into a medium sized mixing bowl and add butter, maple syrup, cider and salt and pepper to taste. Mash together with a hand beater or whisk.

#### »Butternut Squash Soup

This soup can be made with any orange fleshed winter squash or sweet potatoes. My favorite is the butternut. It is easy to peel and contains an amazing amount of 'meat' for this type of squash.

8 cups butternut squash - peeled in large chunks 4 onions - peeled and cut in quarters 8 cups beef stock - tinned or home-

RAMUNTO's

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Butter the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Put a layer of the squash slices in the dish and brush with the melted butter. Put some of the chopped onions on top. Sprinkle some of the salt, pepper and sugar over them (just enough to flavor the layer). Sprinkle with some flour and pour a little cream on top. Repeat this process (squash, butter, onions, salt, pepper, sugar, flour and cream) until the dish is filled. Sprinkle the top of the casserole, lightly, with bread crumbs and dot with butter and a few of the onions.

There should be liquid about  $\frac{3}{4}$  up the side of the pan – if there is not, add a little stock or cider to bring it up to snuff.

Bake in the oven for approximately 45 minutes to one hour. I usually cover this dish to start – about 30 minutes and then uncovered for the rest of the time. The squash should be tender and the casserole bubbling. I have had this take almost 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours to cook – so check it. Let set for about 15 minutes before serving.

#### »Chunky Pumpkin Pie

The concept of making a pumpkin pie like an apple pie is so simple; you will wonder why everyone doesn't cool one this time of year. Wait until you hear the comments from family and friends.

Pastry for double crust pie 6 cups raw pumpkin - peeled and chunked (fairly small chunks) 3 cups sugar 4 teaspoons cinnamon 3 tablespoons flour 4 teaspoons butter 1/4 cup heavy cream

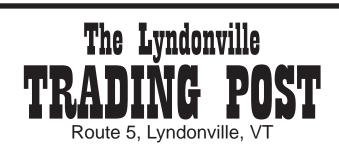
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large mixing bowl combine the chunks of pumpkin, sugar, cinnamon and flour. Line the bottom of a 9inch-pie plate with piecrust and fill with the pumpkin mix. Dot with butter and pour the cream over all. Cover with the second crust and close the edges together. Slash several holes in the top and bake in the oven for approximately 45 minutes until bubbly and golden. Let cool completely. Serve with vanilla ice cream.



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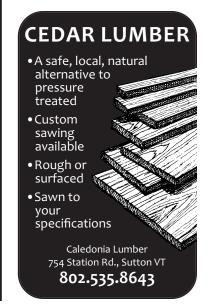
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# **Pope Notes**

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

utumn on the Green is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for October 4 for this wonderful fall festival of artisans, crafters, antiques, live music and food. The Creamery Restaurant once again will make a delicious chicken and biscuit dinner to benefit the Pope Library. The menu includes chicken and gravy over biscuits, cranberry sauce, peas, sweet potato casserole, beverage and dessert. Tickets are \$12.50 and may be purchased ahead of time at the library. To reserve tickets call the library, 684-2256 or Susan at 684-3836. All tickets must be paid for in advance of the dinner. We will serve from 11:30 -12:30. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, depending on availability.

Please join us for our October book discussion of Night by Elie Wiesel, part of the Vermont Humanities Council series: World War II: The Loss of the Age of Innocence. In Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's memoir Night, a scholarly, pious teenager is wracked with guilt at having survived the horror of the Holocaust and the genocidal campaign that consumed his family. His memories of the nightmare world of the death camps present him with an intolerable question: how can the God he once so fervently believed in have allowed these monstrous events to occur? There are no easy answers in this harrowing book, which probes life's essential riddles with the lucid anguish only great literature achieves. It marks the crucial first step in Wiesel's lifelong project to bear witness for those who died. Scholar Suzi Wizowaty will lead the discussion on Wednesday, October 21 at 7pm. Books and schedules are available at the Pope.

The Pope Library is participating in the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program. CPFS is calling on all Americans to support the troops by donating old cell phones. CPFS hopes to collect over 50,000 used cell phones this year. Proceeds will be used to purchase calling cards for our troops so they can stay connected with their families. For more information about this program go to the Cell Phones for Soldiers website. Attention Francophones et Francophiles! Susannah Morlock has organized a French conversation group at the library to meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. For more information call Susannah at 685-2524. Our latest book acquisitions are: That Old Cape Magic by Russo, The Lost Symbol by Brown, The Girl Who Played With Fire by Larrson, South of Broad by Conroy, Somebody

Knows My Name by Hill, The Last Song by Sparks, Let the Great World Spin by McCann, The Botany of Desire by Pollan, Strength in What Remains by Kidder, Animals Make Us Human by Grandin and Zeitoun by Eggers. Come in and

#### Check them out! From the Children's Room

We are excited to announce the Young Adult Program will begin on Wednesday, September 23. The after school program will be available to students in grades 6, 7 and 8 on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 - 5:00. The YA program is free and is open first to students who return their Enrollment Form by September 23. Snacks and beverages will be available each day as well as activities shaped around the interest of the participants. Blythe Webster

is the new coordinator of the program. The library is happy to host this program and welcomes students to enjoy everything we have to offer. Participants in the program MUST be willing and able to RESPECT Library resources, policies and patrons.



Builder, is very private. It has a long curved drive. You won't be able to see another house. You can see the mountains. They come right into your living room. Ceiling to floor windows, two story fieldstone fireplace, custom made cupboards. Here's your cabin on the mountain top.

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to the present owners. It is in mint condition. The back yard is fenced for your kids or the pets. The landscaping is gorgeous. You have two nice outbuildings for storage. There's enough space on the porches for settin' out. Nice views, too. The Kingdom is at your doorstep here, too

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ML2795185 Great hunting camp sitting on 50 acres and surrounded on

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**HUNTER'S PARADISE** 

Metal roof, gas lights and a gravity fed spring.

# Ongoing **Events**

Mondays: Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:30 a.m. (802) 748-8291.

Mondays: Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10 a.m. (802) 684-2256.

Mondays: Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-6040

Ist Monday: North Danville Community Club, Meeting, 6 p.m. North Danville Community Center. (802) 748-9415.

Ist & 3rd Mondays: "Six O'clock Prompt," Writers' Support Group, 6 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 633-2617.

2nd Monday: Cancer Support Group, NVRH Conference Room A, 4 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Last Monday: Alzheimer's Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-8116. Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Story Hour,

Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475. Tuesdays: Cribbage Tournaments, 6 p.m.

Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

Tuesdays: Argentine Tango, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (beginners) 5:30-6:30 p.m. (intermediate) Teacher: Isabel Costa (603) 823-8163.

2nd Tuesdays: Caledonia Right to Life will meet at St John's Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1375 Main St, St Johnsbury, VT at 7:30 pm.All are welcome.

2nd & 4th Tuesday: Bereavement Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 5:30 p.m. (802) 748-8116

2nd & 4th Tuesday: Drop-in quilting at I p.m. at the Cobleigh Public Library, (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays: Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475

Wednesdays: Ordinary Magic. Meditation for Life, St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, 6-7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Danville Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to noon, on the green.

Wednesdays: Peacham Farmers Market at the Union Store, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesdays: Bandstand Park Concerts in Lyndon, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

3rd Wednesday: Cardiac Support Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.

Thursdays: Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475

Thursdays: Live Music at Parker Pie in

Glover. Check website, www.parkerpie.com for details or call (802) 525-3366.

Thursdays: Open Mic Night at Indigenous Skate Shop on Railroad Street in St. lohnsbury

2nd Thursday: Film discussion following 7 p.m. film at Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

3rd Thursday: Caregivers Support Group, Riverside Life Enrichment Center, 10 a.m. (802) 626-3900.

Thursdays: Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Fridays: Lyndon Farmers Market, 3 to 7 p.m., Bandstand Park on Route 5.

Fridays: Hardwick Farmers Market, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., between Greensboro Garage and Aubuchon's.

Saturday & Sunday: Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m. Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2372.

Saturday & Sunday: Ben's Mill Museum in Barnet through October. (802) 748-8180

Saturdays: Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 12:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Saturdays: Caledonia County Farmers Market, St. Johnsbury, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., behind TD Banknorth on Pearl St.

Saturdays: Craftsbury Common Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ist Saturday: Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

Ist Saturday: Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

Ist & 2nd Saturdays: Dance in the Kingdom at the Good Shephard School -Latin & Ballroom dance: Lessons at 7 p.m. followed by open dance, 8 to 10 p.m. (802) 748-3044

2nd Saturdays: West Barnet Grange community breakfasts from 8-10 a.m.

3rd Saturday: Breast Cancer Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m. (802) 748-8116.

Sundays: Groton Growers Summer Market, Veterans Memorial Park, 9 a.m. to noon



The Ladies have taken over our **Display Windows again, dressed** in pretty yellow gingham. We've restocked; the Adult Bibs, Bib Aprons, Prairie Hats and Housedresses are sprinkling in for trial Come try one on!







#### Lyndonville

Imagine a home in the country with breathtaking views within 2 miles from school, baseball and the grocery store....well here it is. There is a 1965 manufactured home that is livable with a full basement, a spring and a septic and the 53+/- acres is spectacular. MLS# 2792040

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DANVILLE MLS# 2789769

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# Property Management

#### FOR RENT:

Peacham, VT

Peacham Housing currently has a one bedroom apartment available. Rent is \$500 per month and residents must be 62 or older or living with a disability. Great community room, parking, on site laundry, and on site maintenance staff. All utilities are included and individuals with or without children are eligible to apply.

Call AHEAD Property Management for an application (800) 974-1377. Equal Housing Oppurtunity.





ment and a deck that takes full advantage of the view of the White Mountains. All this on 37 acres!

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#### WALDEN MI S# 2749832

If you've been looking for that getaway camp where you can jump on your snowmobile from the front door or if you need a place to just have peace and quiet, then you should check out this cottage. 2 bedrooms on the main floor plus an oversized loft. Open living space, Rennai heater, full basement, porch and a stone BBQ.

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#### MI #2795202

One owner 2 bedroom ranch style home in very good condition with fireplaced living room, formal dining room, deck and attached 2-car garage. The home is situated on a spacious 2.45+/- acre lot with mature trees and perennial gardens. There is a finished basement with lots of storage, woodstove, plus family room and 34 bath.

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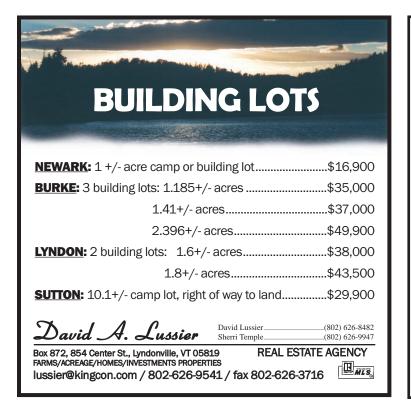




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# **Events** in the **NEK**

#### THURS.I:

- »Fall Foliage day in Peacham, arts and crafts, book sale, ghost walk, blacksmith demo, bus tour, nature walk and more..9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- »Catamount Arts is proud to be a part of the National Theatre of London presentation of William Shakespeare's All's Well that Ends Well, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- »Harvest Dinner at Highland Lodge, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please call to reserve (802) 533-2647. Highland Lodge, 1608 Craftsbury Rd., Greensboro, www.highlandlodge.com

#### FRI.2:

- »DEAD NORTH a haunted night of terror at the Great Vermont Corn Maze, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Tickets on sale beginning July I - get them before it sells out. Great Vermont Corn Maze, 1404 Wheelock Road, North Danville. Call (802) 748-1399 or visit vermontcornmaze.com
- »Fall Foliage day in Barnet pancake breakfast, scenic bus tours, arts and crafts. ham dinner, and more...8 a.m. to 5 p.m. SAT.3:
- »Fall Foliage Craft Fair, 10 4 p.m., Hardwick Elementary School sponsored by the Heart of Vermont Chamber of Commerce. For further information call 802-472-5906 or email chamber@heartofvt.com

#### SUN.4:

»Autumn on the Green is an award-winning showcase for artisans, crafters, cottage industries and businesses amidst the spectacular views and color of autumn in Danville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

» Harvest Dinner, noon to 1:30 p.m., Our Lady of Fatima Church, 21 Creek Road, Craftsbury. Live music with Bernie & Linda Lussier. Proceeds to Benefit Our Lady of Fatima Church. For more information, contact Jeannine at (802) 586-2899 (reflections@gmtmom.com)

#### SAT.10:

»March of Dimes, Walk for Babies, 9 a.m. to I p.m., When you walk, you give hope to the families of babies born too soon or sick. The money you raise supports programs in your community that help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies. Phone (802) 479-3265 or E-mail mcote@passumpsicbank or visit www.marchforbabies.org for more info. Father Lively Center 481 Summer St. St. Johnsbury, VT.

#### FRI.18:

»Music from the Age of Exploration at the North Congregational Church, Main St., St. Johnsbury, 7:30 p.m. Lynnette Combs plays music from the 1600s on the pipe organ. This promises to be a wonderful concert and on one of the best organs in the state! Admission by donation.

#### SUN.11:

- »Indoor Composting with Red Wigglers and The Wacky Worm Sisters, I p.m. to 3 p.m. The Wacky Worm Sisters (real sisters Carol Schminke & Lynette Courtney), from Down To Earth Worm Farm of VT will demonstrate, step-by-step, how to set up a wooden worm bin, from bedding & feeding the worms, to harvesting their castings, which can be used to feed your potted or garden plants. Call (802) 533-9836 opr Email newleaf@vtlink.net for more information. New Leaf Designs Eclectic Nursery/Down To Earth Worm Farm of VT.
- 281 The Bend Rd. Greensboro Bend, SAT. 19:
- »The Traditional Crafts at the Fairbanks Museum (in the building and around the surrounding grounds), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### TUES 22.

»The Battle of Lake Champlain, 7 p.m., Woodbury Town Hall. On September 11, 1814 -187 years before the attack on the World Trade Center - British Army and Royal Naval forces attacked a regular American army and navy at Cumberland Bay in Plattsburgh. Although backed by Vermont Militia, the Americans were outnumbered nearly four to one. A Vermont Humanities Council event, hosted by Woodbury Historical Society. Call Dan St. John for information (802) 456-1237.

#### SAT.26:

- » The best chicken pie supper in the NEK at the North Danville Baptist Church - eat in or take out! Tell your families, friends, and co-workers about this delicious chicken pie supper with all the fixin's and then some, 5 p.m! For tickets and/or take out call: Betty at (802) 684-2183 or Judy at (802) 748-8519. SUN 25
- »Annual Harvest Concert and Pot Luck, 5
- p.m., at the Danville Congregational Church, Featuring the Danville Town Band and Community Church Choirs. Admission is by donation to benefit the Band's new music fund. For more information please contact Dave Hare at 684-3986 or daveh@vtlink.net



St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Winter Hours Monday - Friday 10:00 to 5:30 Saturday 9:30 to 5:00 For more information call 748-8291

#### SUN.I:

»Soul Street Dance Ensemble - a nation ally known Dance Ensemble from Houston, Texas, is bringing its high energy modern dance performance to the Northeast for the first time at Catamount Arts, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call (802) 748-2600 or visit soulstreetdance.com for more information

#### SAT.7:

»Joel Fan, pianist, performs in St. Johnsbury as part of the NEK Classical Series, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.At the South Congregational Church, 1052 Main St. St. Johnsbury. Web: www.nekclassicalseries.org Call (802) 748-8012 for more information.



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