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Over the edge

By NATHANIEL TRIPP

Everyone is relieved the election season is over. The deceptive advertising and massive spending were worse than ever, and so were the media, playing it like a sporting event while raking in the profits. Where is all the money coming from? Do any of those politicians really care about us? However, no matter how much we complain about things here in Vermont, it could be worse. We could live in New York.

I've been traveling up and down New York Route 22 all my life. From Fair Haven to southern New York, it runs right beside the borders of Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. It's a beautiful route, following the little valleys that...**Page 25**

Holiday Gift

WOUNDED VET RETURNS TO FAMILY

Vermont National Guard SPC Patrick McElroy is on a 30-day medical leave from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He was wounded on Sept. 24 in Afghanistan. Patrick recently sat down to describe what his life has been like for the last year.

Arriving at the McElroy home in East Barnet, Patrick's son, Connor, does the greeting. He tells me that he has just turned five and had a birthday party. Patrick's wife, Corinna, is holding Emma, five months old. Connor happily plays while we talk but glances at his father often to make sure he is still there.

"Connor really missed his dad," Corinna says. "Since he's been home, Connor hasn't left him for a second except to go to school."

His family is happy to have him home for the holidays, but the nature of his return was an emotional roller coaster.

Patrick was wounded in Afghanistan on Sept. 24 and taken to a hospital at Bagram Air Force Base.

"They cut me open from the rib cage down to make sure fragments were not still in my body," he remembers of his trip to the hospital. "Afterwards, that hurt more than getting shot."

"Patrick's platoon sergeant called and said he had been hurt but that

he was right there and I could talk to him," Corinna remembers. "He sounded OK but tired. He said he had a tube in his throat down to his stomach." Patrick admits he was in quite a bit of pain but tried not to let Corinna hear it in his voice. She, however, was studying nursing, and "was more worried knowing all the stuff I know."

From the hospital at Bagram, Patrick was next flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He says, "I was there until Sept. 27. On the 27th, I flew to Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Technically, I'm an out-patient at Walter Reed and on convalescent leave. That means you are well enough to maintain on your own but you can go home and rest."

Patrick is not allowed to discuss the details of how he was wounded, since the incident is still under investigation.

When his medical leave is up, Patrick will return to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for a doctor...**Page 28**

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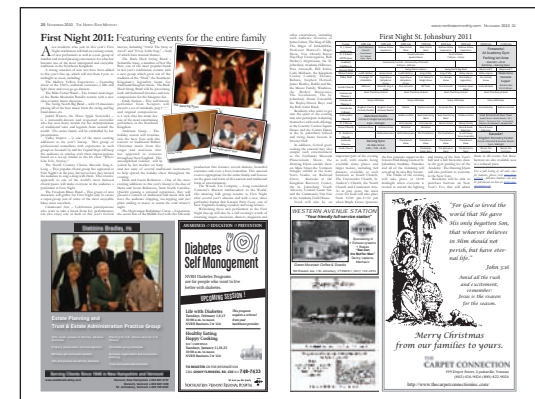
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NAME THAT BARN



The above photo, part of Brian Lynaugh's large collection, depicts a local barn. The picture was taken by State Aerial Farm Statistics, Inc., a 52-year-old aerial photo firm headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. Can you name that barn. Answer below.

Answer: Currier Farm, Harvey's Hollow, Danville VT

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EDITORIAL OFFICES:
P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street
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(802) 684-1056

PUBLISHERS/OWNERS: Justin Lavelly
Ginni Lavelly

EDITOR: Justin Lavelly

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Lyn Bixby

ADVERTISING / CIRCULATION: Vicki Moore
Angie Knost

ART DIRECTOR/ PRODUCTION: Tina Keach

PROOFREADERS: Woody Starkweather
Ginni Lavelly
Judy Lavelly

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Vanessa Bean

OFFICE MASCOT: Lynsey Lavelly

ADVISORY BOARD: John Hall
Sharon Lakey
Sue Coppenrath
Alan Boye
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Contributing Writers

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Isobel Swartz | Bill Amos | Robyn Greenstone |
| Lorna Quimby | Donna Garfield | |
| Nathaniel Tripp | Dee Palmer | |
| Rachel Siegel | Jim Ashley | |
| Lynn Bonfield | Sharon Lakey | |
| Vanna Guldenschuh | Van Parker | |

e-mail: info@northstarmonthly.com

www.northstarmonthly.com

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ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to you sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

PHOTOS: We'd like to see your photos and welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear.

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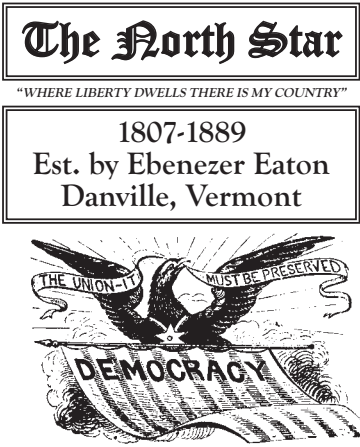
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State committee pushed towns to list unmarked soldier's graves, Columbus' anchor found off the coast of Trinidad



THE NORTH STAR

December 12, 1879

West Danville - Mr. N.D. McNaughton of West Danville has purchased from Mr. H.K. Fletcher, a half interest in the flouring mill at East Hardwick. Mr. M. is known in these parts as the owner of the West Danville mill, and as a fair dealing and honorable businessman, as well as a first rate miller. He is deserving of much success, and we trust his new purchase at Hardwick will prove a remunerative one.

Band Concert - The Promenade Concert given by the Danville Cornet Band and Orchestra at the town hall last Thursday evening was very largely attended and everybody present was pleased with the entertainment. The band boys propose to enlarge their orchestra to 10 or 12 instruments and when full-organized to give two or three similar entertainments in this village during the winter. They will also visit some other towns for the purpose of giving concerts.

Granby Fire - Loomis Well's saw mill was burned a week ago Friday. The loss is estimated at \$1,000. Everything was alright when Mr. Wells left for the night and it is supposed the fire may have started from friction.

Old Resident Gone - Mr. Levi Fuller dies in his home at the age of 85. He was one of the oldest inhabitants of our town, having lived here continuously for 64 years. He was one of 16 children born to Abraham and Rachel Fuller.

December 19, 1879

Stock Sale - What is called the greatest single stock transaction on record was consummated on Wednesday of last week, being the sale of Wm. H. Vanderbilt of \$20,000,000 of New York Central Railroad stock to a syndicate of foreign and domestic bankers, representing London parties and the Washburn railroad system, which is now to be brought into an alliance with the Central. Mr. Vanderbilt explains that he parts with this enormous amount of one of the best paying railroad properties in the country, because of the public feeling that he is "a great railroad monopolist and that sort of thing." Whatever may be his reasons, we don't believe this is one of the things Mr. Vanderbilt sells because it is in his pecuniary interest to do so and not because he is concerned with the public's apprehensions about him becoming too powerful.

Permanent Prosperity - On this subject the Springfield Republican offers some pertinent reflections. While the resources of this country are really immense, and one crisis

usually does not follow another so soon as would be the case if hard times return next year, it is well to consider all the circumstances, and to go slow, as the surest way to not get nipped. The country at this moment seems to be highly prosperous, but this prosperity largely depends on certain foreign conditions which may change any year. For several years we have gone on expanding our production of agricultural staples to meet the demand of successive bad crops abroad. Foreign wars, bad seasons, and the backwardness of Russia and other continental farmers have conspired to throw the world market into our hands.

Distribution of States - Probably the more nearly equal the States of this Union can be made, other considerations remaining the same, the more fully shall we be able to realize the full benefits of this system of government upon which the nation is founded. Of course natural causes and the different forms of settlement and processes of development which characterized the colonies out of which the original states were formed, made anything like equality in territory, resources and population impossible, and the same influences have acted to produce considerable diversity in the States that have since come into the Union, though to a lesser degree than at first. The new territories of the far west have been, and still are, overanxious to join the Union. They begin when no more than camps of adventurers, agriculturists and miners, with a few of the qualities that insure the peace and security of society, to agitate for the privileges and

powers to which only a sovereign state is entitled.

Soldiers Headstones - The State Committee investigating as to the number of soldier's graves unmarked by headstones, has published its report. It has heard from only 1234 of the 240 towns in the state, and 92 towns report an aggregate of 225 unmarked graves of soldiers. It is believed there are many more such graves in the other towns that have yet to report. It is now creditable to the patriotism of the selectmen of those towns that they allow this opportunity to have the government erect suitable headstones to mark the last resting place of our dead heroes to pass, simply from the lack of interest to look the matter up and report.

December 19, 1879

Practical President - An incident is relayed by Mr. Murdock, the tragedian, of Abraham Lincoln. Few who lived through the war have yet forgotten the poem of the "Sleeping Sentinel," which was written by Janvier in commemoration of an act of clemency by Lincoln in pardoning a young Vermont volunteer at the very moment when he had been lead out to be shot for sleeping at his post. The first public reading of this poem by Mr. Murdock took place at the White House, the President, the poet and a larger assembly being present. Before reading the verses aloud, Murdock privately pointed out to Mr. Janvier a passage where he had described the arrival of the President with the pardon as being accompanied by the sounds of rolling wheels, whereas Lincoln had rode in on horseback to the place of

execution. Janvier thought is a matter of very trifling consequence and the reading proceeded. At the close, the President and many in the crowd were in tears. Lincoln, wiping the tell tale tears from his cheeks, then said hastily in a smothered voice, "Very touching Mr. Janvier but I did not go in a coach." "Oh well, Mr. President," said Senator Foote of Vermont. "We all know you would have gone on foot of need be." "Yes, but the fact is - and let us stick to the facts - I went on horseback," said Mr. Lincoln.

December 26, 1879

Lost Relic - A curious artifact of one of the expeditions that sailed to the West Indies under the command of Columbus has, it is stated by a Martiniq ue journal, been recently discovered. On the fourth of August, 1458 [Editor's Note: This year must have been a 1879 typo since Columbus would have been seven years old in 1458], a small squadron of three vessels under the orders of Christopher Columbus was anchored off the southeastern extremity of the island of Trinidad. Late at night, Columbus saw a wall of water approaching the vessels from the south. His own ship was lifted so high by the oncoming wave that he feared it would either be submerged or dashed onshore, when the cable of one of the other ships parted under the strain. The sudden rise of the waters of the gulf is mentioned by Columbus' son, Ferdinand, who adds that the fleet suffered no damage save the loss of one anchor. This anchor has been found, strangely enough only 8 feet below the surface of the ground.

THE North Star MONTHLY

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Searching for a legacy

By ISOBEL P. SWARTZ

The high school I attended in the industrial north of England was founded in 1875, the sister school to a boys' high school founded in 1662. Our student body and faculty were all female. Every year we celebrated Founders' Day to recognize the foresight and generosity of the 19th century mill owners and industrialists who had recognized the importance of educating women. Included in the ceremony was an anthem based on text from the Old Testament Apocryphal book of Ecclesiasticus Ch 44: v.2-15

"Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us ... Such as did bear rule in their kingdoms, men renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and declaring prophecies:

Leaders of the people by their counsels, and by their knowledge ... Such as found out musical tunes, and recited verses in writing...

There be of them, that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported.

And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been...

But these were merciful men, whose righteousness hath not been forgotten...

their glory shall not be blotted out... Their bodies are buried in peace; but their name liveth for evermore."

Looking back, I wonder whether any of the faculty found it ironic that we females -- some of whom were highly educated women -- should be only praising men, but that was in the days before political correctness. But praise them we did, because their generosity had also endowed us with scholarships to Oxford and Cambridge universities, and many academic prizes.

I had never given much thought to the word "legacy", (a gift of money or property left to someone; a bequest; anything handed down from, or as from, an ancestor) and its implications, until the last part of the George W. Bush Administration. At that time the President and the media seemed focused on his legacy. Surely, two wars; a bankrupt economy; torture of prisoners and civilians; abrogation of international treaties; and a diminished world view of the United States seemed to me to be legacy enough for one man!

To think, while one is living, of creating a legacy of the type I have described, takes a certain level of arrogance. This is the same type of pride that can create another type of legacy entirely -- an aristocracy of wealth and power -- one that may be the result of ruthless ambition or selfishness. A true legacy is not created in desperation at the end of a political term. To me this shows a pathetic need for public recognition that may be unjustified. A true legacy is a gift, the summation of a life seen by others through the lens of time.

In thinking of many famous people I wonder whether most of them worried about their "legacies" as they lived their lives. Did Beethoven, Bach, Mozart or Vivaldi think of this as they toiled to supply their wealthy patrons with music to entertain them and impress their friends —

that glorious music that we, today, call Classical music? Did William Shakespeare think of his legacy as he worked by candlelight to write plays to satisfy the rabble audiences of the London theaters of his day? Somehow, I doubt it!

Perhaps Leonardo da Vinci or Michelangelo believed they were creating their master works for the greater glory of God and certainly for the legacies of the Popes of their day. But surely for them the pay for their work, that provided daily bread, wine and cheese so necessary for survival, was probably more immediately important. And what of great writers past and present? Are they thinking of "legacy" as they write plays, poetry, novels, and great works of science, politics, and economics? Were Charles Darwin or Albert Einstein thinking of their legacies as they formulated and refined the theories of Evolution or Relativity? And what about the female writers, women such as the Bronte sisters, or scientists like Eve Curie, women who could not publish unless assuming men's names or publish with male associates! They and other scholars and explorers present the bounty of their discoveries for all humanity to share and discuss. Creative genius, a part of our innermost being, forced them to go on explorations of the mind or physical world or, by resisting that force, dooms them to live unsatisfied lives. What they created may well be considered a legacy to the human race. We who enjoy their creations can refer to these gifts in that way, but creating a legacy is not what drives this genius.

We all leave a legacy of some kind, through our families, our work, our creativity and our sins, great and small. Human civilizations are based upon these bequests. We have no choice but to participate. Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Church-yard" describes this incidental humble giving of a legacy:

"Perhaps in this neglected spot is laid Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire; Hands, that the rod of empire might have sway'd, Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre:..."

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife, Their sober wishes never learn'd to stray; Along the cool sequester'd vale of life They kept the noiseless tenour of their way"

Our real choice is whether to live our lives as best we can, or to worry about what future generations will think of us when we are gone. Our real choice is whether to follow our personal creative genius and let it bloom in whatever way it will, or to stifle it by conforming to what we think will please others. These are important choices we can make for our peace of mind. Let the future define our legacies!

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Happy Holidays

A near death in the family

By JOHN DOWNS

On Friday Oct. 1, Virginia and I moved into our new permanent home, the Lodge at Shelburne Bay, a Senior Living Community in Shelburne. In many ways, it was a traumatic and agonizing experience to leave our attractive Lyndon home on the hill that we had built and occupied for 25 years.

Living quarters were all on one level, with windows everywhere, and indescribably beautiful views of Burke Mountain and the White Mountains.

I will not mention the names of close friends whom we shall miss. We had no relatives living in the state, so we were very dependent on them for most of our social activities. With the lawyers and staff at Downs Rachlin Martin in St. Johnsbury, they made for a very comfortable way of life.

As the moving day approached, it became apparent that the most difficult part of our move would be adjusting to the probable death of Lily, our beautiful 18-year-old cat that had been part of the family since she was three weeks old. Although pets are allowed at our new home, there really was no place for Lily to fit into in our small, three-room apartment.

We rationalized about leaving Lily behind, and justified our decision on somewhat selfish grounds. She really had lived a wonderful life, thanks to our thoughtfulness and indulgence. She slept most of the time, surfacing mostly at mealtime and when we entertained friends whom she liked, knowing there would be special treats and warm caressing hands to stroke her head and back.

We did not think that our new life would agree with her after her life-long idyllic existence, and that euthanasia would be best for her. We made an appointment with the veterinarian who had cared for her all of her life.

In the meantime, as the fatal day came closer, we enlisted our friends and did everything we could think of to find a home for Lily. While

time was passing, Lily was so fortunate in that she had no idea about her pending demise, and was much more comfortable than we were.

One lady in her mid-80s, who had lost a cat, came to our house to meet Lily, expecting that she could make a comfortable home for both of them. Unfortunately at the last minute, she didn't think that she would be up to the challenge, with the possibility of having Lily die soon after her adoption.

Time was moving on and we were desperate. A friend dug a grave for her, and we found a concrete look-alike for Lily's headstone. She would be buried near a tree stump that had been marked in memory of some relatives.

I am not one who ordinarily believes in miracles, but I am now convinced that, on rare occasions, something akin to a miracle can occur. On the day before Lily was to be euthanized, a very close friend who had been helpful from the beginning with trying to find Lily a home, remembered a woman acquaintance who liked cats so much that she usually kept more than one around her house in Barton. When Lily's dilemma was presented to her, Mary Fleck agreed to take Lily in as her third cat. No one except Lily knew in the beginning how this would work. Lily had lived without animal companionship for more than ten years. But she must have known that her survival depended on her comfortable adjustment to this new family. She made it work after exchanging a few hisses.

Mary reports that peace reigns, and that Lily has a home for as long as she shall live. In the meantime, Virginia and I are sleeping much better.

Lions Memory Tree Star

The St. Johnsbury Area Lions Club annual lighting of the Lion Lyle Little Memory tree is being held at the Courthouse Park on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. There will be a ceremony and the lighting of the tree and the community is welcome to attend. There will be hot chocolate and cookies provided after the ceremony. Completion of this Lions club project is a benefit to the community because it helps us to serve the community through our various programs that we sponsor. Some of those programs include eyeglasses for the needy, juvenile diabetes, educational aid for area high school seniors, and families in crisis. This year's star will be dedicated to the memory of Franklin G. Hovey II.

Come and join us at the lighting of the Memory tree and help us honor Franklin G. Hovey II for everything he has done for his community.

Donations are being accepted, if anyone wishes to light a bulb in the memory of a loved one. Mail a donation of \$10 per bulb to: Lion Mary Denio, 4583 Old County Road, Waterford, VT 05819. A complete list of names will be printed in the *North Star* around the middle of January, 2011.

The St. Johnsbury Area Lions Club has 20 members and meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm and on the third Friday of the month at 6:30 pm at VFW on Eastern Ave. in St. Johnsbury. Lions clubs are a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the St. Johnsbury Area Lions Club, please contact President Lion Steve Simpson at 802-626-5704 or at sjsimpson@charter.net or any local Lions member.

David Toll, M.D.

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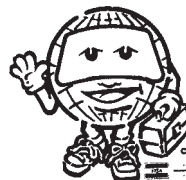
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'Yea, though I Walk through the Valley in the Shadow of Tech'

BY RACHEL SIEGEL



Larry and Sergey, our guide tells us, want to recreate a college campus: a place to work, but also to live and play and hang out. It is a place where minds can work without daily distractions, so meals are provided—in more than two dozen different venues and styles—as well as laundry, dental care, etc.

You can bring your dog to work. You can take a mid-day volleyball break. Dress is definitely casual, as is the workplace hierarchy. The idea is that productivity is optimal when googlers can do nothing but think and create at their own pace, for the product is just creativity itself.

This new model for nurturing intellectual productivity, our economic growth sector, is based on the assumption that

a critical mass of like thinkers, in close proximity and constantly engaged, whether at work or volleyball, will produce the stimulation and feedback to bring forth great ideas. This is also the idea behind the traditional college campus: providing classrooms and teachers but also room and board so that students can focus on study, and can also live, play, and hang out, that is, collaborate and commune

with colleagues at all times.

That sense of constant and limitless connection is, to date, the deepest achievement of technology. Google is based on the idea that in the random chaos of existence, there are many fewer degrees of separation than we thought. Anything can be searched and found, any two dots connected. Information is the universe that we create by living and going about our business, until it is our lives and our business. The personal is the professional, because after all, the professional is only a person.

More and more is personal, yet public. We share with "friends" and store thoughts in "clouds," making personal devices smaller, cheaper, more necessary, and more fun. We have intimate conversations in public spaces, and we blog the minutiae of everyday life, losing the boundaries of our habits, consumptions, and connections. As we lose privacy and ownership—the very basis of trade and thus of markets—to networks and

sharing, profit increases. As always, inside information is a valuable commodity.

Commoditization is the source of our prosperity. Markets have been generating and consuming information for centuries, but as a means to an end. It was useful in trade, but it was trade that generated wealth. Now information itself is our best seller: we separate it from its source and connect it to its users, and in doing so create competitive and comparative advantage. It is a textbook case of specialization allowing mass production and consumption, creating efficiency and value.

Googlers are encouraged to bring new ideas to fruition, to simply take the initiative. There is no hint that there are ever resource constraints, although there is a green and sustainable ethos against waste. It's in the company colored bicycles that are littered across the campus to provide quick, healthy, and green transportation for googlers, and it's in the solar-paneled carports where googlers' electric cars can recharge for the next commute.

Teachers have always been in the information business: teachers from the high schools, vocational and tech centers, military bases, community colleges, and state colleges where most higher education happens. Education, speaking of intellectual productivity, is a growth industry, and these are the service providers to the masses, the teachers in the trenches. No

illusions of limitless resources for them, they are too long too savvy in the zero-sum game that is the provision of public goods with scarce resources.

Half of all college students never graduate with a degree. And half of those who do not finish college say that it is the cost of textbooks—textbooks, the embodiment of information transfer—not tuition, that forces them to drop out. Most who do graduate are so far in debt that it takes the first decade—at least—of their adult lives to pay that off and thus to begin to participate in the economy. Rather than being an homage to the typical college campus, Google headquarters is a taunting fantasy. But then again, the typical college student will never even get close.

We are creating a society that is further separated by the very notion of connectedness, crossing the fine line between specialization and exclusion. In fact, it takes more than a relatively few select minds to create a vibrant and productive economy. We share, but we have yet to share our potential.

Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy. She is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College. Her textbook Personal Finance is published by Flatworld Knowledge, Inc., www.flatworldknowledge.com. She recently toured Silicon Valley and Google headquarters with a group of business educators.



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THE ARTIST AS HISTORIAN: Robin Rothman recreates Danville's Old Stone Gaol



By SHARON LAKEY

Artist Robin Rothman was given a mission; Mary Prior wanted her to recreate, as correctly as possible, two of Danville's historic public buildings—the Bark Meeting House and the old stone gaol (jail). Neither of these buildings still stands; nor are there sketches or photographs of them. It was a job for historical sleuths. The two worked in tandem, digging up as much written material as possible as well as Robin visiting the sites where the buildings were thought to have stood. Before she passed, Mary saw Robin's rendition of the Bark Meeting House, and it brought tears to her eyes.

As time progressed, Mary became confined to her house, but Robin continued to pursue the jail. "I hoped to finish it so she could see that one, too," said Robin. Unfortunately, Mary passed in July; the piece was finished in late September.

Along with the finished drawings, Robin has recorded and submitted her sleuth's path for the historical record. How did she get to her finished drawings? When asked, she smiles and emphatically says, "It's a total fabrication!" We will trace her method in arriving at the jail drawing now and let the reader decide how well she has done.

For the jail, her research included site visitations to the Dow-Webster house, later sold to B.F. Haviland, on Brainerd Street. The house is still there, occupied presently by James Beattie and Lindsey Calkins.

Robin walked and studied the landscape surrounding the house, looking for possible footings of the jail. She found hints of a stone wall and parts of a broken, hewn granite stone. A hump of earth can be seen where possibly the jail stood.

A map drawing was of particular interest to her. The Beers Atlas of 1875 hangs on the wall at Historical House. It shows Jail Street (now Brainerd) with the footprint of the Haviland house and another structure sitting akimbo to it entitled "Old Jail." Robin was puzzled by its placement in the landscape; the jail does not sit parallel to the street. Instead, it is more in line with the present day Masonic Temple (originally the Baptist church).

To find background on its most likely construction, she pored over microfilm of the old North Star, read

and reread accounts relating to the structure in historical gazetteers, the town history and searched the Internet for photos of other historic stone jails.

The original jail in Danville was constructed in 1796 of logs. In 1801, when Danville became the shire town of Caledonia County (the county seat), it was upgraded. According to Child's Gazetteer, it was constructed with "square logs, notched and pinned together." That jail also included a pillory and whipping post.

Later, in 1834, Danville was required to build a more substantial jail. Town records show that the Town Warning of 1834 included an article to see how much money the town would raise to build the new jail. It was decided to raise \$1,000; an equal sum would be raised by subscription. Ira Brainerd was put in charge of the construction. According to Child's, the structure



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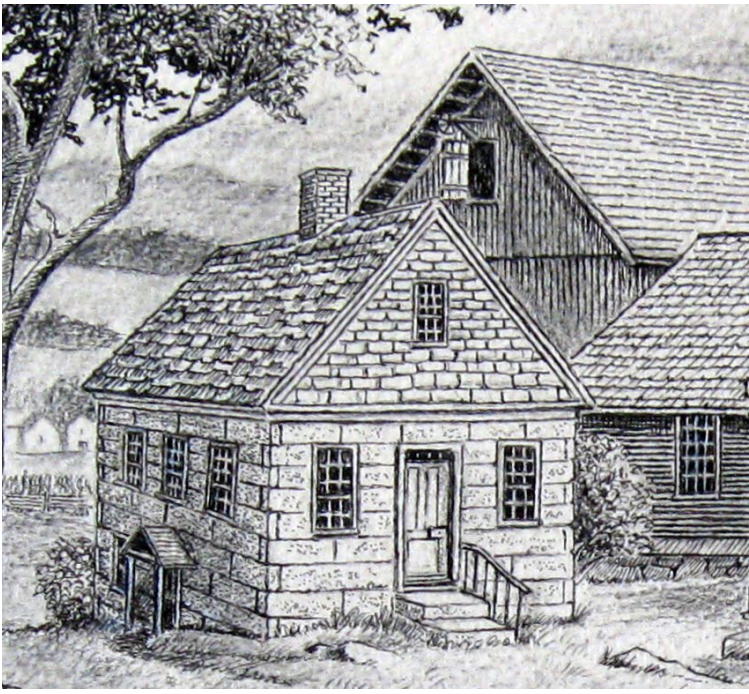


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After gathering information on the structure of the jail, Robin decided on this drawing the building in this form.

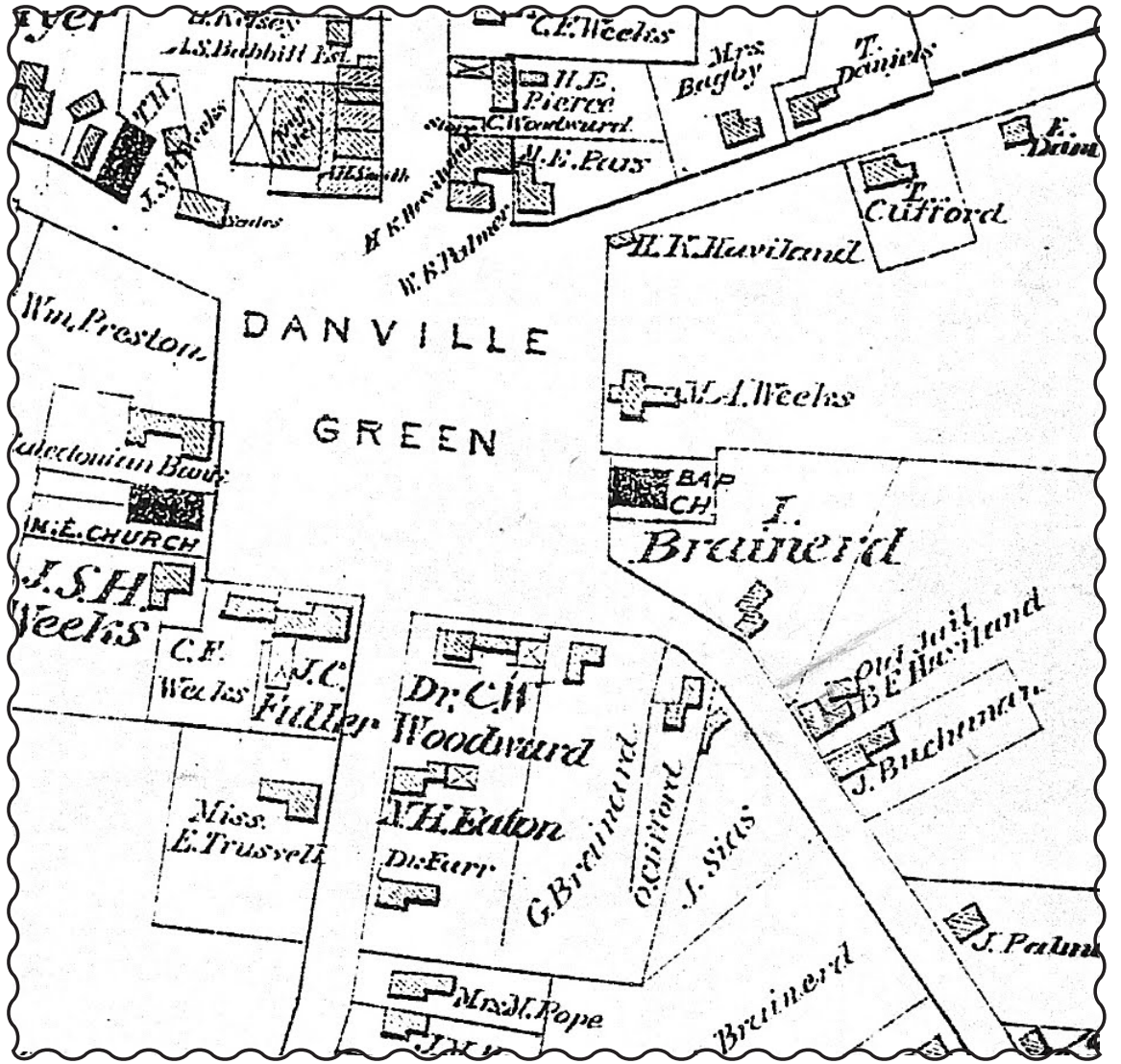
was made of “immense granite stones, some 20 foot in length, quarried in Danville, hewn and dowelled together.” In 1838, the court ordered a picket fence to be installed around the jail. A 10 to 12 foot high fence made of planks that were sharpened to a point was added.

Two articles from the North Star were used by Robin to help determine the jail design. In her search, she found the escapades of a prisoner, Daniel Floyd, to be most helpful. In the first

article, Floyd, “a prisoner confined on a charge of railroad thefts, and awaiting his trial at the next County Court,” alerted the jailer to a fire in his cell. The article relates that the jailer ran upstairs to douse the fire, putting Floyd in another cell to do so. From this, Robin surmised the structure was at least a two-floor affair.

In a later issue, Floyd is reported to make his actual escape:

“Last Sunday night or early



A photo of the B.F. Haviland house on Brainerd Street. The Old Jail is shown at an odd angle. Robin noticed the angle was the same as the Baptist Church (now the Masonic Hall). Beers Atlas, 1875.

Monday morning, Daniel Floyd, ... awaiting his trial at the next County Court, succeeded in making his escape from the jail in this village. To effect it, he evidently had help from someone outside the prison, who no doubt furnished him tools to work with. With an inch and a half auger he bored out a space large enough to admit his body, from a large heavy beam overhead, and in this way gained the attic. He then removed some stones at one corner at the north gable end of the attic, and having fastened a rope firmly round the chimney, swung himself down by it, outside, into the prison yard. It was then a com-

paratively easy matter for him to scale the high picket fence, jump over the other side, and “be off.”

“... Two panes of glass were broken out of his cell window, and though it was protected by heavy iron bars run across, yet from the tracks and other appearances outside, it was evident that someone, probably by the use of a ladder, had handed in to the prisoner, by breaking the window glass, the auger, rope, &c...”

Jackpot! There was an attic from which the prisoner removed stones as well as description of a chimney, window treatment, and gable ends. At this point, Robin had a good

idea about how the building looked and functioned. Now she had to set it in its surroundings to create a sense of place.

But before we get to that, it is important to know the fate of the jail. In 1856, Danville’s shire town designation was stripped and given to neighboring St. Johnsbury. The citizens of Danville were angry about what they felt was a theft of power by political intrigue instigated by the Fairbanks family. Much ill will resulted. The North Star reported heavily upon the situation, stating Danville had gone through much expense in building, maintaining and upgrading the County Seat facilities. These included a handsome



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Left: Many details exist in this photo about the house and barn as well as the dress of Haviland. Right: This is approximately where the old jail would have stood.

courtroom and fireproof room for County records. Likewise, the jail was considered to be the best in the state.

The town fought the change, but to no avail. Still, hard feelings prevailed and when the new County seat offered to buy the stones of the jail for \$700 and move them to St. Johnsbury to build their own new facility, the Town refused to sell them. The old jail stood empty until 1877 when it was torn down. The stones were purchased for a sum of \$100 by the North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. They became the foundation stones for the church tower. In the church records, it is reported that the sermon that followed the open-

ing of the church referred to the stones as “removed from Satan’s realm to serve a higher purpose.”

Though the jail was no longer in use, Robin felt setting it according to the Beers map of 1875 would give the best feel as to how the building fit into the town landscape. In the mid-1800’s, B.F. Haviland, who now owned the house where the old jail stood, was a well-known breeder of Morgan horses. A number of photos exist at Historical House of the Haviland house, barn, family, and livestock. The most famous of his horses can be traced back to the original Justin Morgan. That

horse had one white foot, and Robin believed might be in one of the photos. She also had two photos of Haviland himself--one standing, holding the lead of a horse and one of him seated in a hitched Brewster Buggy.

Now, she had all the pieces necessary to do her artist’s magic. She called one day and said, “It’s done.

Come get it before I ruin it!”

So, reader, you may now judge. Is this work of art a total fabrication? On this subject, Robin quotes from the Mikado with her flashing smile: “Corroborative detail intended to lend verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative.” Mary would be happy, I believe.

Both the Bark Meeting House and the Old Stone Gaol drawings will be on display at Historical House during the month of December.

To see this article and a link to the photo album of Robin’s work on this project, go to <http://danvillevthistorical.blogspot.com>

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The majestic prime rib for Christmas

No Small Potatoes *with Vanna Guldenschub*



I am looking forward to a Prime Rib Roast for Christmas this year. I don't think there is any dinner quite as majestic as this wonderful roast. I have given it to you before, but I think it deserves repeating, especially in this year of the royal engagement of William and Kate. The regal English tradition of a standing rib roast for Christmas or New Years' celebration works for me. It is elegant in its simplicity and needs no more enhancement than its own juices. It creates a meal fit for a king or queen.

There is great detail here because you want to do everything possible to properly cook prime rib. It is a significant financial investment and you want it to be perfect.

Although there are different ways to prepare this roast, there are certain points that most all cooks agree upon for a successful outcome.

Note that if you are having a big crowd – over 15 – you might want to cook a more traditional turkey or ham.

Helpful Hints:

1. Buy at least a three rib roast (about 6 lbs.) for proper cooking and make sure the chine/backbone is cut out. This makes it possible to carve the roast without having to cut through bone. You can buy a boned roast, but it will not have the deep flavor of a roast

cooked with the bones attached. Purchase your roast at a market where there is someone knowledgeable to talk to about how the roast was cut. At the same time be careful of advice on time and temperature and overall cooking of the roast. Often times the butcher is not a chef and can err in recipe directions.

2. Bring the roast to room temperature before cooking. This usually takes about 1 ½ hours to achieve – so plan ahead. A roast that is refrigerator cold in the center will not cook properly.

3. Cook uncovered for the whole time. The marbling and fat on prime rib will self baste the roast all through the cooking process creating a succulent crispy outer layer. Yum, I can smell it now.

4. Put the roast in a 450 degree oven for the first ½ hour. This seals in the juices and browns the beef. Turn the oven to 350 degrees for the remainder of the cooking time.

5. DON'T OVERCOOK! The most important moment in this process is when you take the roast out of the oven. I use a meat thermometer. After 1 hour insert the thermometer in the center of the roast. When the needle starts to edge toward 120 take it out of the oven. It will be rare in the center and well done on the very ends. If you want cook it to medium rare in the center let the tem-

perature on the thermometer reach 125. Remember it will continue to cook after it is out of the oven. There are recipes out there that tell you to cook the roast to 140 degrees for rare meat. Don't believe it!!! You will end up with a well done, thoroughly overcooked roast and it will be ruined. If you want well done meat cook a pot roast or a brisket. It will cost you a lot less.

6. Let the meat rest for at least ½ hour before carving. The meat muscle relaxes, tenderizes and the roast can finish its cooking process.

7. Carve the meat with a long sharp knife. Cut medium thick slices. Every rib will yield two slices – one with the bone attached and one without. Carve this roast on a board that lets you save the juices for adding to the defatted pan liquid for a delicious au jus.

Traditional Standing Rib Roast

You can put a number of different seasonings and herbs on the outside of a rib roast. I keep this version very simple, but you can get creative.

I like to serve peas with small onions and parsley potatoes with prime rib. A green salad is also a nice accompaniment. If you are having wine with this roast, I suggest a robust red – as good as your

pocketbook allows.

Three or four rib roast (6-8 lbs)
Salt, pepper and sugar
4 carrots – sliced diagonally
6 ribs celery – sliced
2 onions – coarsely cut
1 bunch scallions – trimmed and left whole
6-8 cups cooking liquid (beef broth and red wine)

Make a ¾ cup mix of equal parts of salt, pepper and sugar. Set aside. Put the mix of vegetables in the bottom of the roasting pan you will be using for the beef and pour in about 2 cups of the cooking liquid. I prefer to use boxed beef broth mixed with a little red wine.

Settle a rack for cooking the beef over the vegetables. Season the roast by rubbing the salt, pepper and sugar vigorously into the meat. Rosemary, thyme, chopped garlic or even cinnamon and nutmeg can be used depending on your taste.

Place the roast, uncovered, in a 450 degree oven. After ½ hour add 2 more cups of the cooking liquid and turn the oven down to 350 degrees and cook for 1 hour (three ribs), 1 ½ hours (4 ribs). At this point you should check on the temperature of the roast. Pull out the beef and insert a meat thermometer into the center of the roast. If it does not move the needle at this point it probably needs another ½ hour to 45

minutes. If the needle starts to move it is nearing completion and you have to start paying attention. If it does not reach 120 you need to put it back in the oven for about 15 minutes to ½ hour. When it reaches 120 degrees (rare in the center) or 125 degrees (medium rare in the center) it is done. Keep checking the thermometer because you absolutely do not want to overcook this wonderful roast. I know this sounds a little retentive but think of your investment and you will want to get this part right.

When the roast is done remove it to a shallow pan to rest and add the remainder of the cooking liquid to the bottom of the roasting pan. Take the vegetables out and set them aside. If they are not too overcooked you can serve them with the beef. Put the roasting pan on top of the stove (medium heat) and stir up the bits from the bottom of the pan. Strain the liquid into a measuring cup and let sit until the fat floats to the top. Skim off the fat and you will have an au jus to use when you serve the roast beef.

Let the roast rest and carve it as detailed in the helpful hints above. Catch the juice to add to your au jus. Ladle a little of the au jus over the sliced beef at service.

Sauces

The following sauces go well with prime rib. These sauces are especially tasty with leftover beef slices.

Mustard, Horseradish Sauce
6 tablespoons Dijon or whole grain mustard
1 cup mayonnaise
3 tablespoons horseradish
3 tablespoons sour cream
Salt and pepper

Whisk the mustard, mayonnaise, horseradish and sour cream together in a bowl and then stir in salt and pepper to taste. Serve on the side.

Bleu Cheese Sauce
4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons butter
2-3 cups half and half – heated
3 cups crumbled blue cheese

Make a roux from the flour and butter. Cook it for about 2 minutes. Whisk in the hot half and half and let it thicken. Stir in the bleu cheese and cook until it has melted.

Serve in individual small bowls for dipping.

This bleu cheese sauce has me thinking that you could do a "Buffalo" prime rib for a Sunday football watching meal. Rub your roast with a mix of hot sauce and butter and pepper. Prepare as above and serve with bleu cheese dip and oven fries. I think that would be good enough for New Years Day or even Superbowl.

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 **Up on the Farm Early** 

CHRISTMAS, 2010

By LORNA QUIMBY

You know Christmas is coming when you get your first Christmas catalog. Or do you? And when the stores first get out their decorations and begin to play carols. Right? Halloween masks and plastic decorations show up the first of September. Thanksgiving napkins, table cloths, and paper plates are gone by the last of October, if not earlier. A flood of catalogs pours into your mail box. First fall sales, then early winter, winter, and lo and behold, Christmas. If you order early from one catalog, you'll get at least two more. Items are arranged differently but are still the same as in the first catalog you received.

We get catalogs from companies I have never heard of. Most of the items are overpriced, and if you can think of anyone who would want some of them, you know some odd people. Shipping costs begin at \$9.95 (read \$10.00) and go on from there, depending on the total of your order. This fall there's been a "shipping cost" war between companies. Be sure to read the fine print. Some "free shipping" only applies when your order totals \$100 or more. In other words, they don't want to be bothered with small orders.

Besides catalogs you get "begging" letters. They pour into your box from non-profits you've never heard of. Not to mention the phone calls. After warnings about the many scams out there, we make donations only to local groups—we know where their money goes—and

it's not to highly paid con artists!

I wonder what's new in Christmas lights this year. Something bigger and better, I'm sure. The whole idea is to throw out any lights you have on hand and buy, buy, buy. Who ever heard of having a family tradition? Only us antiques who survived the Great Depression, World War II, Korea, and so on through the whole depressing list. We cherish those "firsts," our first strand of Christmas lights (now outdated and unsafe), the star we made for our first tree—foil covered cardboard. We don't put them on our tree anymore, but the star rests in the bottom

of the box of Christmas decorations.

If your family is like ours, an item you made one year becomes an unalterable part of your decorations the next. Projects at school appear on next year's tree ad infinitum, as in the sleigh Kathy made from egg box sections, green pipe cleaners (for runners) and tiny packages tied with gold string. Strands of lights have changed. No longer does Dick have to wrestle with a set of lights that does not work if one bulb is gone. Some icicles get thrown out with the tree but there are still some left for this year.

Present-day icicles are made of plastic. Ma bought ones made of tin foil for the tree at the Farm. We younger girls carefully placed them on the tips of branches after all the

other decorations were hung.

The tree on the farm had no lights—we didn't get electricity until 1946—but we didn't miss them. In the evening after we'd decorated it, Deedee, Patty, and I sat on the couch and admired our tree. Ma and the big girls would put out the presents after we'd gone, reluctantly, to bed. The bright glow from the Aladdin lamp was reflected in each one of the icicles, which moved in the circulation of warm air from the furnace meeting cold air from the door behind the tree. The lamp's glow also touched the glittering star on the top of the tree. The glass ornaments, red, green and blue, sparkled here and there.

Before we took down the tree, each one of the ornaments was carefully packed away in its box, the garlands were stowed

away and each icicle pulled from the tree. Inevitably, some icicles broke under our clumsy fingers, but the short pieces were saved to use another year and woe to the one who broke a Christmas ball. Ma did not plan on replacing her ornaments each year nor did she worry about "keeping up with the neighbors."

I'm greatly amused by the efforts towns make to have the best festive decorations. The merchants encourage the rivalry, for they are hoping to lure potential buyers to their stores. "Keeping up with the Jones's" is good for business as is "newer is nicer" and "off with the old, on with the new." However, as Ma could tell you, when times are hard, a little tradition can make your Christmases memorable for your family.

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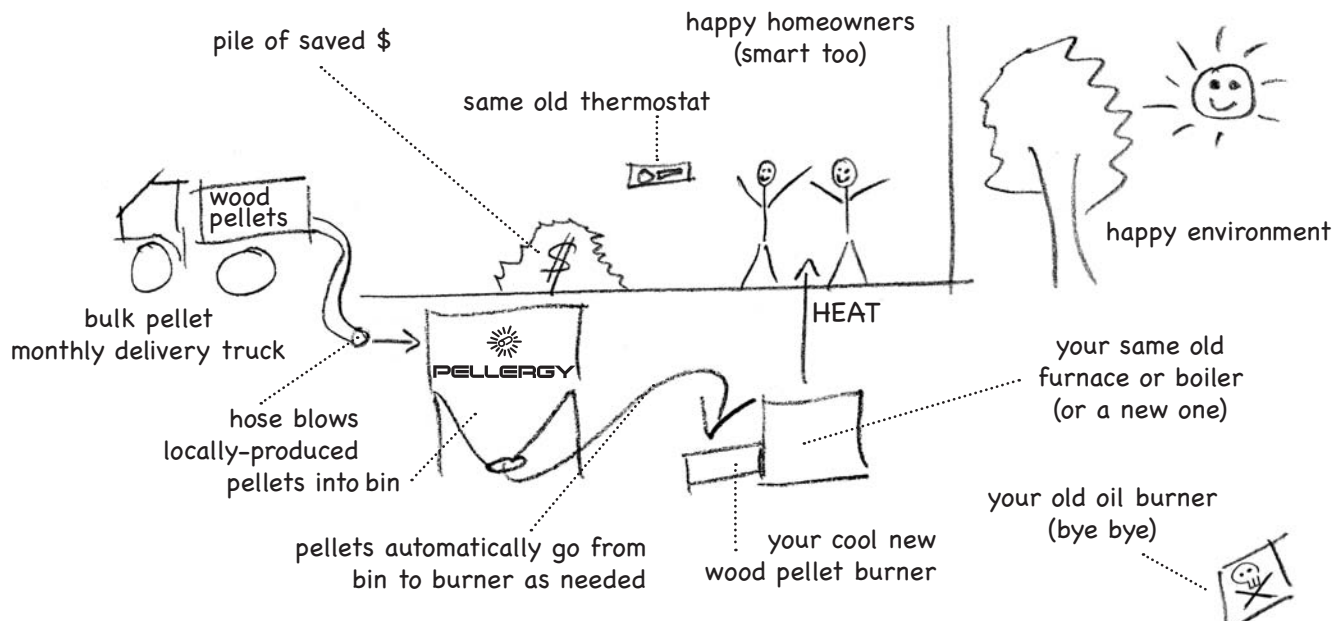
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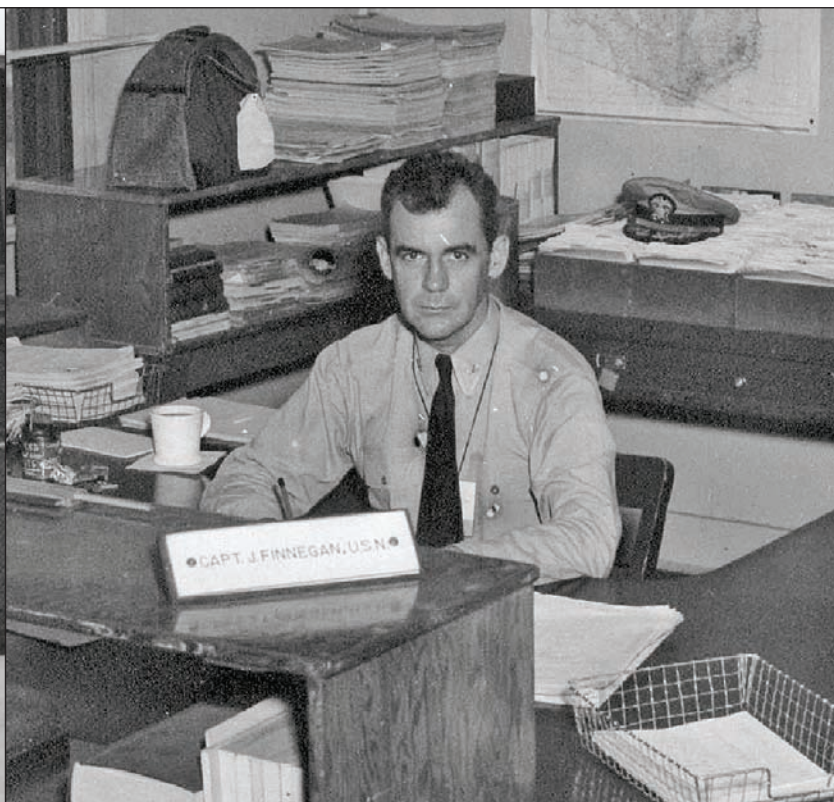
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LEFT: The FRUPAC (Fleet Radio Unit Pacific), the most secret unit of the Pacific War, was situated above Pearl Harbor on Makalapa crater. Here personnel are coming off watch past armed Marine sentries. Three officers of Section GZ-1 are (left to right) Lieutenants Bill Amos, Frank Roegge, Larry Olson USNR. RIGHT: Captain Joe Finnegan, a cryptographic genius, was one of five FRUPAC senior officers primarily responsible for many of the U.S. Navy's most important victories. Finnegan, along with his GZ-1 colleague, Marine Colonel Alva "Red" Lasswell were the only two to identify Midway as the target for the Japanese attack that resulted in Admiral Raymond Spruance's crushing defeat of the enemy. Without the intelligence these two officers provided, the superior Japanese forces would have easily occupied Midway on their way to invading Hawaii later in the year.

PACIFIC DUTY - PART II - FLEET RADIO

After a couple of months of translating duty in JICPOA, (Joint Intelligence Pacific Ocean Area) I received a puzzling request. First thing the next morning, I was directed to meet a Marine Colonel in the building's bunkroom where overnight workers could rest. I arrived, he came in, shut the door and we sat on facing bunks.

Colonel Alva ("Red") Lasswell USMC had been a prewar language officer at the American Embassy in Tokyo. I had heard of him back then, for he married the sister of one of my American School classmates. Now, six years later, I had no idea he was one of the most important men in the Navy's code-breaking organization, a cryptographic genius. Or that he was highly experienced in communications intelligence, the interception of encoded radio broadcasts from other nations. Before the war he had been station chief for this in Shanghai, but when things heated up in 1937 with the Chinese-Japanese War — or "China Incident," as the Japanese called it — he moved south to the naval base in Cavite in the Philippines where the code-breaking unit was known as Station CAST. He transferred to Pearl Harbor before the war began.

He hadn't come far to interview me — only down the hall through a swinging security door that denied entry to all of us in JICPOA, even though we were intelligence officers with a degree of security clearance. Behind that door lay FRUPAC, its acronym

...I remember being one of the stony silent ones when a friendly conversation elsewhere turned to what I did. Only in my later years, after almost everything has finally been declassified... is it comfortable to talk freely.

standing for "Fleet Radio Unit Pacific," but I had no idea what went on there.

Lasswell was a tall, sandy-haired officer in immaculately pressed Marine khaki. After a series of bewildering questions, he zeroed in and asked, "Amos, do you like to do crossword puzzles?"

Suspecting something was afoot, I said I did, which was hardly so, but after a few more oblique questions he said that was all and to expect orders.

I realized I had passed whatever screening he intended and went back to my translating desk wondering, what next?

Orders arrived directing me to FRUPAC beyond the swinging door into the other half of our building. Not only had we previously been denied entry, nobody from there ever talked about what went on inside. If you mentioned the unit to one of those who worked there, a stony silence ensued until we shifted to another topic. We JICPOA intelligence officers often guessed, but that was all.

In JICPOA, we wore a yellow-banded plastic photo identifica-



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tion badge hung on a cord around the neck. It had to be displayed conspicuously at all times. I'd seen men going in and out of FRUPAC's swinging security doors in the hall wearing a similar card, but banded in red.

From the moment of entering FRUPAC, my life and mind became compartmentalized. Security at all costs was impressed upon us at once, long before we understood what was going on. Later on, I remember being one of the stony silent ones when a friendly conversation elsewhere turned to what I did. It became a matter of course that persisted almost a lifetime. Only in my later years, after almost everything has finally been declassified and described by others, is it comfortable to talk freely.

"Red" Lasswell also selected two others from among several dozen officers in the translation unit, Frank Roegge and Larry Olson. They too must have passed the crossword puzzle test, but why the three of us were chosen from the large pool of translation officers, I never knew. From that day on we wore red photo identification cards hung around our necks that allowed access to this mysterious unit.

The card became part of me. Leaving the front gate I made sure to tuck it securely out of sight, but it never left my person while in uniform. For more than two years, when entering to go on duty, day or night, the Marine guard looked me up and down, inspected my card, and when satisfied snapped a salute and I was allowed to enter.

With the exception of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz and his fleet intelligence officer, Commander Edwin Layton, those red-banded cards were the only

means by which anyone, including admirals or VIPs of any stripe could gain entry to the building past the Marine sentry, no matter how urgent their business. Commander Jasper Holmes, who had an office inside our building, forgot his card one day. The Marine guard greeted him respectfully by name, but refused him entry until the Duty Officer came out and vouched for his own boss by issuing him a temporary pass.

Flag officers and ship captains, if not cleared (almost none were), were told nothing about what went on in FRUPAC, although they regularly received its intelligence that had been thoroughly sanitized as to origin. There were times when operational success had to be weighed against the possibility of a breach in security, with security the higher priority. Often a mobile communications intelligence officer aboard a flagship in a task force could not tell the admiral in command what the source of information was — just the intelligence itself.

Such a decree of security had an odd effect upon me. By not talking about my work except when on duty, I nearly stopped thinking about it outside of the FRUPAC building. When I left the service in 1946, I was ordered not to discuss my work with anyone, family included, for at least 20 years, but it turned out to be much longer than that. Apparently our predecessors had been told 50 years, which at the time seemed a bit much in view of evolving methods and technology, yet it was only then that full declassification occurred. I had no difficulty accepting such an order, for it was simply a continuation of what I'd been accustomed to. Returned to civilian life, removed

from service and communications intelligence, I spent a near-lifetime in silence about my work. Despite now being able to reminisce freely, the subject has remained a grave and consequential business I'm not always comfortable talking about.

Following a recent address I gave at a national cryptographic veteran's association, my eldest son attending as a guest said afterward he thought he knew my life very well, but over 95% of what I had to say was entirely new to him.

FRUPAC personnel were strictly prohibited from entering an active war zone, and if for some reason they had to fly near a combat area, cyanide pills were provided — at least that is what one officer told me as he was about to fly to Rabaul after it had been recently recaptured from the Japanese — he was to search for specific code books among the wreckage.

Earlier when the Japanese threatened Corregidor in the Philippines, every individual connected with communications intelligence at Station CAST was evacuated at the last minute by submarine. All except the unit's cook who had no knowledge of who he was cooking for, or what they did. His subsequent capture and interrogation would not jeopardize security.

During our first week in FRUPAC Frank, Larry, and I (wearing our new red badges) were shunted from one internal section to the next. In each, the senior officer present described what was going on there. These men were the big guns, but they were patient in explaining the elements of their work. It was difficult to grasp the

enormous complexity of the organization of which we were now a part. Everything about it was foreign to anything I'd ever known.

At the head of the stairs on the second deck of the building youthful-looking Commander Jack Holtwick, in charge of Section GS, introduced us to the logging of radio intercepts sent down from the island's inland station at Wahiawa. Each intercept received was key-carded for processing, several thousand a day. Processing took place in a large noisy room filled with IBM business card sorting machines managed by the homeless band from the sunken USS California, men who had lost both ship and instruments. As musicians, they were highly proficient in reading abstract symbols and converting them into physical reality: music. Operating, or "playing" the IBM machines came naturally to them. These talented men became adept at sensing what was important and what not in radio intercepts, thereby performing invaluable service every minute of the war. The bandsmen were the orchestra, Holtwick the conductor and together they formed the most valuable technological production in cryptography. No other nation

Over five million tons of Japanese naval and merchant marine shipping were sunk by American submarines alone, more than twice as much as all other means combined.

had such an amazing wedding of machines to human brainpower.

From Section GS, we went to Section GT, headed by Commander Ham Wright, a cryptographic veteran and undisputed genius in traffic analysis, which was determining and recovering the call signs of sender, receiver, addressee names, place designators, dates, ships, locations and more. Even if the contents of a message could not be translated at all, the raw information thus obtained was vital and allowed interception of enemy ships by submarine and air.

Over five million tons of Japanese naval and merchant marine shipping were sunk by American submarines alone, more than twice as much as all other means combined. As one submarine commander remarked, "All we needed to do was arrive at such-and-such a position at the time we were told, 'up periscope,' see the target right there, and fire our torpedoes." Some submarines sank several ships in a single day, each one exactly where they said they would be in coded radio transmissions the Japanese believed were secure. We translators and cryptographers didn't need to bother — Ham Wright's traffic analyses did the job.

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And then we were in the presence of Captain Tommy Dyer, whose genius was so far beyond a mortal's grasp, we scarcely understood what he did. As the main figure in Section GY, cryptanalysis and decryption, he (often with Ham Wright) repeatedly broke into code groups after every new change in encipherment. Recovering them hour after hour, day after day required experience, intuition, sheer intellect, and dogged determination. At times Dyer worked so long — two or three days straight — that he had to be sent home to rest. He was a small man, but tough. A Naval Academy graduate, his passion for cryptography was so great that in prewar days he had refused sea duty to keep working in that esoteric field, and that cost him grade advancement at the same rate as his Academy sea-going peers.

We didn't need to be taken to Commander Jasper Holmes's office in GI, combat intelligence, for he was in and out of our workspace almost every day. Despite not being a linguist or cryptographer, Holmes, a kindly man who suffered from severe spinal osteoarthritis, was as instrumental to Naval Intelligence as any of the specialists. As a former submariner and now deputy director of JICPOA, he had as good a grasp of the unfolding situation as did Commander Edwin Layton,

Admiral Nimitz's fleet intelligence officer. With two offices to be in daily, Holmes worked seamlessly between JICPOA, FRUPAC and CinCPac (Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz).

So we went from section to section, learning at each with amazement what was going on.

Codes, yes, I understood that much (the crossword puzzle question now made sense), but traffic analysis, ciphers, additives and false addition, transposition, groups, recoveries, high and low frequency direction finding, and more went in and out of my head in mind-numbing fashion. Slowly this amazing enterprise began to come into focus. As FRUPAC's newest members, we were facing an awe-inspiring challenge. And the senior staff wanted us to learn as much about their work as possible before we got down to the task determined for us.

Over and over we heard mention of FRUPAC's recently transferred commanding officer, Commander Joseph Rochefort, translator, trailblazing cryptographic genius and founder of the unit before the war. Always it was in terms of great respect and admiration, sadness over losing him, and anger at outside influences that precipitated his departure. I'll come back to that shameful event in another chapter.

艦 隊 海 上 部 隊				
切	20463	各艦隊	14806	39948
	40811	各艦、各機、各隊	71731	34113
	86660	各F、各機、各隊、各空	17487	51395
	04069	各F、各機、各隊、各隊長	91631	33232
	12951		13885	09044
	44135	GF	84141	12682
取	58361	GF 戸	57452	74906 6F
	06217	"	41618	26430 6F
	41269	"	14710	70258 "
海上部隊	23623	GF 參謀長	94807 3F	16240 6F
	07384	GF 參謀	31614 3F 戸	98351 6F
	84098		42007 "	74770
	95220	GF 各戸	55380 3F 參謀長	63935
	06539	GF 各參謀長	05271 3F 參謀	44182 6F
	97614	GF 各戸、P	18519	77036 6F
	73085	GF 附屬部隊	33492	90544 6F
	81754	GE 所屬總潜水艦	19023 3F 各航空母艦	73973
	99515	GF (潜水部隊)	20908 3F 各戸、P	93782
	55433	GF (潜水艦隊)	63006 3F 附屬部隊	20700
	71675	GF (GKF 隊)	31558	54698
	59249	GF 各戸 (GKF 隊)	60465	29424 7F
	47520	GF 各戸、P (GKF 隊)	97599	70670 7F
	95332		34511	33755 "
	54463		27057 4F	76829 7F
	45532	1B、1F	15229 4F 戸	57050 7F

Part of a page from a Japanese Navy (JN-25) code book consisting of over 50,000 code groups, each with a meaning of its own. A message constructed from these groups is complicated further by applying random numbers from separate book of ciphers. The Japanese never suspected their most important code was broken by U.S. Naval cryptographers.

Within a few days we were assigned to duty in GZ-1, the translation and code recovery section where we were to remain for over two years. This room was all business, sparsely equipped, and highly organized, operating with urgent purpose. No idle chatter.

Before long I realized with some apprehension that I had become a member of the most undercover ("ULTRA TOP SECRET") unit in both theaters of war, Pacific and Atlantic. It was unimaginable that I would spend over 5,000 concentrated hours at my desk.

FRUPAC was the outside world's anonymous name for the

code-breaking division of Station HYPO under the umbrella of communications intelligence (COMINT) known as Op-20-G. Today these terms sound like a James Bond organization. Only the atom bomb's Manhattan Project was as guarded as what we were doing in that wooden building on the rim of Makalapa crater.

It was the beginning of the most extraordinary experience of my life. More than two years of rotating round-the-clock watches fled by, always the three of us together — Frank, Larry, and me. Eight-hour watches sometimes consisted of dry spells with little accomplished, but then flared into intense activity with excitement taking over sleep and meals. Not once did the importance of what we were doing fail to keep us at a high pitch of interest.

Even though I no longer recall details of the exact process, it was always intellectually challenging and of potential value to the pursuit of the war. It really didn't matter how small our individual discoveries and recoveries may have been, for even a single break-through could lead to important things. I was never bored, never wanted to do something else. Even for a junior officer, it established a sense of being in the thick of action.

Minor players though we were, bridging the gap between rote work and intuitive, exploratory research, we were an integral part

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of the most stunningly successful undercover effort of the Pacific War.

There was an ever-mounting backlog of messages we didn't, or couldn't have translated some weeks earlier. During inactive periods we'd go back over these fragmentary messages attempting to recover information of importance to the current war effort. But we were always eager to tackle new material as soon as it came flooding in.

As translator-cryptographers in GZ-1, we frequently had business in adjoining sections of FRUPAC. To help make sense out of what we were extracting we might need more information on place names, fleet composition, commanders, air sorties, and such. Lieutenant Ken Foote, whom I had known in Japan before the war, was my usual conduit to higher levels at CinCPac as he was in Section GI, combat intelligence. At times we referred to another officer, a Lieutenant named Stevens. I didn't know him very well, but just a year or two ago while reading about the retirement of John Paul Stevens, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, I was startled to realize this was the same Stevens who had been in an adjacent office.

My home base for translation and code recovery, GZ-1, was a single room containing ten desks in a particular arrangement. In a row of four pairs of facing desks, we junior officers occupied three; another desk was for the watch officer, usually a Lieutenant Commander; and two or three more experienced translator-cryptographers sat at still other paired desks. They too were usually Lieutenant Commanders and pre-war Naval Academy graduates. The final two larger individual desks with flanking tables faced each other from opposites ends of the long room and were occupied by senior officers whose names — Finnegan and Lasswell — resonate in history, not only in Naval cryptography, but in the ultimate and timely victory of our country in the Pacific War.

In the next chapter I'll say more about them and their unparalleled accomplishments.



LEFT: On Nov. 10, Union Bank donated \$5,000 in the name of Franklin G. Hovey II, a long-time director, to the Danville Rescue Squad. The funds will go toward ambulance upgrades. From left, Union Bank Board of Director Member Schuyler Sweet, Regional Vice President Tracy Holbrooke, President Ken Gibbons, Donna Hovey, Eric Bach and Franklin Hovey III. Later, the bank presented the Hovey family with a plaque commemorating the life and service of Franklin G. Hovey II.

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Winter is Icumin in

By BRUCE HOYT

As summer warmth gave way to colder nights, and the maples briefly glowed their colors, it was easy to get the feeling that the days were rapidly plunging toward winter with shorter days and lower sun. Now, in the months around the winter solstice, the noon sun stubbornly fixes itself low in the sky, and the few daylight hours change but little day by day.

Is this attitude just part of our gloomy Northern New England outlook, or is there a real pattern that can be measured and explained? Science beckons us to investigate the latter possibility.

The plane defined by the earth's equator extends outward to define a line among the stars, called the celestial equator, and, though the constellations appear to move east to west throughout the night, their positions above or below this line remains constant. Polaris lies at 90 degrees north declination (+). Orion's belt lies at 0 degrees. His shoulder, Betelgeuse, lies at 7 degrees north (+) and his left leg, Rigel, lies at 8 degrees south (-). We know where to look for Orion because his zenith position is always the same as he marches across our winter sky.

The tilt of the earth's axis throws a difficulty into this matter. The axis remains pointed in the same direction in space, causing it to tilt toward the sun in summer and away from the sun in winter. As a result, the sun appears to trace an arc above the celestial equator, then crosses it, then traces an arc below the celestial equator, then crossing it again. It passes the positions of the summer solstice, the autumnal equinox, the winter solstice and the vernal equinox respectively as it goes. It could be argued that we ought to be able to see Polaris "move" as the earth travels 186 million miles from one side of the sun to the other. However, that motion or parallax is imperceptible because of the several trillion miles to the pole star.

The line of stars outshined by the "moving" sun is called the ecliptic. The sun's brightness eclipses the stars along that line. Constellations of mythical beings near the ecliptic comprise the zodiac and are the basis of astrologers predictions or horoscopes for people who were born when the sun passed through that sign. (My own sign, Pisces, appears as two fish tied together and struggling to go in differ-

ent directions. Nonsense!)

The question at hand, however, is about rate. Can these two lines predict how rapidly the winter arrives and how stubbornly it lingers?

To help my own visualization of the matter, I employed a honeydew melon from my refrigerator, and, using a magic marker, drew the celestial equator and the winter portion of the elliptic. The outcome looked like a broad smile coming to a 23.5 degree angle at each end. Because the 360 degrees of travel is accomplished in 365 days, every 10 degrees equates reasonably close to 10 degrees of arc. I therefore marked off the upper lip of my smile (celestial equator) in ten day increments from September 21st to March 21st. I did the same for the lower lip (winter ecliptic). The distance between the upper lip and lower lip showed rapid change for the first 30 days and very little change leading up to day 90. For any increment the distances along the upper lip and along the lower lip are equal. The angle (23.5 degrees) is given. Hurrah! An easy solution in the form of an isosceles triangle. Sadly, the plane geometry rule of "the sum of the angles in a triangle is 180 degrees" does not work for a triangle drawn on a sphere. The correct equation was given to me in John Warren's class in 1954. Long gone! That brain space has been taken over by 56 years of popular songs. I found it on Wikipedia instead.

$$\cos(c) = \cos(a)\cos(b) + \sin(a)\sin(b)\cos(C)$$

where C is 23.5 degrees, a is the number of days (degrees) along the upper lip and b is the same number of days (degrees) along the lower lip. The careful reader can solve this equation with a modern calculator. The cos(c) value has to be changed to an angle by arcos (cos(c))

On September 21, the autumnal equinox, the declination is 0

$$\text{Altitude of noon sun in St. Johnsbury} = 90 - \text{latitude} + \text{declination} = 90 - 44.5 + (0) = 45.5$$

Solving for October 21, the equation looks like this:

$$\cos(c) = \cos(30)\cos(30) + \sin(30)\sin(30)\cos(23.5)$$

$$\cos(c) = .866 \times .866 + .5 \times .5 \times .917$$

$$\cos(c) = .750 + .229$$

$$\cos(c) = .979$$

$$\text{arccos}.979 = 11.8 \text{ degrees south declination } (-)$$

$$\text{Altitude of noon sun in St. Johnsbury} = 90 - \text{latitude} + \text{declination}$$

$$= 90 - 44.5 + (-11.8) = 23.7$$

Solving for November 20, the equation looks like this:

$$\cos(c) = \cos(60)\cos(60) + \sin(60)\sin(60)\cos(23.5)$$

$$\cos(c) = .5 \times .5 + .866 \times .866 \times .917 \quad \cos(c) = .25 + .688$$

$$\cos(c) = .938$$

$$\text{arccos}.938 = 20.3 \text{ degrees south declination } (-)$$

Solving for December 20, the equation looks like this:

$$\cos(c) = \cos(90)\cos(90) + \sin(90)\sin(90)\cos(23.5)$$

$$\cos(c) = 0 \times 0 + 1 \times 1 \times .917$$

$$\text{arccos}(.917) = 23.5 \text{ degrees south declination } (-)$$

$$\text{Altitude of noon sun in St. Johnsbury} = 90 - \text{latitude} + \text{declination}$$

$$= 90 - 44.5 + (-23.5) = 22.5$$

Solving for January 19, the equation looks like this:

$$\cos(c) = \cos(120)\cos(120) + \sin(120)\sin(120)\cos(23.4)$$

$$\cos(c) = (-.5) \times (-.5) + .866 \times .866 \times .917$$

$$\cos(c) = .25 + .688$$

$$\cos(c) = .938$$

$$\text{arccos}.938 = 20.3 \text{ degrees south declination } (-)$$

$$\text{Altitude of noon sun in St. Johnsbury} = 90 - \text{latitude} + \text{declination}$$

$$= 90 - 44.5 + (-20.3) = 24.2$$

Take heart, Vermonters, the altitude of the sun accelerates as spring comes on, rising 10.8 degrees each month before and after the vernal equinox coming finally to 68.8 degrees on the summer solstice and hanging there with little change as we enjoy beach days

A full list of solar declinations (for 2006 but reasonably accurate for every year) may be found at [HTTP://suneearth.gsfc.gov](http://suneearth.gsfc.gov) Look in the 4th column.



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The North Star is a monthly community magazine, and its pages are devoted to the "reinforcement of the value of community" by publishing stories from a wide range of interests and writers. The North Star Monthly has been honored by the Vermont Press Association with awards for feature writing and photography and is committed to the people, places and institutions that for many of us make small towns home. Feature stories and human interest articles describe the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and often reach beyond into northern New Hampshire and the rest of Vermont. Above all, The North Star offers the stories we all have to tell. These are real people telling real stories.

The Kingdom Guide is the region's most comprehensive reference guide and community almanac, published annually. A one-of-a-kind, one-stop resource for 23 communities in the Northeast Kingdom. The guide includes complete historical information and statistical data for towns, local and state government, the arts, schools and education, employment and industry, state forests, museums and historical sites, clubs and organizations, human services, hospitals, places of worship and much more!



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North Country Chorus to Perform Handel's Messiah

For many music lovers the Christmas season is not complete without attending a performance of George Frideric Handel's Messiah. Upper Valley audiences will have three opportunities to hear this beloved oratorio performed by the North Country Chorus with soloists and chamber orchestra.

Venues will include the North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury, at 7:30 pm on Friday, December 3, the Haverhill, NH, Congregational Church at 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 4, and the Peacham, VT, Congregational Church at 3:00 pm on Sunday, December 4.

The chorus, soloists and orchestra will be directed by Alan Rowe. Soloists this season include soprano Julie Drown Proia, tenor Phil Brown, bass Gary Moreau and mezzo-soprano Maria Weber Lamson. Admission at the door will be \$10 (\$5 for students).

Messiah is Handel's best known oratorio. The German-born composer visited England in 1710 and, finding great success there, adopted it as his home. He composed Messiah in twenty-four days during the late summer of 1741 using passages selected from Old and New Testament Scrip-

tures. Upon completing the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" he later recalled, "I did think I did see all heaven before me, and the Great God himself." Handel conducted Messiah's first performance in Dublin, Ireland on April 13, 1742, as a benefit for three of the city's charities. Attended by Dublin's most fashionable patrons, it was an immediate and resounding success.

Tickets are now on sale for the North Country Chorus' 30th annual Madrigal Dinner ~ A Comedy of Arrows, to be held in Monroe, NH, on January 14, 15, and 16, 2011. Details and a printable order form are available at the chorus' website, below. Information is also available from Marcia Bridge at 802-584-4194.

Visit www.northcountrychorus.org for more information about the chorus and all its programs.

Holiday spirit in St. Johnsbury

Downtown St Johnsbury will be hopping the entire month of December and exploding with holiday spirit. Come join us in the celebration of traditions new and old.

Starting Dec. 3, retail stores will be open Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays to help you with all of your holiday shopping needs.

There is also plans in the works for a ladies and a gents night of shopping you can make sure your wish lists are available for those who may need ideas and or help! Santa Clause will also be in town during these times to make sure all of our youngest residents can personally deliver their lists.

To add to the spirit, outdoor speakers are being installed so holiday music will be playing on Railroad and Main Streets. A Santa's village will be set up at the Welcome Center which will delight young and old alike. The Welcome Center will be bustling with activities during December ranging from Farmers Markets, children's crafts and activities, vendors and of course our Victorian Holiday on Dec. 11. Our month long festivities culminate with First Night, Dec. 31, 2010.

Victorian Holiday

On Saturday Dec. 11, the town of St. Johnsbury will celebrate a Victorian Tea from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., wagon rides on Railroad Street from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., buggy rides on Main Street from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Open House at the St J Athenaeum at 2 p.m. with a presentation of the Edna St. Vincent Millay poem Ballad of the Harp, a food drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Santa's village at the Welcome center with children's activities and Santa from 9:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., a craft show at the South Congregational Church 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., vendors on Railroad Street, Christmas trees for sale, lighting of the Arnold Park Tree, the annual Light Up the Night 5K race, and much, much more.

As details become finalized we will post them on our website www.discoverStJvt.com, and a schedule of events will also be available.

If you have ever secretly wanted to be an elf or would like to help out during our month long celebration, please call 748-7121 for more information.

"We wish you a Merry Christmas
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12/12 9:30AM 3rd Sunday Advent Service
12/21 6PM Choir Caroling at St. Jay Health & Rehab
12/19 9:30AM, 4th Sunday Advent Service
12/24 7PM Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
12/26 9:30AM Church Service, First Sunday after Christmas Day

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First Night 2011: Featuring events for the entire family

Area residents who join in this year's First Night celebration will find an exciting variety of new performers as well as a core group of familiar and crowd pleasing entertainers for what has become one of the most anticipated and enjoyable traditions in the Northeast Kingdom.

A strong selection of new acts have been added to this year's line-up, which will run from 4 p.m. to midnight as usual, including:

The Mellow Yellow Experience – Featuring music of the 1960's, authentic costumes, a film and light show and even go-go dancers.

The Mike Fortier Band – The former lead singer of the Burke Mountain Bandits returns with a new class country music showcase.

The Swing North Big Band – with 18 musicians playing all of the best music from the swing and big band dance era.

Judith Witters, the Three Apple Storyteller – is a nationally-known and respected storyteller who has won many awards for her interpretation of traditional tales and legends from around the world. The entire family will be enthralled by her presentation.

Valley Improv – is one of the most exciting additions to his year's lineup. This group of professional comedians with experience in such groups as Second City and the Capital Steps will keep the audience in stitches with their improvisations based on a set-up similar to the hit show "Who's Line Is It, Anyway."

The North Country Chorus Messiah Sing-A-Long – This popular choral group has appeared at First Night's in the past, but never have they invited the audience to sing-a-long with them. This creative approach to one of the world's most beloved choral pieces will make everyone in the audience a performer at First Night.

The Freedom Blues Band – This group of area musicians will gather for First Night only to create a super-group jam of some of the most enjoyable blues tunes anywhere.

Catamount Arts – Celebration participations who want to take a break from live performances can also enjoy one or both of this year's festival

movies, including "Anvil: The Story of Anvil" and "Every Little Step," – both of which have musical themes.

The Back Shed String Band – Samantha Amay, a member of Not The Best, one of the most popular bands in last year's celebration, returns with a new group which grew out of the tradition of the "Shed," the Northeast Kingdom's legendary home for traditional bluegrass music. The Back Shed String Band will be presenting both old fashioned favorites and new compositions for the bluegrass fan.

Emily Nyman – This well-known performer from Newport will present a set of standards, pop tunes and original compositions in a style that has made her one of the most entertaining performers in the Northeast Kingdom.

Andriana Gnap – The holiday season will continue into the New Year with this concert of traditional Balkan Christmas music from this singer and musician who has appeared in concerts throughout New England. This accomplished violinist will be joined by her mother on harp and her aunt of several traditional instruments to help spread the holiday cheer throughout the evening.

Dana and Susan Robinson – One of the most exciting additions to this year's lineup is the duo of Dana and Susan Robinson, from North Carolina. Quickly gaining a national reputation, they will present a concert of traditional folk music that will have the audience clapping, toe-tapping and just plain smiling at music to warm the cold winter's night.

The Hypzotique Bellydance Circus – Experience the exotic lure of the Middle East with this full-scale



The Dancing Djinn



James Lamar



The Bayley-Hazen Boys

production that features several dancers, beautiful costumes and even a host/comedian. This unusual event is appropriate for the entire family and focuses on the grace and form of this ancient and traditional form of entertainment.

The Woods Tea Company – Long considered Vermont's Musical Ambassadors to the World, this amazing folk group returns to First Night after several year's absence and with a new, three performer format that features Patty Casey, one of New England's leading vocalists and song-writers.

Welcoming these new performers to the First Night line-up will also be a full evening's worth of returning singers, musicians, dancers, magicians and

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First Night St. Johnsbury 2011

other entertainers, including such audience favorites as James Lamar, The King of Silly, The Magic of Ishkabibble, Professor Marvel's Magic Show, You Already Know Hip-Hop Extravaganza, Bob Shelley's Hypnotism, the St. Johnsbury Academy Hilltones, Pina Antonelli, Bill Tobin, Cody Michaels, the Kingdom County Comedy Theater, Rubato, Stephen Herreid, James Bentley, Bobbi and Me, the Moore Family, Windrose, the Bethel Musicians, The Tessillations, The St. Johnsbury Drum Ensemble the Bayley-Hazen Boys and the Bob Amos Band.

Residents who want to get into the spirit of the evening may also participate in dancing themselves with such offerings as the Country Corners Square Dance and the Contra Dance at the St. Johnsbury School and swing dance lessons in Streeter Hall.

In addition, festival goers seeking the unusual may also sample such entertainment as the Fairbanks Museum Planetarium Show, the Dancing Djinn outside show on Main Street, the Vermont Intaglio exhibit at the Gato Nero Studio on Railroad Street, Karaoke at the Kingdom Recovery Center, the St. Johnsbury Youth Advisory Council Game Site and the Community Fun Fair at the Academy Field House.

Food will also be an

Venue	4:00 pm	5:00 pm	6:00 pm	7:00 pm	8:00 pm	9:00 pm	10:00 pm	11:00 pm
St. J. School Auditorium	Youth Advisory Council	Mellow Yellow Experience	Mike Fortier Band	Mike Fortier Band	Mellow Yellow Experience	Mellow Yellow Experience	Fireworks! At Academy Gym Parking Lot Area Midnight – 2010 Ball Drop – Dancing Djinn	
St. J School All Purpose	Food-Games St. J. School 4 pm – 8 pm		Country Corners Square Dance		Contra Dance 7:30 pm – 10 pm			
Academy Fieldhouse	Community Fun Fair – Community of Concern 4:00 pm – 8:30 pm							
Streeter Hall			Swing Dance Lessons		Swing North Big Band		Maple Leaf 7	Maple Leaf 7
Morse Center	Judith Witters	James Lamar	Judith Witters	King of Silly	King of Silly	Valley Improv	Valley Improv	Maple Grove Pancake Supper Streeter Hall 10-11:30 pm
Fuller Hall	The Magic Of Ishkabibble	Hypzotique Bellydance Circus	Hypzotique Bellydance Circus	Prof. Marvel's Magic Show	You Already Know	Bob Shelley's Hypnotism	You Already Know	
South Church	Hilltones	Messiah Sing-A-Long	Pina Antonelli	Bill Tobin	Pina Antonelli	Freedom Blues Band	Cody Michaels	
Catamount Theater 1	Anvil: The Story of Anvil		Anvil: The Story of Anvil		Anvil: The Story of Anvil		Anvil: The Story of Anvil	
Catamount Theater 2	Every Little Step		Every Little Step		Every Little Step		Every Little Step	
Catamount Cabaret	Kingdom County Comedy Theater	Kingdom County Comedy Theater	Rubato	Stephen Herreid	James Bentley	Stephen Herreid	James Bentley	Stephen Herreid
Universalist Church	Gato Nero Studio		Bobbie and Me	Back Shed String Band	Back Shed String Band	Bobbie and Me	Food & Snacks All Over Town South Church – North Church – St. J. School – Catamount Arts – Universalist Church – St. Andrew's – Streeter Hall	
St. J House	Vermont Intaglio Society Show 4 pm - Midnight		Emily Nyman	Emily Nyman	Moore Family	Moore Family		
Grace Church	Andriana Gnap	Andriana Gnap	Windrose	Windrose		Dana & Susan Robinson		
St. Andrew's Church		Bethel Musicians	Bethel Musicians	The Tessillations	The Tessillations	St. Johnsbury Drum Ensemble	Karaoke! Kingdom Recovery Center Corner of Central & Summer Streets 5 pm - Midnight	
Fairbanks Museum	Dancing Djinn On Main Street 6:45 – 7:45 – 8:45		Planetarium Show	Planetarium Show	Planetarium Show	Planetarium Show		
North Church				The Bayley-Hazen Boys	The Bob Amos Band	The Bob Amos Band		

important part of the evening as well, with snacks being available many places and larger menus, including full dinners, available at such locations as South Church, The Universalist Church, St. Andrew's Church, the North Church and Catamount Arts. As in past years, the main event for food will take place from 10:00 pm-11:30 pm when Maple Grove sponsors

the free pancake supper in the Streeter Hall dining room at St. Johnsbury Academy. Pancakes and all of the trimming will served up by area Boy Scouts.

The Finale of the evening will take place at 12:00 midnight when everyone is invited to attend the lighting

and raising of the New Year's ball and a full fireworks show in the gym parking lot of the Academy. The Dancing Djinn will also perform to welcome in the New Year.

Residents will be able to purchase buttons on New Year's Eve that will admit

them to all events, but these buttons are also available now at a reduced price.

For a full listing of all sales sites for buttons, please visit www.first-nightstj.com. Advance buttons can also be purchased on-line at www.cata-mountarts.org.

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"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Amid all the rush and excitement, remember: Jesus is the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas from our families to yours.

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The First Christmas Tree in St. Johnsbury, 1863

A Reminiscence by Sarah W. French, 1913

Fifty years ago people in St. Johnsbury spent little time in merrymaking, or in social functions of any kind. The country was in throes of the Civil War and there were few families where there was not a vacant chair and anxious hearts awaiting news from the battle fields.

The weekly Caledonian of December 19 and December 26 carried long lists of the Union soldiers from Vermont killed and wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg. Pink teas, luncheons or seven course dinners formed no part of social life and busy women spent much time making garments, rolling bandages, and scraping lint for wounded soldiers.

Notwithstanding all this, it came to the minds of some of the kind people of the South Church that it was not right to shut out the children from the joys that rightly belonged to them. "Let us make the coming Christmas a happy time." The plan was heartily endorsed

and soon took shape. "It shall be a Christmas in the Church." There were no department stores or art stores from which we might make choice of gifts and so loving fingers wrought and the needles flew merrily in willing hands and the pile of gifts grew apace.

It would be pleasant to mention the names of those who worked so diligently and lovingly to make our first Christmas Tree a success. The names would be strange to most of you, but I cannot forbear to mention the mother of Dr. Fairbanks and her sunny-hearted sister, the wife of our Superintendent, Mr. Ephraim Jewett who gave such practical help all



the way, also Mr. & Mrs. Thaddeus Fairbanks whose generous gifts made possible many things we could not otherwise have done.

As the time drew near Mr. Jewett began to fear we might be lacking things to go around. So he made a hurried trip to

Boston where he invaded toy shops, and book stores, confectioners and fruit dealers, and when he returned we could see the successful conclusion of our labors.

Two tall fir trees found their places in front of the pulpit, and verily fir trees never bore such fruit before, at least in St. Johnsbury. And now a strange thing has happened and all the members of the South Church Sunday School were children, some indeed of a larger growth, for there was to be no age limit in the bestowal of gifts.

Christmas was cold as the hills were white with snow and Christmas Eve found the South

Church full of happy expectant children and equally happy grown folks.

The trees fairly groaned with their burdens and underneath stood a huge basket filled with oranges, a great treat in those days, for Florida and California had not emptied their treasures of fruits into our markets and our oranges came from the Mediterranean or the West Indies.

Our pastor Rev. Lewis O. Brastow, who had recently returned home from nearly a year of service as chaplain of the Twelfth Vermont Regiment, was a bachelor and was a target for many gifts, books for his library, a dressing gown

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Bring in your old photo, my lab can scan it, fix it if needed, and have copies made for each family member. It will bring a tear to their eyes, and floor them with happy past memories... a very sweet Christmas gift that no one will expect!!

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St. Johnsbury Lions Club

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT.
REMEMBER A LOVED ONE AT CHRISTMAS

Join with your neighbors and friends and the St. Johnsbury Area Lions Club on Saturday, December 4 at 6 p.m. to observe their "Memory Tree 2010 Pagent" at the Courthouse Park.

A \$10.00 donation will light a bulb on the tree in memory of a loved one.
 Top of the star is Franklin Hovey
 Proceeds are used to support our Sight, Hearing, Lifeline and other community service programs.

Make checks payable to: **The St. Johnsbury Lions Club** and send with the form to:
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 PLEASE JOIN WITH US FOR THIS WORTHWHILE AND ENJOYABLE PROGRAM.

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 City, State, Zip: _____
 In Memory Of: _____
 Donation Amount: _____

and slippers enough for a centipede. The Superintendent received a gold headed cane such as Superintendent are apt to have. Teachers had books and the children had just those things that children love, toys and games for the winter evenings, story books and boxes of candy.

Bright eyes and shining faces showed their appreciation of the gifts and when the senior class of elderly men led by Mr. [James K.] Colby of blessed memory, with Deacon Arnold Hutchinson, Levi Harlow and Francis Brigham received copies in most effulgent colors of the choicest of the nursery classics, "The Hare and The Tortoise," "Little Red Riding Hood" and others. Their faces were wreathed in smiles and I do not believe an Encyclopedia or a Webster Unabridged Dictionary would have been more acceptable.

The candles burned low as we wished one another a Merry Christmas and wended our ways home. And so it was that the South Church in 1863 celebrated the birthday of our Lord.

Mentioning the Tree

Edward T. Fairbanks in The Town of St. Johnsbury Vt: A Review of One Hundred Twenty-Five Years to the Anniversary Pageant 1912 referred to the 1863 Christmas Eve event [page 137]. He reported that the first public observance of Christ-

mas in St. Johnsbury occurred in 1846 "long before such a thing as the Christmas Tree had been heard of in this part of the world." At that time for the purpose of decoration, fir trees were planted in the corner of the Universalist Meeting House [burned in 1876] and "in the top of one of them was tethered a white dove which sat quietly perched on its green bough as if conscious of being the symbol of peace on earth and good will among men." As time went by, the custom of having Christmas trees as a part of the Sunday School observance of the holiday became universal, and smaller trees made life joyful in the home. In 1913, South Church marked the 50th anniversary of the first public Christmas tree in St. Johnsbury with a Christmas tree lighted by electricity, the first time one was thus lighted. Fairbanks added that "the fiftieth anniversary of this occasion was observed in the same place in a graceful and dignified manner; the illumination was from colored electric lights which flashed from the shapely spruce tree rising some twenty feet from the floor."

A transcript of Sarah W. French's reminiscence is preserved in the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum in its manuscript collection (MS 34); the location of the original is unknown. At the bottom of the transcript are the initials HFW-HED. If you can identify these people or can add information about Sarah French, please contact Shara McCafrey at the Athenaeum.

Winter's Coming

Pumpkin Hill Singers Holiday Concert

The Pumpkin Hill Singers holiday concert will again be held in conjunction with the Christmas-on-the-Green which will be held December 10th.

This year's concert features both favorite carols and unique compositions from other countries. The singers who are known for their eclectic repertoire of music from around the world will be representing songs and carols from France, England, Israel, the Ukraine, Poland, Australia, Jamaica, and the United States. The title song of the concert, "Winter's Coming" is a new composition by Steve Parker and Susanne Terry and is a haunting melody which invokes the mysterious feel of a winter night.

Appearing with the singers this year are instrumentalists Dave Hare and Bill Tobin. Bill Tobin, a well-known area harpist will be accompanying the singers on sev-

eral songs as well as presenting a solo piece. Dave Hare, a longtime Pumpkin Hill accompanist, adds his unique percussion style to a number of lively songs including the new number, "Jamaican Noel". "It is so great to have Dave play with us", says soprano Lisa Hantman, "When he gets going on the drums, it makes us all want to dance."

Another new feature with the singers this year will be the addition of classical guitarists, Toby Balivet and Tom Ziobrowski. Both have played guitar for a number of years but have never accompanied the Singers in concert. "I don't know why we haven't thought of this", says soprano Julie Roslund. "I couldn't believe what a difference

it made to have both of those guitars play on this song. It is really beautiful."

Pumpkin Hill Singers concerts are designed for all ages of listeners and are usually around an hour long; a comfortable sitting time for children. The singers want to be able to introduce a wide variety of music to both adults and young audiences.

In addition to the Danville concert, there will be a concert at North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury on Thursday, Dec. 9. The Danville concert is December 10th at the Danville Congregational Church. Both concerts are at 7:30 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are gratefully received.

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Town	Date	Time	Location
Lyndonville	12/2/2010	10:00 am-12:00 pm	Darling Inn
St. Johnsbury	12/7/2010	1:00 pm-3:00 pm	North Congregational Church

Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. Clinics ESTABLISHED PATIENTS ONLY – ALL AGES - Call for an appointment on these days

Location	Date	Time
Danville Health Center 684-2275	By Appointment Only	
Caledonia Internal Medicine 748-5174	By Appointment Only	
St. Johnsbury Family Health Center 748-5041	Thu, Dec 9	8:15-11:30 a.m.
	After Dec. 9, By Appointment Only	
Island Pond Health Center 723-4300	Tuesdays	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Thursdays	2:00-4:00 p.m.
Hardwick Area Health Center 472-3300	By Appointment Only	
	8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. OR 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	
Concord Health Center 695-2512	Tuesdays	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Thursdays	2:00-4:00 p.m.

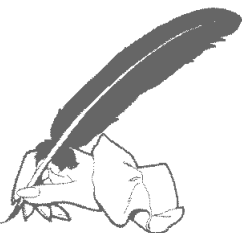
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Letters from the Past

When writing was a necessity and an art

By Lynn A. Bonfield



William Upham relocated to the nation's capital during his term first as Representative from Vermont 1827-28, and then as Senator, 1843 until his death in 1853. His wife, Sarah Keyes Upham, maintained the family home in Montpelier, necessitating communication by letter when they were apart. On December 24, 1851, Senator Upham wrote to her describing a fire at the Capitol, which he claimed destroyed the complete Congressional Library. In fact, only two-thirds of the books, about 35,000, went up in flames, including, unfortunately, a great number of volumes donated by Thomas Jefferson. In addition, the fire destroyed an original portrait of Christopher Columbus, portraits by Gilbert Stuart of the first five U.S. presidents, and statues of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and the Marquis de Lafayette.

It is an interesting side note and completely possible that Barnet native, Henry Stevens, well known American book antiquarian and

purchasing agent for the Library of Congress, helped replenish the collection. Stevens, a long time London resident, identified himself in many of his publications as Henry Stevens, G.M.B. meaning Green Mountain Boy. His gravestone in London bears the inscription (as published in F. P. Wells, History of Barnet, Vermont, 1923):

An Affectionate Remembrance of
HENRY STEVENS,

Lover of Books,

Born at Barnet, Vermont, 24 August, 1819,

The Volume of Whose Earthly Labor Was Closed

In London, 28 February, 1886, in the Sixty-seventh Year of His Age,

“And another book was opened which is the Book of Life.”

In closing his 1851 letter to Sarah, Senator Upham reported on his health “not now very well” but also on the condition of the wife of Vermont Representative, Lucius Benedict Peck, “very feeble.” The only good news was that an uniden-



Portrait of Barnet native Henry Stevens from Wyman W. Parker, Henry Stevens of Vermont: American Rare Book Dealer in London, 1845-1866 courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

tified woman, Ann, was enjoying Washington.

The original of this letter is preserved in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington DC. Letters in this series are transcribed as written with no changes to spelling, punctuation, or capitalization. Words added by the editor are in brackets.

Washington D.C. December 24th 1851.

Dear Wife –

The city is in great confusing. The Capitol has been on fire since seven o'clock this morning. It is now half past one P.M. and the fire is not subdued. It broke out [illegible] while I was in the building some half or three quarters of an hour ago. The Congressional Library has been entirely destroyed—not one volume it is said has been saved. The roof over the Library has fallen in. The whole building, I fear, will be in ruins before tomorrow morning. It is possible the flames may be arrested before reaching the Senate Chamber or the hall of the House of Representatives, but in my poor opinion it is not very probable. The fire is spreading over the building in the sealings [ceilings] of the [illegible] rooms, and it is impossible to tell where it is until it breaks out into the room. The destruction of the library is a very great loss. It never can be supplied [duplicated]. Many of the books lost can not be found within this country or in Europe.

I am better than I was when I last wrote you, but not now very well. Mrs Peck is, I think, some better than she was when she arrived here, but she is very feeble now. Ann seems to enjoy herself very well. Give my love to all our family connexions and friends.

Your affectionate husband
Wm Upham

[To] Mrs. Wm. Upham



Thank You

I would like to thank the voters of Cabot, Danville, and Peacham for re-electing me to the Vermont House of Representatives. There are a number of serious challenges ahead, and I look forward to being your voice in Montpelier. Please feel free to contact me with questions and concerns.

Kitty Beattie Toll

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>> Page 1

parallel the Hudson, in the shadow of the Taconics, and crossed by dozens of little rivers with Dutch names, such as the Battenkill. My cousins lived near Chatham, which was still Carrier and Ives country back in the late fifties and early sixties with pre-revolutionary houses and compact little farms and villages. It was Shaker country, too, in and around biblically named villages of Canaan and Lebanon, but even then it was becoming distressed, left behind while the rest of the state rushed ahead. I liked what some might call the backwardness, but not all the residents did. Even then, what they really wanted was good jobs. My uncle worked in Albany. It was just a scant twenty miles away, but he would be the first to admit it could have well been a thousand.

In 1980 I got a job doing a story about a company based in Salem, New York, called "Agricultural Assets Management ." They were buying herds of dairy cows for Wall Street investors and leasing them to farmers. I spent more time than ever before on Route 22, mostly talking with farmers, some of whom liked the deal and more who didn't. I lent a hand with the hay, helped load a bull by waving my red reporter's notebook, and shared dinners at the farmhouse table. Things had gotten perceptibly worse. Milk prices were actually holding for the moment, but inflation was taking a heavy toll, and those investors weren't helping, nor was some hanky-panky with banks. I don't think any of the managers in my story ever did hard time, but one of them turned state's evidence against Lyndonville's Noel Lussier. Wall Street ruled on Route 22.

Now another thirty years have passed and our son is

at Bard College, another of my old haunts, and a reason to drive Route 22 again. I search in vain for the farms I used to know. They're all gone; vacant, grown to weeds, and the only fresh paint to be seen is on the highway median. There is one stretch of highway about two miles long where every house is deserted. It looks as though a deadly plague has swept through the land. The only place I've seen worse rural devastation is the cotton country of the deep south. These are beautiful old houses, too, the kind folks from out of state would pay big bucks for, but they aren't coming here. I roll through the villages slowly, mindful of the local constables looking to pick up a few bucks. The Victorian facades are more haunting than ever because of their emptiness. Meanwhile, my radio squalls with the nastiest political advertisements I have ever heard.

Rutland, Manchester, and Bennington, with their traf-

fic jams and a lot of other stuff residents may complain about, are just a few miles away, and I'm always relieved when I cross back over on my way home. I know things are not always great on this side of the border, too, but at least we don't live inside a political system that has sucked the countryside dry. Vermont has the lowest foreclosure rate in the nation, and one of the lowest unemployment rates. But New York politics have always been driven by the big city, big money interests. You could sure hear it during the recent campaign, and to see the results of this long tradition on the ground, so to speak, right across the border, is heartbreaking.

In Vermont, we still have a heart, even if its beat seems to falter now and then. Hopefully, we still have a mind, too, and can find an ear in Montpelier and Washington. But it takes vigilance. In the end, it is always the voters who pay the price when politics go bad.

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It's time for tea

Friday, Dec. 3 will be opening day for the seventh season of the Friday Afternoon Tea Room. Every Friday from December through March, join us from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to enjoy a hot cup of tea, coffee or cocoa with lots of sweet treats or fruit to choose from. We will not be open on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24. To celebrate the New Year, the Tea Room will remain open as usual on Dec. 31.

The Tea Room is by donation with 100 percent of the proceeds benefiting the Ecumenical Open Door which helps local folks through a food shelf, thrift store and fuel assistance.

Reservations are not required, however the Tea Room has grown in popularity over the years and many weeks we are full to our capacity of 40 men, women and children. If you plan to come as a group and wish to be seated together, give Sue or Dick Strifert a call at 748-4096.

Please plan to join us for pleasant conversation and fellowship at the North Danville Baptist Church in North Danville, Vermont. The church is fully accessible.

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BOYS BASKETBALL (JV/V)			GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV/V)		
Dec. 11	@ Springfield Tourney vs. Bellows Falls	6:00pm	Dec. 15	HAZEN	5:30/7:00pm
Dec. 14	@ Springfield Tourney vs. Springfield	7:45pm	Dec. 17	PEOPLES ACADEMY	5:30/7:00pm
Dec. 16	@ St. Johnsbury	5:30/7:00pm	Dec. 23	@ Hazen	6:00/7:30pm
Dec. 18	HAZEN (H)	1:00/2:30pm	Dec. 28	LI Tourney vs. Springfield	7:15pm
Dec. 21	LAKE REGION	5:30/7:00pm	Dec. 29	LI Tourney	
Jan. 3	@ U-32	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 4	@ Lake Region	6:00/7:30pm
Jan. 7	@ Montpelier	6:00/7:30pm	Jan. 6	LAMOILLE	5:30/7:00pm
Jan. 15	@ Hazen	1:00/2:30pm	Jan. 10	@ Randolph	5:30/7:00pm
Jan. 19	RANDOLPH	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 14	@ Oxbow	6:00/7:30pm
Jan. 21	MONTPELIER	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 18	THETFORD	5:30/7:00pm
Jan. 26	LAMOILLE	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 20	HARWOOD	5:30/7:00pm
Jan. 28	@ Thetford	6:00/7:30pm	Jan. 25	@ Montpelier	6:00/7:30pm
Feb. 4	HARWOOD	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 1	U-32	5:30/7:00pm
Feb. 9	@ Oxbow	6:00/7:30pm	Feb. 3	RANDOLPH	5:30/7:00pm
Feb. 16	@ Lamoille	6:00/7:30pm	Feb. 8	OXBOW	5:30/7:00pm
Feb. 18	@ Randolph	6:00/7:30pm	Feb. 10	@ Thetford	5:30/7:00pm
Feb. 23	THETFORD	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 15	@ Lamoille	6:00/7:30pm
Feb. 25	U-32 (H)	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 18	MONTPELIER	5:30/7:00pm
Mar. 2	@ Harwood	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 22	@ Harwood	5:30/7:00pm
Mar. 4	OXBOW	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 24	@ U-32	5:30/7:00pm

FROSH BASKETBALL Boys			ICE HOCKEY		
Dec. 13	LAMOILLE	5:30/7:00pm	Dec. 18	@ Peoples Academy	4:45pm
Dec. 17	@ Peoples Academy (Boys Only)	6:00pm	Dec. 20	WOODSTOCK	6:00pm
Dec. 20	NORTH COUNTRY	5:30/7:00pm	Dec. 22	@ Northfield Tourney vs. Northfield	8:00pm
Dec. 22	HAZEN	5:30/7:00pm	Dec. 23	@ Northfield Tourney	TBA
Dec. 27	ST. JOHNSBURY	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 5	MILTON	6:00pm
Jan. 3	@ North Country	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 8	HARTFORD	2:30pm
Jan. 8	RICHFORD	11:00/12:30	Jan. 12	@ St. Johnsbury Academy	6:00pm
Jan. 10	SPAULDING	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 15	NORTHFIELD	3:30pm
Jan. 12	@ St. Johnsbury	5:00/6:30pm	Jan. 19	@ North Country	7:00pm
Jan. 14	@ Enosburg	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 22	@ Brattleboro	4:45pm
Jan. 17	@ Lamoille	5:30/7:00pm	Jan. 26	@ U-32	7:00pm
Jan. 20	@ Hazen	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 2	PEOPLES ACADEMY	6:00pm
Jan. 22	MISSISQUOI (Girls Only)	11:00am	Feb. 4	@ Middlebury	4:45pm
Jan. 29	@ S. Royalton	1:00/2:30pm	Feb. 5	@ Mt. Mansfield	7:30pm
Jan. 31	@ Spaulding	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 9	@ Milton	4:15pm
Feb. 2	S. ROYALTON	5:30/7:00pm	Feb. 12	STOWE	2:30pm
Feb. 5	@ Missisquoi (Girls Only)	11:00am	Feb. 16	MT. MANSFIELD	6:00pm
Feb. 7	PEOPLES ACADEMY (Boys Only)	5:30pm	Feb. 19	@ Burr and Burton	5:45pm
Feb. 12	ENOSBURG	12:00/1:30pm	Feb. 23	ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY	6:00pm
			Feb. 26	@ Woodstock	6:00pm

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Medieval Treasures in the Kingdom

BY ROBYN GREENSTONE

In the late-autumn days of December, it is a rare yellow jewel that clings to a branch, but the gardens and wild spaces of the Kingdom have recently teemed with treasure. Many of the 300 species of medieval plants that are carefully cultivated within the warmer walled gardens of the Cloisters in Manhattan grow with abandon in Vermont's rich soil. In the summer, dozens of these plants are tended in local perennial beds; others are yanked as weeds; many more sprout in profusion in fields and the untended lawn. During our unusually late Indian Summer, some of these surprising plants – once coveted in the kingdoms of Europe – continued to bloom in our own Northeast Kingdom.

Hardy aconite and mallow survived early frosts. Yarrow, pansy, and larkspur bloomed through November and dan-

delions appeared overnight. Explore Danville's gardens even now – brush away the snow if you must – and you will find pansies hugging the stone walls.

All of these plants were treasured in the Middle Ages. They were not just valued aesthetically – they were herbs. An herb, according to medieval definition, is any useful plant, and all plants were useful. Some were eaten, some fixed loose teeth, some scented furniture wax, some bestowed common sense, while still others predicted the weather. Plants comprised the medieval medicine cabinet, the artist's shop, and the cosmetic and perfume industry. Many plants were symbolic; almost all were medicinal. Medieval therapeutic properties can seem fanciful when judged against modern science, but some have withstood recent investigation and are readily available in today's holistic



Yarrow



Mallow Leaf



Aconite Leaf

health stores. [Disclaimer: This article offers medieval remedies, but it is not meant to prescribe. Self-experimentation is dangerous! The curious are entreated to invest in a handbook that clarifies which plants are innocuous and which are caustic or carcinogenic.]

A few exclusive medicinal plants, if collected according to special ritual, could be elevated to magical status. One plant that a month ago


retained its flowers was a key ingredient in medieval flying ointment, certainly popular among witches on All Hallows' Eve.

Let's start with perhaps the most benign and the most hardy of our blooming treasures: the pansy. "Pansy" comes from the French word "pensée," which literally means "thought." Thoughts of the beloved are implied, and the pansy was a medieval symbol of love. Violets, the

pansy's relative, also symbolized love, and were considered a useful cure for anyone complaining of a general malaise. The simple act of smelling them was reputed to make one feel better.

The red rose was a symbol of love as well, and this is the one flower that has retained its medieval symbolism to the modern day. But the rose in general boasts a plethora of associations and functions, and its meaning varied with color. Rose petals were placed in chests to freshen linens and clothing. Entire attar-of-roses industries grew up surrounding their scent. Rose hips were sweetened and used in jellies and wines. Hips, an excellent source of vitamin C, were used to ward off the common cold. They have astringent properties and were considered effective against dysentery and

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chest complaints. And a happy thought with the approach of flu season -- rose oil and ointment would cure headaches and fevers.

Mallow, along with the hollyhock, would also be valuable in the flu-and-cold months. These plants were mucilaginous and used against coughs, phlegm, and congestion. Mallow, because of its glutinous secretions, would also be applied to burns, other skin irritations, and wounds.

Yarrow, too, was popular in treating wounds and staunching cuts and nose-bleeds. Its champion was Achilles, who was said to have learned of its band-aid functionality from the centaur Chiron and who apparently used it liberally to treat his compatriots on the battlefield. Yarrow healed swellings, toothaches, and aches of the innards. A specific recipe states that this plant must be dried and rubbed in dust. Five spoonfuls of the dusty powder mixed in three cups of good wine would cure any annoyance one suffers within. Yarrow had the happy advantage of helping any annoyance one suffered without as well: it was one of the 9 sacred worts

of the Anglo-Saxons and was believed to ward off evil. As an herb of St. John, it was passed through the smoke of Midsummer Eve bonfires and used to bless one's house and bier.

Tansy dealt with more tangible evils: those related to uneven complexions. It was a medieval Retin A. Soak it in buttermilk for 9 days, the herbals tell us, wash a maid's face with it, and she will become very fair. Tansy was a common herb, a bitter green that appealed to medieval palates. It was considered good for digestion and was often eaten in spring salad, along with dandelion leaves. Chefs used it to flavor omelets, and tansy pancakes can still be ordered today in some places in Britain. Tansy has an additional practical function: it is an ingredient in modern insecticides meant to deter ants.

In medieval times, the juice of a different plant was used to kill fleas, lice, and parasites: larkspur. Larkspur is toxic, however, so herbals warned that it was not to

be administered internally. Those with eye trouble will be interested to learn that, according to the 15th C. herbal Der Gart, blue larkspur would protect the health of the eyes for life if hung around the neck during a mass for St. Odilia, who was born blind and was granted her sight at baptism. For those worrying about missing her feast day (on the 13th of this month), the same boon will be granted after performing three charitable acts in Odilia's name.

One more toxic plant is in the cheery buttercup family. Aconite, commonly known as monkshood, is the most poisonous plant known to mankind. Its infamous reputation blossomed in the Middle Ages. Walafrid Strabo, a 9th century monk and avid gardener, blithely informs us in his book Hortulus: "If your wicked stepmother poisons your food with aconite, horehound will counteract it." (This antidote must be growing in the Kingdom, somewhere, surely?) Aconite is a core ingredient in the famous medieval "flying ointment," which witches

used to induce trance. This plant, along with other plants in the ointment, has hallucinogenic properties. When the ointment was rubbed on the skin, it was absorbed through the pores and travelled to the

brain to wreak havoc on one's neurons. Practitioners would think they were flying!

At a time when much of our region's flora lies slumbering, the Kingdom is rich indeed.

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St. Johnsbury Academy Winter 2010-2011 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game

12/16	Lyndon	(H)	5/6:30
12/20	Brattleboro	(A)	5/6:30
12/23	North Country	(A)	5/6:30
12/27	Essex	(H)	5/6:30
1/6	Rice	(H)	5/6:30
1/11	Brattleboro	(H)	5/6:30
1/15	Rutland	(A)	1/2:30
1/21	Colchester	(A)	5/6:30
1/25	Champlain Valley	(H)	5/6:30
1/28	Rice	(A)	5/6:30
2/1	Essex	(A)	5:30/7
2/4	Mt. Mansfield	(A)	5/6:30
2/8	Spaulding	(H)	5/6:30
2/11	South Burlington	(H)	5/6:30
2/15	Burlington	(A)	5/6:30
2/18	Spaulding	(A)	5/6:30
2/22	Mt. Mansfield	(H)	5/6:30
2/25	North Country	(H)	5/6:30
3/1	Burlington	(H)	5/6:30
3/4	South Burlington	(A)	5/6:30

Girls Basketball Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game

12/14	Brattleboro	(H)	5/6:30
12/21	Spaulding Tournament	(A)	5:30
12/23	Spaulding Tournament	(A)	TBA
12/28	Champlain Valley	(H)	5/6:30
12/30	Brattleboro	(A)	5/6:30
1/4	Spaulding	(A)	5/6:30
1/6	Burlington	(A)	5/6:30
1/14	Essex	(A)	5:30/7
1/18	North Country	(H)	5/6:30
1/21	Rutland	(A)	5/6:30
1/24	BFA St. Albans	(H)	5/6:30
1/27	Rice	(A)	5/6:30
2/3	Spaulding	(H)	5/6:30
2/7	North Country	(A)	5/6:30
2/10	Burlington	(H)	5/6:30
2/12	Rutland	(H)	1/2:45
2/15	Essex	(H)	5/6:30
2/17	Champlain Valley	(A)	5/6:30
2/21	BFA St. Albans	(A)	5/6:30
2/24	Rice	(H)	5/6:45

Girls & Boys Basketball Freshmen

12/15	MMU - Boys only	(A)	6:00
12/18	North Country	(H)	10/11:30
12/20	CVU	(H)	5/6:30
12/23	Spaulding HS	(H)	5/6:30
12/27	Lyndon	(A)	5:30/7
1/5	MMU - Boys only	(H)	5:00
1/8	Rutland	(A)	12/1:30
1/10	North Country	(H)	5/6:30
1/12	Lyndon	(H)	5/6:30
1/15	Essex	(A)	1/2:30
1/19	BFA	(A)	5/6:30
1/22	Rutland	(H)	12/1:30
1/29	Spaulding HS	(A)	12:30/2
2/3	CVU	(A)	5/6:30
2/4	Essex	(H)	5/6:30
2/7	BFA	(H)	5/6:30
2/9	BFA Frosh Tournament	(A)	TBA
2/12	BFA Frosh Tournament	(A)	TBA

Hockey

12/11	Lake Placid Scrimmage	(A)	TBA
12/15	Woodstock	(H)	6:00
12/18	Milton	(H)	3:30
12/22	Northfield	(A)	5:30
12/23	Northfield	(A)	5:30/8:00
12/29	U-32	(H)	7:00
1/8	Mt. Mansfield	(H)	5:00
1/12	Lyndon Institute	(H)	6:00
1/15	Peoples	(A)	5:00
1/19	Northfield	(H)	6:00
1/22	U-32 (CVT Civic Ctr)	(A)	6:00
1/26	Peoples Academy	(A)	6:00
1/29	Brattleboro	(A)	4:45
2/2	Middlebury	(A)	4:45
2/5	Milton (Highgate)	(A)	6:00
2/9	Stowe	(H)	6:00
2/12	Burr & Burton	(H)	5:00
2/16	Northfield	(A)	8:30 pm
2/19	Woodstock (Union Arena)	(A)	8:10 am
2/23	Lyndon Institute	(A)	6:00
2/26	Hartford	(H)	6:00

Nordic Skiing

12/11	CVU - TBD	(A)	
12/18	So. Burlington	(A)	
12/22	Harwood	(A)	
1/10	Stowe Mt. Resort Classic	(A)	3:00
1/21	MMU	(A)	
2/11	LI Carnival	(A)	1:00
2/28	Classical Champ.	(A)	
3/3	Freestyle Champ.	(A)	

Alpine Skiing

12/14	NCU @ Jay Peak GS	(A)	
12/22	LI @ Burke SL	(A)	
1/5	Essex/Lam @ Smugg GS	(A)	
1/8	NCU @ Jay Peak GS	(A)	
1/10	St. J @ Burke SL	(H)	
1/20	HU @ Mad River SL	(A)	
1/28	BFA @ Hardack SL	(A)	
2/4 & 5	Essex Invit GS/SL	(A)	
2/11	LI Invit. @ Burke GS	(A)	
2/14	St. J Host NVAC SL @ Burke	(H)	
2/15	S.B. Host NVAC GS @ Lincoln Peak	(A)	
2/28	Girls State Meet LI @ Burke	(A)	
3/3	Boys State Meet	(A)	TBA

Wrestling

12/11	Early Bird Tournament	(H)	10:00
12/18	N/S Duals @ SHS	(A)	10:00
12/22	Spaulding	(A)	6:00
2/29 & 30	Hubie Wagner Invite	(A)	TBA
1/4	Enosburg, Mt. Mansfield	(H)	6:00
1/8	Newfound	(A)	TBA
1/15	Mt. Anthony Invite	(A)	9:45/8:30
1/21 & 11/22	Essex Classic	(A)	TBA
1/25	@ Vergennes w/Essex	(A)	6:30
1/29	Colchester Invite	(A)	TBA
2/1	Milton, CVU	(H)	6:00
2/3	@ Harwood w/Middlebury	(A)	6:00
2/5	Jason Lowell MMU	(A)	TBA
2/10	@ Randolph w/ Mt. Abe	(A)	7:00
2/25	State Championships	(A)	6:00
2/26	State Championships	(A)	10:00

Gymnastics

12/14	South Burlington	(A)	6:00
12/22	Milton	(A)	6:30
12/29	CVU	(H)	6:00
1/5	Essex	(A)	7:00
1/15	Harwood	(H)	1:00
1/21	U-32	(A)	7:00
1/29	Randolph	(H)	1:00
2/5	Middlebury	(A)	12:00
2/12	U-32	(H)	1:00



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>> Page 1

check up. If everything is fine, he will rejoin his Unit, which may be on its way home. There has been talk of bringing most of the Vermont Guards back home by the end of 2010, so it is unlikely that Patrick would have to return to Afghanistan.

After being in Afghanistan, it's easy for this soldier to find things to be thankful for.

He quickly says, "My life, my family, my wife, and the great job she did while I was gone, the United States, Vermont, our culture, our green grass and soil as they didn't have much green and it was mostly rock over there, our trees, our fresh water, and lots more."

Military service was a calling for Patrick, who was born in St. Johnsbury and graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy. After high school, he attended NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, NC. He eventually planned on entering the automotive field. Upon returning to Vermont, he worked on the construction and remodeling of houses and also worked at some garages.

Patrick joined the National Guard in November 2007 and is a member of the Lyndonville Unit, C Troop 1st of the 172nd Cavalry.

"Joining the Guards was something I always thought about and I was always going to do," he says. His basic training was at Fort Benning, GA, from February to June 2008. After basic training, he went into the infantry.

"Infantry means that you are on the ground, on the front lines, and the work horses for everyone else."

While Patrick was in basic training, Corinna was home in Vermont with Connor.

"It was hard," she says. "I moved in with his Mom and Dad in Waterford, so I had help with Connor and everything else." She was taking prerequisite studies to enter the nursing program at Lyndon State College and also working nights. In April, Patrick got a 36-hour pass and Corinna and Connor visited him in Georgia.

After basic training, Patrick returned to Vermont. He worked maintaining apartment buildings in Vermont and New Hampshire. In April 2009, he started working for the National Guard full-time at the recruiting office in St. Johnsbury.

Before Patrick joined the National Guard, he knew he would be going to Afghanistan.

"I wanted to go into a unit that

was deploying. It is part of being in the military. I did not have any worries about going into a war zone."

Corinna said she knew it would happen once her husband started talking about it.

"He talked about it for a few months before he actually joined, but once he sets his mind on something, he's going to do it. I was scared and worried when he actually knew he was getting deployed, but there isn't much you can do about it. You have to be supportive."

"I joined the service because I wanted to," adds Patrick. "My grandfather was once commander of the unit that I'm in. It used to be in St. Johnsbury where the armory is and then it moved to Lyndonville. I felt that with all the stuff going on that the time was right. Connor was old enough so that he would still know me when I got back."

In October and November 2009, all of the 172nd (which is most of Vermont) traveled to both Fort Polk, La. and Camp Atterbury near Edinburg, Indiana, for training. Camp Atterbury is currently used as a training facility for deploying troops to Afghanistan.

Deployment for the Lyndonville Unit officially started Dec. 10,

2009, and the Afghanistan assignment was for 12 months. Patrick was in Indiana in December and did not expect to come home for Christmas. He remembers the kindness of people and says, "Originally, we weren't supposed to come home for Christmas, and then there were people who raised money for buses. We were allowed to leave for a few days because everyone was doing well with the training." He was able to spend Christmas with his family.


In March 2010, the 172nd left from Camp Atterbury for Afghanistan. Patrick had never traveled outside of the United States, except for Canada. They had a stopover in Ireland, long enough to fuel up and walk around and stretch. It was a 16-plus hour flight. They flew on a commercial airline and prior to entering Afghanistan, they boarded military planes.

Patrick was stationed at Bagram.

"I belong to the Lyndonville Unit which is C Troop," he says. "We have three platoons. It depends on the size of the unit as to how many platoons you have. I was in the 2nd platoon. In the platoons, you have squads. We had two squads in my platoon and most of the time I was in the

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Your loving family,
Betty, Barb, Gary, Brent and Cyndy

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Danville Selectboard is looking for someone to serve on the **Planning Commission**, the **Development Review Board**, and as the **Town Health Officer**. The Planning Commission's main focus is on keeping the Town Plan and the Zoning Bylaws current and updated. The Development Review Board reviews building and subdivision requests that do not conform to the zoning bylaws and decide if variances will be allowed for a particular project. The Town Health Officer is involved with health related issues in town.

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first squad. In the squads you have teams. There are five or six guys on a team.”

At Bagram, they lived in huge tents similar to circus tents. “When we first got there, our whole Lyndonville unit was in one tent. We were crammed. You had a bunk bed and a locker on each side of your bed. After a few months, some space freed up and we got two tents so half the unit went into the other tent. It was a lot better. Each of us had an entire bunk bed to himself. We went from that into a main area on the base, and we had huts with about 12 men in one hut. There were beds and lockers for your gear. Bathrooms were portable toilets.”

Patrick describes the climate as, “hot, dry, and windy. When it rained, it really rained. It reminded me of the raining war scene from ‘Forrest Gump’ when it was raining in every direction – even up. It would get cold there, too, depending on the area we were in. This time of year it is really starting to cool off, and they will have winter just like us.”

When asked what a typical day at Bagram was like, Patrick says, “Every day was different. We were getting ready for the next week or two out at one of the small bases we set up. Some days we were on call to assist other platoons or units, or if an issue came up that they didn’t have anyone lined up for, we would go out. It could be at any time. Also on base we were getting supplies, maintaining weapons and vehicles, and doing laundry.” There were chow halls on base for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. “A lot of times we were just in and out with no time to stop for chow in which case we would eat MREs (Meals Ready to Eat).”

When they first arrived in Afghanistan, they were at Bagram most of the time. But after a month or so, they were sent to patrol bases. “First, at our patrol bases we set up our security, got settled in, and set up a schedule to rotate our guard positions which could run anywhere from two to 12 hours long. Our leaders would set up a plan for which areas in the villages we were going to patrol on what day. Patrols

would be done on foot or from our vehicles and would consist of looking for things out of the norm and talking to locals and village elders. We worked with the Afghan Army and Afghan police. The days and nights were long, keeping our patrol base safe and completing our assigned mission and tasks. Food was what you brought, like MREs. You stayed in whatever they had for buildings. There were times when we slept in our trucks or tents.”

While Patrick was in Afghanistan, Corinna had Emma. Patrick requested a leave during the time period closest to Corinna’s due date. He was able to come home for two weeks after Emma was born on June 15. Patrick had been home when Connor was born, but he and Corinna knew that Patrick would be away when Emma was born. “I was mentally prepared that she was going to do it by herself and my mom was there with her,” he says.

“Five minutes after Emma was born, he called, and I said, ‘She’s already here,’” Corinna adds. “It was nice that I got to talk to him.”

Technology has been an advantage for those stationed away from home. At Bagram, there were places set up with computers that ran off satellites and they could get e-mail. Patrick and Corinna could also talk by phone. “We didn’t always have it, but if it was an area where you could have phones and computers set up, then we could communicate,” says Patrick.

“Sometimes we would go a

week where we could talk every day and then there would be two weeks and we couldn’t talk at all,” according to Corinna.

For all military personnel, care packages from home are always eagerly anticipated. Packages reach Patrick in five to seven days. Patrick said what he looked forward to the most was “anything that reminded me of home and my family, food (Vermont maple syrup), beef jerky, movies, and letters.”

“Corinna mailing me packages worked a lot better because you never knew when you were going to be near a place to get e-mail,” he says. “She was really busy with two kids, nursing school, a job, and she also took on the Family Readiness Group.” This is a group for the Lyndonville unit so that if someone needs help with a problem or wants someone to talk to, they have a person to call. Corinna ended up leading the group. As the deployment went on, it became a big responsibility. Patrick says, “Corinna did awesome. She had a lot on her plate.”

After active duty, Patrick would like to get back into building construction or maybe go into business for himself. “We’re in a tough area so you have to be careful,” he says. “I don’t want to take too much of a chance until Corinna finishes school and gets her LPN, which will be in June. Then she’ll apply for more schooling and eventually go for her master’s degree.” Patrick will continue with the Guards by meeting one

weekend a month and training two weeks a year.

During the holidays, we are especially reminded of those who are away from us. Although it is supposed to be a happy time of year, for many it brings back memories of those who are no

longer here. For others, it means a separation of thousands of miles from those we love. It is easy to be touched by Patrick McElroy and his family, and to be thankful for them and the many others who have given or are giving so much for our country.




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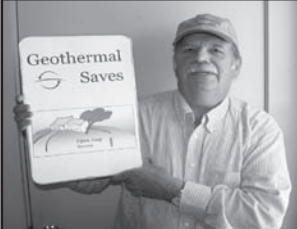
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Danville School
2010-2011 Schedule
Athletic Director: Tammy Rainville

Boys Varsity Basketball			
December	18	Blue Mountain Union	2:30 PM
	21	Richford	7 PM
	28	@ Cabot	7 PM
January	30	BFA Fairfax	7:30 PM
	8	@ Enosburg Falls	2:30 PM
	11	@ Blue Mountain Union	7 PM
	14	Stowe	7:30 PM
	18	Peoples Academy	7 PM
	21	@ Concord	5:30 PM
February	28	@ Northfield	7:30 PM
	2	Hazen Union	7:30 PM
	4	@ Peoples Academy	7 PM
	9	Enosburg Falls	7 PM
	11	@ BFA Fairfax	7:30 PM
	16	Northfield	7:30 PM
March	18	Winooski	7 PM
	23	@ Richford	7 PM
	25	@ Lake Region	7:30 PM
	2	Hazen Union	7:30 PM
4	@ Stowe	7 PM	

Girls Varsity Basketball			
December	15	@ Blue Mountain Union	7 PM
	17	Concord	7:30 PM
	20	Cabot	7 PM
	30	@ Richford	7 PM
January	5	@ Stowe	7 PM
	7	Blue Mountain Union	7 PM
	15	@ Northfield	2:30 PM
	19	Peoples Academy	7 PM
	21	@ Hazen Union	7:30 PM
	25	Enosburg Falls	7 PM
February	27	Twinfield	7 PM
	1	Northfield	7:30 PM
	3	@ Winooski	6:30 PM
	8	@ Peoples Academy	7 PM
	10	Hazen Union School	7:30 PM
	12	@ Enosburg Falls	2:30 PM
	15	BFA Fairfax	7:30 PM
	17	Stowe	7:30 PM
22	Richford	7 PM	
24	@ Lake Region	7:30 PM	

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Pellets.....	\$19.59

* Comparisons per million BTUs by VT DPS July, 2010

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What's Happening at Town Hall

Barnet

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

November 22, 2010

Milarepa Center - Treasurer Benjamin Heisholt discussed Board decision of Oct. 25, 2010 to deposit the tax overpayment of Milarepa Center into the Esden Fund. Heisholt suggested that commingling these funds with a trust fund containing both unrestricted and restricted balances may present bookkeeping challenges. Heisholt suggested that the funds be placed in a reserve account. After brief discussion, a motion made by Faris to deposit this tax overpayment into the Municipal Buildings reserve account. Seconded by Bunnell and approved by voice vote.

Diesel Tanks - Arrangements for the set-up of diesel tanks at the new Town Garage. Road Foreman Timothy Gibbs has initiated processes for moving to the new Town Garage both the 1,000 gallon tank at the gravel pit and the 1,000 gallon tank at the old Town Garage. Gibbs pre-

sented a quote from Calco, Inc. for a concrete crypt in which to place the tank from the gravel pit. Once the Highway Department moves the tank from the gravel pit, a roof will be built for the concrete crypt by the Highway Department. The Highway Department will also move the tank from the old Town Garage, and Calco, Inc. will move the concrete crypt currently housing this tank. After brief discussion, the Board instructed Gibbs to proceed with this plan.

Tax Sale - Theodore Soares appeared to present a grievance concerning the conduct of Collector of Delinquent Tax Lisa Bowden. Mr. Soares's property is currently scheduled for tax sale as result of delinquent property tax owed for tax years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Mr. Soares complained that Bowden has been difficult to work with and she previously has not accepted his offers to arrange payment plans but required that he pay large sums of money within a short period of time to avoid a tax sale. On this occasion, Mr. Soares claims that Bowden advertised a tax sale without notifying him prior to procedures being completed. Brief discussion followed. Faris explained that Bowden is an elected official with autonomous powers. Roberts explained that the only influence the

Board has in this matter is with respect to payment of legal fees accrued by tax sale proceedings. Roberts instructed Town Clerk Benjamin Heisholt to request Bowden's appearance at the next Board meeting, on Dec. 13, 2010.

Lyndon

*Town Clerk - Lisa Barrett
Administrative Assistant: Dan Hill
Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Kevin Calkins
and Kermit Fisher*

November 8, 2010

Planter - Motion made by Kermit Fisher, seconded by Martha Feltus, to allow the Anti-Marijuana Coalition to paint the planter at LI a multi-colored pattern as part of their anti-drug program. The group also painted the planter in the spring and will repaint it white upon completion of the program. Dan will discuss the ability to repaint the planter in the middle of December. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Garage - Russell Blake reviewed the idea discussed at the flood mitigation meeting to use FEMA monies to relocate the Town's highway garage to a site out of the floodplain. Mr. Blake offered to serve on a committee to search for a new location for the highway garage. The Board will set up a study committee to research the issue.

Conference Room - A proposal for engineering work has been received. The Board prefers to invite contractors to a walk-through due to the small size of the proposed project. Dan will place a notice in the newspaper regarding the project.

Cemetery - The cemetery sexton feels that there would be about 300 single person lots in the proposed area of cemetery expansion. The estimated cost to ready the section for use is \$15,000.

Peacham

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

November 3, 2010

Bonfire - Dave Stauffer requested that the annual winter solstice bonfire be held behind the Reis property on cemetery land. The proposed date is Dec. 21, 2010 after dusk. The Board and Fire Chief approved the request.

Broadband Project - Frank Miller requested that the Board approve the application for the e-VT project which has been established to assist rural communities optimize their use of broadband as a tool for economic development, education, social services, community connections and civic engagement. The e-VCBP is supported at the state level by a stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Assistance to towns is in the form of technical help rather than funding. Applications are due by Nov. 17, 2010 and there is no fee to the towns that are selected to participate. Additional informational literature is available at the Town Clerk's office. Browne moved to support this program

and have a board member represent the Town government. Cochran seconded. Unanimously approved. Browne was selected to be the municipal representative.

Music Festival - Frank Miller discussed plans for a music festival in Peacham on August 19, 20, 21, 2011. He requested that the Board investigate the ordinances and compatibility of such an event in Peacham. Frank presented an overview of the event, venues, estimated size and event management issues. No action taken.

Radios - Fire Chief, Jeff Berwick presented the VT Department of Public Safety "Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant Program." The grant will involve purchasing radios with narrower frequency compatibility. The grant is sponsored by Homeland Security with a \$600 Town financial match. Browne moved to approve the application for the PSIC Grant. Cochran seconded. Unanimously approved.

St. Johnsbury

*Town Manager: Ralph Nelson
Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier
Selectboard: Bryon Quatrini, Daniel Kimbell, Jim Rust, Rodney Lamotte and
Bernard Timson.*

November 8, 2010

Public Comment - Bruce Corrette asked if the Board had developed any plans for the land in St. Johnsbury Center that was turned over to the Board from the School Board several years ago. He also was concerned with the use of 8 acres owned by the town next to the Passumpsic River. Mr. Nelson assured Mr. Corrette that the Board will be looking into both areas.

December 2010 Menu

West Barnet Senior Meal Site

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.

Dec. 1 - Fish chowder, carrot sticks, egg salad rolls and rice pudding.

Dec. 3 - Buffet

Dec. 8 - Cheeseburger pie, green beans, carrot and raisin salad, dark bread and pineapple upside down cake.

Dec. 10 - Meatloaf, mashed potato, buttered carrots, rolls and peached and cream.

Dec. 15 - Macaroni and cheese, sausage, stewed tomatoes, dark bread and tropical fruit.

Dec. 17 - Christmas Dinner: Baked ham, sweet potatoes, cole slaw, squash, pumpkin rolls.

Dec. 22 - Liver, bacon, onions, mashed potato, peas and onions, muffins and chocolate pudding.

Dec. 24 - Baked beans, hot dogs, brown bread, cole slaw and fruited jello.

Dec. 29 - American chop suey, spinach, homemade raisin bread and brownies.

Dec. 31 - Roast beef, potatoes, broccoli, sweet breads, jello with mandarin oranges.

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State Office Holders – Chairman Rust introduced the four senators and state representatives for the Town of St. Johnsbury, and distributed a list of concerns that the Selectboard had designated of particular interest to the Town in the next legislative session. The following matters were on the list:

1. Business Development (state regulations and timeline discourages business in VT)
2. Downtown Development – appreciate support on the Railroad street project going out to bid.
3. Highway Funds – Try to make sure the highway funds are not delayed this year.
4. Transportation Path Funding – Is the funding dependent upon the rail trail being completed?
5. Infrastructure Projects – Increased funding required for Portland Street Bridge due to older study used. Any possibility of getting local match reduced?
6. Regional Recreation Facility – Looking for any available funding to assist with development of local facility. Need to get agreements from surrounding towns that will buy into the facility.
7. Electrical Rates – Great concern over increased rates, possibly caused by Vermont Yankee closing – would cause hardship to local industry and agriculture.
8. Jail/Work Camp – Concern over the future of the work camp, and what it would mean for local jobs and economy if it closed.
9. Taxes/Reappraisals – Ask the

State to stop raising the school taxes – making it difficult for people to keep up on taxes they have no control over.

10. Park and Ride – Upgrades to the US Route 2 park and ride have been pushed out to 2013. There is heavy usage now, and could be better with bus stop there.

11. Schools – Concern over increased tax burden, taxes and staff increasing while student population is going down.

12. Better Communication – Need to keep the avenues of communication open, more often than twice a year – to keep legislators informed of concerns to the Town, and keep the Town informed of what is coming up in the legislature.

Gary Reis pointed out that the \$112,000,000 deficit will dictate some priorities for the legislature, and will require more cuts to spending. Joe Benning agreed, saying the deficit is likely to climb, depending upon the result of Vermont Yankee, and if a single payer health policy is adopted. Bob South vowed that the Northeast representatives will work together to try to accomplish more for this area of the state, in light of the disparity of population between the Northeast and Chittenden County. Ralph Nelson said it was most important for the lines of communication to be kept open and information flowing back to the Towns. Jane Kitchell pointed out that Act 250 has been around a long time and

has changed considerably, adding new requirements every year along with local restrictions. Joe Benning asked for more local input on specific areas as they come up in the legislature. It was agreed that everyone's budget will be affected by increased taxes so the legislature needs to try to keep them to a minimum.

Special Appropriations – There was some discussion over whether or not the organizations requesting special funds will have to petition for inclusion on the March, 2011 ballot. General agreement that any organization wanting an increase in appropriation would need to petition, and the Board would like to personally hear from all organizations, with updates of their required funding. Ralph Nelson will contact the organizations and ask someone to present to the Board at the next few meetings.

Manager's Report – The Manager reported that bids from the repair/removal of the Murphy Electric roof, in conjunction with the Portland Street Bridge project, came in from three sources. The winning bid was from Winterset at \$5,600. Other bidders were D & G at \$18,500 and Rodd Roofing at \$12,500. Mr. Nelson reported that the labor union negotiations are going forward. Also the transfer of retirement funds from the Town Retirement

Fund into the VEMRS fund will take time, but he is moving forward with the process. Jim Rust reported that the Board may consider dropping personal property tax, since it could help to encourage business to the area, and other towns in the Northeast, including Newport have discontinued the personal property tax. The Town of Lyndon is also considering the discontinuance of personal property tax. Mr. Nelson reported that it generates approximately \$155,000 per year.

Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith
Board of Selectmen: Perley Greaves, Dave Brown and Peter Clark.

November 16, 2010

Bridge - Carolyn Carlson from VTRANS explained the plans to replace bridge #83 on Route 15, near the town garage. She explained the plans were to widen it from 22 feet to 30 feet, resurface it and possibly replace the abutments. She explained the different options available to do this. They could build a temporary bridge, do it in phases or close the road and reroute the truck traffic using Route 215 and Route 2. Local traffic could use local roads for detour. She explained that they would rather not have to purchase right of ways so the third option of clos-

December 2010 Menu

Danville Senior Action Center

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$4 for guests 60+ (others \$5) is appreciated.

Dec. 2 - Lasagna, garlic bread, tossed salad, peas, carrots and pudding.

Dec. 6 - Apricot and shallot stuffed pork loin, rice pilaf, broccoli, homemade apple chutney and birthday cake.

Dec. 7 - Chicken picatta, brown rice, sauteed greens, rolls, OJ and green beans.

Dec. 9 - Clam chowder with oyster crackers, chef salad with homemade croutons and pumpkin bars.

Dec. 13 - Liver, bacon, onions, peppers, hamburgers, mashed potato, mixed veggies, rolls and oatmeal cookies.

Dec. 14 - Grilled marinated chicken breast, pasta with pesto sauce, broccoli, carrots and rolls.

Dec. 16 - Tomato bisque with saltines, hot dog on a bun, spinach salad with mandarin oranges and fruit cobbler.

Dec. 20 - Sweet and sour meatballs, brown rice, broccoli, carrots and zucchini bread.

Dec. 21 - Chicken parmesan, pasta with homemade marinara, garlic bread, green beans and canteloupe.

Dec. 23 - Shepherd's pie, broccoli salad, rolls, buttered squash and jello.

Dec. 27 - Chicken and biscuits with peas and carrots, steamed broccoli and fruit cups.

Dec. 28 - Meatloaf topped with peppers, onions and tomatoes, rice, peas and carrots, rolls and juice.

Dec. 30 - Pulled pork on a bun, cole slaw, pasta salad and strawberry shortcake.

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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.

1st Monday: North Danville Community Club, Meeting, 6 p.m. North Danville Community Center. (802) 748-9415.

1st & 3rd Mondays: "Six O'clock Prompt," Writers' Support Group, 6:30 p.m. Catamount Arts. (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.

Tuesdays: Japanese Swordplay, 3-4 p.m., Barnet Tradepost Wellness Center, 633-2700

Tuesdays: Tai Chi, 4-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m., Barnet Tradepost Wellness Center, 633-2700

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 1 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: Danville Farmers Market on the green from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Wednesdays: Japanese Swordplay, 3-4:30 p.m., Barnet Tradepost Wellness Center, 633-2700.

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. Call (802) 525-3366 for details.

Thursdays: Kyudo (Zen Archery), 7-9 p.m., St. Johnsbury Academy Field House, 633-2700.

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.

Thursdays: Tutoring for GED and Adult Learning Programs, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Cobleigh Public Library.

Fridays: Kyudo (Zen Archery), 4-6 p.m., twice monthly, Barnet Tradepost Wellness Center, 633-2700.

1st Fridays: Contra Dance, 8 p.m. at Danville Town Hall. All levels welcome. (802) 563-3225 or samlyman@myfairpoint.net.

4th Fridays: Public readings at Green Mountain Books in Lyndonville. Call (802) 626-5051 or E-mail greenmountainbooks@myfairpoint.net.

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

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

Saturdays: St. Johnsbury Winter Farmers Market. St. Johnsbury Welcome Center.

1st Saturday: Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

1st Saturday: Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m. (802) 748-8291.

1st & 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.

2nd Saturdays: Lyndonville Winter Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tome Breslin Center.

3rd Saturday: All you can eat breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m., Barnet Congregational Church.

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

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Saturday 9 a.m. - Noon.

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Pope Notes

with Dee Palmer, Library Director

Please join us on December 10 from 5-7pm for Holiday on the Green. We will join with other village businesses for a food and beverage walk about. The library will serve appetizers, desserts and punch. The Pumpkin Hill Singers perform at the Danville Congregational Church at 7:30. These two events are a perfect way to get into the holiday spirit!

Our next book discussion in the Vermont Humanities Council series Booker Prize Winners is "The Blind Assassin" by Margaret Atwood. The Blind Assassin is a tale of two sisters, one of whom dies under ambiguous circumstances in the opening pages. The survivor, Iris Chase Griffen, initially seems a little cold-blooded about this death in the family. But as Margaret Atwood's most ambitious work unfolds—a tricky process, in fact, with several nested narratives and even an entire novel-within-a-novel—we're reminded of just how complicated the familial game of hide-and-seek can be.

This discussion takes place on Wednesday, December 29 at 7pm with scholar Bob Johnson. Stop in to pick up your book.

We have also received 25 copies of "The Day of the Pelican" by Katherine Paterson. This is the 2010 Vermont Humanities Council choice for Vermont Reads: A Statewide One-Book Community Reading Program. "The Day of the Pelican" is the story of an Albanian family's journey from the Balkans to Vermont. This subject of this book is near and dear to the hearts of many in Danville who well remember the two families from Kosovo

who were members of our community for several years. Books are available now at the Pope and Danville School. Pick up a copy to read and pass on.

We have many new book acquisitions. A few of these are: By Nightfall by Cunningham, The Brave by Evans, A Widower's Tale by Glass, The Cookbook Collector by Goodman, The Good Daughters by Maynard, Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk by Sedaris, Growing Up Laughing: My Story and the Story of Funny by Thomas, and The Unwanted Sound of Everything We Want: A Book About Noise by Keizer. Come in and Check them out!

Tim and Jenness Ide were the gracious hosts of another successful and fun foodie movie in October. This time the theme was Greek and the guests enjoyed a delicious dinner of dolmathakia and bou-

reki, moussaka, Greek sofrito, Greek Salad and baklava. The next "foodie movie" event will be in January. If you are interesting in hosting a dinner in 2011 please call us at the Pope.

On October 23 we held a volunteer appreciation brunch at the Pope. It was a lovely affair with great breakfast casseroles, coffee cakes, fruit, and lots of other goodies made by our trustees. We were very happy to have such

a wonderful turnout. Our cast of volunteers extends far outside the library and we are very grateful for all the help. Thank you Pope Volunteers!

From the Children's Room
Wednesday, December 15 is our last story hour for the year. We will resume on Wednesday, January 19 at 10 am.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!



The North Danville Baptist Church (ABC)

Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Children's Lesson 9:35 a.m.
Sunday School 9:40 a.m.
Fellowship & Refreshments 10:20 a.m.

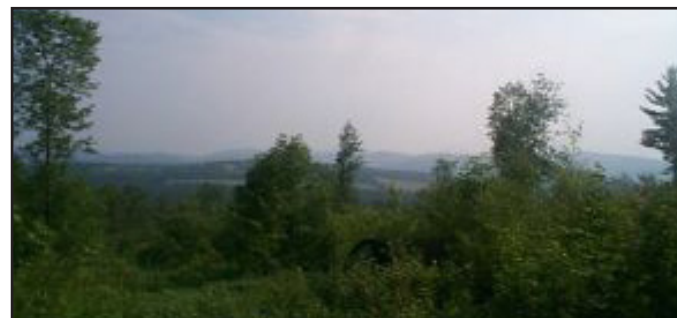
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GOOD SNOWMOBILING SPOT

ML4023268 Camp sitting on 25 acres of wooded land. Great hunting in the area or a good snowmobiling spot. It's also a great spot to build a house. Camp is being sold "as is." \$145,000



COMPLETELY RENOVATED

ML4029708 Large kitchen/dining area w/tile and wood floors. Cozy living room w/gorgeous stone fireplace and vaulted ceiling. Master BR on 2nd floor w/large walk-in closet. Office off kitchen and large closets throughout. Basement is fully insulated. 8 acres. \$339,000

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ML#4018324

Attention to detail is evident throughout in this classic cape on 6.63 acres+/- . Many recent improvements include interior paint, hardwood floors, and 2 stainless steel chimney liners, etc. This four bedroom, 1 1/2 bath cape is tastefully decorated and immaculately maintained. Outside you'll find perennial and vegetable gardens plus, extensive well cared for grounds. There's even a sturdy outbuilding for all your tools and toys.

\$185,500

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SURROUNDED BY FARMLAND

ML4028284 Private 3BR cape-style home is waiting for a new family. With a heated garage for tinkering, a barn for animals or storage, and 7.7 acres of organic garden space, this property has something for everyone. Has nice covered porch, large living room w/hardwood floors and fireplace, formal dining room, and good concrete basement. \$192,500



PRIVATE RAISED RANCH

ML4028118 4BRs, family room, large, open kitchen/living/dining area w/a beautiful long range picture window view of the White Mountains. Enjoy a private deck out back, a paved area w/a basketball hoop, 2-car garage, plenty of space for garden, plus you're right next to the VAST trail for snowshoeing and walking! \$170,000

December events in the NEK

Wed., December 1, 2010

First Wednesday Lecture Series. Distinguished Northwestern University professor T. H. Breen examines the role ordinary New Englanders—including Vermonters—played in 1774 in pressuring the Continental Congress for more assertive and radical resistance to Great Britain. All programs are free, but seating is limited. Programs start at 7 PM and are held at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum unless otherwise noted.

The National Marionette Theatre - Sleeping Beauty, Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy, 10AM to 1 PM. The National Marionette Theatre is one of the oldest continually running marionette theaters in the United States. This award-winning troupe has been entertaining audiences around the world for over forty years.

Fri., December 3, 2010

Handel's Messiah, 7:30 PM., presented by North Country Chorus with orchestra and soloists, directed by Alan Rowe at the North Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury.

Sat, December 4, 2010

Santa comes to downtown Lyndon for his traditional visit to hear children's wishes on the porch of the Darling Inn. Bring the kids to the Cobleigh Library from 10 AM to noon to make holiday crafts. Have some free hot cocoa and a hay wagon ride. For more information please call the Lyndon Area Chamber of Commerce at (802) 626-9696.

The North Pole Express, The Lyndon Freighthouse, \$25 per ticket, rides at 12, 2, 4, and 6 PM. Join us for a magical journey aboard heated vintage train coaches for holiday narration, cookies, hot cocoa, caroling, and entertainment. A special surprise for passengers of all ages. Pajamas are encouraged. Advance Tickets Required. Visa, MasterCard, Discover Accepted. Call for tickets (802) 626-1400.

Annual Burklyn Arts Holiday Market, Lyndon Town School, arts & crafts from dozens of vendors - just in time for holiday shopping. Chinese Auction, luncheon, baked goods and more!

Tues., December 7, 2010

NEK Audubon Informational and Planning Meeting. Join us at the Fairbanks Museum from 4:00 - 5:30 PM. Open to all. Call Tom at (802) 626-9071 or email blackpoll@myfairpoint.net for information.

Wed., December 8, 2010

Please join us at the Cobleigh Public Library to meet **local author Dan Swainbank** with his new book "Mr. Vail is in Town" at 11 AM. Dan Swainbank explores Theodore N. Vail's life and legacy. Swainbank's book brings full circle a project started by beloved local historian Harriet Fletcher Fisher, who died in 2008. Mr. Vail is in Town gives us a fascinating look at "Lyndon's Royalty". Green Mountain Books will have copies of the books available for purchase.

FREE Food Share, 12-2 PM, must meet income eligibility guidelines. 3339 Main St Cabot, VT. Faith In Action Northern Communities Partnership, Inc (FIANCP) will be hosting it's twice-monthly Food Share on Dec. 8 from 12-2 PM. Approximately 6,000+ lbs of food and goods will be distributed! For more information call us at (802) 563-3322

Thurs, December 9, 2010

Pumpkin Hill Singers Concert "Winter's Coming" at North Congregational

Church, St Johnsbury AT 7:30 PM and Friday, Dec 10 at Danville Congregational Church, Danville, following Christmas on the Green, 7:30 PM.

Fri., December 10, 2010

Christmas on the Green, Danville, 5-7 PM. Pope library and other locations in the village. Pumpkin Hill concert 7:30 PM at the Danville Congregational Church.

Sat., December 11, 2010

Alexander Twilight Theater; **Lyndon State College Community Chorus and the St. Johnsbury Band** combined Holiday Concert; by donation, 7 PM.

Victorian Holiday, 9AM to 7PM, A town-wide event celebrating the season in St. Johnsbury. Wagon rides, Santa, mulled cider and terrific sales.

Sun., December 12, 2010

Ecumenical Advent Service, Old North Church, North Danville, 7 PM.

Sun., December 12, 2010,

The Old North Church in North Danville will host its **3rd annual Advent Service and Carol Sing** at 7 PM. Hosted by the Danville churches and their choirs. Remember your flashlights and dress warmly!

Mon., December 13, 2010

FREE Community Dinner, 5-7 PM, 3339 Main Street Cabot, VT. All are welcome! Join Faith In Action Northern Communities Partnership, Inc. (FIANCP) for a free Community Dinner. Due to fire laws we are only able to seat 50 people at a time so servings will be staggered to meet this need. Reservations are optional. If you'd like to reserve a seat please call (802) 563-3322.

Sat., December 18, 2010

Boston Children's Chorus, 7PM, North Congregational Church. For more information call (802) 748-2600.

Fri., December 24, 2010

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 PM Danville United Methodist Church.

Sat. December 25, 2010

CHRISTMAS DAY!

Fri., December 31, 2010

First Night In St. Johnsbury, Music, entertainment, fireworks, games, food, fun throughout downtown St. Johnsbury to ring in the New Year. For the full schedule visit their website.

Sat., January 1, 2011

Barnet's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Join the NEK Audubon's one day monitor count of winter birds. Contact Charlie Browne for routes and information. cbrowne@fairbanksmuseum.org

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