

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
August 21st, 12:30 pm

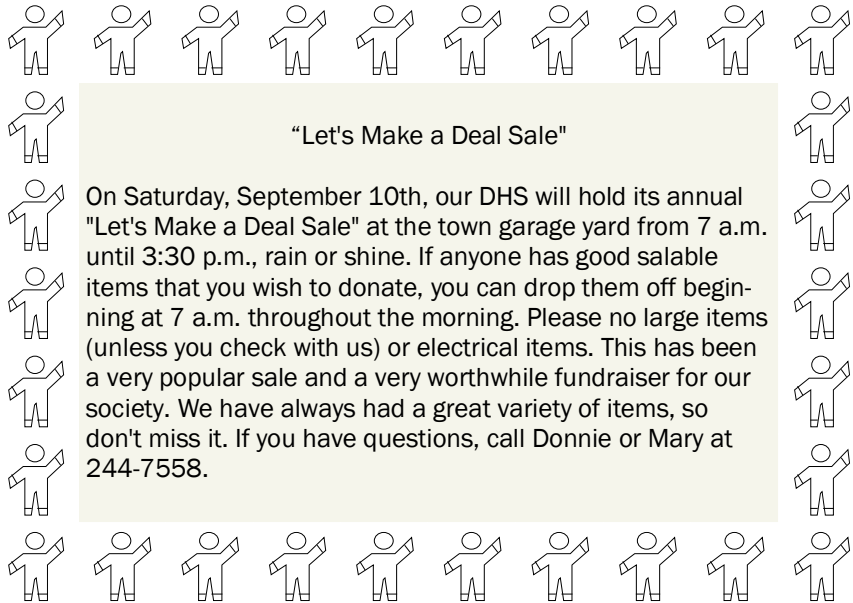
- See you at the next meeting on Sunday, August 21st, 12:30 pm, South Duxbury Church property.
- Saturday, September 10th will be our "Let's Make a Deal" sale. Save the date!

Our next DHS meeting will be our annual picnic on Sunday, August 21st, at 12:30 p.m., at the South Duxbury Church property. Rain or shine! Since it will be potluck, please bring a hot dish, salad, or a dessert to share. This has always worked out just fine and everyone likes to share their dish and also taste other dishes. Please bring your own lawn chair, if possible. Beverages and paper products will be furnished. We would like to have photos taken for future generations to enjoy. We will have a selection of old tools to view and discuss. Feel free to bring your oldies to share with the group. Tours of the buildings will be welcome, so bring a friend and enjoy the afternoon. If you have questions, call Donnie or Mary at 244-7558.

DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF A PERSON OR PLACE WE CAN USE FOR A MYSTERY PHOTO? IF SO, PLEASE SUBMIT TO A NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBER TODAY! THANK YOU!

"Let's Make a Deal Sale"

On Saturday, September 10th, our DHS will hold its annual "Let's Make a Deal Sale" at the town garage yard from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., rain or shine. If anyone has good salable items that you wish to donate, you can drop them off beginning at 7 a.m. throughout the morning. Please no large items (unless you check with us) or electrical items. This has been a very popular sale and a very worthwhile fundraiser for our society. We have always had a great variety of items, so don't miss it. If you have questions, call Donnie or Mary at 244-7558.



RECIPES TO SHARE

The following recipes are from *My Joy of Baking* by Helen B. Davis

Beef Pie with Cheese Topping

Melt 2 tbsp. shortening; add 2 tbsp. minced onions, 3/4 lb. ground beef, 1 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper and brown in pan. Add 2 c. stewed tomatoes, 2 Tbsp. flour and 1/8 tsp. oregano and cook until thickened. Add 1 c. cooked cubed carrots, and 1 c. cooked green peas. Pour all into a greased casserole. Topping: Blend the following ingredients to make a soft dough: 1 c. flour, 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder, 1/2 tsp. dry mustard, 1/2 tsp. salt, 2 Tbsp. margarine, 1/4 c. grated cheese and 1/2 c. milk. Pour topping over meat mixture, spread evenly with spatula. Bake 350° (25 minutes). Serves: 6

Beef Stroganoff I

1/2 c. diced onion, 1 lb. round steak, cubed, 2 Tbsp. shortening, 1 can golden mushroom soup, and 1/2 c. sour cream. Brown onion and steak in shortening in elected skillet. Remove from heat. Add soup, sour cream and 1/3 c. water. Blend thoroughly; cover. Simmer for 1 hour or until meat is tender. Serve over cooked noodles. Yield: 4 servings.

Beef Stroganoff II

Brown 1 package beef stew meat and add 1 package Lipton Onion soup mix and enough water to cover meat. Simmer for 1 hour. Add 2 cans cream of mushroom soup and 1 can water. Simmer 45 minutes. Serve over rice or noodles.

Broccoli Casserole

Cook 2 packages frozen broccoli (chopped) until tender. Add rest of the ingredients: 2 Tbsp. minced onions, 1 c. grated cheese, 1 can mushroom soup, 1 cup mayonnaise, 2 eggs, beaten and 1/2 c. crushed cheese crackers. Place in a greased 1 1/2 qt. casserole. Bake 350° (30 minutes). * I entered this in a Cabot Cheese contest in '82.

Broccoli Cheese Bake

Grease: 13"x 9" pan. Oven: 350° (35 minutes). 1 (8 oz.) package elbow macaroni, 4 c. broccoli, 1/2 c. melted butter, 2 eggs, 1 (8 oz.) package shredded sharp Cheddar, 1/2 tsp. garlic powder, 2 cans evaporated milk, (large size cans), 3/4 tsp. onion salt, plus grated Parmesan cheese,

for the top, the last 15 minutes. Cook macaroni according to package directions; the last 5 minutes; add the broccoli and cook 5 minutes. Drain. In a large bowl, combine macaroni and cheese. Beat eggs and add milk, garlic powder and onion salt. Pour into the prepared pan; after combining both mixtures. Bake in preheated oven. Last 15 minutes, top with the grated Parmesan cheese.

Broccoli and Cheese Casserole

Grease 1 1/2 qt. casserole. Oven: 350° (30 minutes). 1 can (10 3/4oz.) cream of mushroom soup, 1/2 c. milk, 1 bag (16oz.) frozen broccoli flowerets thawed, 2 tsp. yellow mustard, 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese, 1/3 c. dry bread crumbs, 2 tsp. butter, melted. Stir soup, milk, mustard, broccoli and cheese in prepared casserole. Mix bread crumbs with butter in bowl and sprinkle over broccoli mixture. Bake 30minutes or until completely heated through. Rice is nice: add 2 cups cooked white rice to the broccoli mixture.

Candied Sweet Potatoes

Peel and boil sweet potatoes with salt. Pour maple syrup over them and simmer for a while or mash and add maple syrup instead of milk.* William Merrifield used my recipe for his Maple booklet when he was in High School.

Carmelized Onions in Mashed Potatoes

4 large potatoes, peeled and quartered, 1/8 tsp. seasoned salt, 6 Tbsp. butter, divided, 1/3 c. chopped onion, 1/3 c. packed brown sugar, 1/3 c. sour cream, 1/4 c. half - and - half cream, 2 oz. cream cheese, softened, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/8 tsp. pepper. Dash: cayenne pepper. Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water; add seasoned salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and cook for 15-20 minutes or until tender. Mean while, in a small skillet, melt 4 tbsp. butter. Add onion; cook until slightly, softened. Sprinkle with brown sugar; cook until brown sugar is bubbly and onion is tender. Drain potatoes; transfer to a large bowl. Add the sour cream, half-and-half, cream cheese, salt, pepper, cayenne and remaining butter; mash until smooth. Stir in the onion mixture. Yield: 8 servings.

SOUTH DUXBURY CHURCH

Daily Times, Barre, VT
August 7, 1947

DUXBURY CHURCH REVIVED

Two Ministers Canvassed Families, Found Many Interested

Duxbury, Aug. 7—August 3 was a big day for the little Congregational church at South Duxbury. For several years only one service a week had been held during the summer season and during the winter months the church had been closed entirely. It seemed to the few remaining members of the church, who assembled there each Sunday, that the doors of the little church must close. They thought that it was asking too much of a minister to come in for a service with so few in attendance.

But Rev. Herbert Campbell, the pastor, and Rev. Edward S. Treat, the assistant minister of the Vermont Congregational Conference, conceived a plan for giving the church a new lease on life. A survey of that part of town which would naturally affiliate with South Duxbury, revealed that there were 47 Protestant families and that this little church was the only church in the town.

Their plan included an extensive house to house visiting campaign. It meant days and nights of hard work if the plan were to be a success. So Messrs. Campbell and Treat rang doorbells and talked with men and women at work in the fields and homes of the town. That their work has been successful may be seen in the following facts: Up to July 20 the average attendance at the little church had been about seven. On July 27 there were 23 out to the Sunday service, and on Aug. 3 there were about 40 in attendance.

During the visiting campaign there were 25 decisions to join the church either by transfer of membership or by the confession of faith. To enable them to make the right start a membership service was arranged for 2 p. m. Sunday, Aug. 3. At this service ten were received into the church on confession of faith and three were received by letter of transfer. Those received by confession of faith were Harry C. Backus, Gudren A. Merchant, Loretta M. Backus, Mrs. Greta Berno, Lee Bobar, Frank Millard Dunn, Richard Frank Dunn, Mrs. Phyllis Dunn, Roger Merchant and Robert L. Merchant.

Those taken into the church by letter of transfer were Mrs. Ira Bobar, Mrs. Richard Dunn, and Mrs. Lester Hills.

A number of other candidates for membership were unable to be at this service. Arrangements are being made for another membership service at which these will be given the right hand of fellowship.

Rev. Edward S. Treat brought a brief address on the responsibilities of church membership. South Duxbury feels greatly indebted to Mr. Treat for the invaluable service he has rendered this community.

Visitors at the service Sunday included Herbert Ward of Moretown, one of the oldest living members of the little church, also Burton Ward, Mr. and Mrs. William Kingsbury and Mrs. Hattie Bates, all of Moretown.

An annual meeting of the congregation will be called at an early date, at which time it is planned to elect new officers for the church and lay plans for a Sunday school and woman's society. The date of the meeting will be announced after the pastor returns from his vacation.

THE MODERATING MORSES

The Moderating Morses
By Steve Grace

The COVID era has ushered in great changes throughout the world, and the United States and Vermont have not been spared these changes. We are living through major changes in our economy, our social lives, our politics, and myriad other activities in our lives. One of these changes in our town has been the cancellation of the annual Town Meeting. Due to COVID protocols and the valid fear of spreading the disease, Duxbury has elected to use a hybrid Australian ballot system of voting on issues. This change, I freely admit, is nowhere near as crucial as many other national, state and local disruptions in our lives, but it still plays heavily on my mind. The town meeting tradition of local governance is unique to Vermont and I have always attended our meetings, if possible, and enjoyed the give and take of the affair, listening to Duxbury citizens discuss and debate the issues, most times in a civil, respectful way.

A point can be made, and is well made by people with whom I've talked, that democracy is actually better served by the hybrid Australian ballot process we were forced to use in place of the in-person town meeting. More votes were cast on issues during the COVID era, utilizing a drive-by Australian ballot process, than were

cast in previous traditional meetings. I see this point, but I still miss our Town Meetings. I look at the issue through the eyes of an aging man and see another time honored tradition disappearing from the scene. It saddens me a bit. Which leads me to the point of this narrative...

For years now, I've been thinking about the role the Morse family played in our Duxbury Town Meetings. Ever since Mark Morse stepped away from the podium as our Town Moderator, I've thought that the history of that Vermont family's role as Town Moderator should be recorded in our Duxbury Historical Society newsletter and archives. The tenure of the Morse family as Town Moderator in Duxbury is amazing to me. Morse family members served consecutive terms as Town Moderator from 1938-2017. I suppose it is possible that some other Vermont family in some small town served as many or more consecutive years as that role, but I rather doubt it. Eighty consecutive years of service as Town Moderator by a single family group is an incredible achievement and, most impressive of all, they performed their roles with distinction.

When I became interested in this project, I started a cursory search of the Morse role in our town's history, and I quickly realized that the family has been a presence in Duxbury for a long, long time.

In fact, the first Duxbury census in 1790 shows two Morses in Duxbury, David and John. Mark Morse, the last of the Morse line in the Town Moderator role, has done extensive research on his family's Duxbury history, and he assured me that these two Morses were, in fact, in his family line. I thought I was a member of an 'old Duxbury' family - four generations of my father's family, on both Dad's father's and mother's side of the family - have lived in Duxbury. But I'm a newbie compared to Mark and his Duxbury relatives. His ancestors were here at least one hundred years before mine showed up.

In my youth, I lived on what we then called the Breen Farm, now occupied by Mary and Ken Spencer, from 1945-1954. My mom always went to town meetings. My dad may have



Ralph Morse (right) and his son Wade.

The Times Argus
March 3, 1987
Photo by Joanne Vecchiola

THE MODERATING MORSES

attended a couple, but he stayed out of town politics for the most part. We younger siblings (brother John, sister Marjorie and I) treated town meeting day as a holiday - we tagged along with our mother and played with our school friends out on the school playground while our parents hashed out town business on the upper floor of the Duxbury Corner School. The moderator was Ralph Morse. Ralph was a highly respected man - he was Roy Demeritt's second-in-command at the Demeritt's mills in Duxbury and Waterbury, served in multiple town offices, and was Duxbury's representative to the Vermont legislature at one time in that era. It was as if Ralph was born for his role as moderator. He was a highly intelligent, calm, dispassionate man and fair-minded to a fault. He ran a smooth, tight ship and I'm convinced he was highly respected by just about every Duxbury resident. My family, I know, thought of him as an awfully good man.

Ralph had some ties to my siblings - he was the boss at Demeritt's Mill in Waterbury when my three older brothers were going to high school and all three of them worked at the mill during summer school vacations, working at the corn and bean canning factory and attending to the ladies making clothespins. Ralph was instrumental in their hiring and proved to be a stern, no-nonsense boss. All three of my brothers had the utmost respect for him and they credit him with instilling lasting lessons on the values of good work effort and ethics.

Ralph had two children, Wade and Barbara. Wade is one year older than I am. When the Crossett Hill one room schoolhouse was closed in 1950 and we Grace kids of grade school age were bussed to Duxbury Corner School, I became Wade's schoolmate. Wade was a good kid, a good student, and a casual friend of mine. After graduating from Duxbury Corner School and Waterbury High School, Wade became a successful Duxbury and Waterbury businessman. At a young age, Wade bought the Shell Filling Station on South Main Street in Waterbury, operating it profitably for a few years. He then started a garage/car sales operation at the current Snowfire location at Duxbury Corner. I believe Wade was successful in that operation as well. Later in life, he got out of the automotive field and became the owner/operator of a bread route here in central Vermont. He is now retired and still lives in Duxbury, out in the field which was once part of his parents' home on Crossett Hill Road. Wade became active in Duxbury governance at an early age. At one time

or another, Wade served as road foreman, selectman, zoning administrator and justice of the peace.

When Ralph Morse hung up his shingle as Town Moderator, Wade stepped into the job. It was a seamless transition for the most part. Wade learned well from his dad. He was knowledgeable and fair minded and did a first class job in moderating the meetings. One must remember that there were several Morse families living in Duxbury. It had to be tough for Ralph and Wade and, later, Mark to stay out of the fray when one or several of the Morse families were involved in a heated town debate of issues. When the Morses and the Shermans, another family with multiple households and a long, proud history in Duxbury, were on opposite sides of an issue, for instance, it was like trying to control a firecracker in a gas can. It can be done, but it has to be handled mighty carefully. And it was not a rare occurrence for these two families to be on opposite sides, I might add. However in fairness to both families, the arguments/disagreements were debated in a civil manner and the issues were resolved peacefully, (but that didn't prevent some mighty negative second guessing by the clan that lost the argument). Both Ralph and Wade were masterful at being fair minded and defusing any debates that got overheated. Everyone in attendance had to know where Ralph and Wade stood on these contested issues, but they kept the debate as civil as possible and showed no obvious partiality. Wade carried on the family tradition and carried it on well.

When Wade decided it was time to pass on the mantle of town moderator to a younger person, Mark Morse was elected to the office. Mark got his introduction to public



Mark Morse moderating the 2015 Duxbury Town Meeting.

THE MODERATING MORSES

service early in his life. His father, Willis Morse, was Duxbury's representative to the Vermont legislature multiple times and his mother, Barbara Morse, was a longtime, well-respected Town Clerk. Mark served in the Vermont National Guard, worked at National Life Insurance Company for twenty years in the ADP field, and worked for the State of Vermont Public Safety Department as a Vermont State Police dispatcher. Mark has served his country, his state and his town in his lifetime and has served them all well (and has grumbled a bit about all of them, too).

Mark is a close relative of Ralph and Wade (Ralph's nephew/Wade's cousin) but he was not as fortunate as Wade in having a mentor like Ralph in his immediate family. But Mark was up for the challenge. Mark, like Ralph and Wade before him, has served the town in multiple roles besides his Town Moderator role. He was a no-nonsense guy, fair minded on issues, giving all sides equal time for debate, knew Robert's Rules of Order, and proved to be another highly respected member of the Morse clan in the role as Town Moderator.

Times were changing rapidly when Mark assumed the job. He was managing a meeting with a significant number of new Duxbury residents. The old order of multi-generation families on hill farms throughout the town was disappearing rapidly - new faces, new ideas were surfacing at town meetings. In this way, I believe Mark's tenure was more difficult than his Morse antecedents. Ralph and Wade saw, for the most part, familiar faces in the at-

tendees; Mark had to adjust to seeing faces at town meetings that he was seeing for the first time. But Mark handled the changes with fairness and efficiency. He quickly earned the support and respect of Duxbury's citizens.

Mark retired from his role as Town Moderator a few years back, in 2017. I must admit I have not been to a town meeting since. As I grow older and the winters become more intimidating, I head for Florida or North Carolina in late winter. An escape from the cold and dreaded mud season has become an annual spring ritual. So I miss Town Meetings. I kind of disappeared from the Town Meeting scene when Mark stepped out of the job. Maybe it was meant to be. Somehow, for an old shanty Irishman like me, a Town Meeting just ain't the same without a Morse at the podium.

(I feel remiss about writing an article about the Morse Town Moderator legacy without discussing the role of the Morse women as Town Clerks, Treasurers, and in other various offices in our town. Barbara Morse, Mark Morse's mother, was town clerk in Duxbury for many years and Bonnie Morse, Mark's wife, has also served in those roles, for instance. I liked/admired both of these ladies - guess I should say I still like Bonnie. Other Morse women served the town as auditors and budget committee members. If I live long enough, I'll pay my respects in a future article to those ladies and other women who have served our town with distinction in various positions.)

REMEMBER WHEN ?

Clippings from The Times Argus, January 19, 1981



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P O T P O U R R I

Vermont Homespun ~ As broadcast by "Old Squier" WDEV ~ Copyright Lloyd Squier

On Town Reports

In winter we are of the kind
Quite likely to improve the mind.
We read a lot; and get to know
If market price is high or low—
We watch for sales and read the ads
From jewelry to heating pads
And right now, soon, or Winter Sport,
Is figurin' out the Town Report.

When Town Reports are in the mail
The family will never fail
To all show int'rest, one by one,
In what's to do, or what's been done.
This new edition every year
Is where the figures all appear,
And shortly now, we'll all recount
Just who got paid, and what amount.

Newspaper-like, the book has facts
On sports, statistics and the tax—
How much we've spent of what we raised,
How much we've lost or how much saved—
There's graphs and estimates to show
Where next year's tax is apt to go,
And "Personals," for which we thirst,
Are "Orders Drawn" — we look there first.

The younger ones will likely dwell
On Recreation, and how well
The Skating Rink and Swimming Pool
Worked out to supplement the School.
They'll look to see if there will be
A Skiing Class to go to, free,
But figures leave 'em kinda lost,
And they've small int'rest in the cost.

From Town Reports we learn the facts
About the Budget and the Tax
Proposed for all the year ahead.
What's done is done—and now, instead,
The Budget gets to be the thing
Compared with what was raised last Spring.
We look to see just who was "short"
With jaundiced eye, in this Report.

The Overseer's part seems long,
Expenses there run pretty strong—
The Winter Maintenance is high
Without much snow from out the sky—
We study figures spent on roads
Which sure add up to the high tax loads—
And con each separate account
For who got paid, and what amount.

All through the year there is no way
To know these things, from day to day.
The Officers that we elect
Are trying hard, but we suspect
If we looked after every trade
There'd be some bigger savings made—
At least, it's out, and we can count
The ones were paid, and what amount.

We fuss and fume, and storm and stew,
How we could speak a piece or two
On how some drew a full week's pay—
"But find 'em? No! Not any day."
We try to see just where they spent
The taxes raised and money lent,
And stand convinced, expenses mount
'Cause some got paid such great amount.

With lots of things we disagree—
Some wastefulness we think we see,
But one part always reads real good.
The Auditor has understood
We're waiting for our Winter Sport
That comes with every Town Report,
And makes real plain in his Account
Just who got paid—and what amount!

D U X B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y , I N C .
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If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

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**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - AUG. 21ST
SO. DUXBURY CHURCH PROPERTY - 12:30 PM**

D U X B U R Y H I S T O R I C A L
S O C I E T Y , I N C .
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