

# Under the Hump

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next Meeting Tuesday, May 8th, 7pm Crossett Brook Middle School Cafeteria—Presentation by Donnie Welch on Duxbury Corner School Building
- History Expo—June 23rd & 24th—Tunbridge Fairgrounds
- May 15th - Plant Orders Due
- May 25th - Prepare Plant Orders
- May 26th - Plant pickup at Crossett Brook School

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue  
Rhoda Allen Wimble

## PLANT SALE

The plant sale is underway so take this opportunity to make this fundraiser a success. Since this is the inaugural run of the sale it will take everyone's effort to get it off the ground as a profitable annual fundraiser. Most members of the community do buy flowers for their homes or the spring cemetery plantings and it would be great if they would purchase from us. It also saves them the effort of going to the garden center at the busiest time of year.

The plants will be provided by Claussens in Colchester, so you can assure buyers that they will be of high quality. Don't hesitate to offer to collect the form and provide delivery if that will get us the sale and you are willing to do it. As you are working on the sale please collect suggestions to make next year's sale better, i.e. should we offer home delivery, multiple pick up locations, etc. We also have a 30 second radio ad that WDEV is running, so many thanks to WDEV for their generous donation.

There is an order form included in the newsletter and additional order forms and instructions are available by mail by calling Donnie & Mary Ethel at 244-7558, pickup at Chittenden Bank or Duxbury Country Store or download from our website [www.DuxburyVT.com](http://www.DuxburyVT.com).



Order forms and payments should be to Maureen Harvey by May 15th and we will receive our flowers Friday, May 25th at Crossett Brook School after school is dismissed. We will need help sorting the delivery into individual orders on Friday and loading them into the customers' cars on Saturday morning. Mark your calendars and SELL, SELL, SELL.

## WWW.DUXBURYVT.COM

In an effort to provide a cyber location for the plant order form to be easily available we made a website for the historical society. The site has the internet address [www.DuxburyVT.com](http://www.DuxburyVT.com). It currently has newsletters, meeting minutes, contact information, scheduled meetings and plant sale information.

The site that is displayed is an inexpensive starting point so members can take a look at it

and see if it is something they would like for the group and provide direction for the content of the site.

The registration of the website name DuxburyVT.com costs \$8.20 for the year. We are currently paying \$8.95 a month for the hosting fee. That fee provides us with the small amount of storage space our files require. and hosting them on the internet so that others may

## WWW.DUXBURYVT.COM

view them. That rate is a monthly rate and could be reduced if we signed an annual agreement. The current files that we have on the site were transferred using a free evaluation copy of software. We would need to purchase transfer software (\$50 - \$90) or if someone in the membership has an alternate recommendation, all input is welcome.

We could expand the site to provide a photo gallery of the society's photos as well as audio and video clips of programs and interviews for members to share.

So take a look at the site before the next meeting if you can and come prepared with your input, expertise and ideas. It is your website so you will need to decide the content and character.

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## Duxbury Historical Society

## Home

The Duxbury Historical Society was created in 2005 to preserve and share the history of Duxbury, Vermont chartered in 1763.



(Left to Right)  
Scrabble Hill School  
Crosssett Hill Class Photo  
North Duxbury Honey Hollow

## TURNER HILL

*When I was at the Vermont Historical Society in Barre I came across the book Letters of the Samuel Cook Turner Family 1859 - 1889. It is a collection of 381 letters of the Turner family and a history of the family that was created by Richard Turner of Montpelier and Vernon Turner of Amherst, MA. It is a wonderful account of the S.C. Turner family of Duxbury and his children. The letters give wonderful detail of the daily happenings and relationships in their lives. If you find yourself in Barre with time to read it is worth the trip.*

## WRITERS OF THE OLD TURNER LETTERS: THE SAMUEL COOK TURNER FAMILY

About the year 1800 three Turner brothers from Massachusetts moved to Vermont and settled in the northwest corner of Norwich. Their names were Nathaniel, Joshua, and Samuel. They were sons of Nathaniel Turner who had been an early settler in southwestern New Hampshire and later returned to Massachusetts and joined the Shaker Community at Shirley. Nathaniel was a fifth generation descendant of Humphrey Turner who emigrated from Essex County, England, to Plymouth Colony about 1632.

The three brothers all married just before or after their move to Vermont and with time, all had large families there. Nathaniel and Joshua remained in Norwich the rest of their lives, but the youngest of the three, Samuel, bought land in Duxbury to which he

moved with his wife, Mary (Cook), and six children in 1809. Three more children were born to them in Duxbury. Their fourth son, - born in 1804 and named after both his father and mother - was Samuel Cook Turner.

At about the same time as the Samuel Turner family moved to Duxbury, Reuben Munson bought land in the Ward Hill area of the town, and started his homestead there. He had moved to Vermont in 1788 at the age of seven with his family from Connecticut and grew up in Waterbury. He married, in 1807, Mary Miller who was from Marlow, New Hampshire. They had four children; the oldest was Almira, born in 1808.

Samuel Cook Turner and Almira Munson were married in Duxbury February 8, 1827.

Duxbury was then as it is today, a sparsely populated town. First settled in 1786, its numbers had grown to about 300 inhabitants by the time Samuel Turner arrived 23 years later. By 1860 the population was at its peak of about 1000 and declined after that. The town is mostly hilly countryside and from early times has consisted of farms and here and there small hamlets - groups of a few houses and until more recent times, a schoolhouse. In the 19th century mills and shops existed as part of the hamlets or at the site of waterfalls if power was required. But lacking a central village, Duxbury residents in the north part of the town traveled to Waterbury and those in the south to Moretown or Waitsfield to sell their

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products and buy their supplies. Until 1855 there was no church in the town and those who wanted to attend a service went to neighboring towns for that privilege as well.

The original Turner homestead in Duxbury where Samuel Turner's children spent their childhood consisted of 200 acres located on a plateau about a half mile off the north side of Dowsville Road in the southern part of the town. The farm buildings were a mile and a quarter by road from the hamlet of Dowsville where the children probably attended school. The closest real village was Moretown, about three and a half miles to the east. This original Turner homestead was passed down by Samuel to his youngest son George and so remained in the Turner family until 1881.

SAMUEL COOK  
TURNER

Samuel's fourth son, Samuel Cook Turner (we will call him SCT from here on) was born in Norwich June 4th 1804 and moved with his family to the Duxbury homestead when he was about 6. He became a property owner on his own when he was 21, about a year before he and Almira Munson were married. It was located on or near the road leading from S. Duxbury to Waterbury about two miles north of the S. Duxbury hamlet. He and Almira bought and sold several properties along the same road during their first years of marriage. In 1836 they moved to a spot high on the east side of Turner Hill (probably in the residence marked J.Towle Sr. on the 1858 Walling map) about 1 1/2 miles northwest of the hamlet of South Duxbury on a road which used to branch northwest from the present Turner Hill Road. It was here that SCT's children spent their childhood. Of this farm, SCT's son Harrison wrote in 1875, "I remember that when I was very young I used to hear my sisters complain bitterly of their iso-

lated lot, Of living so far back on the hill where they could see so little of the world."

At the time they moved to this hill farm there were 5 children in the family; Mary Ann was born September 9, 1828, Sarah Jane on January 7, 1830, Henry on September 7, 1831, Adaline on September 29, 1833, and Samuel Munson on April 6, 1835. Five more were born while living there. They were William Harrison born on August 30, 1837, Edwin on July 9, 1839, Charles on June 8, 1843, Leslie on December 6, 1844, and Coratinn, born on November 11, 1848, who lived only 6 months. The two oldest daughters, Mary Ann and Sarah Jane were both married in 1849. The very next year, Mary Ann died at the age of 21, the first of the series of tragedies that were to fall on SCT's family.

The hill farm was sold early in 1853 and the family moved to Fayston, the town adjacent to Duxbury on the south, where they lived for three years. Their location in Fayston is not known; land records indicate they did not buy property there. We do know that they lived on a farm while there, and had a large dairy.

During this period Almira fell ill and we know from a letter written by her brother in January of 1854 that it was then thought she would not survive. She lived until early in the following year, long enough to know of her oldest son's marriage; Henry was married in 1854 in Fayston to Elizabeth Trefren.

1855 was an eventful year for SCT's family. On the second of January they bought a farm back in Duxbury, on Turner Hill again, the first farm on Turner Hill road starting from South Duxbury.

The location is marked S. Turner on the Beers Atlas map. They were now only about a half mile from the South Duxbury hamlet where the 3rd district school was located. Almira, after 17 months of illness, died on February 18 at the age of 47. What caused her illness is not known, but her daughter Adle suggested in a letter and in one of her diaries that her



*Almira (Munson) and Samuel Cook Turner*



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mother's lifetime of hard work just wore her out. SCT remarried on June 4th, to a widow named Laura (Eastman) Hobbs who had been a neighbor in Duxbury. It was a marriage that would not last for long. [No marriage record has been located but the marriage date was found on their divorce record]. During the summer SCT did the work for which he is best remembered in Duxbury; he built the little church which still exists at South Duxbury. It was the first church building in the town and was the result of a collaboration between six Protestant denominations who called themselves the Union Society and time- shared use of the building. The church was completed and dedicated in October and SCT became the clerk of the Society, a position he held until 1872 even though he had long since moved to Warren.

In 1857 SCT's fourth child, Almira Adaline (known as Addie) married George Crandall. This left 5 unmarried men and boys in SCT's family, the oldest being 22. They were perhaps not all living at home. The census records of the time show that it was common practice for older teen age children to live with their employers who were often their relatives. Addie, as the oldest daughter living at home, had a lot of the responsibility of caring for the younger children and probably continued to do so after her marriage. She and her husband lived with SCT until they bought their own farm in 1861.

The 1860's brought to SCT the loss of four more of his children. Sarah died in 1860. Charles died of a fever in 1862 while serving in the Union Army. Edwin and Henry, both of whom served in and survived the war, died of consumption soon after, Edwin in 1867 and Henry in 1868.

Although SCT owned a farm most of his adult life, he often worked as a mechanic which in those days meant any skilled manual labor. He built and repaired houses, barns, bridges, and at least one church. He mentioned in a letter that he had been a school teacher but we don't know at what period in his life that happened or for how long. He held town offices as his father had. Between 1834 and 1857 he was three times a highway surveyor, once an auditor, and twice a selectman for the town.

SCT was 55 at the time the letters start. Before that year we have few records with which to describe his life, but after that, the letters give us a wealth of information. They begin in the spring of 1859 when SCT's third son Harrison was employed in the town of Berlin and started a correspondence with his father and his sister Addie. It is to Harrison and Addie who saved their letters throughout their lives that we are indebted for this collection.

SCT remained in Duxbury on the Turner Hill Road farm until 1862 when he sold it to his second son and namesake, Samuel Munson Turner.

It is apparent from the letters that Laura Eastman and SCT were separated before the letters begin. SCT does not mention his second wife until, when he decides to get a divorce in 1861; he refers to her as "the old woman". Addie mentions her only once, in an 1859 letter and calls her "our old marm". After the divorce was settled, in August 1862 for a \$50 payment by SCT, it was not long before he married another widow named Laura (Chandler) Griffith, who also had been a neighbor in Duxbury. This third marriage, on March 13, 1863, was far more of a success for SCT than his second. In fact, he praised this wife so continuously that his children became very tired of it. Laura was the daughter of Royal and Sarah Chandler; she was born in 1822. In 1840 she married Jehial Griffith. They lived in Duxbury and had three children: Martha, who married Edwin Turner; Charles, and Dickenson. Jehial died in December, 1862.

After two years of working for others, SCT decided that he wanted a farm of his own again and so bought one in Waitsfield from his son-in-law Joseph Davis. It proved to be too big a farm for him to manage at his age, so in 1864, in another family trade, he acquired a smaller farm in Warren from Albert Davis, Joseph's brother. This was much more to his liking and he spent his last thirteen years there, most of the time quite contented with his situation in spite of his many problems. He improved his buildings and then devoted most of his time to his farming and his family. He lived with his wife Laura, her daughter Martha, Martha's son Edwin, and a young girl named Emma Marshall whom Laura had adopted as a baby. For a while Laura's son Dickenson lived with them also. SCT's youngest son, Leslie, lived nearby in Warren Village.

SCT's last year was difficult, as he had lost much of his vision to cataracts and had what was apparently a stroke which left him partially paralyzed for several months. He died on July 18, 1877, and was buried in the old cemetery in South Duxbury. He was 73.

Although SCT was often critical of his children and sometimes seemed to hold them to unreasonable standards, he also had great concern for their welfare. The lives of his children, some of which ended tragically, were a large part of his own life. He outlived all but three of his ten children.

MARY ANN (TURNER)  
SOMERVILLE

Mary Ann was the oldest child of SCT, born September 9, 1828. As her death occurred long before the letters begin there are only occasional references to her there. A Duxbury record when she was 17 certifies that she was examined "in

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those branches of literature usually taught in common English schools" and recommends her "as a young lady qualified to instruct such school."

Mary Ann was married December 6, 1849 to Joseph Sumerville. She died 8 1/2 months later at the age of 21. The cause of her death is not known.

### SARAH JANE (TURNER) DAVIS

Sarah Jane was the second child of SCT. Her illness and tragic death are described in the first year of the letters, but no writing of her own has survived. She was born Jan. 7, 1830; she married Joseph Davis January 1, 1849 just before her nineteenth birthday. They had two children; Frank Alston was born September 8, 1850 and Adaline Almira, named after her aunt, was born August 14, 1857. After Sarah's death on March 17, 1860 the children were cared for by relatives; Frank lived for a time with SCT's family. He is mentioned often in the letters of both SCT and Addie. Joseph remarried twice and had other children.

### HENRY AUGUSTUS TURNER

Henry was SCT's third child and oldest son. He was born on September 7, 1831. He was married just before his mother's death, on October 29, 1854, while the family lived in Fayston. His bride, Elizabeth Trefren, was from Moretown.

Apparently following a general movement at that time of New England farmers to the west, Henry and "Lizzie" moved to Horicon, Wisconsin, about 50 miles northwest of Milwaukee. There they bought a 160 acre farm. When they moved is uncertain, but we know two children were born to them in Horicon: Cora on October 12, 1858 and Minette in April, 1860.

Henry enlisted at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, September 5, 1861 for a 3 year term. He was made a Corporal in Co. C, 16th Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry. According to his father's letter, he was mustered in at St. Louis the following spring. From his pension application we find that he traveled from St. Louis by boat to Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. On that trip he developed pneumonia which led to other chronic physical problems. He remained at Pittsburg Landing and on April 6 was wounded at the battle of Shiloh by two bullets entering his left arm. He was given a medical discharge on August 6, 1862 at Milwaukee. A description of Henry appears in his discharge papers. He was 5' 11" tall, fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair and his occupation at enlistment was Carpenter.

Henry's health remained poor for some time after returning home but apparently by 1864 it had improved. That year he swapped his farm for a house and two lots in the town of Horicon and took a job there at good pay. From then on he mostly worked in factories, but was often out of work. His health began to fail again and this time he appeared to have consumption. His wife, Lizzie, was also consumptive and it caused her death in 1866. At that point Henry thought he could not take care of his two girls and there was talk of their being sent back east to live with Addie or SCT, but with some outside aid he managed their care until he remarried the following year.

Henry's second marriage on April 10, 1867, was to a 24 year old widow, Cynthia Louise (Gates) Clark, known as Louise. She had been married briefly to a soldier who was killed in action in 1864.

Soon after their marriage, Henry and Louise moved east to Manistee, Michigan, on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. There they had a girl which they named Jennie Louise, born on March 24, 1868. Henry wrote to his sister right after this event that this was his fourth child, all girls, so he must have had a short-lived child in his first marriage of which we have no record. In this same letter he reveals that his consumption has worsened and his ability to work is limited.

The last chapter in Henry's life story is written in a letter by his wife to Addie which describes his condition two weeks before his death. He spent his last days in a soldier's hospital in Milwaukee, and died of consumption on October 12, 1868.

Louise was herself consumptive and could not long care for her stepdaughters. They appear to have been unofficially adopted by people who soon left the area and thus were lost to the family. When Louise died on August 28, 1869, her brother adopted her baby, Jennie, who was renamed Jennie Gates. When she was about 11, a man named Amos Dean became her legal guardian and she moved with his family to Nebraska. She married William Gold in 1890.

### ADALINE (TURNER) CRANDALL

Addie, as she was called, was born in 1833, the fourth child of SCT and Almira. Her birth record in the old Duxbury record book calls her Almira Adaline Turner. She spent her early childhood on the hill farm which, as we have noted, was on a back road a mile and a half from the hamlet of South Duxbury where she went to school. She was 19 when the family moved to Fayston and 21 when her mother died and the family moved back to Duxbury.

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It is evident that Addie had heavy responsibilities at a young age. At 20, she was the only daughter living at home and had five younger brothers from 18 down to 9 years old. An 1854 letter written by her uncle Reuben Lee Munson tells us that Addie's mother was then terminally ill and that Addie was also caring for her uncle Reuben's daughter Helen, age 9. Writing in her diary when she was 79, Addie had this to say about her mother's death: "She was only forty six years old but she was worn out. She was sick 17 months and I, a girl of 21, had been at the head of the big family, with a large dairy; and all the care of it had, as it seems, made me old."

Addie was married on June 14, 1857 to George Crandall, a school teacher then 21 years old. For some reason, perhaps disapproval by her father, the marriage was performed in secret by the resident minister in Waterbury. The couple returned from the wedding to their own church in Duxbury where Addie sang in the choir and George, as the local schoolteacher, was called upon to read the sermon. The marriage was kept secret for three weeks.

George Crandall was born January 10, 1836 in Roxbury, Vermont. His grandfather had been an early settler in that town, bringing a family there which included a son, George's father, Daniel Burnett Crandall. Daniel married Lydia Bailey of Berlin, Vermont. They were

married in Berlin and moved there from Roxbury in 1840 or 1841. So George spent his boyhood in Berlin. He attended Barre Academy and then started teaching in Duxbury where he met Addie.

Some if not all of the time from their marriage until 1861 when they bought their own farm, Addie and George lived with her father and participated in the farm work. In the winter George sometimes taught school and was at least once the school superintendent. The first of their eight children, Arthur, was born December 8, 1858.

In 1861 the Crandalls bought the farm which was to be their home for the next seventeen years. Their house was on the east side of Turner Hill Road and is marked A. Stock well on the 1857 Walling map of Duxbury and G.H. Crandall on the Beers map. Six more children were born during their years on this farm. Their second child Sarah, born in 1862, named after Addie's sister who had recently died, had birth defects and lived only 8 months. Charles, who was named after Addie's brother who died in the war, was born Sept. 15th 1863. Mabel Louise (Belle) was born on March 15, 1866; Georgiana (Georgie) on August 4th 1871, Marian Florence (May) on October 1st 1873, and Jessie June on the 23rd of December, 1875.



Adaline (Turner) Crandall

Early in 1880 the Crandalls gave up their farm in Duxbury and moved to George's hometown, Berlin, where they lived and worked on a farm located southeast of Berlin Corner at the site marked Wm M Ellis on the 1857 Walling map and D. W. Hancock on the Beers map of 1873. They bought that farm in the spring of 1883 from Mr. Ellis. They lived there the rest of their lives, more than four decades.

At first Addie had a hard time adapting to life in Berlin and regretted leaving Duxbury. She found the Berlin people difficult to get to know, the winters colder and life harder than it had been in Duxbury. Within a couple of years, however, she seemed to have changed her mind about her Berlin neighbors, but not about the weather. In one letter she described the wind as "coming all the way from the Rocky Mountains".

Addie urged her brother Harrison to move to Berlin and helped him find a farm there to which he moved in 1884. From that date on we have no letters written by her but there are in existence four diaries which she kept between 1900 and 1912.

On September 9, 1881 their last child was born and was named Stella Adaline. Before the birth Addie referred to this as her Abraham and Sarah business, a reference to the fact that she was rather older than usual for childbearing [She was almost 48; Sarah and Abraham in the bible story were in their 90's when their son Isaac was born.]

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Addie's letters are full of news of her children, especially the two oldest. Arthur was often ill during his childhood, but went on to take over the farm. Charles started working for his very ambitious cousin,

Frank Davis, who founded, among many business enterprises, a bookselling company in Philadelphia which became the F.A. Davis Company, publishers of medical books. It is still in business today. Charles worked lifelong for that company in Philadelphia although he spent his summers in Berlin and purchased a house just south of Berlin Pond which is still owned by his descendants. Arthur also worked some of his time for the F. A. Davis Company.

Addie's diaries describe her life in her 60's and 70's. She worked hard as she always had, at least to the age of 79 - the end of her 1912 diary. She was still cooking, washing and ironing, cleaning and sewing and caring for grandchildren every day, but also had time for good visits with all of her extended family. Three of her children lived in Berlin, the others moved away, but it seems they were all good correspondents and got together often. In one diary entry describing a big birthday party, she referred to her many descendants as 'The Clan.'

In 1923 George died suddenly at the dinner table in his own home, the cause unknown. He was 87. Addie survived him by 2 years and died at the age of 91. She had long outlived all of her brothers and sisters.



George Henry Crandall

### SAMUEL MUNSON TURNER

Sam, as he is usually referred to in the letters, was the fifth child and second son of SCT and Almira. He was born April 6, 1835. He appears in the 1860 census along with his father, living with and working for a cousin in Hyde Park. Both he and his father were listed as Master Carpenters. In 1861 he married Phila Davis, the daughter of Andrew B. C. Davis, a brother of Joseph Davis, Sarah Turner's husband. Unfortunately neither Sam nor

Phila liked to write. Addie said in an 1882 letter that they "scarcely ever write a word" No letters from them have survived that we know of.

Sam took over the Turner Hill farm from his father in 1862 and kept it the rest of his life. He and Phila had four children. The first, Charles, was born in 1863 and died as a baby. Alice, called Allie, was born in 1865. She married John Bisbee of Moretown and they had a large family. Alice was a close, lifelong friend of Addie. Fannie Gertrude, born in 1868, lived only seven years. Walter was born in 1876. He married Eva Knowles and they had 3 children.

Sam lived all his life in Duxbury. He held town offices there, was a Grand Juror in Montpelier, and was Town Representative to the State Legislature in 1894/95. He died in 1902 at the age of 72. Phila died in 1916 at the age of 77. Their son Walter took over the Turner Hill farm and lived there until after the house burned in 1926 whereupon he sold it and moved to Moretown.

### WILLIAM HARRISON TURNER

Harrison, as he preferred to call himself, was born on August 30, 1837. He was probably named after William Henry Harrison, a popular politician at the time of Harrison's birth, who was elected President in 1840. Harrison even acquired the President's nickname Tip, which came from the successful campaign slogan 'Tippecanoe and Tyler too'.

Harrison was 17 when his mother died and his father remarried. At that time, the oldest of his siblings still at home was Addie and he had three younger brothers, Edwin 16, Charles 12 and Leslie 11.

In the fall of 1859, when he was twenty two, Harrison and a cousin, Orlando Turner, bought land in Coventry Gore in northern Vermont, close to the Canadian border. Coventry Gore was an odd piece of land south of the town of Newport which was originally an unattached part of Coventry but in 1890 became part of Newport. In the surviving letters the area was described by Harrison's relatives as isolated and desolate, and they often implored him to return. In starting their adventure, Harrison and Orlando were aided by Orlando's sister Susan and her husband Frank Pickett who were living close to Coventry Gore in the town of Westfield and probably were themselves homesteaders.

Although Orlando and the Picketts didn't stay long in this isolated area, Harrison did. He was a large man, 6' 1" tall, and was well adapted to pioneer life. From his upbringing he had



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learned how to build and how to farm. On his homestead he bought oxen with which he cleared some land, then built a barn and a small shack to live in. Two years later he married a neighbor, Lucy Ann Cole.

Lucy had grown up in a large family that lived just north of Harrison, but over the town line in Newport. She was the granddaughter of Tyler Cole, one of the early settlers of Walden, Vermont. Her father, Hiram Cole, had moved his family north to Newport when Lucy was about 10 years old. Harrison and Lucy were married on March 26, 1862.

In the meantime the country had gone to war. Three of Harrison's brothers had enlisted and the youngest, Charles, who had been sent to New Orleans, died there in July, 1862. Although SCT tried to discourage Harrison from enlisting, he wasn't successful. Harrison, at 25 and six months married, joined Company H of the 15th Vt. Regiment on September 15th as a "nine months man and left for the war.

Harrison and his brothers' involvement as soldiers has been recorded by comparing their letters with Howard coffin's "Full Duty - Vermonters in the Civil War" and G.G. Benedict's "Vermont in the Civil War".

Harrison departed from Coventry during the last week of September, 1862 and traveled by rail to Fort Dummer in Brattleboro where he stayed for about a month. The 15th Regiment was mustered into service on October 22 and departed the next day for Washington. They arrived there on October 26 and were joined with the 12th, 13th, 14th and 16th Vermont regiments to become the Second Vermont Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. For two months they marched to new campgrounds frequently, but remained in an area of Virginia southwest of Washington within 25 miles of the city. Their time was spent in drill duty and on the picket line. By the end of the year they had settled for the winter at a Camp near Fairfax Station, about 15 miles from Washington where they constructed fortifications and continued drilling.

In March an epidemic of Measles hit the encampment; Harrison came down with them on March 18 and when the regiment got orders to move again on March 24 he stayed behind in the hospital. Although not fully recovered, he rejoined his regiment on March 30 at their next location near Union Mills where they stayed until May 7. During the next month they had two railroad excursions farther south to guard the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, first at Bealton Station and then at Bristoe. Following that they went back to Union Mills where on June 18 Harrison wrote the last letter we have of his before he returned to Vermont. In the letter he claims to be in good health and is expecting to get discharged soon.

For the events of the next month we refer to the history books, particularly Benedict's "Vermont in the Civil War" and a published report written by the commanding officers of the 15th Regiment.



William Harrison Turner

On June 25 the entire Second Vermont Brigade, now under Brigadier General George Stannard, was ordered to march north to join with the rest of the Army of the Potomac to confront the Confederate General Robert E. Lee who had driven his army up the Shenandoah Valley into Pennsylvania. For the Vermont brigade it was a hard 6 day march of 120 miles. The weather was hot and many were left along the way, suffering from fatigue and heat prostration. The brigade arrived at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on July 1 at the end of the first day of the battle, but without two of the regiments. Harrison's 15th and the 12th had been detached at Emmettsburg to guard a train which they accompanied to within two miles of the battlefield. The 15th was then ordered to rejoin the 2nd Brigade which they accomplished by nightfall and with the brigade spent the night in a field behind the crest of Cemetery Ridge.



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The next morning, July 2, the brigade took a battle position on Cemetery Hill. About noon, the 15th Regiment was again detailed to guard duty. Harrison's Company H and one other company were put in charge of guarding the First Corps ammunition train near the field, which they did without incident through the rest of the battle. The remainder of the 2nd Brigade, consisting of the 13th, 14th and 16th Regiments, was in the center of the battle from the second day on and have been much admired for what they did there. They have been given most of the credit for stopping Pickett's Charge which was called by Benedict the "pivotal movement of the pivotal battle of the war". This occasion Harrison missed by the merest chance, by having his regiment at the last moment detailed out of the 2nd Brigade.

We have an account by Charles Worthen, one of his tent-mates, who wrote the following statement in a deposition when Harrison was applying for a pension, years later: "On the second day of the battle of Gettysburg our Co. and one other of the Regiment were detached to guard the ammunition while the rest of the Rg. went after supplies. As our officers did not know where to make requisition for rations all our Co. had for a week, except what they picked up, was, I think, one quarter of beef and one box of hardtack. This greatly aggravated his [Harrison's] troubles. At the time of his discharge he was greatly reduced."

Following the battle, the Army of the Potomac headed southwest into Maryland in pursuit of Lee's retreating army. At the end of the week that Harrison's Company H was separated from its regiment, the army had moved some 40 miles southwest to the Appalachians west of Frederic, Maryland. Then they moved northwest and on July 13 formed a line of battle at Hagerstown; but only a minor skirmish occurred in which the 16th regiment was involved. That night Lee's army crossed the Potomac into West Virginia and the war was over for Harrison. On July 14 to 16 the 2nd brigade marched south to Rohrersville, then east to an encampment close to Berlin where they stayed until July 18. the day they were released from the Army of the Potomac. Taking the trains that day at Berlin, they traveled through Baltimore, reaching New York City on July 20. They bivouacked in Washington Park a full day while the draft riots were going on. Some of the Vermont troops remained a few days until the city was secure.

Harrison spent the day in sightseeing. However bad his health was at this point, he was able to climb the 330 steps to the top of the Trinity Church steeple and was very impressed by the view. After the day in New York, they proceeded to Brattleboro where about two weeks later Harrison

was released. He had served 11 months instead of the 9 for which he enlisted.

Returning to Coventry Gore, Harrison was greeted by his wife and met his first child, Mary Ann, who was born on January 14 while he was away. Now back on his homestead, Harrison cleared more land, improved his buildings, and built up stock until he had made a real farm out of his 'backwoods'. He and Lucy had six more children. Their second child, Charles, lived only 10 months. Their third was Effie Adaline. born January 30 1866, followed by George Wright on May 31. 1867, William Henry on April 30, 1870, Lucy Ola on October 9, 1871, and Edwin Hiram on January 19, 1875. The letters written by Harrison to his father and sister during this period tell of a capable, hard working farm family who, in spite of many setbacks, gradually increased in prosperity.

In 1878 Lucy was killed in a tragic road accident. She and her two youngest boys were thrown from a carriage when the horse she was driving got out of control. The children were not badly hurt, but Lucy, who hit her head on a rock, died almost immediately. Our grandfather, William, one of those two children, was seven at the time and he remembered it as the worst moment of his life. Lucy was buried in a small country graveyard nearby. Her epitaph reads:

*Our sister the haven hath gained  
Outflying the tempest and wind  
Her rest she hath the sooner obtained  
And left her companions behind*

Harrison was left with his six children. He stayed on his farm and cared for his family alone until in 1883 he married Mary Kingsley. Mary was 45 then and had not been previously married. They were introduced by a Methodist minister who had been Harrison and Lucy's pastor and had corresponded with Harrison after moving to another parish. The next year, at the urging of his sister Addie who had since moved to Berlin with her husband and large family, he bought a farm on the Paine Turnpike in Berlin. The site is marked C. House on the Beers map. A major reason for Harrison's move was to give his children the advantages of good schooling and social activity which he felt they had not had in Coventry Gore.

The family moved from Coventry Gore to Berlin by wagon with all of their possessions (including his collection of letters), a trip that took several days. They drove their cattle as they traveled. Each night they would try to locate a helpful farmer who could provide a place to sleep and a barnyard to corral the cattle.

## TURNER HILL

After the move Harrison's letters end and we know much less about his life in Berlin. His father had died in 1877 and he now lived close to his sister so writing was unnecessary and the long series of letters ended. We know he farmed there until 1900 when he sold the farm to his son, William Henry Turner, and moved to a smaller house close by on the corner of Richardson Road. William had two children, Marion and Ranald (Ray). He ran the farm until 1931 when he sold it to Ray, but continued to live there the rest of his life; he died at age 85. Ray, with his wife Florence (Dow) raised three sons there, John, Vernon, and Richard. Part of that land is still owned by Ray's descendants and the house, located just north of and next to the State Regional Library, is still standing.

Of Harrison's other children, only Mary and Hiram lived long lives. Effie died at 33, leaving two young children. George died at 30 and Ola only lived to be 19. The youngest son, Hiram bought a farm on what has been known since as Turner Hill in Berlin, had four children, and lived there until his death at 96. Mary, who married and left before the move to Berlin, lived in Hardwick and had what must be a Turner family record of 14 children.

Since he returned from the war, Harrison had occasionally been troubled with what he called "fool fits". During these spells he would lie prone and uncommunicative for perhaps a half hour. They occurred most often at night. It was believed that they were caused by his having had the measles when in the army and, due to the harsh life there, never fully recovering from the effects of the disease. The fits apparently got more frequent after the move to Berlin and impaired him both physically and mentally. By the 1890's he obtained a pension based on the problem being related to his war experience. By 1897 he was described as totally incapacitated for manual work by the pension office.

In his last years Harrison continued to work when he could. Coopering, making wooden containers of shaved strips held together by hoops, had in his younger days been his craft and a source of income. He made sap buckets from the cedars which grew and still grow on the north end of the Berlin farm. In 1905, while moving cedar wood down to his shop, he fell off the bridge which crosses the Pond Brook and died from a head injury. The fall was believed to have been caused by one of his fits. He was 67. His wife Mary continued to live in the house on Richardson Road for many years and there brought up one of the children of Harrison's daughter Effie, named Erma Hedges.

EDWIN MORRIS  
TURNER

Edwin Turner was born on July 9, 1839, the seventh child of SCT. He was 19 when the letters begin. In the few glimpses the earliest letters give of him, he is working at times for his relatives and sometimes cannot work because of sickness. He outfits a peddler's wagon but we don't find out how that enterprise works out. His sister Addie worries about his health and his father about his behavior. Then, close to his twenty-second birthday, he decides to join the army.

Edwin enlisted in Company D of the 2nd Vermont Regiment on June 1, 1861 for a three year term. The 2nd Vermont assembled at Burlington on June 6 and drilled there before leaving for Washington D. C. on June 24. As they left every man in the Regiment bore a sprig of evergreen in his cap as the Green Mountain Boys badge. They arrived in Washington on June 26 and within a month, on July 21 the 2nd Vermont fought in the first Battle of Bull Run. They had been ordered into Virginia on July 10 and on the day of the battle had marched at double quick in the heat of the day towards the battlefield. So many had fainted along the way that they had to slow to quick time, reaching the battlefield at three o'clock in the afternoon. Edwin "stood in the front rank and near the right of our Company" as he told it in his letter of July 24, 1861.

After the Union defeat at Bull Run and the subsequent retreat, the Second was pulled back to the defenses of Washington at their old camp at Bush Hill. On August 12 they moved to the heights in Georgetown commanding the "Chain Bridge" across the Potomac and on September 10 they were visited by President Lincoln. An expedition on the night of September 28 resulted in a collision of Union forces with several killed and more wounded but fortunately none of the Vermont troops. On October 10 they moved out to Johnson's Hill near Lewinsville and established Camp Griffin, now the site of the CIA headquarters. The troops were short of warm clothing as the cooler weather of fall set in. This was due to their stashing their excess baggage before entering into the Battle of Bull Run and having it stolen by the Confederates. They put out a call to Vermont for help but were supplied by the government before winter set in. They spent the winter in Camp Griffin during which time the Vermont Brigade was formed, consisting of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Vermont Regiments.

The spring campaign of 1862 opened with the Vermont Brigade breaking camp on March 10 to take part in the first Peninsula campaign of the Army of the Potomac. On April 16 they fought in the battle of Lee's Mills but the Second was held back in support. May and June saw the regiment with the bri-

## TURNER HILL

gade at Yorktown, Williamsburg, and in operations on the Chickahominy on the march towards Richmond. They participated in the Seven Days' Retreat and lost five men at Savage's Station, June 29. They were at the storming of Crampton's Gap, September 14 and were at Antietam, September 17.

The regiment was detached from the brigade at Hagerstown, Md, about October 11 and was sent by rail to Chambersburg, Pa. to put an end to General J.E.B Stuart's mischief there. However J.E.B. had disappeared before they arrived so they returned to the brigade after about a week.

Two weeks later the army returned to Virginia and on December 13, 1862 were involved in the battle of Fredericksburg. The Second Vermont was deployed on the skirmish line after crossing the river and ascending to the crest of a hill. They were pretty constantly engaged during the day and until nearly dark. They were strongly pressed several times but gave no ground. Five men were killed and 54 wounded during that day. Edwin was among those 54.



Edwin Morris Turner

This was the end of Edwin's fighting in the war. His wound was quite severe although no bones were broken. The ball had pierced "the inside of my leg and came out at my hip near my pants pocket inflicting a severe flesh wound". He was sent home to recuperate in Burlington where he remained until the summer

of 1863. The rest of his three year tour was spent in Rutland, Vt., Concord NH, and Boston, Ma.

Edwin's letters stop in May of 1864 as he was mustered out of the service in June of that year. He came home to Vermont and lived around the Duxbury/Waitsfield area (his father was then living in Waitsfield). His relationship with Martha Griffith, the daughter of his father's third wife, Laura, developed and they were married on December 25, 1864. Edwin's health failed him soon after this and after a long illness he died of consumption on March 20, 1867. He was 27 years old.

Edwin's only child, Edwin Morris Turner Jr. was born on August 5, 1867, several months after Edwin's death. In the letters he was called Eddie and later Ed. Martha lived in Warren with her mother and SCT after Edwin's death and remained in that town most of her life. For a period she lived with her brother Dickenson in Ogdensburg, New York and there are two letters in the collection which she wrote to Addie at that time.

## CHARLES WARRINGTON TURNER

Charles Turner was born on June 8, 1843, the eighth child of SCT. The first letters tell us that "Charlie" is away from home working and comes home Sundays. In December of 1859 he moved to Barre to attend the academy there. He looked for a place to do chores to pay for his board while he attended school but couldn't find one so his father agreed to pay some \$30 that would cover his expenses at the Barre academy to 'make him more steady, as well as to qualify him for usefulness in the world.' Apparently Charles didn't last at the academy. By January 26 he had hired out for \$12 a month and was working at this job in East Barre when his sister Sarah died on March 17th.

In June, 1860 Charles tried to persuade his father to let him and his younger brother, Leslie, run the family farm. But SCT reflected in his June 3rd letter that Charles was much like his oldest brother Henry "too selfish and headstrong" for his father to want to live with for any length of time. December finds Charles with his brother Harrison in Coventry Gore.

SCT, in his letter of Sept 19, 1861, said that he believed Charles had enlisted and thought that the discipline would be good for him. However the Eighth Regiment didn't actually rendezvous at Camp Holbrook in Brattleboro until mid January of 1862. Many fell sick at Camp Holbrook with measles, mumps and diphtheria as well as normal colds, chills and fevers but no deaths occurred. The regiment was mustered into service on February 18th and broke camp on March 14th.

## TURNER HILL

They traveled by rail to New Haven, Conn. and thence by the steamer Granite State to New York City. At New York the regiment, 1060 strong, boarded the two sailing transports James Hovey and Wallace and headed south. They received their official orders after leaving port that their destination was to be Ship Island at the mouth of the Mississippi. The voyage was long and stormy with most of the troops seasick due to the rough seas and their lack of seamanship.

They stopped at Key West long enough for mail call as Charles sent his March 30 letter to his brother Leslie from this port. That letter did not survive, but both Addie and SCT refer to it in their subsequent letters. In his letter Charles spoke of the hard fare and hard usage by the officers on the voyage. Addie reflects in her letter of April 13th that she doesn't expect that Charles will live through the summer. She says 'he will be careless about keeping clean, and if he gets unwell will have no one to nurse him & care for him.' This insight by Addie was an omen that sadly came true.

Both Addie and SCT commented on Charles' excellent letter writing ability, a fact that is confirmed by his two letters that we have. They are very descriptive of what he is doing and what is happening around him.

The regiment arrived off Ship Island on April 6th after a voyage of 26 days. They had lost one man to prostration and he was buried at sea. While on the island a severe storm caused a high tide that overflowed their camp causing them to retreat to higher ground with all their belongings. On April 18 they listened to the sound of heavy guns which proved to be the bombardment of the forts below New Orleans some 60 miles to the southwest.

As soon as General Butler had occupied New Orleans he sent for the Eighth and they departed Ship Island on May 6. The regiment was relegated to police duty in New Orleans replacing the city police which had been disbanded by General Butler. Charles was appointed the turnkey of the Watchhouse. The Eighth remained in New Orleans until May 31 at which time they moved across the river to Algiers, a suburb of New Orleans, and took up quarters in a large railroad depot. Company H was involved in a small skirmish on a railroad on June 22. This was the first action the Eighth had seen. Serious illness hit the regiment soon after this. Three line officers and an unknown number of enlisted men died between July 22 and July 24. Charles's friend, Harvey Washburn, in a letter to Harrison, told of Charles's death in a hospital at Algiers on July 22. Harvey related that Charles died happy and had been a friend to everyone. Another friend, Julius McMurphy, in a letter to Orson Turner said that Charles had been forced out on picket duty when he was so sick that he ought to have been in bed. He died ten days later. He was 19 years and one month old.

LESLIE BLOOMFIELD  
TURNER

Leslie, the ninth child of SCT, was born December 6, 1844. He was 7 when the family moved to Fayston and 10 when he lost his mother. Leslie, as did his brothers, worked on the family farm when in his teens. But unlike his brothers, he decided when quite young that he didn't want to be a farmer. So when he was 18 he started looking for work that would prepare him for a trade. His first choice was to be a blacksmith but, unable to find employment in that line, he started work with a tin-smith. That did not last long and he went back to farm work for a while. Finally in October of 1863 he started work with a harness maker named William Sawyer in Moretown, and stayed with him for 3 1/2 years. Those were the war years, but Leslie heeded the advice of his older brothers and didn't enlist.

The esteem that SCT held for Leslie increased immensely over that period. When Leslie was a teenager SCT had despaired that his youngest son would ever amount to anything, and that "his habits and principles are far from being what they ought to be." But all of that changed, and when Leslie at age 23 decided to open his own harness shop his father gave him \$100 to get started. By all evidence his business was a success. He opened his shop in the village of Warren. There he made and repaired harnesses, outfitted carriages, and sold horse-related supplies.

Leslie lived in Warren the rest of his life and never married. He boarded in a village hotel for quite a while. In 1884 he built a larger shop which had a living quarters in the back. It was a good thing for SCT and his family to have Leslie in the same town. He often helped his father out by taking care of the farm when he was needed. During SCT's final illness, Leslie was the one child of his who was regularly at his side.

The last letters of the collection were written by Leslie to his sister. They are full of gossip about the town of Warren and vicinity. He apparently was a sociable fellow. He loved music and played the piano. In one letter he gives Addie advice on how to teach her children to play music.

Leslie lived 47 years; he died of pneumonia. On his gravestone is written: "None knew him but to love him."





## TURNER FAMILY LETTERS

## Addie to Harrison

Duxbury Mar 12th 1871

My Dear Brother,  
Thinking you will be glad to get a letter from sister Addie I sit down to write, and while away a lonely hour.  
Geo and Arthur are in the sugar-place altho it is Sunday, Geo thought it necessary that he should syrup down to-day. It never seems quite right to me to do such things on the Sabbath. It seems to me that we can not reasonably expect to be blest if we thus openly break the commandment "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Sugaring came on before its time with us. George has not got half his winter's work done. Only drew ten cords of wood to Waterbury out of twenty five or thirty. It has been a poor winter for lumbering. We have had but three weeks sledding, it makes quite a difference in Georges receipts I assure you. He has got sixty or seventy dollars worth of ash lumber sawn but had to sell it on one or two years time and he needs the money sadly this spring, but it will all come out right in the end no doubt.

Poor Lucy is sick, very low and Dr Fales says her chances are pretty slim. She has a little babe seven weeks old, and has had to wean it because her mouth was so sore and also because there was not milk enough for the little girl. Her lungs are very painful, and she is almost prostrated, has to be laid from one bed to another when her bed is made. I fear she has not long to live, and indeed I do not know as it is desirable, she has suffered so much and is so tired. Phila went to Stowe - I forgot to say that Lucy is there - last Wednesday to stay until to-day. Martha was there at Sam's when P. went away, but the next day Nathan Smalley came for her and she has gone there for a while. She will come back here next week if we go for her.

I hope to hear when next you write that you have moved out of the woods, was quite sorry to hear that there was a chance for a slip, it seems so desirable that you should get those little children to school. Charley and Arthur went to school every day, and were not tardy once, and it is no trifling distance for them to go, fully a mile and a half.

Calvin Foster's new wife is a woman that a man who believes in women's rights may well be proud of. He runs uncle Eben's sawmill and could have the grist mill if he could attend it so what does Mrs Foster do but go in to the grist mill, and grind. Well she did not under-

stand her business, smart as she is, so people came and took more grist than belonged to them, and thus things got mixed up generally. Of course she was ordered to keep out of the mill. Upon that she said Cal should not tend the saw mill expecting to bring them to her terms, but they said he might leave as soon as he pleased. Well she finally concluded that he might stay saying that if she had not thought it would be best for him to stay she certainly should not let him stay. There you see is the kind of a woman for a womans rights man.

Sam Somervilles mother is or has been insane all winter. Jo was here last week and said she was better. She imagines that her children's lives are in danger. Some one is going to murder the.

O dear Harrison I do want to see you so bad, the more so as I have got the blues. Yes I have, and have reason to have them too. I have difficulty's about me that I have every reason to think I shall never get over. Won't you try to come down as soon as you get your springs work done. I dont believe that I shall ever go to your place again, I know I am quite apt to be discouraged if anything new ails me. But enough of poor spleeny me.

Martin Gillett has bought the old John Slattery place - do you remember there by Montgomery's, and payed 3200 thirty two hundred dollars for it. Real estate is high yet. Tell Lucy I wish she could see my plants. My scarlet verbena is in full bloom. My plants are as thrifty and green as potatoes. I had a letter from Amelia last week She says grandpa and grandma are as smart as they were six months ago. I do hope that this letter will find you all well and happy. My children send love your children, and also to uncle and aunt, and Belle says "tell them I want to see them sometime" Harrison do you try to be a Christian

Your Loving Sister  
Addie

Did I write you before that Uncle George was sick. Well he has got better, and says he is going to build a barn this year that will beat the town. It reminds me of the man in scripture who pulled down his barns and built bigger. Uncle G. is all broke down and ought to live perfectly easy.

Tuesday Morning

I heard this morning that Lorenzo Davis died last Saturday night of heart disease without a moments warning. He was going up a steep hill with another man, when he said, "it dont seem that I can ever get

## TURNER FAMILY LETTERS

to the top of this hill', and sat down and leaned against a tree. After a little the man who was with him started along. When Lorenzo called out "hold on there", the man turned and went to him, but he was quite dead. His heart has been diseased for several years, but of late he has been comfortably well. This is a lovely morning and it seems hard to lay down and die, close ones eyes on all the beauties of this good world, but we may hope for a more beautiful home beyond the river, where tears are wiped from all faces.

## Addie to Harrison

Duxbury Sep 1st 1872

My Dear Brother,  
 Though I feel lazy & want to read, yet I will write you, for I know you will be glad to get my letter for it shall tell you that I am coming; if nothing happens within the next four weeks to prevent. Do not know just when, not before the twentieth, I think not, I was out to fathers last week. I told him that I would like to go so as to stop at Morrisville to the fair one day. He seemed to think that would suit him as well as any time. The fair at M is I think about the twenty fifth. I thought perhaps we would go to M Thursday night and stay over Friday at the fair and on Saturday go to your place. If I go with father I have got to wean my baby and leave her at home, for I could not dare to take her unless Geo was with me to take care of her. I have some fears that the children may have the canker rash, for it is in the neighborhood. But I hope I can go.  
 I heard cousin Earl Ward preach to day, he being home on a visit. He left his children with their grandmother Batchelder. Has been gone from home near three weeks. He is considered a pretty smart minister. Our church has been repaired to the amount of about four hundred dollars this season, it looks very much better now than when it was new. But if you were to come here to church I doubt if in a congregation of one hundred you would recognize twenty five as old acquaintances. To many are dead who used to go to church here and many are gone away. Those who are left are good citizens, but they do not quite bring back the old times.  
 Freemans Meeting comes on Tuesday next and the Harry Balkley men are all on the alert. Geo says Harry will get it this fall too, but I do hope that Duxbury isnt fallen so low as to be represented by a drunkard and a thief. Sam is the other candidate, but I am afraid from what I hear that he will not get it. You are a Grant man you say. I thought of course that reading the Tribune as long as you had Greely would be your choice. I dont know how any one can

determine who is the best man for the place even if they read both sides. We have the New York Times, the Montpelier Watchman and the Argus, and I declare, the more I hear and read the more I cant tell where I am, but I guess I am on the fence. O well it doesnt matter I cant vote, so Ill not fret my brain about it. Geo is for Greely and Sam is for Grant, and Leslie is for Greely, so as they cannot both be right I do not presume to say who is wrong. There are terrible stories afloat of Grants intemperance. I hope they are not true for it seems so disgraceful that a man in his position should g drunk. Still, I know that it was said that he was so drunk at the battle of Pittsburg Landing that he could scarcely sit on his horse.

8th Well a week ago I did not finish my letter, so of course it isnt sent off yet, for I am dreadfully busy. Georges horses ran away one day last week. He had just got home from the saw mill and dinner being ready he slipped off their bridles and put a pile of fodder corn before them, and came in to eat his dinner. We had nearly got through when Charlie said the horses are running away, and sure enough they did run. When they got most down to the school house the neck yoke dropped and still they ran. When they got down most to the top of the hill above Sam's the waggon dropped in to a hole (the road is dreadfully gutted by the freshet) the king 1Q1i came out and Chet said the back part of the waggon went end over end. Well the horses cleared themselves from the fore wheels and went to Sam's and went to feeding. The damage all told was less than two dollars. Geo says it was because he was a good Greely man, that there was so little damage.

I think that if nothing prevents father and I will be with you three weeks from to-day which will be the 29th - my birthday There are many children sick though not hard sick in the vicinity. Arthur was sick all last week. He is better now but not able to do anything.

Love to you all  
 Sis Addie

## Harrison and Lucy to Addie

Coventry Nov 3 1872

Dear Sister  
 I recd your letter last Thursday night & now seat myself to reply. We are all well now but the baby has had a sick spell since you were here. Not very sick, but so that Lucy had to tend her about all the time for a week. Beside this she has had a big bile or boile. (as you like) on her back, large enough to make me sick if I had it on me. You need not have written that you went through

## TURNER FAMILY LETTERS

Irasburg for I knew it as soon as you did. As soon as you got out of sight I concluded to go out to see a Mr. Williams that lives where Ross Aingier used to, to get him to help me lay my cellar wall. I saw you before you got over the hill beyond the first log house & kept in sight of you most of the time till you went over the hill by the graveyard., I saw father get out & go up the hill afoot & could have easily overtaken you, but my heart was full & I didn't want to say good bye again

There has been some good weather & a good deal of storm & mud since you were here I have been botherd a good deal to get help but have got my wall done & the house onto it. I made a little bee &- moved the house last Monday forenoon. We pryed it up & got rollers under it & rolled it onto its place with ease. There was 18 or 20 men here & Lucy got dinner for them while the house was on the move. This makes the 4th time that some of my neighbors have turned out to help me this season in my pulling down raising & moving operations, & they have seemed to do it cheerfully to. Well, now I have got my cellar to bank up before winter to keep my potatoes from freezeing. This will be quite a job for the house is from 2 to 3 feet above the surface of the ground. I am going to have the lower part of the house lathed & plastered this fall if posible, expect to begin it tomorrow. The most difficult part of it will be geting the sand & lime, Shall have to go to Newport for the lime 12 miles & to Troy 6 miles for the sand, & a muddier time I never saw We had 4 beautiful days the first of last week & improved them to the best of my ability. Got all of my potatoes into the cellar but about 20 bushel & did some wharfing round the house. Thursday it began to rain soon after dark & rained all night & Friday it rained & snowed all day & all night & about 1/2 of the day yesterday, & you can judge something what the going is on the road. , Today it is cold & cloudy & theatens snow. I do hop that we shall get about two weeks of good weather yet this fall. I think I can make good use of it I think you wrote the fore part of the season that father thought I shouldnt accomplish all I had got laid out & I didnt realy expect to myself, but I have nearly brought it round as wet as it has been Lucy is going to write the other page

Dear Sister

I now seat myself to try to write a few lines to you as Harrison has left a little space You want to know how I get along, I can tell you. But slowly. The next Sunday after you went home The baby fell from the Bed & hurt her leg so she did not bear her heft on it for nerely a week & two before she could go as well as before, & now she has been sick a wek so I am

behind with everything, have not done but very little sewing since you was here, We are going to try to send Mary to School this Winter Commenses a week from tomorrow I dont see how I am going to get her ready. H got some cloth for her a Watter Proof which has got to be made this week I shall get Mrs Carpenter to help me make it if I can. I dont know how I shall get along without her (Mary) but do what I can & let the rest go as I have done all summer I never worked so hard as I have for the passed year & it seems so I never done so little in the same time

Well it is getting late & H says he must have some supper & I guess he is about right So good by

My love to all  
Lucy A Turner

## Samuel to Harrison and Lucy

Warren November 5, 1871

Dear Children,

Yours was recd Thursday last & found us in our usual health, mine as good as it ever was in my whole life. Altho I have labored as many hours since I commenced sugaring as a hired man, and been very tired many times, I have not seen an unwell day during the whole time, nor lost a meal of victuals. I have been able to do more work this season than for any season for 3 years. I attribute this to the use of cider, which I have had every day for nearly a year. I drink a glass before breakfast, another before dinner & then before going to bed. It is the best regulator of my stomach of anything I can take. Notwithstanding my working so hard, I now weigh more by 10 lbs. than I have at this time of year for 12 years.

Our strongest temperance men have become satisfied that a temperate use of cider is very healthful, and are providing themselves with from one to three barrels for their own use. Our physicians recommend it for bilious people. I have no doubt it would be good for you.

We have had a very favorable fall for doing our falls work. I have got everything done and ready for winter & expect tomorrow to commence chopping in the woods, my saw logs & our years supply of fire wood. I have engaged a man with his oxen to draw together the logs where I can load onto a sled to be drawn with my horse, when it becomes good sledding. This with the thrashing of one hundred bushels oats and attending to my chores, will constitute my winter's work - which, if I am well, I can easily do - thrashing when stormy & cold, & working out when mild, I have not sold my butter yet and, judging from market reports, it looks rather dubious ... For some time there has been no sale for summer butter. Good fall made selling for 27 cts. I do not feel very uneasy. I think before winter is out a good article of summer made will sell much better than now. There is a firm in Lowell who have had the butter of my neighbor Lockwood for several years, and last May I sent 3 tubs to them and got 4 cts per lb.

## TURNER FAMILY LETTERS

more than I could have got here. I have written to them about mine & recd an answer, but they say they have so much on hand I better not send yet.

What terrible fires they have had in Chicago, Wisconsin & Michigan, and what untold suffering must result from them. It is heartrending to read the account of them. But the energy of Chicago men and the substantial aid they will have from all parts of our land & Europe will build up the new city in a very short time.

I am going to attend Church and, as it is about time, I must close without filling my sheet.

My love to you all, especially the children.

Yours as ever,  
S.C. Turner

## Addie to Harrison

Duxbury Nov 12th 1871

Dear Brother,

I fully intended to have answered your letter two weeks ago, but - well to tell you the truth my baby is so troublesome that she monopolizes all my spare time. I do not have a half hour in a week to read or rest, and now as I write Alma my thirteen year old help is holding her and telling stories so interesting that I listen as often as I write. Phila advises me to take all the comfort I can with her, because perhaps I shall never have another baby. Is not that comforting. I think perhaps she thinks I am getting a little old. That reminds me of what Charlie said the other day. Belle asked me mother do old women have babies. I did not make her any reply, but Charlie answered very wisely "yes Belle Grandma\_am Crandall is just as likely to have a baby as anybody. I did not dispute him, and they would not be at all surprised any day to hear that father had a little brother. Is not this interesting? I should like to see our children all together. Wouldnt they make a noise? Are your children still? Mine are noisy all but Arthur. He was always a quiet boy. Next summer if we all live and are prospered, I hope to see you in your own home.

Our new house is all finished now all but cleaning up after the painter. It is real pretty, and convenient. George had two thousand feet of ash lumber and he sold it to Alpha Atherten together with some basswood boards and ten dollars worth of potatoes, with the proceeds of all this he has got a nice lot of furniture. You see I never had any new furniture before. He got a new cook stove last week for which he pays ten cords of four foot wood. It has a reservoir and tin oven.

Winter has come early hasn't it? and Geo is not ready for it. He has not plowed a furrow this fall. Arthur has attended school this fall, and I tell you it makes a difference.

Uncle Ben Davis and aunt Lydia have been up to Duxbury this fall. They are the best preserved couple I know. Aunt L does not look a day older than she did three years ago. Alpha was up here in Sept - no in August. He has a very pretty wife they say. I did not see her.

Sam's folks did not go to Coventry, as he intended.

Phila said the other day she did not know how they ever had thought of going, Sam's fall work is so behind. His garden vegetables are all in the ground or were the last I heard, and I think he has not nearly finished his husking. Our house is not banked, and there is at least six inches of snow I think.

Father was here two or three weeks ago. He is enjoying life pretty well better I will venture to say than before Martha went to Ogdensburg. She has been so unwise as to use up welcome all around by her independent ways. I think a deal of her, but she has too much Chandler and Griffith blood about her to be real generous I do think that no two women were ever more alike than she and her mother.

What terrible fires they have had in the west. The town or city of Manistee is half destroyed. O where do you suppose Henry's girls who were left there are. I read the other day that General Cutchien was burned out and that he and his family only escaped with their lives. He was Henry's lawyer. It has just occurred to me that perhaps he could give me some information of Henry's girls. Henry's wife's brother wrote me that Gen-C said those children must be found and provided with good homes, or at least be placed in the Asylum at Madison. An Asylum for soldiers orphans. I think I will write him or get father to.

I wish that you and family as many as you can bring would come down to Thanksgiving. O Tip, now do come. I am going to have father's folks and Leslie if I can get them. Now if it is sleighing do come.

Addie

I send you the Argus account of Cal Foster's being taken to Brattleboro

I send you Arthur's picture a pretty good one I think





## TURNER FAMILY LETTERS

## Harrison to Addie

Coventry Dec 10 1871

Dear Sister,

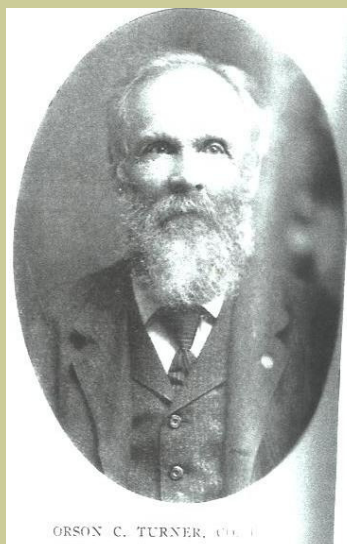
I have been owing you a letter for something like three weeks now, & take this opportunity to pay it. I was owing father a letter & wrote to him last Sunday. We came very near accepting your invitation to thanksgiving. When I recd your letter I thought nothing about it, for there was no sleighing, but Friday before thanksgiving day there fell some 5 inches of snow, & Lucy & I concluded to fix things as well as possible & start Tuesday. Cynthia had told Lucy some time - before that she would come & keep house if we would go this fall or winter. I have hired a Frenchman for the winter whom I thought of leaving the chores with. so you see we were provided for. but man proposes & the Lord disposes. Sunday was a warm day, & thawd just enough to spoil the sleighing, so we dropped the subject & stayd at home & it was well for

us that we did, for it came on cold Monday night & until Saturday noon it was dreadful cold & windy, not quite so freezing perhaps as some of our cold snaps in January will be, but being so early in the season it felt as cold to us here as anything I ever experienced Wednesday of that week I was out with my French skiding logs, & he froze his ears both of them almost to his head, & they are so sore that he has to wear a flanel on them all the time when out doors

Well now I suppose you will say dont give it up so but try it again. I should like to go full as well as you would like to have me I know. that is I should like to be there a few days, but the going & comeing in the winter I should not like. I am very cold blooded at best but my thumb that was sore last spring is a dreadful cold thing I put onto it when I go out to work a soft buckskin cat with a piece of soft flanel in it, & then a thick mitten & then if the day happens to be cold it will feel all the time as if it was in ice cold water & all the slaping & thrashing I can do to it dont have any affect at all, & rideing is the coldest work by far of anything I can do. I shouldnt experience enough pleasure & injoyment in a weeks visit to pay for what I should suffer with cold on the road & beside that I have got a sight of work to do if I posibly can do it. The weather has been so bad for the past six weeks, that I havnt got near ready for deep snow yet & as Phila said, I dont know how we ever thought of going I suppose if I should make up my mind that I would go at any rate that I could find time & a way to go, but I dont feel as tho it was adviseible on the

whole. I am not feeling remarkably rich now a days for my summer & fall butter is not sold yet, & the prospect is now that it wont be very soon I had a pair of oxen & four steers that I would have sold if I could have got a fair price for them, but such stock is so low that I concluded to winter them as I have plenty of fodder. In consequence of all this I am out of money & have been for three months. I havnt even got enough to pay the postage on a letter, had to borrow of Mary to mail my last letter. But I dont want you should think lye got the blues, for I dont allow myself to get in that mood. We are all in good health, Mary is living at her Uncle Carls & going to school. It is near nine oclock & I must close.

Good night,  
Harrison



ORSON C. TURNER, O.C. 1

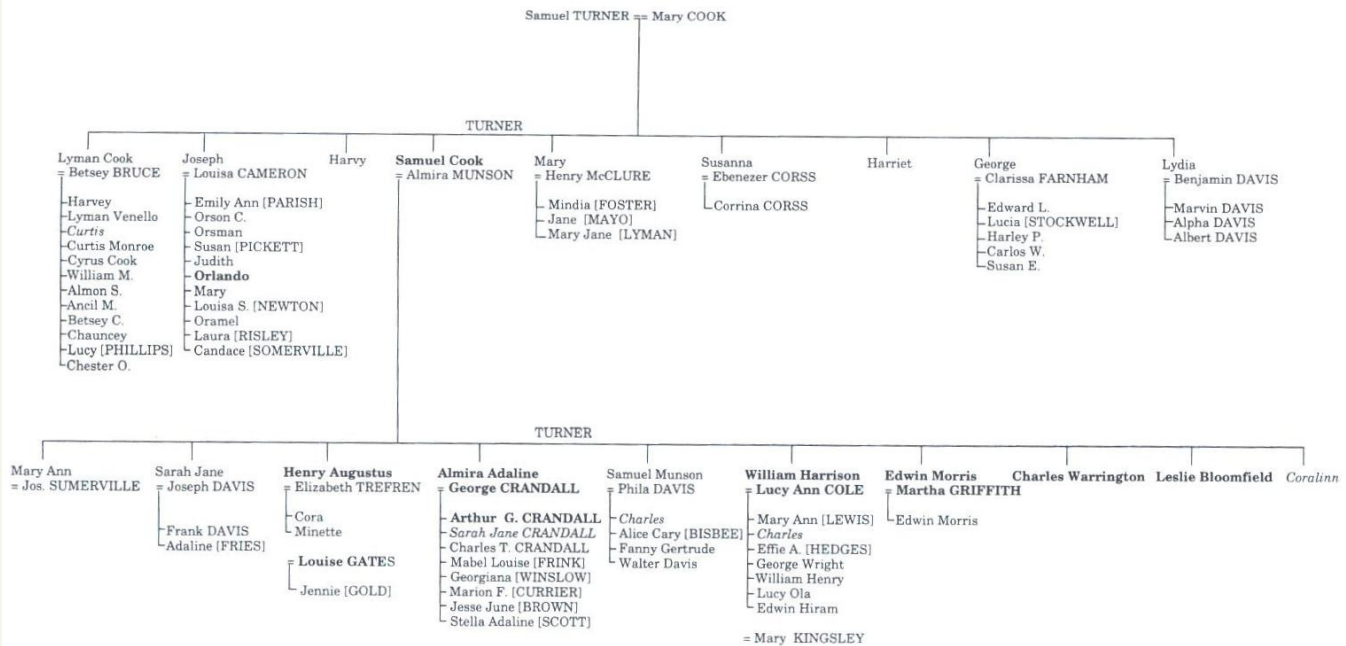
**ORSON C. TURNER DIES  
OLDEST DUXBURY RESIDENT,  
WAR VETERAN, DEAD IN 89TH YEAR**

Orson C. Turner, Duxbury's oldest resident died Sunday morning, in his 89th year. Hew was born September 8, 1830, the son of Joseph and Luisa Cameron Turner. He served in the war in Company B, 13th Vermont and returned home a (???). He was a member of Edwin Dillingham Post, G.A.R.

His wife who was Caroline Clark, died 25 years ago. Two daughters have also died. There are two grandchildren, Mrs. Alfred Ducette of Montpelier and Mrs. Frank Demas of Moretown; nine great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Louisa Newton, with whom Mr. Turner resided.

The funeral was held from his late home Tuesday many being present from out of town, the Rev. William L. Boicourt officiating. The bearers were: Fred Ducette and Bert Newton of Montpelier, Ralph Wrisley of Waterbury Center and Ora Wrisley of Fayston. The casket was draped with the flags. Burial was in the Ather-ton cemetery.

## TURNER FAMILY TREE



### DEATH OF MRS. PHILA TURNER. END COMES SUDDENLY AT HOME OF HER SON, W. D. TURNER

Another of Duxbury's older inhabitants passed away Friday afternoon at 6:15 at her old home on Turner hill. Mrs. Phila Letitia (Davis) Turner, widow of Samuel Turner, who has been staying for some time with her daughter. Mrs. John Bisbee, in Moretown came from there to the home of her son, Walter D. Turner, in the afternoon and died while sitting in her chair, of organic heart disease. She was a faithful Christian woman, strong personality, and her going will be strongly felt by those in the two homes, the community and the South Duxbury church.

Phila Letitia Davis was born in this State, the daughter of Andrew B. C. Davis and Jerusha Haseltine. Fifty-five years ago last December she was married to Samuel Turner and went to live on the home place. Mr. Turner died in 1907. The deceased is survived by two children, Mrs. John Bisbee of Moretown and Walter D. Turner of Duxbury. Also nine grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the home of her son, W. D. Turner on Turner hill Sunday afternoon, the Rev. A. A. Mandigo of Moretown officiating. The bearers were nephews, Edward Turner of Warren, William Turner and Hiram Turner of Berlin and Carl Hazeltime of Worcester, Mass. Burial was in the South Duxbury cemetery. Among those present from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Ami Munson, Mrs. Harland Munson and Levi Munson of Morrisville, Mrs. Arthur Gorham of Hanson, Mass., Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hazelton of Worcester, Mass., Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winslow of Berlin.

### ALBERT C. TURNER. DIES SUDDENLY SITTING IN CHAIR FUNERAL WAS HELD TUESDAY.

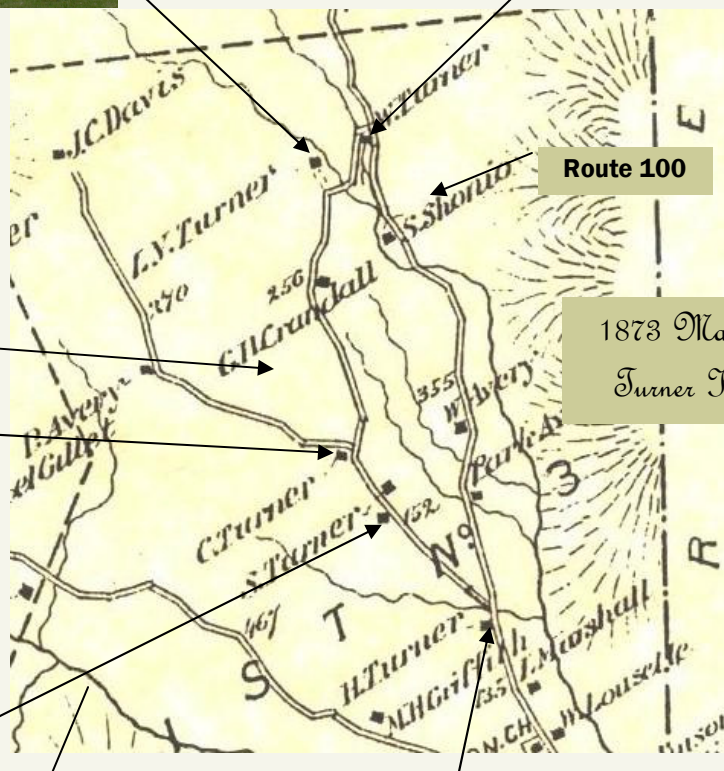
Albert Carlton Turner died last Saturday afternoon while sitting in a chair at the home of his brother, Verne V. Turner, on Main Street. He had been in poor health and not able to work for two years, but had been apparently no worse of late. During the forenoon preceding his death he had walked up street and seemed to be feeling very well.

He was born in Duxbury, February 4, 1849, on what is known as Turner Hill, the son of Lyman V. and Calista Crossett Turner. In his younger days he was engaged in farming in Duxbury, but later went into the lumbering business with his brother, Byron. He represented Duxbury in the Legislature of 1900 and served his native town as selectman for several terms. Besides his brother, he leaves two sisters, Mrs. George Davis and Mrs. Alma Bulkeley of Duxbury.

The funeral was held from the home of his brother, where he had lived for the past eight years, at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning, the Rev. V. L. Smith officiating. The bearers were Philo Talbert and Sidney Atkins. Those present from out of town were Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Chapin of Stowe, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Turner and Mrs. B. C. Newton of Montpelier, Fred and Will Turner of Barre, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Atkins of Moretown and Harry A. Bulkeley of Cambridge, Vt. Interment was in the family lot in the Duxbury Cemetery. The floral tributes were many and beautiful. The grave was covered with green and at one end was a beautiful pillow made of greens and having the word "Brother" woven across the center with white daisies.



# TURNER HOMES AS THEY APPEAR TODAY



Route 100

1873 Map of  
Turner Hill

All that remains of the C. Turner home  
is a cellar hole.

The road that lead to the JC Davis  
home as been abandoned after the  
Avery home.



## WHAT THE WATERBURY RECORD HAD TO SAY

**1910**

J. F. Fuller of Burlington was in town  
Saturday.

M. J. Hill lost a good horse recently from  
what was said to be glanders.

C.B. McAllister of Montpelier was in  
town last Saturday, putting new batter-

ies in the telephones.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Backus, who were  
recently married were serenaded on  
night last week by the young people of  
this town and Moretown.

Walter D. Turner, trustee of the fund  
created by the last will of Samuel M.

Turner, lat of Duxbury, settled his ac-  
count before Judge Martin in Probate  
Court Monday.

**1910**

Mr. & Mrs. Orville Sherman and children  
of Waits River are visiting in town.

Frank Berno is to move down one the  
river road and work for Moody & Almon.

## D U X B U R Y   H I S T O R I C A L   S O C I E T Y   M E M B E R S H I P

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Treasurer: Mark Morse  
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If you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter we would love to hear from you.

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING MAY 8TH - 7PM  
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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