

Under the Hump

SOCIETY BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

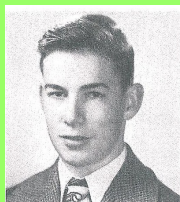
May 8
meeting at CBMS,
7 pm

- Please bring your plant sale order forms and money to the meeting.
- Save the Date — 5th Annual Ghost Walk is Monday, May 28 at the Route 100 Cemetery.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS SOCIETY MEMBER?



Last Issue's Photo:
Robert Grace



Next Meeting

Following a short business meeting, we will host a Vermont Humanities Council event entitled: The Irish "Wave" in the Green Mountains. Vince Feeney, adjunct history professor at the University of Vermont, will explain the immigration from Ireland to their new home in Vermont during the potato famine right up through the 1860s. Feeney is the author of *Finnigans, Slaters and Stonepeggars: the History of the Irish in Vermont*.

Annual Plant Sale

Spring is upon us and it's time for the annual plant sale. As always, we will have high quality plants delivered to your location the same day they arrive from the nursery. Please place your order and encourage your family and friends to place an order as well. Please bring your completed order forms and money to the May meeting or submit to Maureen by May 19. If you have any boxes you no longer need that would be ideal for deliveries, please bring them to the meeting. The plants will be delivered on May 23.

250th Celebration Committee Update

A big thank you to the Duxbury Select Board for approving \$2,500 to kick off our fundraising!

The T-shirt sales are going well and we have sold over 100 so far!! If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Stephanie Koonz.

John Kerrigan has been contacted and is on board to organize a marathon. The location for the marathon will be around Ward Hill to Dowsville Road which is approximately 7 miles.

A subcommittee has been formed and met regarding moving the war monuments from Main Street to near the town garage.

It was decided to post our celebration advertisements on our website to keep people informed.

~ Kelly Welch, secretary



Ian Ormon and Stephanie Koonz
selling T-shirts at the 2012
Town Meeting.

Myra Perry photo.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

During the last quarter we have been cataloguing new items we have received. We have also updated several of our computer files. Several photos have been scanned and added to our computer file. We will be continuing this process in the upcoming meetings. Many of the photos have been returned to the donors per their wishes so they can keep them and we have a permanent copy for the society online! What this means to all of you out there is: If you have some photos you would like to contribute to the society but would like to keep them for yourself as well, just lend them to us for a day and we can scan them in and return them to you. Family pictures, residences, or Duxbury businesses, etc. would be wonderful additions to our files. Please be sure to identify who/where/what it is and date of photograph, if known. We look forward to seeing more.

Beginning in May we will be putting together an outline/questionnaire document to use as a guideline so we can begin interviewing our residents regarding their lives in Duxbury. We hope to involve Crossett Brook and/or Harwood students to assist in the process. Right now this is a work in progress. If you have any thoughts please let us know.

Monetary Donations

Theresa & Gordon Wood—Newsletter Support * Torrey & Ben Smith
Lars Dickson * Louise Welch * several anonymous

Donation Artifacts/Documents

- Mary Gow & Kitty Werner - New book about Ward Lumber Co. and its ties to Dowsville, Ward Hill, and Moretown.
- Mary Reagan - Several photos of North Duxbury & Camel's Hump area.

SUMMER PICNIC

The location of the town offices was selected as the picnic sight for this year's picnic. After some discussion, the possibility of utilizing Doug Andrews' picnic area was suggested. At that point a committee was formed to look at possible options for this year's picnic. Listed below are the four locations we looked at and some of the pros and cons of each. Please review the options and be prepared to make your selection at the next meeting.

	Town Offices	South Duxbury Church	Andrews Field Dowsville Road	Crossett Brook Middle School
Noise	Minimal traffic noise	Occasional high traffic noise	Quiet location	Quiet location
Indoor seating	Minimal 20 X 21 enough to hold buffet	Sunshine Hall holds buffet and 40 plus people	None	Cafeteria with ample space for buffet and people
Lawn Area	30 x 30 area in front of clerks office	Moderate size area in front of school	Expansive Lawn	Moderate size area in front of school
Historic Significance	Administrative	Historic buildings	Located within the town	Administrative
Restroom Facilities	Available on site	Would need to rent	Would need to rent	Available on site
Usage Charge	None	None	None	Janitor fee
Aesthetic	Gravel driveway	Lawn and historic buildings	Lawn next to pond	Picnic area in driving circle

TOWN MEETING 2012

This year's food fundraiser during Town Meeting was a success. We served coffee and morning snacks during the meeting and a potluck luncheon during the break.

We had a bountiful and delicious variety of dishes for the luncheon. What great cooks we have in Duxbury!! A thank you goes to Arvad's Restaurant for providing the homemade rolls to complement the meal. The food at the end of the afternoon was donated to The Elf Shelf.

A special thank you to Crossett Brook Middle School for the use of the kitchen and special thanks to: Maureen, Myra, Shawn, Sam, Megan, Christian, Alison, Janice and Kelly for their help in the kitchen.

We served 92 at lunch and raised a total of \$583 for the day. Thank you to everyone for their generous food donations!

~ Mary Ethel Welch, Food Committee Chair



Myra Perry photo.



Alison Magnani photo.



Alison Magnani photo.



Myra Perry photo.

Mary Ethel Welch selling morning snacks.



Alison Magnani photo.



Myra Perry photo.

Janice Sherman, Shawn Perry, Megan Perry, Sam Perry, and Christian Magnani serving lunch.



Myra Perry photo.

Zeb Towne, the only elected Dog Catcher in the United States (to his knowledge).

COMMUNITIES REVISITED

By Maureen Harvey & Skip Flanders

We will be doing a series reporting on some of the neighborhoods and roads past and present in the town. There were numerous communities that were on the Duxbury hillsides. They were inhabited by small farms into the 1930s and 1940s. After that most people moved off the hills to be closer to town and took on other employment other than farming. In the 1950s there were a lot of camps the sprung up on the hillsides utilizing the abandon springs of long gone farm houses.

The first community in the series is Hayden Hill. It is about half-way between the Winooski Street Bridge and the Camel's Hump road. Years ago the roads were such that you could drive a car up and around Hayden Hill. Originally the road went through the Davis barnyard on the other side of the brook. The road currently runs from River Road on the left side of the brook near the Davis barn. It was a town road until the 1970s when the town decided to turn numerous town roads into trails so that they would not be obligated to maintain them. They were afraid that if someone built a house on the abandoned hills of Duxbury they would not be able to afford the upkeep on all the roads. The investment to maintain a road for vehicular traffic was a whole different animal than maintaining it for horse and wagon traffic.

Arad E. Graves (1814-1895) lived in the brick house on River Road that still stands near the cemetery. Arad was born in Greenfield, Mass and came to Duxbury with his father Luther Graves in the 1820. Arad is the grandfather of the Eric Graves of Waterbury. The property had an orchard and cider mill between the house and the cemetery. He would make cider jelly and make the rounds selling it with his horse. Warren "Warey" Robey purchased the property and it was later owned by the Audys. The people in the area would pick up their wild apples and bring them to the mill to have their cider made. The steep hill in the back made a convenient drop for the pomace out the back door.

The land for the Graves cemetery was provided by Luther Graves, father of Arad. He is buried there with his first wife Spedy who died in 1857 at the age of 41 and his second wife Lucy Jane Huntley who lived until 1911 when she died at 81 years. The cem-

etry was full of blackberry bushes and was only mowed once a year. Many of the stones didn't have foundations and fell into disrepair. Later on, Amy Goodheart and Alvin T. Canerdy donated money and created an association for the upkeep of the cemetery. Ray Davis then brought in a lot of soil to fill in the sunken graves and graded it over so it was level. They would work each year straightening the stones so they wouldn't topple over and made neater rows. The earliest marker in the Graves Cemetery is that of Oliver Perry Towle who died in 1815. She was the wife of John Towle an early Duxbury settler who settled on the Preston Farm where Debbie Spooner lives now.

The Ladue family came down from Canada and lived at that farm for a number of years. After that, Otis and Elsie Colton occupied the farm after they sold their Waterbury farm to the Farris. Otis was well respected and well liked in the community. His friendly outgoing style endeared him to members of the community. Elsie, not so much. As she was painfully frugal after Otis died, she took him to Warren to be buried. Walking to the grave on the arm of funeral director, Charlie Parker, she inquired if he had found any old bones in the grave because she was burying him right on top of her first husband.

Further down was the home of Alonzo Hayden (1813-1876) for whom the hill is named which burned in the 1930s. Ray and Marion Davis built the present house in 1949 and it is currently is the home of the Hammets. The barns were across the road between the road and the railroad track. It was a steep drop out the back door. The 1860 census shows Alonzo and his wife Loticia with an age difference of 34 years. The headstones in the Graves cemetery give them an age difference of 23 years. One date that is not different is the date of the death of their children. Both sons James and Ira Alonzo died on January 17, 1875 at the ages of 4 years 6 months and 1 year 5 months respectively.

The settlers that lived on the hill were predominately Irish community except for James Stitt who was English. They would send more than 20 kids down the hill to attend the school on the main road in the one room school house located next to the Preston house. The farms were there until the 1930s. The last resident Charlie Carver died in 1937.



Hayden Hill was named after Alonzo Hayden whose barns are shown in this photo. The house is barely visible behind the tree. It became the home of Ray Davis and later the Hammets.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED



Looking from Hayden Hill down to the river is the brick house on the left with the barn beside it. The Preston place is on the right. The house is on the uphill side and the barns that were lost in the flood are on the other side of the road. The Pixley place is in the background on the other side of the river.

The lone Englishman was James Stitt who had a farm on the hill. He has the distinction of having a rock named after him—a rock that is over 12 feet high that looks as if it would be tipped

over with a simple push. At an estimated weight of over 40 tons you would never want to be near it if it did tip over. Dr. Bidwell would take tourists from the North Duxbury station and Waterbury

1		Irack Margaret	5	F	Yr				Vermont
2		Buller James D	24	M	Yr	Farm laborer			"
3	105	Hayden Alonzo	67	M	Yr	Farmer	6000	2013	"
4		— Leticia	33	F	Yr	Keeping house	600		"
5		Clark Ezra H	12	M	Yr				"
6		— Leash P	10	M	Yr				"
7	109	McDonald William	43	M	Yr	Farm laborer		500	"
8		— Lorinda	45	F	Yr	Keeping house			"
9		— Helen Y	17	F	Yr	At home			"
10		Tallas Edward	19	M	B	Farm laborer			Virginia
11	110	Irisher O. C.	35	M	Yr	Farmer	5000	2050	Vermont
12		— Mary H	35	F	Yr	Keeping house			"
13		Edman Jasper	17	M	Yr	Farm laborer			"

This is a census from 1850 or 1860. It shows the residents of the area as well as their vital statistics. The columns after the occupation column show the value of their real estate, personal property, and the location of their birth. Alonzo Hayden, age 67, is listed with real estate valued at \$6,000. Leticia Hayden, age 33, is listed as having real estate valued at \$600 which was unusual for a woman in the 1800s.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED

112	Stitt James	75	M	4	Farmer	1000	362	Ireland
	Catharine	67	F	4	Keeping house			England
113	Preston Thomas	30	M	4	Farm Laborer			"
	Matilda	30	F	4	Keeping house			Ireland
	Jane	8	F	4				Canada
	Thomas	7	M	4				"
	Henry	4	M	4				"
	Samuel	2	M	4				"
114	Davis Azoo H.	53	M	4	Farmer	4000	287	Vermond-
	Martha	39	F	4	Keeping house			"
	Frank	21	M	4	Carpenter			"
	Annah	15	F	4				"
	Effie	6	F	4				"
	Engene	2	M	4				"
	Sweet Flora	80	F	4				Connecticut
115	Mack John	40	M	4	Works on the RR			Ireland
	Mary	42	F	4	Keeping house			"
	Kimberly	12	M	4				Vermond-
	John	10	M	4				"
	Mary	8	F	4				"

The 1870 census showing information for the Davis, Preston, Mack, and Stitt families.

in a horse drawn buggy to see the rock. The last time he went up he got lost and that put an end to his tourist trade.

The neighboring farm was owned by the McNamaras and then the Macks. Ray Davis stated that there was a corn field from the upper meadow to the Sand Knoll. At that time you could be standing by the river and see most of the way up the hill. Coming across from Crossett Hill you could see all over the hill because it was so open. There are still remnants of farming equipment strung about the hill with a dump rake residing at the Mack place. To get to either of these farms from the bottom of the hill you would have to cross the stone bridge. The bridge is made with an enormous rock that spans from one side of the stream to the other.

Going back across stone bridge and up the road was the Casey place. On the map it says J. Casey and the census has Timothy listed as a resident. It is believed that Casey cut himself with an ax while cutting wood and got an infection. No one checked on him for a few days and when they found him it was too late to treat him so he died from blood poisoning.

Bud Barney built a camp in the 50s which he called Slow Fire Camp. When he first built the camp there were the remnants of a barn there but the house had been destroyed by fire. It was an ideal location because of the large spring with an abundance of water. The field across the power line from the camp was referred to as Potato hill and with its sandy soil it was perfect location. When the camp was first built Bud Barney said that he could see where the barn was [4] all the way across to the Carver house [2]



Jim and Eileen Harvey standing in front of Stitt Rock which is estimated to weigh approximately 40 tons.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED



Looking down the hill across the river to Waterbury. Graves cemetery is located in the bottom right of the photo. The Audy Cider Mill is shown between the cemetery and the Audy home.



Preston - Frasier - Spooner

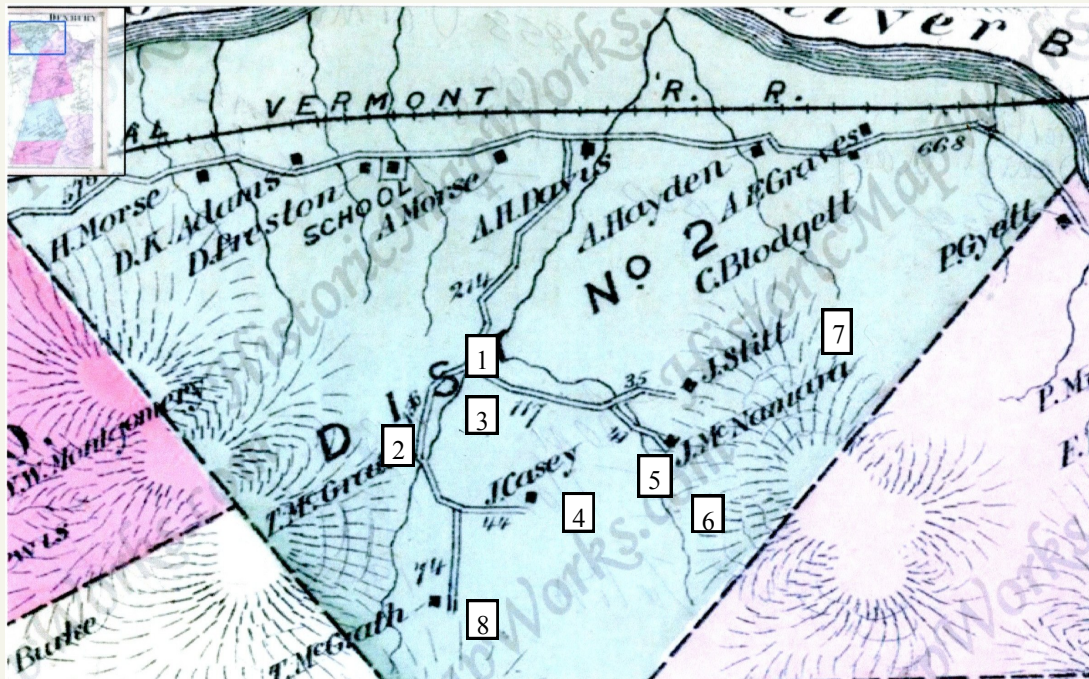
This photo of the school was taken around 1900. The school was located next to the Preston House. In the picture are Ethel May Preston 1886-1927 (wife of Ray T. Davis) and her brother Rufus Preston 1891-1939.

which was about 300 yards. (Numbers in brackets correspond to map on page 8).

The McGrath place [2] was home to another Irish family. That homestead was later occupied by Charlie Carver who had 30 or more cows at his farm and an abundance of corn planted there. He was the last regular resident of the hill and older residents remember him traveling the North Duxbury Road in a horse and buggy. His mother was Mary Casey so it is a possibility that he was a relative of the Casey family that lived nearby. He died at the de Goesbriand Hospital on January 31, 1937 at the age of 62.

When he died they brought his cattle down to the Preston Farm. Among them was a small bull that had only seen Charlie in his lifetime and when he came down the hill he went wild. Gordon White who worked for Harry Harvey was tasked with the job of bringing him to the Harvey Farm. He had him on a long rope and he was running wild like a deer. They ended up tying him five ways in a box stall to control him. Gordon White wasn't done with his wild cattle duties for Harry Harvey. Harry bought a bull from Warey Robey for ten dollars while he was running. Even with Gordon being a skilled deer hunter it took him two days with a rifle to hunt him down. Otis Colton had a similar problem when he took his cattle out of the area for a summer pasture. When they don't see humans they will go wild. Ralph Davis and Jim Harvey both recall having the chore of "salting the cows." Every week you would hike to wherever they were residing for the summer and entice them to come to you for some human contact with salt. Of course, summer pastures usually had a remote steep incline involved. It wasn't a fun job but a necessary one if you had any hope of catching your cows when it came time to move them to a new location.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED



- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1 Location of Stone Bridge | 6 Potato Hill or Sand Knoll |
| 2 McGrath Place - Later the home of Charlie Carver and Robey Camp | 7 Approximate location of Stitt Rock |
| 3 Location of Harvey Camp | 8 McGrath home and later the Flanders camp |
| 4 Casey Home - Later the location of the Bud Barney Camp | |
| 5 McNamara Farm which was occupied by the Mack Family in the 1860s | |

Warey Robey purchased the property after Charlie had died. While he owned it the house caught fire and burned to the ground. The story is there was a fight one night and someone threw a lantern and that was all it took to set the house ablaze. While it was burning they took a pair of horses hitched to a plow and made circles around the house to keep it from jumping to

other buildings. After the farm house burned down they built a camp. The building didn't have a foundation under it and was built on logs that were drawn in. The large two-story camp was made from nice tongue and grooved lumber that was probably milled down in North Duxbury and just dragged up there to make the camp. In later years when Jim Harvey owned the property the logs were rotted and the good lumber that was left was taken down to build a camp closer to Stone Bridge.



Looking from a location near the old Hospitality farm in Waterbury across the Winooski River at the Davis farm with Hayden Hill and Camel's Hump in the background. Taken in about 1910 from near where the Despault's Junk yard is now. This is the old Davis barn that burned in 1939.

Cecil Percy was living in the camp while he was logging for Warey Robey. The Davis' would loan Cecil a buggy to move his groceries and go down street. One day he decided he wanted to move off the hill and take his things down street. He couldn't find the horses since they had the run of the hill. He thought he would load up the wagon with his furniture and bring it down the hill himself. It didn't work out too well when the weight of the load got away from him and the wagon sat there broken down beside the road for many years.

Up toward the end of the road were the sugarhouses as well as many acres of timber for logging.

COMMUNITIES REVISITED

It was such a steep incline in some areas you had to be very selective of what road you took down with a load. The weight of a load could easily overrun your horses and cause a wreck. Chains were sometimes used to cause a drag to hold the weight back. If a horse ever took a bad step they would be in danger of the sled running them over.

Years later it was logged by Jim Harvey in the years when log skidders replaced horse. On one outing he ran into Don Flanders out on a hunt and asked him how it was going. Don replied "The hunting is great but the finding is poor." There used to be a lot of deer roaming Hayden hill in years gone by. Rufus Preston bagged one that was over 200 pounds. As an amateur taxidermist he mounted the horns of the deer and they resided in the Flanders' camp until someone came through and liberated them for their own use.

The McGrath place that is at the top of the hill ended up being the location of the Flanders' camp. When they were working up there they found pump logs. They had the centers bored out to bring the water down from the spring to the barn. Ralph Davis bought the McGrath farm and at that time there were no buildings on the property. Ralph's father Ray said that one of the owners ran about 50 steers up there for pasture. The Davises kept cattle up there and would make the trip up to salt them every other week unless they had one that needed to be moved back and forth.

When you head back down the hill to the North Duxbury Road (River Road) within a single mile you have the Davis, Messer and Preston families. They were great neighbors and ended up being an even greater family when Lulu Messer married Rufus Preston and Ethel Preston, Rufus's sister married Ray Davis. Ethel and Ray were the parents of Ralph P. Davis and Doris Flanders. The Davis family was represented by Azro Davis during that time. Russell Davis, who was the father of Ray Davis and the grandfather of Ralph P. Davis, purchased the farm and kept it in the family for a multitude of generations.

Ray Davis lost his car down the road from his home close to the brick house. At the time of the flood he was trying to move some of the Morses and the occupants of the brick house over to the Barnes. The Morses lived in the house that was later occupied by the Messers. He wasn't able to get farther as the water came higher and they decided to walk to higher ground to another Morse relative. He let them out and headed for home but the water was heading for him and he had to abandon his car and head up the hill. He managed to jump from one rock to another to get to high ground and safety. The water rose to the first step of the Davis farm house and it was spared. Ralph P. was only seven but he remembers that it was raining hard that day and Lulu Preston Davis was attending the funeral of her mother. She and Rufus Preston weren't expected to return until the next day. Ray was doing

chores for Rufus while he was away and ended up saving the pigs from the rising water by pulling them through a trap door in the barn floor.

The Messer home was first occupied by the Morse family and after they left by the May family. Brigham Messer was a rail safety agent and lived in the house beyond the Davis farm. He had six or eight cows there and a few acres of land. He wanted to sell it but there wasn't much acreage there and what was there was bad pasture covered in rocks. He thought it would be a good idea to wait for a blanket of winter snow to cover the flaws and he would then put it on the market to sell. Lulu Messer Preston didn't travel far for her union with Rufus. She grew up a few hundred yards down the road from her husband. Her brother Lewis was stricken with epilepsy. At that time when a seizure would strike it was just a matter of waiting it out and composing yourself when you came to. Lewis sometimes worked with Ray Davis doing farm chores and sawing lumber. He could feel a seizure coming on and would reach



The Hayden Hill road is shown on the right side of the photo with the Davis barn in the background.

for Ray so he wouldn't fall into a moving saw. Ray would lay him down in a safe place and wait for them to pass. One evening he went up after the cows and had a seizure while he was in the moss. The moss ended up smothering him and he died at the age of 31 on August 28, 1928. The hay loader from the Messer farm still sits on the side of the road across from the house as it has for decades.

The Preston home was the next house on the road. They had a sizeable farm with cattle, pigs, sugarhouse and more. They lost their barn in the 1927 flood but the house on the uphill side of the road was spared. When it came time to replace the barn the new location was on the uphill side of the road. Back in that day you could order a barn from a kit and they did just that from Sears and Roebuck Co. Some of the rafters were cut too short so the roof isn't quite right. To offset the cost of the new barn Rufus and Lulu would host barn dances on Saturday night. That went on for a while but once Lulu's flower beds got run over that was the end of the barn dances. The family had been there for several generations until Rufus died in 1939 at the age of 48 from a heart attack. Lulu Preston ran the farm for many years until she sold the farm to

COMMUNITIES REVISITED

Sumner Farr in 1949. She later became a secretary for Plant and Griffith.

After Sumner had it for a while he sold it to Mable and Harold Frazier who farmed it with the help of Walt and Debbie (Frazier) Spooner. Although Mr. Frazier was a nice hardworking guy his methods seemed a little unconventional to the other farmers. He would start haying much later and didn't seem to time it to the weather as the other farmers did. In those days milk was handled in cans and Mr. Frazier was annoyed that his milk wasn't passing the butter fat test. He didn't seem to associate the problem with the fact that they were taking the cream out of the tops of the cans and into the house.

Across the road and down just a ways was the brick house that was owned by Green Mountain Power. It was the residence for the power plant manager. Bud Barney was a resident there when his father held that position. It is believed that it was destroyed in the flood but the cellar hole remains today. Bud told the story that there was no Bolton Falls at the time of the 1927 flood because the water was dead level with the top of the falls. At flood time the cut between the rocks of the falls and the hill beyond where the road and railroad tracks are today filled with water. It was said that if the water had not gone in there that the whole town of Waterbury would have been under water.

Beyond the Preston farm and the GMP brick house was the location for the summer milking sheds for the Harvey farm. In the summer the 40-50 cows would walk down the road to their summer location. They would alternate between the summer shed and the main farm about every six weeks to allow the pasture to rest. The cows would come into the shed to be grained and milked 15 at a time. Jim had Leader Evaporator Co. make him a transport tank so the milk would be transported to the main bulk tank down the road. Later on the milk inspector said no milk could be transported. At the time the bacteria count for raw milk was 100,000/mL and the milk being transported was under 5,000/mL. It didn't



The Power House was home to an employee of the dam. It was across the road and just beyond Debbie Spooner's home. The cellar hole still remains.

matter to the inspector so the summer milking stopped in the 1960s and the cows were later sold.

Ralph Davis said Pete O'Neil would take the road from Camel's Hump through Hayden Hill and if he got near Carver's place he would have to cough so he would need to stop for a drink. It might take a while and it wasn't usually water. Therefore, for our next issue we will take one of the back roads from the top of Hayden Hill and end up in another community. Will it be Crosse Hill.....Durkeeville.....Scrabble Hill.....? Stay tuned!

* * * * *

A special thank you to
Jim Harvey and Ralph P. Davis
for their contributions to this article.

* * * * *

Photos courtesy of Skip Flanders.

DUXBURY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Chapter VI

Abe's Summer of Hope

By Mark H. Morse

After suffering defeat at Lee's Mills in April, President Abraham Lincoln is desperately seeking success in the summer campaign. The Union forces are anxious to continue the fight but the President has reservations that his top generals can provide him with the major battle victory he needs to gain the full support of the populace for this war. As we enter the summer months, twenty-nine boys from Duxbury volunteer to do all they can to help Lincoln reach his goal.

Lucien Bruce and his wife Emeline (Hayden) were living in Moretown in 1860. Lucien, 24 years old and a native of Duxbury enlisted on August 13, 1862 serving in Company 'D' of the 2nd Vermont Infantry. He was wounded at the battle of the Wilderness on May

5, 1864 and in November transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps due to his injuries serving until he mustered out July 3, 1865. Lucien was fighting in Virginia when his first son Lucien was born in Duxbury in June of 1863 about a month before the Gettysburg campaign. Another son, Chester was born on August 1, 1865. Lucien died December 18, 1921 at age 85 and is buried in Soldiers Home in California.

Ira Clark, age 32, the son of Rodolphus and Anna Clark joined Lucien Bruce in the 2nd Vermont Infantry serving in Company 'I'. Wounded at Marye's Heights in the battle of Fredericksburg on May 3, 1863, he recovered only to be killed about a year later in Spotsylvania on May 12, 1864. It is assumed his final resting place is on the Spotsylvania battlefield where he fell or possibly his unidentified remains were recovered and interred in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery among the other 15,000 unknown soldiers. His wife Latica and two young sons Ezra, age 7, and Prentice, age 5, were left to mourn his death back on their farm in Duxbury.

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

Amariah Cox, age 29, enlisted for Duxbury on August 13, 1862 in Company "G", 4th Vermont Infantry. Wounded at the battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864, he was able to finish out his enlistment after having transferred to Company "F" 4th VVI, mustering out on July 17, 1865. I have found little information on his personal life in the local area. I believe he was born in Maine, his wife Mary in Lowell, Massachusetts and they did have one daughter born in Duxbury. The family did live a short time in Waterbury prior to his enlistment. After the war he resided in Stowe.

Brothers Henry (age 19) and George (age 18) Crossett enlisted on 07/28/1862 and 07/30/1862, respectively. The sons of Gad and Mary Crossett, each is assigned to Company "B" of the 10th Vermont Infantry. Unfortunately, neither son was to return home to the farm after the war. The younger George was stricken with disease and died near White Sulphur Springs, Virginia on August 18, 1863. Within 3 months Henry is wounded at the battle of Orange Grove (aka Mine Run) on November 27, 1863. Despite all efforts to save him, Henry succumbed to his injuries on March 27, 1864. Having fought side by side for a year, the brothers were reunited after death. Both are buried in the Duxbury Corner cemetery.

Michael Dwyer, age 19, enlisted on August 12, 1862 in Company "D" 2nd Vermont Infantry. He was wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg on December 13, 1862. He completed his enlistment and mustered out on 06/19/1865. I believe he was living in Burlington in 1870, working as a day laborer. The 1870 census indicates this Michael Dwyer was unable to read or write. I'm not sure of his connection with Duxbury as I have found nothing to indicate he ever lived in town, however, his military record indicates he was a resident of Duxbury at the time of his enlistment.

Joseph Gilman, son of Antipas and Electa, chose to follow his older brother Charles into war. Joseph, age 20, was mustered into Company "B", 10th Vermont Infantry just 18 days prior to Charles's discharge due to disability. Joseph met with no misfortune until the battle at Cold Harbor. He was wounded there on June 1, 1864 by gunshot to the left thigh. The minie ball passed through his buttocks and exited near the lumbar spine. The wound was reported to have healed by the time he was discharged. Unable to return to active duty he transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps in November. He was discharged in July 1865. He returned to Duxbury where he worked as a farm laborer to support his wife Cornelia and daughter Dora. He died July 19, 1871 and is buried in the Duxbury Corner cemetery.

Peter Guyette, age 30, enlisted July 21, 1862 in Company "B" 10th Vermont Infantry. A native of Canada, Peter and his wife Betsey (Thorndike) were living in Richmond (Jonesville area) in 1860. At the time of his enlistment they were residing in Duxbury rearing three daughters Emma, Julia and Alice. He worked as a day laborer on farms in the local area. Fortunate enough to survive the war without any injuries he returned home eventually moving to Waterbury. By 1870 their family had expanded by two more daughters Mary and Nellie and two sons Frank & Eddie. Peter died on June 2, 1898 and is buried in the Hope cemetery in Waterbury, VT.

Abel Shonio enlisted July 16, 1862 in Company "B" 10th Vermont Infantry at the age of 19, the youngest and last of the five Shonio brothers to enlist. He served out his entire enlistment with several other Duxbury men in this unit, mustering out on June 22, 1865.

Ira Johnson, born in Berlin, VT on June 28, 1843, enlisted on August 2, 1862. At the time of his enlistment he was a farm laborer working on the Jacob and Jane Andrews farm in Dowsville. Assigned to Company "B" of the 10th Vermont he endured the rigors of war taking part in several battles along with many of his fellow

Duxbury enlistees. Prior to being wounded in the battle at Winchester he had been engaged in battles at Orange Grove, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Topoptomy, Cold Harbor, Wilder R. R., and Monocacy, MD. The gunshot wound to his right hand resulted in the amputation of his index and middle fingers. He was sent to the Chestnut Hill hospital in Philadelphia for treatment of his wounds and later moved to Sloan Hospital in Brattleboro. While on furlough back at his home, he developed gangrene in the hand which required further treatment with a favorable result. He did not return to active duty and was discharged on August 10, 1865. He returned to Duxbury and for a time he and his wife Laura worked on his parent's (Benjamin and Laura) farm off Stevens Brook Road. He and his wife later farmed property adjacent to his parents eventually moving to a farm in Middlesex with their daughter Jennie. He died April 22, 1918.

Theodore Wood, age 31, enlisted on August 12, 1862, assigned to Company "D" of the 2nd Vermont. He was wounded at Fredericksburg on December 9th of that same year in one of his first experiences of the war. He continued his service after Fredericksburg but met with death at the hands of the Confederate army in the battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. It is believed he is buried in an unmarked grave on the battlefield.

President Lincoln was finally able to enjoy some major military success in early 1862. The battle of Shiloh (aka Pittsburg Landing), Tennessee on April 6-7 was a significant morale boost for the Union troops who had been until now battling to stalemates or outright losses at the hands of the Confederate forces. Union General Ulysses S. Grant had recently captured Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River during the western campaign. The goal of the western campaign was to gain control of the Mississippi River thus dividing the Confederate forces in order to win the war. Although General Robert E. Lee's troops were still enjoying success in the Virginia campaign, General Grant was able to defeat the Confederate forces at Shiloh. Grant's victory at Shiloh did not come without heavy losses and in fact if it hadn't been for General George Tecumseh Sherman's reinforcements entering the fray, he might well have lost as the rebels were enjoying significant success on the first day of the battle. General Albert Johnston, thought to be perhaps the South's best General and General P.G.T. Beauregard led the Confederates into the battle with a surprise attack at Pittsburg Landing. Although unprepared, the Union forces held on through the first day. On the second day General Johnston was killed by a stray bullet. The Union forces, now with Sherman's forces in hand, were able to defeat the Confederates. By the time the battle was over the Union army had suffered 13,047 casualties... 1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded, and 2885 missing. The Confederate casualties numbered 10,699 with 1,728 killed, 8,012 wounded, and 959 missing in their losing effort. Nonetheless, President Lincoln finally saw a major victory for his Union Army. It did signify that this war would not be a short one and would certainly be a bloody one. There will be no shortage of opportunities in the upcoming months for both sides to relish victory or suffer defeat in the Virginia or western campaigns.

Sources: Duxbury Historical Society – Family Archives; US Census; Vermontcivilwar.org; Duxbury, VT Town Records.

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

President: Don Welch

Vice President: Maureen Harvey

Treasurer: Mark Morse

Secretary: Eulie Costello

Phone: 802-244-7558

Phone: 802-244-0956

Phone: 802-244-7080

Phone: 802-244-1742

E-mail: dmwelch136@yahoo.com

E-mail: mharvey@harveygear.com

E-mail: markmorsevt@myfairpoint.net

E-mail: euliej@gmail.com

General Questions

Don Welch, President

136 Hayes Road

Duxbury, VT 05676

Membership

Mark Morse, Treasurer

804 Vermont Route 100

South Duxbury, VT 05660

Newsletter

Maureen Harvey

Kelly Welch

Alison Magnani

Justin Blackman

Skip Flanders

Phone: 802-244-0956

Phone: 802-244-5627

Phone: 802-244-1915

Phone: 802-244-5529

E-mail: mharvey@harveygear.com

E-mail: kjowelch@aol.com

E-mail: a.magnani@yahoo.com

E-mail: mail@ju5tin.com

E-mail: wtbskip@comcast.net

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

www.DuxburyVT.com

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

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