

Under the Hump

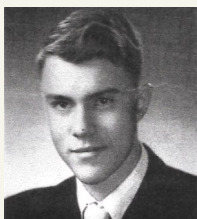
SOCIETY BUSINESS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Meeting:
May 10, 7 pm, CBMS

- After the business meeting, Sergio & Sile will perform. Join us!

Last Issue's
Mystery Photo:
Beverlee Grout



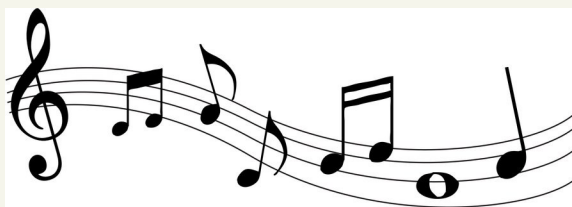
CAN YOU
IDENTIFY THIS
SOCIETY
MEMBER?



Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, at 7 pm in the cafeteria of Crossett Brook Middle School.

After a brief business meeting the evening's program will be entertainment by Sergio & Sile- "Making Music Together." They are well-known throughout the area and provide a wide variety of music.

The event is free and all are welcome. Please bring a friend and enjoy the entertainment plus refreshments! Questions: 244-7558.



Thank You

Our Duxbury Historical Society would like to thank its members and the citizens of Duxbury for their support of our Town Meeting potluck luncheon. It was once again both popular and successful, with great food and good friends. All of our fundraising proceeds are intended for a future home for our society to preserve our town's history and exhibits, plus artifacts for coming generations.

Special thanks to Crossett Brook Middle School for the use of their kitchen, and to Bud and his crew. Also, a special thanks to Nina from Proud Flower for a beautiful spring flower arrangement for our table. We served 74 lunches. Our total proceeds for morning snacks and lunch were \$431.50. We also acquired 3 new members for our society.

Thank you all,
Mary Welch

SOCIETY BUSINESS

Archival/Preservation Committee Report

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

We continue reviewing all of our non-family file folders. Ongoing transcription of family genealogical files (last names beginning with letters A through E have been completed).

Donation Artifacts/Documents

- ⇒ Helen Davis – Family Photos
- ⇒ Waterbury Historical Society – 3 Vertical File Cabinets
- ⇒ Eulie Costello – Book: More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Vermont Women by Deborah Clifford

Monetary Donations

Laura Titus	*	Henry Parro	*	Vernon Turner	*	William O'Brien
Eileen Chittick		*	Harold & Shirley Grout	*		Kelley Taft

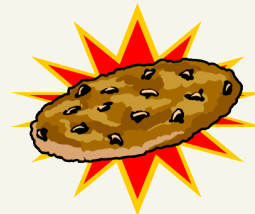
A Recipe to Share

Our Society members are great cooks and we'd like to feature some of your recipes in the newsletter. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please submit it to the newsletter committee. The recipe in this issue is courtesy of Shari Welch.

Oatmeal Energy Cookies

2 cups rolled oats
1/2 cup whole grain pastry flour
3/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup canola oil
3 large egg whites
2 tsp vanilla extract
3/4 cup cranberries, coarsely chopped
2 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine oats, flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. In a separate bowl mix brown sugar, oil, egg whites and vanilla, mix well. Fold in cranberries, walnuts and chocolate chips. Add in the flour mixture, put in muffin tins or drop by spoon on baking sheet. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.

RUTH PHILLIPS

Lessons That Last a Lifetime
Ruth W. Phillips
1894-1965

By Donald Welch

Ruth was born in town the daughter of Wendell E. and Rena (Corse) Phillips. She was blessed to have seven siblings: two brothers and five sisters. This family was of English descent and direct descendants of Joseph Phillips who migrated here from Deerfield, Massachusetts in about 1805.

She grew up on Crossett Hill, a farmer's daughter, and became a school teacher. Her first teaching experience was at the Dowsville one room school in South Duxbury. She was the last to teach at that school, which was in 1918. Ruth also taught in the one room schools at South Duxbury, Crossett Hill, and at the Red School (also known earlier as the Phillips School). Her last several years of this profession took place at the Duxbury Corner School after school consolidation in 1950.

Miss Phillips was also my mentor at the Red School where she had the impeccable ability to teach, mold, prepare, foster, and still take complete control of all the different personalities in a one room setting and still have the respect of the students and their families as well. Even though she was a strict disciplinarian, Ruth was very fair, and prepared her scholars well to meet the demands facing them in the future.

At the time of her retirement, the community surprised her with a party complete with local and state education dignitaries, present and former students, parents, friends, neighbors and family. She also had the distinction of being the only Vermont known teacher that taught at least 50 years and to do so in only one town. Duxbury residents considered themselves fortunate that Ruth called this town her home.

Ruth taught most of her tenure at the Red School and is buried in the Phillips Cemetery, which is located just north of the school she is best remembered for.



From the Archives...

Ruth Phillips (as told by her)

Her first term

- In Dowsville when she was 17 years of age.
- The teacher taught by terms then. She taught the spring term, then went to Waterbury where they had a one-year teacher's training course.

June 1917

- She graduated from the Waterbury teacher's training course. Eleven girls in her class.

September 1917

- She taught in Dowsville.

1918

- This was the last year there was a school in Dowsville. Seven pupils when school started but the families moved away until all but Lillian and Leo Boyce were left.
- She had to keep solid sessions during the last since there wasn't enough fuel laid in and the School Board didn't want to buy any more.

RUTH PHILLIPS



The Red School, about 1937.

Memories of Ruth W. Phillips as Dictated to Alice DeLong
April, 1963

Alice's Question: How did you get your first job?

Ruth's Answer: Edson Foss (school director) came up to hire her for one term—the spring term. This was about 1917 and for the Dowsville School. She could have had the school on Scrabble Hill but her father didn't want her to try that one. Her pay for the Dowsville School was \$8 per week and she had 7 pupils in school.

Question: Did you drive back and forth that spring?

Answer: She was taken to school Monday mornings by her father. Her boarding place was at the George Andrews home; board being 50 cents a week. Wednesday nights, Mrs. Etta Johnson of Moretown came after her and she stayed overnight at the Johnson home; Mrs. Johnson carrying her back to Dowsville Thursday morning. Friday night her father came for her.

Question: Do you remember who went to school that first term?

Answer: Harold, Walter, and Kenneth Snow, Wayland Freeman (just a little fellow) and Abbie Andrews. She thought Leigh and Lillian Boyce were the other two. She believes too, a Farnsworth boy came later.

Question: Where did you get your teacher's training?

Answer: She taught that first term in Dowsville, then got her training at the Waterbury School in the library. Martin Chaffee was their instructor. She drove a horse back and forth from home on Crossett Hill.

Question: Describe the Dowsville School.

Answer: Similar to the Red School before it was a standard school. It had a belfray and bell on top. It had two doors but only one was in use. Ruth was the last teacher that taught in the Dowsville School; that was in 1918.

Question: What schools and how long did you teach in each?

Answer: Dowsville 1 term, plus 1 year. Crossett Hill 1 year, South Duxbury 1 year, The Red School 35 years, and Duxbury Corner Consolidated 12 years.

RUTH PHILLIPS

Miss Phillips Teaches 50 Years In Duxbury

DUXBURY — Sunday afternoon 200 persons gathered at the Dillingham Grange Hall here and paid tribute to Miss Ruth Phillips who, in June, will have completed 50 years of teaching, all in Duxbury.

Her first school was in Dowsville, she being the last teacher to teach there. Miss Phillips also taught at South Duxbury, Crossett Hill and the Red School, where she taught the longest of any one school. In 1950 the Red School was closed with Miss Phillips being the last teacher. Since then, only the Consolidated School at Duxbury Corner, has been in operation. She has taught in the same room since she went to the Corner.

Accordion music was played until Miss Phillips' arrival.

Escorted to the stage by Mrs. Maud Griffin, president of the Duxbury Home Demonstration Club, Miss Phillips was presented an arm bouquet of yellow roses by Wayne R. Lewis, a local school director. Harold Grout was master of ceremonies for the program patterned after the "This Is Your Life" TV show. A poem written some years ago by Miss Phillips' cousin, the late Mrs. Etta Johnson, telling how the honored guest re-

ceived her name, was read by Mrs. Iola Atwood. "Rock-a-bye, Baby," an accordion solo, was rendered by Miss Martha Cameron. Miss Ethel Childs, who lives in Moretown and a former teacher of Miss Phillips, wrote her recollections of Ruth as a pupil on Crossett Hill.

Wayland Freeman of Warren, one of the seven first pupils Miss Phillips had in Dowsville, reminisced about "That First Term." Mrs. Stella Willard was a classmate of Miss Phillips when she attended the first teachers' training class held at Waterbury High School and composed a poem which she read, telling of that period. Mrs. Eva Turner, presently at Aylward Nursing Home in Waterbury, but the first woman school director in Duxbury, sent a letter of greetings and of recollections of a visit to Miss Phillips' classroom. Mrs. Ramona Patterson recalled PTA meetings and the good times at the Red School.

Among the speakers were Fremont Fiske of Montpelier, a former superintendent of schools of the district.

The Duxbury PTA president, Mrs. Geneva Casey, presented the honored guest with a purse of money. A special scrapbook for all the souvenirs of the day was also a gift of the PTA, of which Miss Phillips is vice president.

The Dillingham Grange gave a purse of money, Frank Griffin making the presentation. The grange donated the use of the hall as well. The Washington West District Teachers Association also gave a purse of money. In the absence of the president, James Izor, Supt. Whalen made the presentation and awarded Miss Phillips an appropriately engraved pin in behalf of the Duxbury School Department.

Weston A. Cate Jr., executive

secretary of the Vermont Education Association, extended greetings to Miss Phillips.

The present pupils of Miss Phillips sang, directed by Stanley Thurber, district music teacher, after which the honored guest was escorted from the stage to a seat of honor where she received the well-wishes of her friends, relatives and pupils, past and present.

At intervals during the program her first pupils present were asked to stand and be recognized, as were the school directors, past and present, her teachers' training classmates, and the family whose third generation is presently in her classroom, Mrs. May Morse, Mrs. Esther Baumgardner and her son, Eugene, all of Duxbury.

Many cards, gifts and money were sent to Miss Phillips, other than the special purses. Old school pictures, programs and the like were on display.

The guest book, the gift of the Duxbury teachers, was hosted by Mrs. Ann Lamos and Mrs. Marjora Peterson. Mrs. Bernice Dolloff was pianist.

Miss Phillips will teach next year at Duxbury Corner.

The Duxbury Home Demonstration Club made arrangements for this tribute to Miss Phillips with the willing help of many others.



Celebrating 50 years of teaching
in Duxbury. 1963.

L to R: Ted Whalen, WWSD Superintendent;
Ruth Phillips; Wayne Lewis, Duxbury School
director; Fremont Fiske, former district
superintendent.



Ruth cutting the celebratory cake.
Note the red schoolhouse on top.

RUTH PHILLIPS

1945-1946

15

Red School, District No. 4

Ruth Phillips, teaching	\$ 866.25
Walter Wyman, janitor services	11.50
May Eastman, sweeping	5.75
Norman Grandfield, janitor services	12.00
The Demeritt Co., kindling	1.00
L. S. Hills, labor	5.00
G. A. Merchant, 4 run wood	16.00
Mrs. Greta Berno, cleaning and varnishing school room	6.98
James Welch, 15 run wood	60.00
Plant & Griffith, storm door	11.51
H. B. Lease, repairing clock	1.50
G. A. Merchant, labor and cash paid out	3.10
	<hr/>
	\$1,000.59

June 10, 1963

Miss Ruth Phillips
RFD 2
Waterbury, Vermont

Dear Miss Phillips:

I want to congratulate you most warmly on completion of fifty years of teaching service in Duxbury. But even more, I want to thank you for your great contribution to better living and better understanding on the part of hundreds of boys and girls during their formative years.

I hope your teaching next year will be as interesting and rewarding as in the past.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A. John Holden, Jr.
Commissioner of Education

AJH:d

Ruth Phillips, Duxbury School Teacher, Dies

DUXBURY — Miss Ruth W. Phillips, 71, died Monday morning in the Heaton Hospital in Montpelier.

She was born May 16, 1894, in Duxbury, the daughter of Wendell and Rena Corse Phillips.

Phillips' late home in Duxbury for 51 years. Miss Phillips was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and was affiliated with the Wesley Methodist Church.

Survivors are one brother, Claude Phillips of Williston; five sisters, Mrs. Charles (Maude) Sherman of Duxbury, Mrs. Harold (Mae) Lamson of Waterbury, Mrs. Ray (Cecil) Walker of Duxbury, Mrs. Elmer (Nona) Hood of Portsmouth, N.H. and Mrs. Harold (Vaun) Sherman of Waterbury; also four nephews and three nieces.

Friends may call at Miss Phillips' late home in Duxbury. Funeral services will be held in the Perkins Chapel in Waterbury Wednesday at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Wesley Logan officiating. Burial will be in the Phillips Cemetery in Duxbury. V. L. Perkins Company in charge of arrangements.

RUTH PHILLIPS

This poem was used as part of the 50th anniversary program for Ruth's continuous teaching in Duxbury, VT. The party was held at the Dillingham Grange Hall, May 19, 1963.

Ruth Phillips

By Alice DeLong

There are many more things that we might say,
But time's too short to relate all today—
The courses you've taken for higher rate,
Thus to improve, and to keep up to date;

The floors you've swept; the miles you've walked
To arrive on time at the places you've taught;
The chalk dust you've dusted; the mud tracked in,
Swept up, only to be tracked in again.

The Christmas programs; Memorial Days, too,
And P.T.A. programs, to name a few;
The report cards; averages compiled;
Permanent data carefully filed;

The playground quarrels you've refereed;
The thousands of games you have had to lead;
For the hours you've spent in your home at night
Checking papers, making plans, setting things right;

The hundreds of dollars, it's felt sure,
You've collected, recorded, held secure
For Red Cross and seeds, hot lunches, and for
Vitamins, photographs, suppers, and more;

The hours you've worried about Sam or Lynn;
The years you've been teacher to Kith and Kin;
The days when everything seemed to go awry:
The clock stopped, it rained, Johnny wouldn't try;

For the times you've fretted and search your heart
Wondering, and pulling yourself apart,
Saying, "What can I do to make Sally see
That seven minus four is ALWAYS three?"

No, there's not time to relate all here
(The events in your life from year to year),
But one fact is sure; can't be pushed aside—
This town points to you with singular pride!

You've taught our children all these long years
(Over three hundred of the little dears!)
You've seen some grow up and marry and stay,
While others have wandered or moved away.

The years passed by and the next thing you knew
You began teaching generation two!
Now it's nineteen hundred and sixty-three
And you're at work on generation three.

How would you measure Ruth's worth to the town?
Who could choose the right words? Who'd set them down?
We'll have to use the words others have sung
And humbly say to her, "Well done! Well done!"

*The Duxbury Historical Society thanks Audrey and Lisa Ireland for
providing photos and information regarding Ruth Phillips.
This issue would not have been possible without their generous assistance.*

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

President: Don Welch
Vice President: Christian Magnani
Treasurer: Mark Morse
Secretary: Eulie Costello

Phone: 802-244-7558
Phone: 802-244-1915
Phone: 802-244-7080
Phone: 802-244-1742

E-mail: dmwelch136@yahoo.com
E-mail: c.magnani@outlook.com
E-mail: markmorsevt@myfairpoint.net
E-mail: euliej@gmail.com

General Questions

Don Welch, President
318 Main St.
Duxbury, VT 05676

Membership

Mark Morse, Treasurer
804 VT Route 100
South Duxbury, VT 05660

Newsletter

Kelly Welch
Alison Magnani
Justin Blackman
Skip Flanders

Phone: 802-244-5627
Phone: 802-244-1915

Phone: 802-244-5529

E-mail: welchkelly2014@yahoo.com
E-mail: a.magnani@outlook.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 10
CROSSETT BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL - 7 PM**

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