

WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FALL/WINTER 2022

Volume 23, Numbers 3-4

WHS Partners With Library on Walking Tour Series

By Skip Flanders

In fall, Judi Bryon of the Waterbury Public Library Adult Education Program and Skip Flanders of the Waterbury Historical Society conducted two Historical Walking Tours in Waterbury's downtown. The tour began at the Library, once the home of Dr. Janes, moved up North Main Street to Stowe Street, down Bidwell Lane to Foundry Street, and around to South Main Street, ending at Rusty Parker Park. A total of 72 people attended the two tours.

Byron and Flanders recounted information about Dr. Janes' Civil War service, the Winooski Turnpike (now Route 2), the Camperdown Elms of Waterbury, Marquis de Lafayette's Elm Tree and his 1825 visit with Dr. Henry Janes' mother, the William F. Minard granite carriage step, and the state governors of the Dillingham family. On Stowe Street, they shared stories of the Stowe Street Block fire of 1879, the 1923 visit of Vice President Calvin Coolidge to the Wesley Methodist Church, the Methodist Church bell moving from the old church on Stowe Street to the new church on South Main Street and its role in the 1879 block fire, and the Carpenter House at 60 South Main Street. They closed with numerous facts pertaining to Rusty Parker Park.

The Library and the Historical Society will work together on additional historical walking tours in 2023, sharing stories of people, events, and structures in Waterbury's past that make it the Waterbury we love today.

New Budget Approved at Annual Meeting

By Cheryl Casey

At the annual meeting on December 10 in the Steele Community Room, WHS members elected a slate of nominees to the Board and approved the budget for fiscal year 2023.

Three positions were open on the Board of Directors. Cheryl Casey was elected to a second term as president; Joe Camaratta was elected to his first term as treasurer and membership coordinator; and Bill Woodruff will serve a second term as member-at-large.

Outgoing treasurer Paul Willard presented the proposed budget for

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Program Committee Chair Skip Flanders talks about the Minard granite carriage step outside of 6 N. Main Street during a history walking tour. Photo courtesy of Joe Camaratta.

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Dascombe "Dac" Rowe

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MUCH GRATITUDE

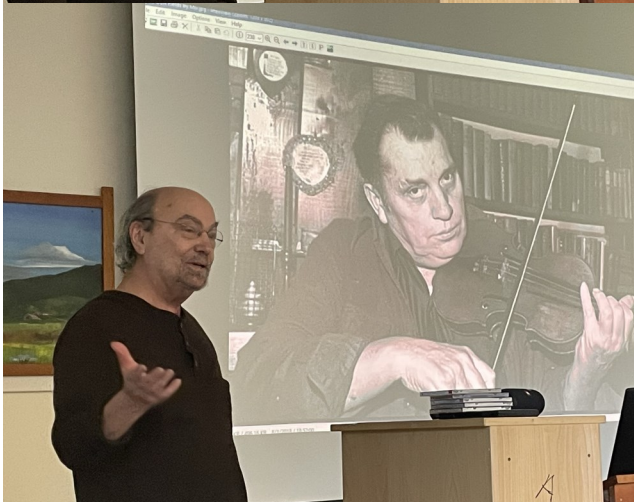
Programs Embrace Musical Theme With Rock Concert, Old-Time Folk Tunes

By Cheryl Casey

It was a year of music for the society's public programs, owing to Waterbury's rich musical history and community members' appreciation of the abundant pool of local musical talent.

In August, WHS welcomed Vermont's Own 40th Army Band rock group, Iron Sights. Despite the oppressive heat, the band's lively performance of classic rock, country, and pop hits drew a small crowd to Rusty Parker Park. People enjoyed complimentary Ben & Jerry's ice cream from the shade of the trees lining the park, tapping their feet and cheering enthusiastically.

The fall program (postponed to December due to covid concerns at the time) featured professor and musician Mark Greenberg, gave an in-depth presentation of key musical figures, both amateur and professional, in Waterbury's history: the Hurstins (Eleanor Martin & Dorotha Parkhurst), Buddy Truax, Don Fields, and Lois & Smokey Carey.



Top left: Music historian Mark Greenberg describes the musical talents of Eleanor Martin and Dorotha Parkhurst, collectively known as the Hurstins. Middle left: Greenberg introduces a rare recording of Don Fields jamming with other local musicians, including Buddy Truax. Above and middle right: Vermont's Own 40th Army Band Iron Sights rock group plays classic hits on a sweltering August afternoon in Rusty Parker Memorial Park. [WHS file photos.]

Donations

Our annual appeal campaign is currently underway and we are excited to give a full accounting and our full gratitude for this year's donations in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, we send our appreciation to those who gave in various amounts in late summer and early fall, prior to the kick-off of our annual campaign.

Katya D'Angelo—general donation

Jim Walton—general donation

Gordon & Theresa Wood—for newsletter support

Karen Steele—In Memory of Ed Steele

\$5000

Thank you!

Welcome New Members! (prior to end-of-year drive)

Kayta d'Angelo
Waterbury, VT

Susan King
St. George, VT

Steven & Dixie Martin
Waterbury, VT

Have you renewed your membership for 2023 yet? See page 9 for the membership form!

Approval of Budget, Board Positions

Continued from page 1

the upcoming year. According to Willard, the one notable change from previous years' budgets is the addition of a line item for a part-time collections manager, who began in October. The budget is balanced by drawing income from the society's mutual funds to cover the new expense.

The annual business meeting typically takes place in October, but covid concerns at the time prompted the postponement. The fall program was likewise rescheduled to December and immediately followed the business meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Board
members elected at
our annual meeting!



Joe Camaratta -
 TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP (2-yr term)

Cheryl Casey -
 PRESIDENT (2-yr term)

Bill Woodruff -
 MEMBER-AT-LARGE (3-yr term)

Terms begin January 1, 2023

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023	
Income:	Proposed
Membership Dues	1,500.00
Donations	750.00
Sales and Fundraisers	1,200.00
Memorial Gifts	100.00
Town of Waterbury	9,000.00
Annual Appeal	5,000.00
T. Rowe Price CG/STG/DIV	20,000.00
	37,550.00
Expenses:	
Newsletters	1,500.00
Program Committee	1,300.00
Meeting Space	200.00
Speakers	800.00
Ghost Walk	100.00
Outreach Ed	200.00
Annual Appeal	500.00
Book Committee	0.00
Cataloger	7,428.78
Collection Manager	21,000.00
Web Site	324.00
Curator Expense	1,000.00
Archival Storage Supplies	1,000.00
Sir Richard's Storage	2,040.00
Gifts	50.00
Office Supplies & PO Box	500.00
Online PastPerfect	774.00
Vermont Historical Society	50.00
	37,466.78

Featured Figure:

The Legacy of Dascombe P. Rowe

By Steve Grace

Editor's note: This article was originally printed in the Duxbury Historical Society newsletter, [Under the Hump](#) (November 2022) and is reprinted with permission of the author.

The citizens of our town and our sister town, Waterbury, who immediately connect with the name Dascomb (Dac) Rowe diminish with each passing year, I'm betting that a significant number of residents and visitors - maybe a majority - pass by the signs on North Main Street in Waterbury identifying the recreation field named in his honor and the house across the street from the library, which also displays his family name on a sign in its front yard, and muse, "Wonder where that name came from?" This is no insult to Dac. It's simply the passage of time. Those of us touched by Dac's contributions to our two towns are an old, rapidly disappearing group.

But to the huge majority of us who are former students at Waterbury High School and attended WHS when Dac was principal, math teacher, coach and disciplinarian, Dac remains a unique, revered man. I never appreciated Dac's greatness, his devotion to WHS, while I was attending high school. I was mature enough to know he was a tremendous teacher and leader, but it took years of attending college, working for a living in the mathematics field, and getting to know him on a personal basis across from him at a bridge table to recognize his unique greatness and to realize what a significant influence he had on my life and the lives of hundreds of young men and women who were lucky enough to cross paths with him in the classrooms and halls of WHS.

I've written previous articles either featuring Dac or referring to him, so I'm not going to repeat myself. Suffice it to say that he was principal at WHS for almost three decades - from the 1930s to 1960. I graduated from WHS in 1959, so I was there very close to the end of his service as principal. I graduated from UVM in 1964 and took a job in Washington DC, working for the Navy Department, stayed there for twenty years, and returned to my beloved Vermont in 1983. At the urging of Ken Sabin, a longtime Waterbury resident, a graduate of WHS, and close personal friend of Dac Rowe, I became an active officer in the WHS Alumni Association and started playing bridge with Dac, Ken, and various former students of Dac. I played bridge in that group for at least ten years, every Wednesday night at the insistence of Dac. I got to know Dac on a personal level and my admiration for the man increased

the more I talked with him - and suffered his curses when the bridge game went in my favor rather than his.

The WHS Alumni Association gathers every two years in Waterbury to reunite with old friends, schoolmates and classmates, and revisit our years as students at WHS. We have a great time. I was asked by the association officers to serve on a committee that selects Harwood Union graduating seniors for scholarships awarded from a fund donated by Dac's former students, members of the WHS Alumni Association. I've served on this committee for years. The association currently awards three scholarships each year, each in the amount of \$3,000, to deserving graduates. A few years ago, this scholarship fund was the beneficiary of a gift of \$20,000 from Steve Barney, Class of 1960, a gift which ensured that the scholarship awards could be continued for years to come. Hail, once again, to my friend, Steve.



Dascombe "Dac" Rowe.
Photo: WHS Archives.

Last year, Dac's daughter, Merry (Rowe) Hermans, died. I remember Merry and her husband, George Hermans, well. Dac would alert me when they were visiting him at his home in Waterbury and tell me to be on the alert for a call to serve as a fourth in bridge games while they were in town. Merry, like Dac, was an outstanding bridge player - George was more like me, a decent player but not in the same league as Merry or Dac.

Early this year (2022) our WHS Alumni Association president, John Vincent, called me to tell me some startling news. George Hermans called John and told him that at Merry's request at the end of her life, he was donating \$100,000 to the WHS Dac Rowe Scholarship Fund. I was dumbstruck by the news. But then I realized that no one knew Dac any better than his daughter, Merry, and Merry knew how deeply Dac was invested in his long role as an educator at WHS.

So graduates of Harwood will be receiving scholarships in Dac's and Merry's names for years to come, almost certainly beyond my lifetime. Dac Rowe will be just some unknown name, unknown person to most of these young men and women, and that is not a bad thing at all... It's simply reality at work. But for those of us who walked the halls of WHS with Dac, many of us attending multiple classes he taught in our four years there, these annual awards are a reminder of what a great man he was, how significantly he touched us, and how fitting it is that he is positively contributing to the education of future American citizens.

HAPPENINGS AT THE HISTORY CENTER



Did you see Waldo in the History Center over the summer?

WHS participated in Find Waldo Local, an initiative that uses a Find Waldo scavenger hunt to encourage shopping local. Lots of new visitors signed our guest book and perused our displays in search of Waldo. Thank you to Bridgeside Books for organizing the promotion and including us in the fun!

The History Center got in the holiday spirit!

In early December, we held a Saturday afternoon Open House with all kinds of activities and information to share with the community. The highlight was a temporary exhibit and presentation about our collection of Snowflake Bentley slides. And making our own snowflakes!

There were also WHS items for sale as holiday gifts, a decorated tree, and holiday-themed refreshments. Volunteer Joe Camaratta was on hand to share all he had learned about Derby Bats from our exhibit. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made this Open House a grand success!



St. Andrew Parish Meets 21st Century With Community Spirit, Inclusiveness, and Love

By Diane Bilodeau

On June 20, 2000, Bishop Kenneth Angell appointed Father Bernard W. Bourgeois as Parish Administrator of St. Andrew Church, as well as the Parishes of Our Lady of the Snows Church in Waitsfield, and St. Patrick Church in Moretown. Parishioners from all three communities started attending each other's Masses and to this day frequently gather together for joint liturgical services as well as adult education, fundraising and social events. Father Bernie also provided spiritual guidance to residents of the Vermont State Hospital following the recent death of Father Louis Logue, who had served as Chaplain of VSH for over 40 years, as well as spiritual leader in the greater Waterbury and Mad River Valley areas.

During the summer of 2001 the Knights of Columbus undertook a major renovation of the kitchen in St. Leo Hall, to allow for more storage and workspace, and installed new appliances. Over the years K of C members and parishioners, as well as numerous community organizations, have enjoyed the convenience of preparing meals in this spacious, well-equipped commercial kitchen.

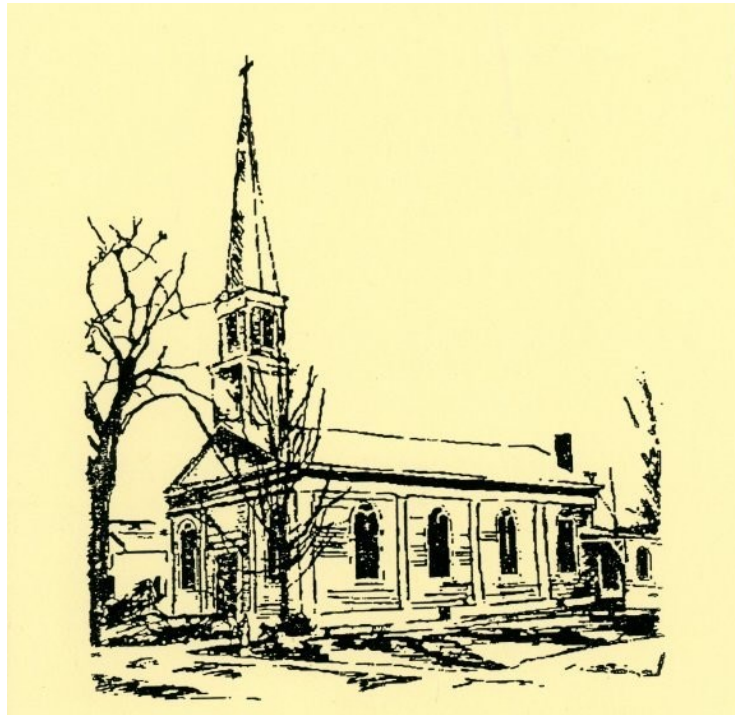
On November 30, 2001, the Feast Day of St. Andrew the Apostle, parishioners celebrated the 125th anniversary of St. Andrew Church with a special mass. The guest celebrant, Bishop Angell, announced the appointment of Father Bernie to the new role of Pastor of St. Andrew Church. An intergenerational dinner followed the mass in St. Leo Hall. Children of all ages in our Religious Ed Program were invited to research the history of the parish and display the results of their research in the hall for all to view and enjoy.

Two years later, discussions that had started with a suggestion to bring water into the sacristy of the church and install a bathroom led to a major renovation of the church as well as handicap access ramps for both the church and St. Leo Hall. Parish volunteers spearheaded a fundraising campaign to pay for the renovations. Until the renovation was complete, all Masses were held in St. Leo Hall. On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2004, approximately 300 attendees from St. Andrew, St. Patrick and Our Lady of the Snows formed a procession from St. Leo Hall to the newly renovated church to celebrate Mass together for the first time since the renovation began.

In March of 2005, parishioners dedicated the choir loft in St. Andrew Church to Ellen Harvey, who had served the parish as organist and choir director for over 40 years.

In June of 2006, Father Bernie was reassigned to serve as Principal of Rice Memorial High School in Burlington and Father Jerome Mercure was welcomed as the new Pastor of St. Andrew Parish. During the years that followed, under the encouragement and leadership of Father Jerry, and working alongside other churches in the Waterbury community, St. Andrew Parish and its parishioners have continued to be involved in community outreach, providing financial and volunteer support that serves and enriches our community.

On August 28, 2011, following Tropical Storm Irene, St. Leo Hall became a temporary refuge for many local community members whose homes were severely damaged by the flood waters, providing clean bathrooms, a place to wash up, a seat at the table to rest, and to enjoy a hot meal. Pallets of donated cleaning supplies,



Cover of program booklet welcoming parishioners to the 125th Anniversary Celebration of Saint Andrew Parish Church, Waterbury, Vermont, on November 30, 2001.

[WHS Archives.]

Continued on next page

St. Andrew Church is Vibrant Presence on S. Main Street

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bottled water, miscellaneous equipment, personal care supplies and food were delivered on a regular basis to the parking lot, free for the flood victims. Volunteer kitchen helpers prepared, served, and provided clean-up for hundreds of meals a day for several weeks after the flood. Because the local municipal office building was destroyed by the floodwaters, ReBuild Waterbury, which was organized to help flood victims with long-term recovery, moved its office to one of the downstairs classrooms. Village meetings were often held in St. Leo Hall over the next few years. St. Andrew Parish was glad to help in the recovery process following this devastating event in our community. St. Leo Hall continues to be available to local nonprofits for meetings, meals and fundraisers.

On June 30, 2020, after 14 years as Pastor of St. Andrew Church (and in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic) Father Jerry was reassigned to the parishes of St. Patrick and St. Anthony-St. George in Fairfield and E. Fairfield, Vermont. St. Andrew Parish welcomed Father Matthew Rensch as Parish Administrator. Father Matthew has faced the difficult task of trying to meet the pastoral needs of his congregations during this age of social distancing. Using a variety of media options, taking advantage of the warm weather to hold gatherings outdoors, and applying distancing guidelines in our buildings, he has found creative ways to continue to provide spiritual enrichment opportunities for parishioners in spite of restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

As I transition into retirement after working as Parish Secretary at St. Andrew Parish over the past 30 years, and as our parish community continues to deal with the limitations imposed by the pandemic, I am humbled by the ongoing parish support I have witnessed from parishioners over the past 7 months, even though many of them are not able to physically attend liturgical services due to social distancing guidelines and pre-existing conditions. Their dedication and generosity gives me reason to believe that under the dedicated leadership of our clergy, parishioners will continue to renew, strengthen and secure the future of St. Andrew Church in Waterbury, and it will continue to be a vibrant, meaningful presence in the Waterbury community.



St. Andrew Church today. [WHS file photo.]

SUBMIT CONTENT

To submit a letter to the editor, stories, or photos for an upcoming issue, email us at waterburyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or send by post to:
WHS Newsletter Editor, PO Box 708, Waterbury, VT 05676.

Quarterly submission deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15



Waterbury Historical Society 2023 Membership & Donation Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Telephone (optional): _____

All memberships run by calendar year and include a quarterly newsletter.
To save on printing costs and a newsletter stamp, check here for electronic delivery:

Individual Membership - \$10.00	\$
Family Membership (two adults in the household) - \$15.00	\$
Donation - we rely on community support!	\$
Total Amount	\$

Detach and send the above form with payment to:
Waterbury Historical Society
PO Box 708
Waterbury, VT 05676

WHS is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.
Currently, we are only able to accept cash and checks made out to
Waterbury Historical Society.

*Follow us on social
media for more
details about our
programs and events,
tidbits of local history,
and society news!*



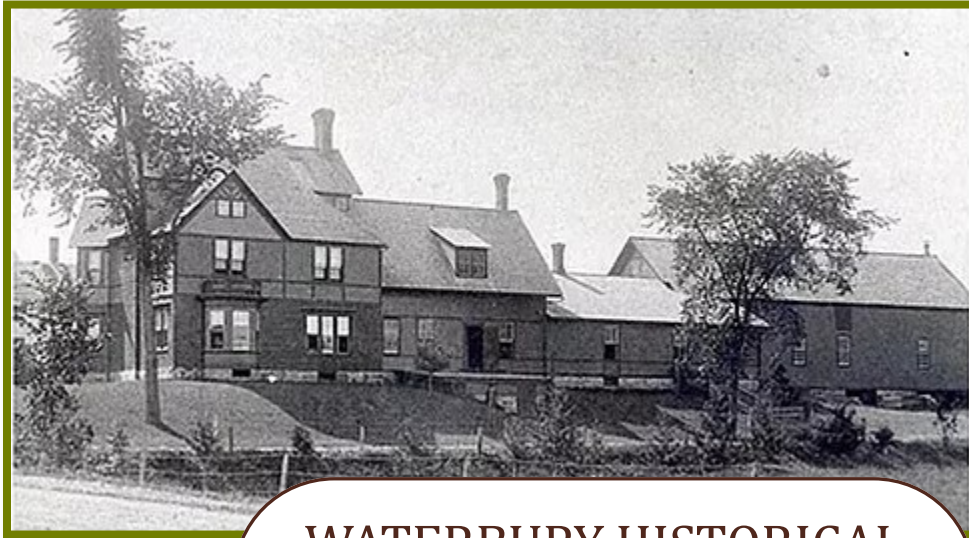
WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
RECOGNIZES

Paul Willard

FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE,
MEMBERSHIP, AND FRIENDSHIP

In gratitude,
WHS Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers





WATERBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY CENTER

The History Center is open **Monday—Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Located in the renovated Dr. Janes house at the municipal complex, the museum is free and open to the public.

The Historical Society's vast collections rotate through the exhibits, which are carefully assembled by our Curator. Stop by and learn something new about Waterbury's place in Vermont and national history!

Please Note:

Donations to the History Center are temporarily suspended.

At this moment in time we are **unable to accept new donations** and are not looking to add to our collection. We currently face both significant space restrictions and a large amount of unprocessed donations that still need to be addressed by our volunteers.

This does not mean we do not want to add your belongings and history to our collection! If you have something valuable that you believe would be beneficial in telling the story of Waterbury's history, please hold on to it until we begin accepting new donations. We also encourage you to come and volunteer with us and help curate the history of our community.

If you are looking for some direction on what to keep for a future donation and what may be more worthwhile in donating to other organizations please consider this brief and incomplete list. We are primarily looking for materials that have origins in Waterbury or tell the story of the people of Waterbury, the more personal and connected to our town's history the better!

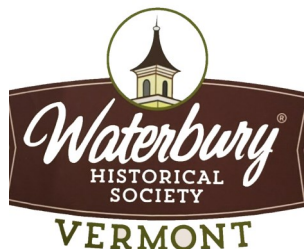
Items we may be interested in collecting:

- Photographs
- Handwritten notes, letters, or diaries
- Objects made in Waterbury by members of the community

Items we are likely not looking to add:

- Mass produced materials
- Antiques, furniture, tools, or dishware not made by industry in Waterbury
- Book collections that could be found in libraries

Questions? Email us at WaterburyCollectionsManager@gmail.com



Donations Welcome - We are a community organization that deeply appreciates the support and interest of our community. You can donate by check to the PO Box below.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$10 per person

\$15 per family (couple and children under 18)

(Memberships run by calendar year.)

Please help the Historical Society GO GREEN!

Contact us to opt for email-only delivery. Benefits include cost-saving, paper-saving, and a newsletter in color!



waterburyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.waterburyhistoricalsociety.org
FB and Instagram: @waterburyhistoryvt

Waterbury Historical Society, Inc.
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Waterbury, VT 05676-0708

About Us

Board of Directors— Jan Gendreau, Anne Imhoff, Bill Woodruff

President— Cheryl Casey

Vice President— Jill Chase

Secretary— Grace Sweet

Treasurer— Paul Willard

Interim Curator— Jan Gendreau

Collections Manager— Mike Maloney

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Outreach Education Committee— Jane Willard, Grace Sweet, Skip Flanders, Margo Sayah

Newsletter Editor & Social Media Manager— Cheryl Casey

Website Manager— Paul Willard

PLACE
STAMP
HERE