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NEW: 'Off Main Street' Walking Tours

BHS will begin to offer walking tours of various locations in Brattleboro later this summer which will be *free* to members. We are only sharing this information through the members-only newsletter and would like to limit the size of the touring groups.

Our first tour will begin in the back parking lot of the Municipal Center and travel along Linden Street, the Common, the beginning of Putney Road, and the upper part of Main Street. We will share the history of the area and stories of the past connected with this location.

This is new for us. It is an attempt to offer members an exclusive experience

connected with our mission to share local history for the education and enjoyment of the community.

Tours will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last approximately an hour and a half. (There are lots of stories!) Our scheduled tour dates are Saturday, August 19th and Saturday, August 26th. ***Please reserve a spot by emailing us at histsoc@sover.net with the subject "Off Main Street Tours," space is limited.***

If this proves successful, we will plan tours of other areas of town in the future. Come join the fun! ☺

— Joe Rivers



Thomas Wentworth Higginson's house on what is now Linden Street, torn down in 1983 to make way for the Courthouse parking lot. Higginson was an abolitionist, an advocate for women's equality and a defender of worker's rights. Come learn more about this influential man, and others, on our members-only Off Main Street Walking Tour, August 19 at 9AM, behind the Municipal Center. (BHS Photo Collection, date unknown)

Century-Old Photos Identified

On July 8 BHS, Vernon Historians and members of the public gathered to view a digitized slide show presented by the Photo Committee of the Wardsboro History Group. The group's mission is to scan, digitize, research and print glass plate and other negatives. They recently acquired a large collection of 100+ year old glass plates from Barbara and Bob Johnson, mostly of Dummerston, Vernon and Brattleboro, but needed help from the 3 town's historical societies in identifying them. It was a fascinating program and informative discussion with many people joining in.

Afterwards, BHS was presented with the digitized collection, as well as twenty-

one glass plates, mostly of the Retreat and surrounding land from the Sally H. Perry (Dummerston) Collection.

We are grateful to the Wardsboro History Group for their continuing effort to preserve images from Southern Vermont's rich history. ☺

— Lee Ha



Brattleboro High School (BHS BTJ Photo Collection, date unknown)

Goodbye to 151 Boxes of Estey Pipe Organ History



"I am writing with the hopes that you can assist me with some information on an Organ that we have in our church."

"I have an Estey player pipe organ from 1926 that is in my house that I just bought."

"My business partner and I have unearthed pipe work to Estey Opus 2133."

"I am researching an Estey Organ from 1906, purchased at the St. Louis Exposition."

"I am an historian interested in tracing the source for an Estey organ located in an abandoned church in Lancaster NH."

These are just a few of the pipe organ queries that have come to the Estey Organ Museum in the past year. The information requested is mostly found in 151 boxes of Estey pipe organ correspondence – one or more folders for each of the 3261 pipe organs that Estey made.



A team from the Organ Historical Society begins moving the Estey pipe organ correspondence archives from the third floor of Estey building #7/8 to a new home in Pennsylvania. (Gerard McGovern, 2023)

Since 1993 these records have been on loan to the Brattleboro Historical Society from the University of Vermont. That was the year BHS trustee John Carnahan rented a van and brought them back to Brattleboro from Burlington. How did UVM get them in the first place? No one seems to remember, but we assume they were rescued from here sometime after Estey went out of business in 1960 and the factory buildings were sold.

From 1993 until recently, when he moved away from Brattleboro, John responded to at least 300 of these queries, often making photocopies of entire correspondence files of more than 100 pages each.

In recent years the boxes have been stored in the unimproved third floor of one of the factory buildings – unheated, unlighted, and kept locked. This spring an investigation began on how to make the archives more accessible to organ owners and researchers. Neither BHS nor EOM felt it had the resources to care for and manage them. After consulting with Vermont archivists and organ history experts it was agreed that the best place for the archives to be preserved and made available is at the Organ Historical Society, located outside of Philadelphia.

On June 7 a team of five OHS-ers (including the executive director Ed McCall) arrived and in a few short but intense hours loaded up a rental truck with the 151 boxes of correspondence plus several dozen boxes of other materials. BHS still has custody of one box

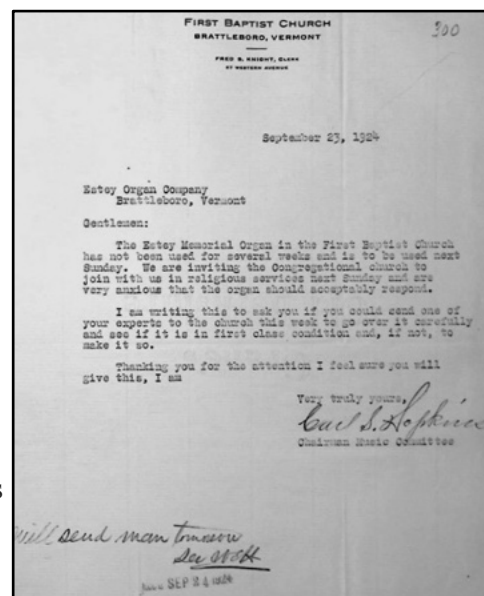


Now safely stored in their new climate-controlled space, the 151 boxes will be cared for and made accessible to researchers by the professional staff at OHS. (OHS, 2023)

of Estey material not related to pipe organs.

Before the move much of the correspondence relating to local Estey pipe organs was digitized with the new scanning equipment at BHS, so we can still research Brattleboro organs. ♪

—Barbara George



An example of local Baptist Church coorespondence with Estey Organ, nearly 100 years ago. This type of information will be digitized by OHS upon request. Local pipe organ records are digitized and available to view at BHS Research Room.

Our Newest Volunteer Brings a Love of History and Computers to BHS

Jamie Fish arrived at BHS Research Room ready to get to work, offering to do anything to help and he has been a tremendous asset to our organization ever since.

His first project was to catalog our oversized ephemera which resides in our flat file drawers. Over the years these items had become misfiled and it was unknown exactly which drawer items could be found. He was happy to organize 15 drawers, making a spreadsheet with descriptions, location and identifying numbers from each item.

His second project is to digitize and print all the panels for our flip files which we expect to set up around town for anyone to view. These displays currently hold original ephemera from the turn of the 20th century which he

will refile in our collection and thus learn our filing system.

Jamie will be a junior at BUHS in 2023/24 and has proven to be a faithful volunteer, rarely missing a Saturday morning of volunteering during the school year, and now that summer is here, we also have his help on Thursdays. He is able and willing to help in any way with the running of the Research Room.

We are very happy to welcome Jamie to BHS! — Lee Ha

Right: Our newest volunteer, Jamie Fish, has created a searchable spreadsheet inventory of all our oversized paper ephemera stored in our flat files. One of his next projects will involve digitizing them and uploading them to our website. (Lee Ha, 2023)



Photos: Jamie's favorite oversized finds among old deeds, artwork, broadsides and photographs are pictured here. Clockwise from top right:

1. A log jam on the Connecticut River in 1902 with the workmen braving the rolling logs to dislodge them from the covered bridge. The round gas house is the current location of the Whetstone Station Restaurant. (BHS Photo Collection, 1902)

2. The same log jam as #1, photographed from Walnut Street. The partially covered bridge was soon to be replaced. (BHS Photo Collection, 1902)

3. A homemade motorized "ice boat" on the Connecticut River. The Island Park Pavillion is in the background. (BHS Photo Collection, c. 1920)



Ulric Rolin's Brief and Tragic Life

Mostly no one much cared if they exhumed what was left of Ulric Rolin's body, except the life insurance companies and possibly his family. His disappearance after auditors found his place of employment short of thousands of dollars was pretty much old news, and leaving his family 5 months earlier didn't endear him to anyone.

But in his youth, life was good for Ulric. Growing up in Brattleboro felt safe and familiar, so he stuck around after high school. Good with numbers and money, Ulric gravitated towards the banking industry and secured a job at Brattleboro Trust Company in about 1919. With good pay he often traveled too.

Ulric's interests were varied and many, which kept him busy throughout his early adulthood. He became an important member of the Vermont Wheel Club of Brattleboro, eventually becoming Treasurer. Throughout the 1920s he often traveled to collegiate football games both at Dartmouth and New Haven, CT or vacationed in



Ulric Rolin in 1927 as Treasurer of the Brattleboro (Wheel) Club, Inc. (BHS "With Interest" collection, Volume 5, issue 1, 1927)

Boston, Hampton Beach or Maine. He was a member of the local Grange and the Elks Club and he also acted in local theatrical productions. Busy as he was, he had time to drive new automobiles from afar back to Brattleboro for local automobile businesses. Ulric was even a keen bridge player. Clearly he was a busy young man, all while taking on

more responsibilities at the Brattleboro Trust Company. He was eventually responsible for liquidating the contents of "Brattleboro China Store" for the Trust Co. and was in charge of the Brattleboro Salvation Army appeal in 1929 — a daunting job as the Great Depression engulfed the economy. His life was full and full of promise, when in October 1930, Ulric's life took several life-changing turns.

Mrs. Helen Lane Butler of Keene, NH became Ulric's bride. She had a son by her previous marriage and the three lived in a rented home on Oak Crest in Brattleboro. That newlywed joy turned sour only a week or two after their wedding when Ulric's accounting books at work came up short. It was in the newspaper, but as quickly as it appeared in the news it disappeared, when his friends and family pooled their money and paid the Trust Co. the missing funds. Perhaps the general public had more important things to think about in 1930 during the Great Depression. Maybe he apologized and was forgiven. Whatever happened, he left the Trust Co. at the end of this fateful month and secured a new job at Manley Brothers Co. (automobile garage) on High Street, as the chief bookkeeper.

The newlyweds probably had their best year in 1931. They hosted many



Manley Bros. Co., High Street about the time Ulric worked for them. (BHS Photo Collection, c. 1930)

bridge parties in their home which were always well attended, they vacationed together continued to enjoy out-of-state collegiate football games.

In 1932, although the couple still held bridge parties, their life began to take separate paths. Helen became an active member in the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, the Woman's Club, and the Centre Congregational Church. She visited her mother more often, in Keene, and now her mother visited her in Brattleboro. Helen and her son vacationed without Ulric almost exclusively.

By 1933, Ulric was not only the head bookkeeper of Manley Brothers Co., but he was also a salesman. He had been with the company for 3 years when much to Ulric's dismay, the company's financial records were audited. During the audit, a nervous Ulric excused himself from the proceedings and feigned a trip to the bank, supposedly to make a \$40 deposit. Instead he went home and told his wife he had unexpected business in NYC. He left his home and vanished from Brattleboro.

As the auditors found, there was about \$12,000 missing (\$278,000 in 2023 dollars) from the Manley Brothers accounts.

A search for Ulric only turned up the Hudson sedan he had been driving,

which was recovered in Bennington.

Rumors abounded, many people claimed to see him locally and others were sure he was in Canada. But as the weather warmed that year, his disappearance faded from the news and people just got on with enjoying their summer, until Labor Day, September 4, 1933.

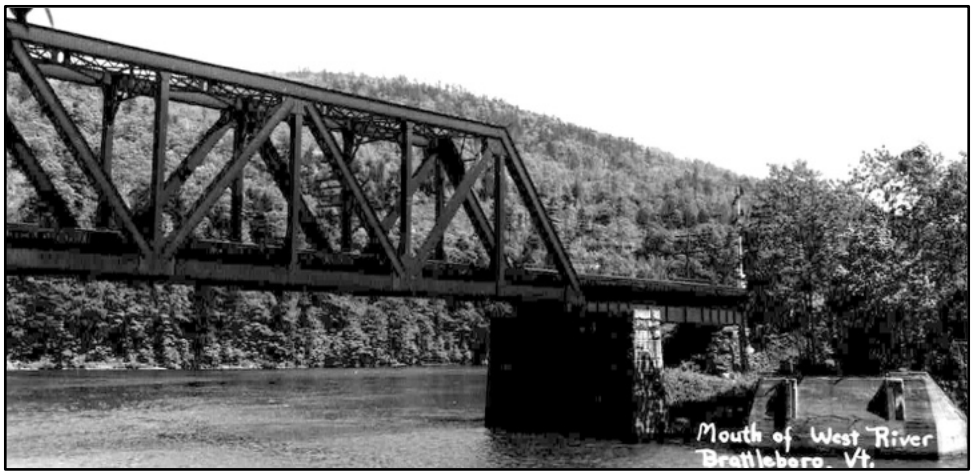
A grizzly discovery was made at the mouth of the West River near the 3 bridges: a decaying human body. It was impossible to identify initially, but pieces of the puzzle came together just before the body was buried.

Ulric's brother, Arthur, found a coat and hat on a hedge behind their parent's Putney Road house. Most of the clothing on the previously unidentified body had been burned prior to the expected burial, but pieces of the pants he had been wearing were still at the scene by the river and that fabric matched the coat behind the Rolin home. The one Dunham shoe that had not yet been burned was confirmed by his brother to be Ulric's. Dunham Brothers was consulted about the shoe and records showed Ulric had purchased the shoes in February 1933. Further, several dentists were consulted and their records confirmed the teeth of the body matched Ulric's dental records. His wife even identified a lock of the dead man's hair as being that of her husband's.

With a sufficient identification made, burial commenced at Morningside Cemetery on September 9th. His wife and her son left town and permanently moved back to Keene to live with her mother. Once again life in Brattleboro began to return to normal, until November of that year.

Even though the body was determined to be that of Ulric, the insurance companies which held life policies on Ulric would not disperse the money; they had questions.

Their investigations revealed that he had been living in a boarding house in Detroit, under an assumed name and working at a car dealer for the summer.



Ulric's body found near shore in shallow water at the mouth of West River. (L. R. Brown, BHS Photo Collection, date unknown)

It was also discovered that he had been in Detroit on the morning of August 29, and received a phone call. How could he have made it back to Brattleboro, drown, and his body found so decayed that it had to be identified by dental records, all within a week? Was there foul play? Poisoning? And was he dead when he entered the water? The insurance company demanded his body be exhumed to do further testing.

By now many people were growing weary of the Ulric Rolin saga, but again rumors started. . . perhaps a guilty person might dig up and dispose of the body before further tests could be run. The police even patrolled Morningside Cemetery in case such an event occurred.

After all the permits were granted, Ulric's body was dug up on November 15, in the early morning hours so as not to draw a crowd. Tissue samples were sent to the state for detailed analysis. The body revealed no neck abrasions and his skull was intact. Also, no poison was found in the tissues. It was stated by forensic investigators that it would take between 5 and 15 days for a human body to be as decomposed as this one was, all dependent on the weather and depth in water. So, after days of study, Ulric's

cause of death was confirmed to be drowning, with no foul play.

Ulric Rolin was finally laid to rest, again on December 1, 1933 and life returned to normal in Brattleboro.

But several questions are unanswered: Who called Ulric the morning he left Detroit? Did that call prompt him to flee Detroit, or was he called home for some reason? Why was his coat behind his parents house but family hadn't seen him? Could he have been shoved into the river rather than either accidental drowning or choosing to kill himself? The mystery remains.

Ulric Rolin rests at Morningside Cemetery near his mother and father and other family members. ☞

– Lee Ha



Gravestone of Ulric Francis Rolin (1903-1933), Morningside Cemetery. (Lee Ha, 2023)

Scanning

1960s and 1970s

BHS Brattleboro Ref
BHS has 100s of thousand
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up. Our laws change and s
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Our scanning capabil
enhanced by the purchase
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Enjoy! ~



The Thomas Farm, demolished in 1978. The majority of the property on the west side of Putney Road encompassed the vast George Thomas Farm. (current location of Hannaford Plaza). After the initial demolition, the fire department used the remaining building debris for a training fire. (BHS Brattleboro Reformer Photo Collection, 1978)



John D. Latchis barn being dismantled on Fairview Street, at the acurrent location of HCRS Health Care/Rehab Services. This property was previously owned by Henry G. Clark, his farm encompassed many acres on Canal Street, now the Market 32 complex. As the barn was dismantled, the highly sought after barn board was sold. (BHS Brattleboro Reformer Photo Collection, 1969)



*In 1962 Norge Laundry and Cleaning Village moved into t
in 1952). It has been a laundromat ever since. (BHS Breat
1970)*



*"Marijuana Bust" and "8/15" is the only information
negative sleeve of this photo. Times and laws have c
(BHS Brattleboro Reformer Photo Collection, date v*

Project

-- Changing times!

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In 1964 the Dalem Chalet on South Street was brand new with this hard to miss sign. The motel stands proudly behind Academy School and the West Brattleboro Congregational Church.

Originally the first two floors were rooms for weary travelers and the 3rd floor was a restaurant. Only four years later, it expanded to the building we know today and owner Mr. Oskar Dalem focused his interests toward hospitality instead of his successful turkey farm.

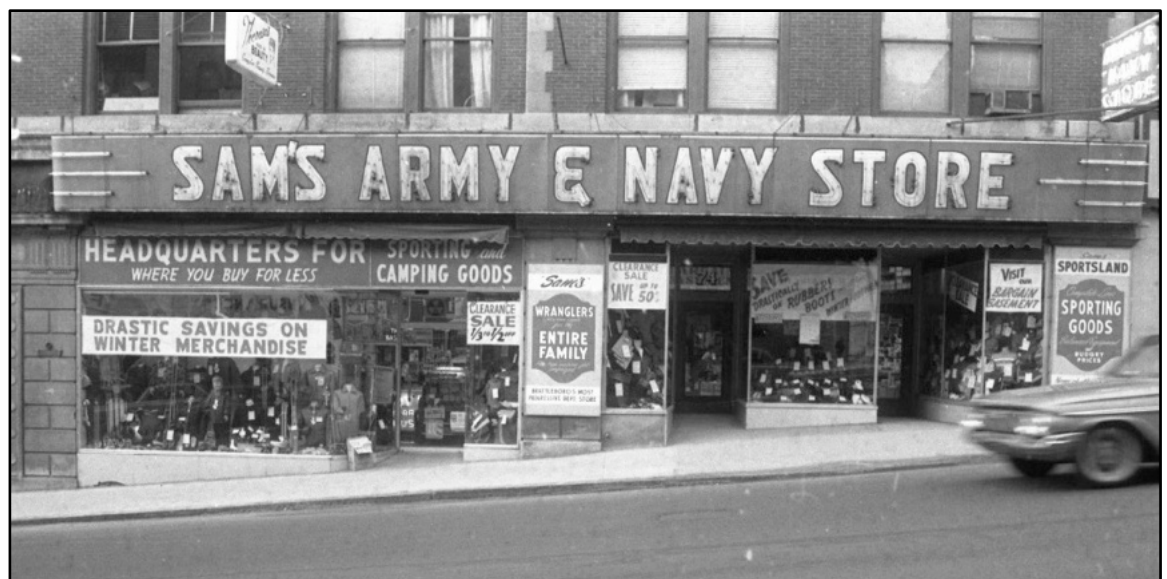
Today the Dalem Chalet is owned by Windham and Windsor Housing Trust and provides housing for otherwise homeless people. (BHS Brattleboro Reformer Photo Collection, 1964)



*the old Ted's Superette (built
 Brattleboro Reformer Collection,*



*n written on the
 ertainly changed.
 (unknown)*



The corner of Main and Flat Street has been the home of Brattleboro's "Army & Navy Store" since 1922. In 1933 Sam Borofsky bought Brattleboro's Army & Navy Store. At the time the Borofsky's of Keene, New Hampshire owned the Borofsky Clothing Company in Keene when Sam decided to expand the business to Brattleboro.

Although the art deco sign is gone, Sam's Army and Navy Store survives, now called "Sam's Outdoor Outfitters." It remains a go-to location for camping gear, sporting goods, quality clothing and shoes. (BHS Brattleboro Reformer Collection, 1960s)

Brattleboro Trees Hold a Place in History

Reprinted from Bridge to Yesteryear, Vermont Folklore Articles, Brattleboro, Vermont. September 1950 — January 1951

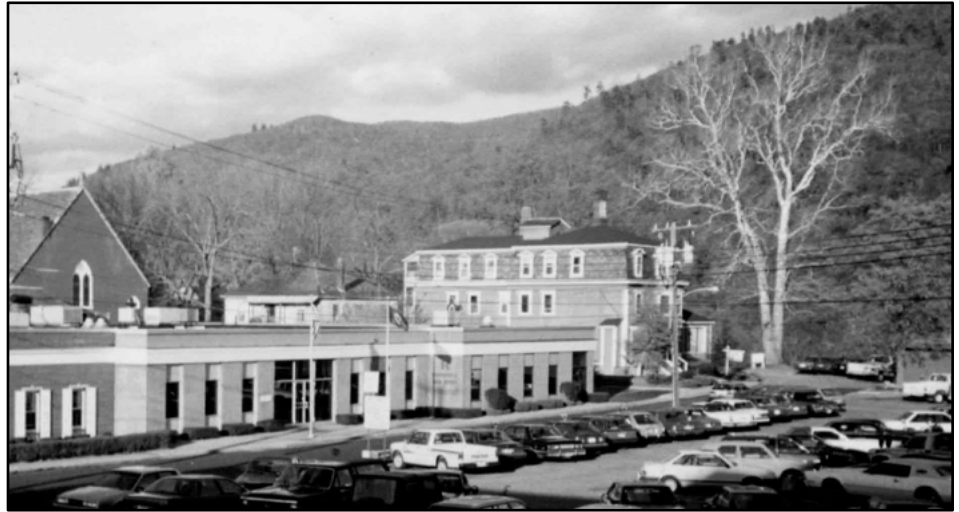
"A selection of articles written by members of a class in 'Vermont history and Folklore' under the direction of Leon W. Dean. Representing the University of Vermont Adult Education Program, held in Brattleboro."

In the beginning there were trees. So many were there, that the dense shade cast by their interesting needles caused a similar gloom in the hearts of the former settlers. Royal authority forbade their cutting without a license but, on the other hand, the lands were granted on condition that three acres of every fifty should be cultivated. What to do! A very early settler, Ebenezer Fisher of Brattleboro, was arrested for fellinging white pines which he swore had been dead before he had taken up the land.

It was all well, however, that every tree was not felled. Mrs. Dunklee, wife of Jonathan, while on horseback journey near the settlement on Meeting House Hill, was chased by wolves. She escaped by climbing onto the branches of a tree, sending the horse home to bring her family to her rescue.

Diligently and ruthlessly were the primeval pines felled; for letting in sunlight, for cabin logs, for fuel and for British masts. By 1800, the town was well-nigh denuded of shade trees except for a few stragglers. A few of the original trees still stand in the Meeting House Hill Cemetery.

At last, some beauty-loving citizens decided that Brattleboro needed shade trees. The wealthier second and third generations scorned the native trees and planted Lombardy poplars. This tree grew quickly so soon the whole town including the Main Street marched with these gloomy spires. Old residents on Cemetery Hill were heard to remark that Brattleboro from above resembled a child's toy village with the



Harris Place, off Main Street with Mt. Wantastiquet in background. Sycamore tree is far right. (BHS Photo collection, 1988)

orderly rows of tall, slim trees towering over the modest houses.

After the poplar craze came the sycamore period. About in the middle 1800's, this rather ungainly tree was planted along the village streets. Only an occasional one remains along a brook or in the yard of an old home. Stand on the brow of the Federal building towards Harris Place. The sunlight will reflect from the white branches of one of these old sycamores set boldly against a background of green. (see photo above)

At all times there were oaks, but not in great numbers. The best known collection was the old oak grove on the Goodhue property on what is now known as Grove Terrace. (see map right) They covered a gentle slope from the level of Main Street up to the top of High Street's first rise. Before commercial buildings arose below it, this was a popular place for picnics. It was there, in 1840, during his campaign, that Daniel Webster spoke.

It is extremely sad to report that during the last two weeks these magnificent trees have been cut down.

As in many New England towns, the elm is today the most common shade tree in Brattleboro. Although elms may live two hundred years, these are not over one century and many are less than that. A considerable planting of elms took place right after the Civil War. A very fine one stood on Main Street before a residence where the Vermont-Peoples National Bank is now. This tree flourished until destroyed by fire. (see photo opposite page, far right)

On the corner of Oak and Chapin



The Oak Grove on Grove Street. Main Street is to right and running north to south. (Part of Miller Map of Brattleboro, 1895)

Streets stands a large, well-formed elm, gradually pushed to the edge of the street by widening of the pavement. A year ago, the traffic board recommended its removal. Outraged residents of Oak Street who love elm trees, too, protested so successfully that the tree still stands while traffic uses a bit more caution around the corner.

The last popular planting has been of maples. Having experimented with Old World importations, the town now acknowledges Vermont's most



The Kane Pine on Upper Dummerston Road, came down in 1925 hurricane. (VT Phoenix, 1910)



Above: Elm tree damaged by the huge fire in Brattleboro which burned the entire west side of Main Street between High and Elliot Streets. (BHS Stereocard Collection, 1869)

characteristic tree. There are so many of them that many streets have a vaulted roof of shade, particularly beautiful when the leaves assume autumn colors.

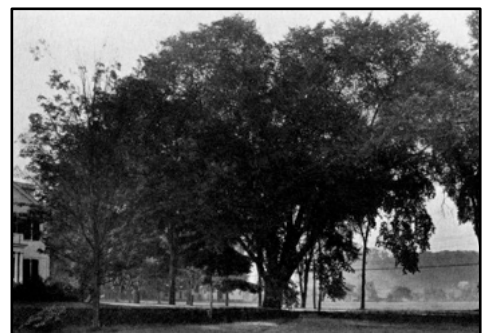
The American Forestry Association has nominated three trees in or near Brattleboro, to a place in the Hall of Fame. One of them is over the line in Dummerston, a dying veteran of the first sugar maples ever tapped by white men in Vermont.

On the road to the Country Club stood, until recently, a stately pine. It was called the Kane Pine after the Arctic explorer, Dr. Kane, who was a leader in the Grinnell Expedition. [Kane had spent time at Wesselhoeft Watercure.] (see photo left)

The third famous tree is still standing on Western Avenue before the house owned by I. C. Bradley. (see photo right) It is a mammoth drooping elm, reputedly 200 years old, the only

elm and perhaps the only tree as old as the first settlement at Fort Dummer. Mr. Bradley has spent several hundred dollars on its repair so it is in fairly good health. In all New England there is no larger drooping elm, as one who has stood beneath it gazing into and around it can well believe. ♪

— Ruth Atkinson (1950)



Elm Tree in the American Forestry Hall of Fame until 1959 when it was cut down to make way for I-91, I.C. Bradley's property. (I.C. Bradley, BHS "With Interest" Collection, c. 1925)

Neighborhoods: Edward Heights, Over 75 Years Old

Hidden away on the south side of Western Avenue just west of West Brattleboro center, there are several housing developments. These small enclaves were created to fill a need for more housing, probably due to the end of WWII. One such area goes by the name of Edward Heights.

Up to the end of WWII, most of the land west of Greenleaf Street was zoned as rural, meaning that there were few houses and that municipal services were not available. By 1930 there was one house already standing and only three by 1944.

All that changed beginning in May 1946 when the Board of Selectmen was presented with a petition, signed by the three property owners, the Lawton's, Edward W. and Sylvia Gagnon, and Robert Gagnon. They requested that the town survey a new street across lands owned by the Lawton's, to be located on the south side of Western Avenue about ¼ mile west of the Yerrington place, current location of West Village Motel. This was an unusual request because most property owners laid out their own streets within a new development. Vermont state law at the

time required the town to do so if three or more property owners made the request. The development was sponsored by Edward W. Gagnon to begin with and whose name appears many times in property transfers in the local papers.

The Board of Selectmen accepted the petition, held a public hearing, and in November 1947 accepted Edward Heights as a town street, presumably named for the original property owner and developer, Edward Gagnon. By that time there were already five houses under construction, with five more in the planning stages. The street name of Edward Heights appears in the 1948 Manning Directory for the first time with five names listed, the two original E. Gagnon, R. Gagnon plus three others. One of the houses originally built was retained by the same family until some time in the early 2000's.

In 1948, the residents submitted a new petition asking that the area be rezoned from rural to residential. This allowed the houses in the area to be provided with public services. The Board of Selectmen asked to have the exact property lines designated on a

map, which was done by Carlton Reid. They then enlisted the opinion of other property owners, held a public hearing, and finally, in December 1948, the petition was approved.

Over the course of the years 1948 to 1956, 18 lots had been transferred from one property owner to another, with an average of two new houses being built each year. Not all lots were sold directly by Mr. Gagnon. Some were purchased by builders, who then built on speculation. One such builder was Harry E. Winn who had a hand in building houses in several areas of town.

In 1948, the U.S. Postal Service extended its delivery route to include new sections of town – New England Drive, Edward Heights, southern Canal Street to the Guilford town line, Putney Road to the North Bridge, and Country Hill. This no doubt saved residents from trekking to the Post Office to collect their mail.

Researching the property sale notices in the Brattleboro Reformer, one can follow the twists and turns of individuals. One advertisement in 1949 in the Brattleboro Reformer reads as follows: "Real Estate for sale by owner, very comfortable home, 1-1/2 years old, 3 rooms, 1 bath, with attic space." Another was listed the same year: "New 5-room home; hardwood floors, completely modern. Ready for occupancy about April 1st, G. I. Loan approved." Garages were added, and other modifications were made over the years, with the last house erected in 1973.

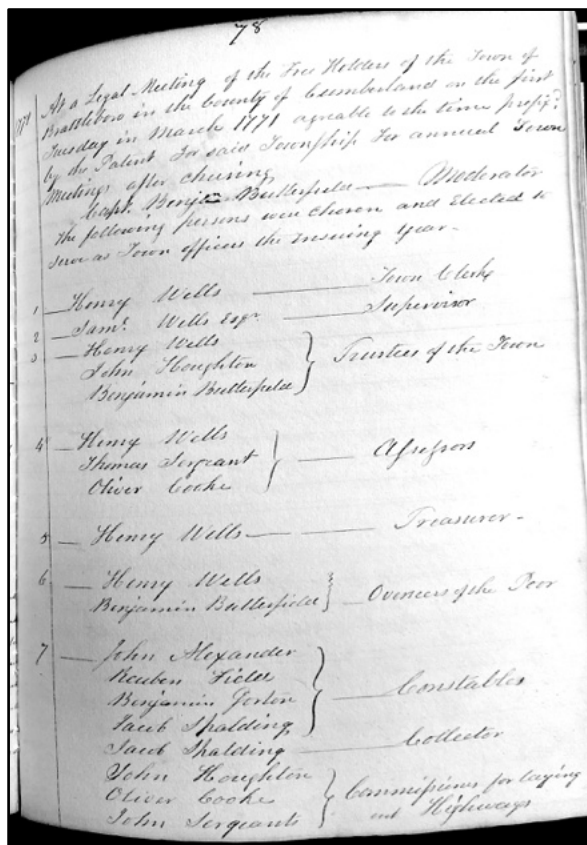
In 1952 house numbers appeared in the Manning City Directory of Brattleboro, making Edward Heights a solid part of Brattleboro. 🌀

— Carol Farrington



Edward Heights aerial view. BHS volunteer and trustee Bob Cornelier recently became a licensed drone operator, FAA107 certified, and photographed Edward Heights for this newsletter. Bob's Facebook page is Drone Imagery of New England. (R. Cornelier, 2023)

Bits of History

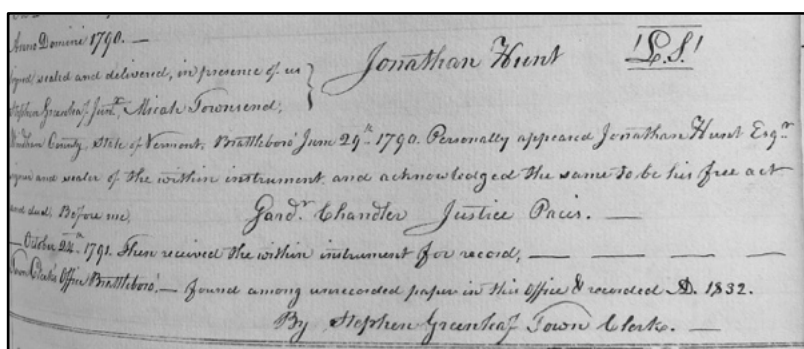


Brattleboro's Town Clerk has many responsibilities, one of which is documenting townwide records. However, in the early years everything was done by pen and so legible handwriting was imperative. Henry Wells, as shown here, left, was Brattleboro's first town clerk. At this 1771 meeting, Wells was also elected to several other positions, including Treasurer and Overseer of the Poor.

Stephen Greenleaf Jr. was Town Clerk from 1799-1844. (see below)

Today everything is digitized after preprinted forms are filled out which are available to view online. Earlier original records are still available to view in the Town Clerk's office on the first floor of the Municipal Center in many large bound volumes. ~

— Lee Ha



Left: Example of our first Town Clerk, Henry Wells' script, 252 years ago. Above: Stephen Greenleaf Jr.'s handwriting, He was our 7th town clerk, 191 years ago.

Gifts From You!

We have had some interesting donations of late and our volunteers are busy recording and filing them. We received a "Souvenir of Brattleboro" picture folder from Nancy Dalian in Florida and a large framed painting of the Creamery Bridge given by Mark Richards. A booklet, "Bridge to Yesteryear" (see page 2/3 for an article from it) and a set of Mary Cabot's Annals of Brattleboro from Alice Hunt and Mark Herrick of Marlboro, VT came in. Paul Warner sent us an article entitled "Col. Samuel Wells — Secret

Agent From the Crown" and recently Nancy Olson of Brattleboro brought a large set of 1985-2004 BUHS Extempore and Yearbooks. Heidi Johnson of Manchester Center, VT donated Tasker family photos and local Brattleboro postcards.

Ed and Barbara Page of Hamilton, NY sent "A Sailor's Story" by Stephen Lee Pike regarding his WWII naval service. We also received 2 lots of cabinet cards by local photographers from Kate Kelley, aka the Photo Angel, from Attleboro, MA.

The Wardsboro History Group gave us twenty-one 5"x7" glass plate negatives and a thumb drive of digitized photos of Vernon and Brattleboro.

We received 2 cabinet cards of the Brattleboro Retreat from Gretchen Pierce Nichol of Mendon, VT and lastly All Souls Church gave us a box of Eleanor Rogers' photos and ephemera including diaries via Carla Fogg, Brattleboro.

Thank you to everyone for thinking of us with your donations! ~

Volunteers Continue to Maintain BHS

BHS is managed by a small group of volunteers who are dedicated to keeping Brattleboro history safe, alive and accessible to anyone doing research or who is just curious about our town's history.

Recent projects our volunteers are

working on include preparing for the Off Main Street Walking Tours, updating our website, preparing displays, writing articles, filing local news events for future generations, accessioning newly donated items, researching questions from the public

and so much more.

New volunteers get to know our collection over the months and will eventually be the people who help patrons when they come in with questions or just to browse. ~



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Find us online at: BHS802.org

Our Mission Continues

The Society's mission is to collect and preserve historical artifacts, documents, photographs, and data of persons, places, and events significant to Brattleboro from its earliest days to the present, and to disseminate Brattleboro's history through research, exhibits, and interpretation of the collection for the education and enjoyment of the community.



Do you remember the very popular Dutch Bake Shop on the east side of Main Street (center of photo)? Or when Burrows Sports Shop was in the former Michelman's space next door?

This picture from 1960s shows some changes and yet looks so familiar – see our Scanning Project on pages 6/7 for more photos from the 1960s and 1970s. (BHS Brattleboro Reformer Photo Collection, c.1965)