Jammed into an old box, many still in their original envelopes, the letters of two Union soldiers had been forgotten for generations, until a soft-spoken, bespectacled history teacher discovered them twelve years ago while cleaning out his parents’ attic in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Carleton Young opened his presentation with the story of finding the box that would take him on a grand quest in which Civil War history, family wartime drama, and genealogy hunting would all converge. The letters were written by two brothers from Williamstown Vermont, Henry and Francis Martin. In the quest that became the book, *Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War* (William James Morris, 2015), Dr. Young traveled across Vermont and to the most famous battlefields of the Civil War, tracing the lives and events about which the letters spoke.

Living a comfortable life in Williamstown, the Martin family made a good living selling willows to the Colby brothers of Waterbury. The children were well educated at private academies. The quality and value the family placed on education was evident in the prose of the brothers’ letters.

Henry, the younger of the two brothers, enlisted early in the war. Dr. Young read numerous excerpts from Henry’s letters to his mother, including from those telling graphically of the disease and death that plagued the 1st Vermont Brigade as they awaited marching orders at their camp outside of Washington, D.C. Later, Henry poetically and colorfully describes his first battle in the Peninsula Campaign, the horrors of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, and his growing battle fatigue. “How much longer must this incessant fighting continue?” he wrote, “[But] I will go where I am ordered.”

Elder brother Francis joined the war shortly after Gettysburg, working secretly as a war correspondent for the Montpelier paper, *The Vermont Watchman and State Journal*. Both brothers marched under General Grant into the Battle of the Wilderness in May of 1864. In this battle, Henry was mortally wounded in the chest, dying three days later. Francis was later wounded in the ankle at the Battle of Cedar Creek and became a patient of Waterbury’s Dr. Henry Janes after a botched amputation job by the battlefield surgeon. Francis died almost exactly one year later when tragically crushed by a boulder while working on the family farm.

Dr. Young discovered that his grandfather’s first wife had been a descendant of the Martin family, and the letters had been in her possession when they married. Somehow, they came along for the ride through the generations and were forgotten in the attic until discovered by Dr. Young. Then they brought him on his own wild ride of research and discovery.

*Voices from the Attic* is available on Amazon.
Picnic at the Pavilion Celebrates Vermont’s Women Composers

By Cheryl Casey

Only one beautiful day graced the last week of July this summer, and it was the day of the WHS Summer Potluck Picnic. At Hope Davey Pavilion on the evening of July 25, members and guests enjoyed multiple homemade variations of summer favorites - bean salads, green salads, baked beans, chicken wings, and macaroni. Shortly after the business meeting and the dessert of ice cream, brownies, and cookies, tables were pushed aside and Linda Radtke, mezzo-soprano and music historian, took center stage alongside her pianist, Arthur Zorn.

This program, co-sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council, celebrated “Vermont’s Musical Ladies,” highlighting popular songs of the 19th and 20th century composed or written (sometimes both) by Vermont women. Radtke and Zorn opened with “Hail, Vermont,” our Green Mountain State’s original state song, written by Josephine Hovey Perry in 1937. Then-Governor George Aiken declared it be performed at the Vermont Pavilion at the 1939 World’s Fair.

Selections from the 19th century contained themes

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A Vermonter With Hindus and Muslims in India

By Calvin Dow

In the WHS Spring Newsletter, we left our Vermont hero starving to death, east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. An army travels on its stomach. A mistake in the food supply could lead to disaster. In old days it could spark a mutiny. We knew that U.S. Navy personnel that controlled the [U.S.S.] Mariposa were eating the best, first-class food. We 3,000 of the lower echelons were eating subsistence, existence-level rations. A dangerous confrontation was barely averted one day when we heard after 60 days and nights on the oceans of the world, “Land ho!”

One of our soldiers did not leave the ship. He was ensconced in the ship jail. At night all port holes were closed, a ship blackout. This poor, pea-brained soldier went into the latrine to smoke, opening a porthole for ventilation. Before an enemy submarine saw that light and launched a torpedo, our convoy ship saw it and radioed a warning. The perpetrator would face a psychiatric hospital examination. Just another way you could become a statistical casualty in a world war.

We were so grateful to walk into the city of Karachi, India. Home to over a million, mostly Muslims and some Hindus. That was the name of their religions and we were to find out they were religious fanatics. The British controlled India. From them we leased buildings for living quarters, offices and warehouses. Supplies to wage a war came from the U.S. to our Base #1.

In Calcutta, India, we had Base #2. Our Base #3 was in Kunming, China, accessible only by plane. We hired Indian men to work in our warehouses. In our office we hired young Indian and Anglo-Indian women who also spoke English.

I talked with these Indians about the way they lived, ruled by the English who controlled their freedom. During the 200 years of occupation the Indians made numerous unsuccessful attempts to drive the English out of their country. They knew that

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Remembering Ed Steele
Memorial Gifts Honor Revered Community Figure

By Paul Willard

The Waterbury Historical Society has received $2865 in memorial gifts in memory of Ed Steele. Karen Steele has matched that account with an additional $2865, making a total of $5730 in gifts dedicated to Ed Steele’s memory.

Ed’s contribution to the Waterbury community was enormous. Throughout Ed’s business career he built and rehabilitated properties in Waterbury. A developer with vision and the innate ability to navigate the waters of local and State requirements, Ed’s most significant project was the rehabilitation of the former Anderson Industrial area into what is now Pilgrim Park, a multi-use industrial complex that houses most notably Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Vermont State offices, and Dartmouth Journal Services.

Ed served his community as a member and chairman of the Waterbury Select Board for 26 years. Under his leadership, Waterbury held the line on property taxes, improved infrastructure, negotiated to bring businesses such as Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Ben and Jerry’s, and Karl Suss to Waterbury; additionally, Ed guided the merging of the Town and Village municipal highway and fire departments.

During his long tenure on the Select Board, Ed led the Waterbury negotiations with the State of Vermont and Vermont State Hospital to secure a long term agreement for “payment in lieu of taxes,” along with a six-figure settlement for Waterbury from the State Agency of Transportation for the park and ride on Lincoln Street. His service to the community truly can’t be summarized in a few paragraphs but his impact will be felt in measured ways for years to come. Upon his retirement from the Board, the Town dedicated the new Municipal Highway Facility in his name and he was the recipient of the Keith Wallace Community Service Award.

As successful as Ed was throughout his professional life, he gave back to his community in a number of ways. Ed was a mentor to many local entrepreneurs and generously philanthropic to his alma mater, Norwich University, and to the Town of Waterbury. The community was especially appreciative of his financial support of the new Municipal Complex, particularly the Steele Community Room and the Waterbury Historical Society.

New Members

Sarah-Lee Terrat
Waterbury Center, VT
Judith Ann Burkhart
Olalla, WA

Blush Hill Fall Classic in Memory of Ed Steele
Tournament Benefiting WHS on September 9th and 10th

The Blush Hill Country Club and Crossroads Beverage invite participants to the 2017 Fall Classic to benefit the Waterbury Historical Society. This year’s tournament is in memory of Ed Steele, a longtime member and supporter of Blush Hill Country Club and Waterbury.

The tournament will be a two-person best ball format. Teams will be flighted based on handicap. On Saturday, the first round of the tournament, participants do not need to play within their flight and they may choose the morning or afternoon shotgun. They may also request playing partners for Saturday.

On Sunday, the last three flights will be the morning shotgun and the first three flights will be in the afternoon. Total scores from both days will determine the winners. A maximum of 8 strokes in handicap differential will be used to determine flights.

A lunch buffet will be provided for all golfers between the morning and afternoon shotguns on both days. Prizes will be awarded Sunday following play. All participants must be at least 18 years of age.

Entry fee: $180 per team
Checks payable to Blush Hill Country Club

Questions? Call:
James Quinn, 802-249-7031
Susan Seymour, 802-244-8974
**Donations**

Anonymous of Waterbury:
Derby & Ball scythe and snath, Derby & Ball baseball bat, Derby & Ball skis, posters of Walter Berger for Derby-made bats
(Formerly on display at Liberty Tea, which was the old Derby & Ball building; currently on display in the Steele Community Room)

Bill & Wendell Lowe of Waterbury:
Two photos of downtown Waterbury, one of Waterbury Center; 1906 graduation record from a district school

Wendy Metayer of Waterbury Center:
Large panoramic photo of classes attending Waterbury HS in 1924

Jennifer Campion of Portsmouth, RI:
Photos relating to Clayton Jones and Waterbury in the early 20th century
(Including an early shot of Bank Hill and a snow roller with team and drivers)

Jon Jamieson of Waitsfield:
Large photo of Bolton Gorge (unknown local photographer)

Richmond Historical Society:
Photo of James Thurston home in Waterbury; photo of two local girls

Calvin Dow of Danbury, CT:
$100
David Ayers of York, ME:
$40
Gordon Wood of Waterbury:
$25

Jack Carter of Waterbury Center:
Video of Green and Gold, documenting the making of the State Complex mural by Sarah-Lee Terrat; Cooley-Wright storm drain recovered from Stowe St. during dry bridge reconstruction, 2003; freight box recovered before demolition of Curr Freight House

In Memory of Ed Steele
$2685
Karen Steele of Waterbury:
Matching donation, $2685

Karen Holway of Westminster, MD:
3 books about Waterbury history; Mac Holway’s scrapbook from 1930s & 40s (includes photos of his family, homes, local friends, Boy Scout trips, skiing on Mt. Mansfield, and camp on Scrabble Hill, Duxbury)

Ethel Ryan of Waterbury:
Selection from Salt Pork & Apple Pie, on John Sweetser

Correction — Barbara Towne of Waterbury:
Merrill Bennet drawing of Central Vermont Locomotive 767

**Mystery Object**

This quilt coverlet, dated 1901 from Waterbury Center, was found at a Charlotte, Vermont, antique shop and donated to the Waterbury Historical Society. Several squares are embroidered with initials, all of which end in either C or W.

We are hoping to learn more about this coverlet’s origins and the family or families who made it. If you have any information that might help, please let us know at archivist@gmail.com.
The summer meeting began at 6 o’clock with a potluck picnic attended by approximately 35 members and guests.

At 7 PM Barbara Farr, President, opened the business meeting. This was Barb’s first meeting since being elected President and she introduced herself to the group.

The minutes of April 26th meeting were approved.

Paul Willard gave the treasurer’s report stating that our total balance of accounts is $104,000 +.

Jack Carter, Curator, reported that the July 1st open house at the History Center Museum was attended by approximately 45 people. The first Saturday of the month openings will give those who cannot visit the museum during the week an opportunity to see the exhibits. The next open house will be August 5th and will continue on September 2, October 7 and November 4th. Volunteers are needed to staff those days.

Cheryl Casey, Newsletter Editor, welcomes article for the newsletter and encouraged receiving it electronically as that helps reduce cost of printing, better for the environment and available in color. Four in attendance signed on to have it sent electronically.

Betty Jones, Program Committee Chair, noted that there will be special program on Sunday, August 27 at 2 PM in the Steele Community Room with Carleton Young presenting “Voices from the Attic”. The letters written by two Vermont Civil War soldiers home were uncovered after 150 years in the family attic. There is a Waterbury connection.

The October 25th meeting will feature Vermont author Joe Citro who will tell stories of ghosts and goblins that he has written in many of his books. The meeting will be held at St. Leo’s Hall (Saint Andrew Church).

Betty introduced the program featuring Linda Radtke, mezzo-soprano, and accompanied by Arthur Zorn, on piano, with a presentation entitled “Vermont’s Musical Ladies.” The program featured songs written by Vermont women over the past 150 years. The event was co-sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM
Featured Figure: Pearl Wasson

The Relentless WWI Director of Local Red Cross

By Brian Lindner

In my chapter about the military history of Waterbury in the WHS book from 1991, I mentioned that Pearl Wasson, the town’s director of the Red Cross during World War I, exceeded many quotas set by her superiors in the organization. At that time, I failed to explore the true meaning behind my own statement. For the 2017 Ghost Walk, Jan Gendreau suggested that I take on the task of talking about Wasson. Rather quickly I discovered a truly rich story that had escaped me a quarter century ago.

It was in the February 20, 1918 issue of the old Waterbury Record, during World War One, when an article appeared entitled, “LADIES OF WATERBURY!” It continued, “Are You Doing Your Bit? Are You Responding to the Call of the Red Cross?” With the benefit of hindsight, it would appear Wasson most likely was the author. The article attempted to inspire the women of Waterbury to come to the local Red Cross “room” and do so on a regular basis. “Let’s be up and doing,” the author wrote. It was pointed out that the call for surgical dressings, bandages and knitted items was deeply important to the war effort. The need for these items could “save the life of your son or your neighbor’s son or certainly some mother’s son.”

This article would appear to have been one of Wasson’s effective use of the newspapers to inspire women to volunteer their hard work and skills to support the troops. It was inspirational while subtly providing a degree of shame for those who didn’t donate time.

Her media savvy had come to light during the previous October when Wasson ran the War Library Fund for all of Washington County. It seems Waterbury had done the best job of raising funds to purchase books for the troops – but – how did she do it? Under her direction, Waterbury was divided into sections and the amount of money raised in each section was published in the Waterbury Record for all to see. It was clearly not a good thing to read how the next street over had raised more money than your own. Taking the effort another step forward she didn’t have her volunteers solicit for a one-time-only donation. Wasson set up a subscription program to ensure donations came in continuously. The campaign was considered “a grand success.”

Turning back to the Waterbury Red Cross we find another article in the Waterbury Record from May 16, 1917 – short weeks after America entered World War One. It is easy to speculate that this article also had been written by Wasson and described the founding of the Red Cross chapter in town. The article outlined how Wasson set out to create one of the state’s largest chapters by including volunteers from Duxbury, Moretown, Waitsfield and Fayston. It worked. With a representative of the Vermont State Chapter present, Waterbury successfully created a large chapter. It wasn’t until January 10, 1918 that an article appeared with her name clearly shown as the author. By this time American troops were being wounded and dying in large numbers. Wasson wrote how there was a far higher demand for bandages and sterile surgical supplies. She wrote, “WE MUST ANSWER THIS NEW DEMAND.” Wasson wrote that no volunteer should show up unless she brought at least one other person along.

Four months later an article stated money was needed to purchase the supplies from which the Red Cross bandages and dressing were to be made. This article (once again) appeared to be in Wasson’s style and it reported how Mr. E. S. Newcomb had been placed in charge of raising this money. Similar to the library drive, names were named on who had been specifically assigned to raise the funds. One suspects everyone named did not want to appear in any future article without raising significant funds. It all worked. $150 per month was pledged by village residents – a rather princely sum in 1918.

Two weeks later the headline was, “BOND DRIVE A SUCCESS.” The town had raised $10,700 over its quota of $40,000 in Liberty Bonds. This was a rather stunning success in a time when a new car was only a few hundred dollars. Wasson’s name doesn’t appear but one has to speculate she was somehow involved as individual towns were named within “the Waterbury District” to include not only the dollar amounts but the number of people in each town who pledged... seemingly reminiscent of how she handled the library drive mentioned above.

Only days later, on January 30th, the Record published a letter from Private Eric Graves of

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

I had a good friend living on Kneeland Flats back in 1934. Can you picture the Flats when a native like Mr. Kneeland arrived? Look up that interesting history in Vermontiana.

What brought you to Waterbury and I would like to see a photo of our new editor?

Excellent article by Jack about Vermont native Mr. Pride.

I appreciate your letter and your personal penmanship. A lost art.

Your Connecticut Member,
Calvin Coolidge Dow

Editor’s Note:

Calvin—Thank you for your kind letter and generous donation to WHS! My husband and I jumped at the chance to buy a home in Waterbury after I accepted a faculty position at Champlain College. I love learning about the Flats and all the other roads’ histories.

Warm Regards,
Cheryl
we Americans had fought and finally won our freedom in the American Revolution. In romantic relations, the young Indian and Anglo-Indian women found American men much different from the English. They had to be careful because when the war was over the Americans would leave and they would have to deal with the English until their Indian Revolution drove out the English in 1947. I spent time with a pretty, young Anglo-Indian woman, Yvonne. Her father was English, her mother Indian, and she was a Catholic in a country dominated by Muslim and Hindu religions. One day we biked to a large beach on the Indian Ocean where I learned to drive a Harley motorcycle with an attached side car for a passenger.

For defense, our several-floor building had stacks of sand bags around the first floor and on the roof top. We slept on canvas cots under a mosquito net because all windows had no glass and no screens.

One year passed and my Colonel said, “Sergeant Dow, I am dispatching you to our Base #3 in Kunming, China. They need your help.” My farewell to Yvonne was a lachrymose affair. My first stop on the All India Railway was Agra, to visit the Third Wonder of the Ancient World.
Continued from page 6

Waterbury who was fighting in the trenches of France. He had received a wool sweater from the Waterbury Red Cross and wrote, “At no time, during my short stay in this country, has a gift been more acceptable.” Graves went on to describe how life in the trenches had been cold and this type of gift kept him warm. Although credit was given to “Chairman Smith,” the Second Red Cross War Campaign yet again exceeded the town’s quota issued by headquarters. There is an interesting post script to the article clearly showing Wasson’s input. The note indicated that the Waterbury Red Cross volunteers were out of gauze but should still show up “for sewing and other work.”

The town continually exceeded fund raising goals. In addition to the ones mentioned above there were the War Savings and Thrift Stamps drive, the United War Work Campaign, the Fourth Liberty Loan, and others. This makes Wasson’s achievements still more impressive since she was competing with so many other worthy fund raising drives. (By the way, one War Savings Stamp campaign in Waterbury raised an astonishing $86,000 - $20,000 over the town’s stated goal.)

As American involvement in the war peaked in the fall of 1918 Wasson put out a plea for at least 100 volunteers to staff the Red Cross “every afternoon” in a desperate run to provide more and more dressings. Presumably, she got the numbers she needed.

Wasson and her husband entertained guests at their camp on Ricker Mountain. On one occasion they had the Hochelaga Camp Fire Girls who put on an entertainment program. There must have been adults in attendance (perhaps parents?) and Wasson took a collection for the Waterbury Red Cross. She raised $2.60 – an indication of how she raised funds for the Red Cross – relentlessly.

As the war ground on, the Waterbury Record began to report on Waterbury area men who were Killed in Action. This probably helped Wasson’s recruiting as more and more local men died in France. Then on October 9, 1918, the Record published an article about Melvin Pecor (23) who had just died of influenza. The deadly epidemic had hit home. Wasson’s husband was a local doctor, which exposed him (and her) to the deadly virus. By the end of the month the epidemic was killing millions around the world. Her husband had been Superintendent at the State Hospital and had taken sick in November 1918; three weeks later he died of influenza. Pearl Randall Wasson had worked tirelessly throughout the war with tremendous success only to face life as a widow short days after the war ended. She is buried next to her husband in the Randall section of the Hope Cemetery.

WANTING: PART-TIME ARCHIVIST

The Waterbury Historical Society seeks a part-time archivist to catalog and maintain its collection of artifacts, photographs, historical documents, collections and other items. The position entails an average of 10 hours per week through a flexible contract or stipend. Primary duties are as follows:

♦ Oversee all aspects of collection acquisition, processing, cataloging, and preservation, including upkeep of all records and correspondence.
♦ Oversee the work of a part time cataloger or volunteer help to maintain consistency in record keeping and cataloging as well as treatment and care of items in the collection.
♦ Act as the point of access for historical and genealogical questions that WHS could address.
♦ Answer questions about genealogy/local history or refer to local resources with in-depth knowledge.
♦ Follow approved accession and deaccession policies when accepting Deeds of Gifts or duplicate items. Write thank you letters for donations.
♦ Oversee documentation for loans of exhibits.
♦ Work closely with the curator to facilitate common communication, access to the collection, museum and adjustment to records for items moved for exhibiting.
♦ Attend WHS board meetings and report to the WHS Board of Directors

Qualifications:

♦ Ideal candidate would have a passion for history, knowledge of genealogy research and be attentive to details, have a love of local history with a willingness to share information and be a welcoming face for the society
♦ Experienced and competent in using Past Perfect or similar industry standard with ability to train and supervise others in accepted practices for cataloguing historical items
♦ Excellent organizational and writing skills
♦ Familiarity with historic-item terminology
♦ Knowledge of Waterbury history and family connections a definite plus!

Please submit a letter of interest and resume by September 11, 2017 by email to Barbara Farr, WHS President, at bfarr@waterburyvt.com.
The Waterbury History Center & Museum is currently seeking volunteer docents for its once-monthly Saturday Open House events.

On the first Saturday of every month through November, the museum will be open to the public from 10am—2pm. Docents will be expected to help guide visitors through the museum’s collections and answer questions about our community. Shifts in hourly increments are available and training is provided.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact History Center Curator Jack Carter at 802-244-7409 or empstowest@aol.com.

“Our true destiny...is a world built from the bottom up by competent citizens living in solid communities, engaged in and by their places.”

David W. Orr
Professor, University of Vermont

NEXT MEETING AND PROGRAM
Wednesday, October 25, 2017
7pm at St. Leo’s Hall, 109 S. Main St.

Featuring “Bard of the Bizarre” Joseph Citro

Co-sponsored by Stagecoach Inn and St. Andrew’s Church

The Waterbury Historical Society is excited to welcome renowned author and folklorist Joe Citro, whose recounting of the hauntings and occult happenings of New England has been thrilling readers and listeners for nearly three decades. Join us for an evening of folk tales and eccentric legends! This event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. Donations are welcome. For questions or more information, contact Cheryl Casey at dulcinea28@gmail.com or 802-598-1553.
The History Center is open Monday—Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located on the second floor of the Municipal Building in the newly renovated Dr. Janes house, 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!

History Center Acquisition Criteria

Have something to donate to the museum? See if your item(s) meet these criteria:

- **Relevance:** Well-documented link to the town of Waterbury.
- **Non-duplication:** Unique to the existing holdings of the collection.
- **Duration:** Intent is to officially add the item to the collection for the WHS to keep or sell (where proceeds will only go to benefit the Society).
- **Title and Provenance:** Deed of gift or bill of sale should accompany all items.
- **Restrictions:** Items will not be held by the donor to criteria about use, display, or future disposition.
- **Physical condition:** No extensive conservation required.
- **Rights:** Transfer of item(s) includes all pertinent rights (literary, property, copyright, etc.).
- **Costs:** Management and care of item(s) should be financially viable for the Society, or dedicated funds should accompany the donation of the item(s).
- **Tax law compliance:** Gifts must be in compliance with applicable tax law.

For more information or to begin the donation process, contact: archivistwhs@gmail.com
Donations Welcome - We are a community organization that deeply appreciates the support and interest of our community. You can donate online at our website below.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP**

$10 per person  
$15 per family (couple and children under 18)  

*(Check the mailing label on your newsletter to see when your membership expires.)*

**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!

Waterbury Historical Society, Inc.  
PO Box 708  
Waterbury, VT  05676-0708