

THE PEACHAM PATRIOT

PEACHAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Baptists, Rabble Rousers, and Republicans

In our previously published Deweysburg series we explored the settlement and early government of the Deweysburg Gore land tract, its poverty and economic hardships, the interactions of the community with local Abenaki Indians, and the eventual division and annexation of the township into neighboring Peacham and Danville. In part 4 we will take a look at the establishment of a Baptist church in Deweysburg and the political division between local Federalists and the Democratic Republican party.

Hidden in Vermont history archives is a little-known book titled *A History of the Baptists in Vermont*.¹ This book is a lengthy and detailed chronicle of the early Baptist churches in Vermont. From 1790 onwards, groups of saddlebag preachers and circuit riders traveled throughout the northern regions of Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and the border communities of southern Quebec. They traveled alone on horseback, with few possessions and provisions, and were primarily Free Will Baptists and Methodists, along with a handful of Presbyterians, Quakers and Universalists.² In northern Vermont, the saddlebag preachers were predominantly Free Will Baptists and Methodists. Often, these ministers traveled 40 to 50 miles between appointments in all seasons and weather conditions. Their place of worship in each remote community was usually a house, a barn, possibly a school, and rarely a church building. Traveling ministers were responsible for all the religious and spiritual needs of people over large geographic areas.³ Our local region was ministered by a Free Will Baptist, Reverend Joseph Brody. He was initially based in Wheelock, but later the

local headquarters was moved to Hardwick, although it remained known as the Wheelock Quarterly Meeting. In 1805 Reverend Brody organized and “planted” a Free Will Baptist Church in Deweysburg, and in 1809 three local men were ordained; John Colby, David Norris and Benjamin Putnam.⁴ John Colby also became a circuit rider, ministering to many neighboring northern communities. Peacham established a Free Will Baptist church within a few years, but it did not flourish due to the strong hold on the community by the Congregational Church and then by the Methodist Church which followed. There are records which evidence outright hostility of Congregationalists toward Baptists during this period.

The Free Will Baptist Church’s principal founder was Benjamin Randall of southern New Hampshire. He was originally a Congregationalist “who had a divine vision and believed in God’s universal love and grace for all people, not just those who are elected.”⁵ Free Will Baptist theology was congruent with common Protestant teachings, but they practiced foot washing as a required ordinance of the church alongside baptism (immersion) and communion.⁶ We can imagine a lone saddlebag minister riding into the remote Deweysburg Township, lodging with a local family, and conducting services in one of the primitive homes or barns. A minister’s lot was listed on the Deweysburg land records, but no church seems to have been built. The minister’s lot was located near the Cabot town line, and may not have been used due to its location. A rough structure may have existed on the land, but we do not know. We know that Methodists were active in Deweysburg, but the Methodist Church records have not been found. However, we do have marriage records that indicate that the Woodward and Northrup families were definitely Methodist.

The land records show that many of the Baptists lived near the Danville side of the gore, and their congregation eventually merged with the Baptist church in that town.⁷ There is also historical evidence that the current North Danville Baptist Church had its roots in the circuit rider movement. Some Baptists were disparagingly called “rabble-rousers,” and this may be the origin of the name “Rouser Town” appearing in the Deweysburg land area on the *People of Peacham* cellar hole map. The first use of the term “rabble-rousers” occurred in the period from c. 1835-1845, and it referred to “instigators; however it may have also referenced the politics of the Deweysburg community.

In contrast to local Deweysburg residents, who were Free Will Baptists, were the “upper crust” Congregationalists from Peacham who did not mingle with them. In addition to this religious divide, a political division and animosity

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Illustration from *The Circuit Rider: A Tale of the Heroic Age* by Edward Eggleston depicting a Methodist circuit rider on horseback. Source: Wikimedia, United States public domain.

LETTER FROM THE PHA PRESIDENT

Ashley Gray, the principal of the Peacham Elementary School, had an offer that seemed perfect for the PHA. The 5th and 6th graders were being taught an evidence-based approach to the study of humanities, and were focusing on the history of the Civil War. Their teacher, Leslie Gadway, had chosen a book on boy soldiers, the children who managed to enlist even though they were underage; she hoped studying boys close to their own age would help fuel her students' imaginations about the Civil War.

As it turns out, of course, the PHA archives hold a treasure of Civil War documents, including much about Turrell Harriman, a 15-year-old boy who blended into the line of men mustering for the war in St. Johnsbury; he wound up serving the entire war, survived, and came home. And so what began as a simple visit to the archives and an offer to clean the Historical House as part of Peacham Village Stewardship Day rapidly expanded to a three-day sequence of interactions with the children.

The first day, I visited the classroom and asked the students if they knew what constituted evidence. Hands shot into the air. "Documents!" What are documents, I asked. "Journals! Diaries! Photographs! Printed records!" And we were off and running. They were excited to learn that Peacham was a center for abolitionism, and that not only the famous Thaddeus Stevens but also Oliver Johnson had made an impact nationally with their work. They were almost more interested to hear about cranky Leonard Johnson ringing the bell of the church for an hour when John Brown was hanged, and being told to leave the congregation for his "unchurchly" behavior. They were surprised to learn that the monument at the top of the hill is a Civil War Monument and that the cemetery has many graves of soldiers. As an aside, we talked



Teacher Leslie Gadway, students, and PHA Board President Johanna Branson.

Photo by Jock-Gill

about the strong presence of education in Peacham, from the one-room schools to the Academy.

The second day, Ms. Gadway walked with the students on a path newly interesting to them, past Leonard Johnson's house, the site of the Academy, and the church, to the Historical House, the oldest standing schoolhouse in the village. They were fascinated with the single large room that held so many students. Then they walked over to the archives and learned about how archives are built, how things are carefully stored, and how research is done. Last, they walked up the hill to the monument and the cemetery, and along the way had a lot of fun figuring out which part of the fire station used to be a one-room school.

The third day, the students first cleaned the Historic House, especially enjoying beating rugs outdoors with Dick Quimby's walking sticks. They were then met at the Archives and Research Center by Karen Lewis, who showed them how documents are handled. I told them about Turrell Harriman and showed them documents about him; the photographs of his young face transfixed them. Then Karen

told them the sad story of Dustan Walbridge, a 30-year old husband and father who died of wounds suffered at the Battle of Cold Harbor; the students were very sober as they learned about amputation and infection. Karen told them how his family stood on East Hill and watched his funeral procession descend from the village and climb the hill. She also let them handle her civil war sword (a big hit). Next, they walked up to the cemetery and found Walbridge's grave.

On the way down the hill, Karen asked the students what was most memorable about their time at the Peacham Historical Association (fully expecting it would be swinging her sword). "Cleaning!" they all yelled. We hope they come back every year.

JOHANNA BRANSON

KEEP UP WITH PHA!
peachamhistorical.org

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developed between Democratic Republicans and Federalists in Peacham, Danville and Deweysburg. From approximately 1790 to 1820 in New England, the Federalist Party was closely linked to the Congregational Church. The Baptists and Methodists were strongly aligned with the Democratic Republican Party.⁸ Democratic Republicans, not to be confused with today's Republican Party, distrusted the Federalists, whom they considered elitists. In their day, they were called simply "Republicans." They believed in state's rights, yeoman farmers' rights, and the Constitution as a strict document which limited the powers of the federal government.⁹ The Federalist Party, popular with Peacham's Congregationalists, advocated for a centralized national government, with strong fiscal roots and believed that the Constitution was open for interpretation.¹⁰

In 1807, the Vermont Governor's race was a hard-fought election between Federalists and Republicans. The race was between Isaac Tichenor, the Federalist, and Israel Smith, the Republican. There was great bitterness toward the winner, Israel Smith, which harkened back to the formation of Vermont as a state and his loss in the earliest elections held. In 1807, Deweysburg went for Israel Smith, the Democratic Republican gubernatorial candidate, by a 60% majority vote. Danville also overwhelmingly voted for Israel Smith with a two-thirds majority. In Peacham, on the other hand, 71% went for the Federalists backed by the Congregational Church.¹¹

The losing Federalist gubernatorial candidate, Isaac Tichenor, was born in New Jersey, educated at Princeton, and held the governor's office both immediately before and after the 1807 election. Tichenor moved to Bennington, Vermont in 1777, where he was elected captain and commander of a Bennington militia company during the Revolutionary War.¹² In an interesting coincidence, Tichenor's troops fought alongside the militia of Captain Elijah Dewey, who held the first land grants for Deweysburg and for whom Deweysburg was named. Both captains were lifelong acquaintances and residents of Bennington, where both men died and were buried.

By 1810, Deweysburg was divided and annexed to Danville and Peacham. The religious and political divisions certainly played a role in Deweysburg's demise, along with poverty, economic pressures, and the greed of land speculators. It would be convenient to say that when Deweysburg was annexed, the Baptists went with Danville and the Congregationalists went with Peacham, but that's not the case. But there were definite political and religious affinities among the local families, and this certainly influenced how the land was divided.

In the next and final part of this series, we will look at how weather patterns played a part in Deweysburg's demise and sum up the series with final thoughts.

SUSAN CHANDLER

Notes

- 1 Crocker, Henry. *History of the Baptists in Vermont*, P.H. Gobie Press, Bellows Falls, 1913.
- 2 Gagne, Jacques. *United States Saddlebag Preachers and Circuit Riders*, 2015. <https://genealogyensemble.files.wordpress.com> and VT Baptist Historical Society Records Collection, UVM Special Collections, Bailey-Howe Library.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Crocker, Op.cit.
- 5 Rhodes, Ron. *Complete Guide to Christian Denominations*, Harvest House Pub., 2015.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Crocker, Op.cit.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Vermont, *A New Nation Votes*, Tufts University Archives, website.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Vermont Secretary of State Election Archives, Montpelier, VT
- 12 Vermont Historical Society Archives, also numerous historical websites

Additional Note: The Democratic Republican Party was founded by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison around 1792. It splintered in 1824 into two parts: the Jacksonian Movement, later becoming the Democratic Party, and the National Republican Party led by John Adams and Henry Clay, which became the Whig Party. The modern day Republican Party was founded in 1854 and was not connected to these previously mentioned political parties.

A Vermont Hill Town in the Civil War: Peacham's Story

Jutta R. Scott and Michelle Arnosky Sherburne, eds. *With an Essay by Lynn A. Bonfield. Illustrated, maps, notes, bibliography. 218 pages. May 2018*

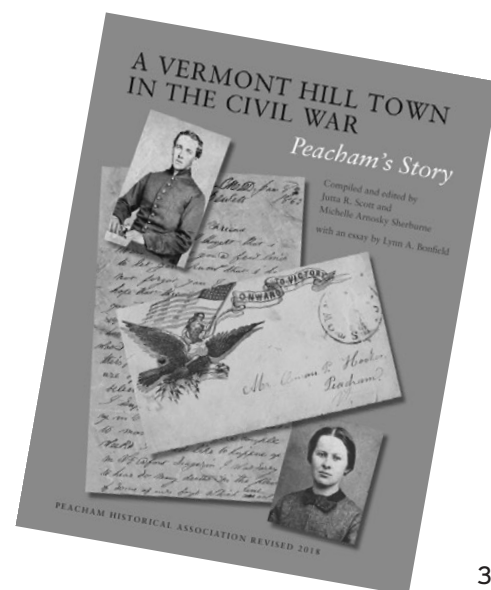
Drawing from scores of letters, diaries, memoirs, and photographs, this book vividly tells the story of the men from Peacham who went to war and their families who endured life without them on the home front.

The editors revised the book in 2018. Since it was first published five years ago, new biographical information about some of Peacham's Civil War soldiers became available, and we have incorporated the additional personal information in the biographical sketches. During the review of the book we also made several corrections to the original edition. Finally, the Turrell Elkins Harriman collection of letters and photographs, previously stored at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, is now housed in the Peacham Historical Association manuscripts collection. We rewrote the related references to reflect the transfer of this collection.

Taken together, the new information available since 2012 and the other changes updated the story of Peacham in the Civil War.

The 2018 edition will be available at the Peacham Corner Guild, Peacham Library, and at PHA's Historical House. Price is \$25.00.

JUTTA SCOTT



Saving the East Peacham Schoolhouse

Of the 14 one-room schoolhouses that once dotted Peacham's landscape, the last one to close its doors as a school was the East Peacham Schoolhouse (the District 9 school). The year was 1969. A private party purchased the building and converted it into a dwelling, later selling it to another private individual. Both owners maintained the essential feel of the original classroom space. In 2008, the building was donated to the Peacham Historical Association.

For several years, the PHA board debated what to do with the structure. Sitting empty for a number of years, the building PHA inherited had experienced deterioration; most notable was the foundation. Put in when the building was renovated to be a residence, the foundation had seriously decayed and was in a state of collapse. PHA board members consulted with experts who estimated the cost of making the structure safe and habitable at over \$100,000. PHA was committed to maintaining the Historical House, its museum and Peacham's oldest remaining schoolhouse, and felt unable to take on the expense of restoring the East Peacham Schoolhouse. After careful deliberation, the board voted to sell the structure. With the schoolhouse on the market, a

few PHA board members decided they wanted to try to rehabilitate the schoolhouse and formed a group in the fall of 2017 to purchase the building from PHA. The purchase was completed in March, 2018.

Forming a non-profit entity called East Peacham Schoolhouse, Inc., the small group intended to renovate the schoolhouse with a threefold purpose: a) provide a flexible display illustrating what the schoolhouse would probably have looked like during its time as an active school, thereby illustrating over 100 years of education; b) provide a unique schoolhouse community space that can be used for educational purposes such as workshops, adult learning classes, schoolchildren visits, retreats, etc.; and c) provide an overnight retreat center for individuals or very small groups.

The building will need extensive work in order to be brought up to the standards necessary for the intended purposes, beginning with replacing the dilapidated foundation. Contractors, engineers, and other professionals have looked at the structure and provided their assessments of what needs to be done. What is likely to happen within the next few months is for the building to be moved off its current foundation. Next spring, the old foundation will be removed and a new one installed, followed by the schoolhouse being moved back on top of the new foundation.



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

PEACHAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 8, 6:30 pm

Peacham Library Community Center
Business Meeting followed by speaker:

LUIS VIVANCO

*Of Wheelmen, The New Woman, and Good Roads:
Bicycling in Vermont, 1880-1920*

[followed by Historical Pies]

The board members of East Peacham Schoolhouse, Inc. understand that the project will be a major undertaking in terms of human and financial resources. They believe, however, that preserving the last of the Peacham one-room schoolhouses for both an historic and a community purpose is important. Recognizing that the project will also require solid community support, the board has already sponsored a community outreach social in early May, which included a presentation describing the project and soliciting ideas from the public. The attendees included a number of East Peacham School alumni who shared both memories and ideas.

The alumni of the East Peacham School are seen as an important part of the support for this undertaking, including sharing stories of their time attending the school, providing information about school uses and issues, as well as contributing financial help. Interested alumni and others who would like to know more about this project are encouraged to contact East Peacham Schoolhouse, Inc. at eastpeachamschoolhouseinc@gmail.com or 802-592-3195. Members of the board are: Melissa Hough, President; Dart Thalman, Vice President; Marilyn Magnus, Secretary; David Magnus, Treasurer.

DART THALMAN

July 4 Celebration: Ghosts and Treasures

Peacham's July 4 celebration featured two of PHA's most popular events: the Ghost Walk and the new exhibit at the Historical House: "Treasures from Peacham Collections."

The 22nd annual Ghost Walk, titled "One Soldier, Two Sisters, Three Gossips and a Horse," was inspired by some of the treasures in the Historical House exhibit.

The Soldier, James Moody Quimby, was a World War I veteran. Played by Steve Galinat, Moody (as he was known) recounted his experiences in France constructing roads and bridges for the allied forces. He explained the various components of his uniform and equipment, and described gas attacks, trench warfare, and his postwar life. His uniform and other items are on display at the Historical House.

Sisters Flora and Mary Bickford (played by Julie Lang and Marsha Garrison), lived on their family farm on Penny Street in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. Flora was an avid photographer who documented their adventures, celebrations, and hi jinks and provided a picture of Peacham and its surroundings in a bygone era. Looking over their album they reminisced about their lives with great conviction and humor. Selections from the album are on display at the Historical House.

The *Three Gossiping Women* appear in a small painting by former Peacham Town Clerk, Louis Lamoureux, displayed at the Historical House. Played by Johanna Branson, Susan Chandler, and Patty Gardner, they presented themselves as members of Peacham's women's clubs meeting in late 1959 to plan the Christmas Club's holiday party. Their gossip touched on new-fangled food items (TV dinners and frozen pastries) and recent goings on in Peacham (the large crop of new babies, the whooping cough epidemic) and much else.

Frank Chandler was played by Tom Galinat with the help of his horse, Pete, and his mom, Kathleen Galinat, in the role of Frank's wife. Frank and his famous Morgan horse, Knox Morgan,



lived in Peacham in late 19th and early 20th century. Their proudest moment was in 1904 when Frank and Knox traveled to St. Louis where Knox won first and world championship prizes. The performance revisited the sad day when Frank and his wife learned of Knox's death. Photos of Frank and Knox are on display at the Historical House.

For this summer's exhibit at the Historical House, PHA board members and volunteers selected an item or group of items from the PHA collections that they found particularly appealing. They researched their selections and wrote up short descriptions of what they found out. The items and written explanations are on display. In addition to the items featured in the Ghost Walk, they include a variety of antique toys, hand-crafted miniatures of buildings and scenes in and around Peacham, an Abenaki basket, spinning wheels, a hand-carved butter mold, and much more. The exhibit will be open Sundays from 2-4 through August and also during the Peacham Acoustic Music Festival on August 18 and the Fall Foliage Festival on October 4. The Ghost Walk will also be revived at Fall Foliage, in case you missed it.

JANE ALPER

(top) Tom Galinat as Frank Chandler

(middle) Steve Galinat as James Moody Quimby

(left) Julie Lang and Marsha Garrison as the Bickford sisters

Photos by Jock Gill

Dick Hovey's Memories: Restoring the Blacksmith Shop and Roller Barn

Editor's Note. The following is an abbreviated transcription of an interview Marilyn Magnus conducted last August with Dick Hovey. His daughter, Valerie Chimienti, participated in the interview, reviewed my transcription, and supplied additional valuable information. Words and phrases in brackets were added to include facts supplied by Valerie and to improve readability.

Marilyn: I'm speaking with Dick Hovey today. This is the 18th of August, 2017. Dick, tell me what your birth date is, please.

Dick: I was born on June 25, 1928.

M: When did you first become a resident of Peacham? Were you born here?

D: No. We lived in St. Johnsbury and I went to the Academy at St. Johnsbury. We bought a place out here, a farm [in the summer of 1964]. The Petries owned it; they were older and were going to move to town. [We moved in a year later in the summer of 1965.] During the years from 1965 to, probably, 1995, we were restoring the house. It had been built over quite a bit. We returned it to the original house, even before the Petries.

M: Were you able to find out the original date of the building?

D: It was 1791. It's an old house. There are lots of old things; some of the floors are original and they're wide. We had to rebuild parts of the fireplace. Upstairs there are old rooms. One old room which we restored was—my wife's grandmother lived up there. We didn't know that till after we'd bought the house.

M: So you had a connection with this house before you even bought it?

D: Before we knew it, that's right.

Valerie: [Her married name was Maggie Harriman.] I think she was about 14 when she worked here as a house person.

M: There was probably a big barn here at some point. Did that get taken down?

D: There was a dairy barn over there [with an attached horse barn and carriage house.] It was falling down. And the following year it looked even worse, and [eventually] we gave it to the fire department and they used it as an exhibit for putting out a fire.

M: You came in the summers, right? When did you start living up here year round?

D: Well, that was later, '95 maybe.

M: When did you start getting interested in the roller barn?

D: Well, [during] the period from '65 to '95, we were repairing this place. We brought the maple [sugar] house across the street from North Danville. Some people brought it. They cut it in half and put it on a trailer; then that summer or fall they hitched it all together. It wasn't finished; the interior had to be repaired for the next year. We used it as a sugar house for five or six years. Our children were involved.

V: The last time we used it was about three years ago, four years ago maybe.

D: We tapped the trees all along the run, I had a car; our dog would live in the car. I drove and he sat there and looked out the window, and we'd go from tree to tree.

M: And that got you interested in the roller barn?

D: Well, yes, but the blacksmith shop came first. The idea of a blacksmith shop started in the late '90s, and we decided to do that.

M: Is this the one that's right in the village?

D: Yes it is indeed, that one. The front half was gone, and there were other parts that were gone. The Kemptons owned



Dick Hovey in the roller barn, "courtesy of Valerie Chimienti.

the [land]. We bought or they [donated] it. We spent about two years repairing it. We had a fellow come to fix the bricks and the front and the back of the house where the main operation happens. It had two floors. The top of this building was still stable, and we found up there a kind of a pull sled that you could drop down into a grave, put the person in a grave. I don't know where that is now.

The kids of the town and their parents and older people [helped out]. The older people knew about the things in the blacksmith shop. The floor in there was divided up into nine squares with rope. And certain kids were assigned to a [particular] square, and they [brought the things they found] over to the table where all the elders were and they recorded the whole thing in there. That was fun. We had kids, older people; a lot of the town was involved.

Mel Somers [told us about] old blacksmithing equipment in Barre and we were invited to go over there. A few of us went over there with a truck.

V: Did Allen Thresher go?

D: We all went over there. They had all kinds of tools that you use in a blacksmith shop and we brought it all back. We brought over a bench and all kinds of blacksmith materials, and put them in the blacksmith shop. Then we went to a building in South Peacham.

V: Was that the Allen house, Dad?

D: It might have been. I don't remember. And we found an old blacksmith shop there, almost nothing in it really. But there was a barn and we were invited in there to get the equipment. We found an old forge there, and other equipment. And so we took that haul up to the blacksmith shop.

V: I think you got something in Ryegate, didn't you, Dad?

D: Ryegate, yes. There was a fellow who formerly had owned a blacksmith's shop. There's a house and a barn there. We went in there and the first thing we found was a wooden forge. There aren't many wooden forges around. We have two. Of course, it was not perfect, so we took what we had of it and it's in the blacksmith shop up here. And we found old equipment there, things which were used to sit on when you shoed a horse,

and quite a lot of other equipment. One thing we found outside of the building was a stone cement circular thing with an iron bar around it, which is where they shrunk the wheels of wagons that they made. They would heat up the metal. All the spokes were laid on this round thing, and then this iron wheel would shrink [when it cooled] and it made the wheels tight. That's now out in back of the blacksmith's shop. Allen Thresher dug out this thing, and it was so big and so heavy that we had to make a special trip with the truck to get it up to the [blacksmith shop].

M: And then you got all the outside facing, all the brick work done?

V: They were old bricks. A lot of folks in town came over and they brought bricks.

M: There was a brick factory over in East Peacham and there may have been other little brick factories around.

D: Some of them were obtained from the Churchill's house. Down in back we found a lot of old bricks that they had made. We used old bricks where we could. And the front door came from, I believe, the building that was torn down that we told you about down in South Peacham. They're nice doors. And we had Joe Miller come down and be the blacksmith, and he has been for years.

M: What got you started on the roller barn?

D: Soon after that we heard about what was going to happen to the building that used to be a snow roller barn. The selectmen assigned a man to go look at this barn. It was about ready to fall down. It has been used to store town equipment. They used to go in there and dump lumber and material that was used in cement work. And so this selectman, Tim McKay, went up there and reported back to the group and said that it should probably be torn down. And some of us—

M: Was Allen Thresher still involved?

D: He was involved and the older fellow—he lives in the house way up out of town.

M: Oh, Ron Chrisman.

D: Yes. He helped me so greatly, he saved the barn. So we had to repair the

roller barn. First thing done was the foundation. There were a couple of years we had to work awfully hard. And we got a foundation under that.

V: Were you getting donations for the foundation?

D: No the town paid for it. We had-bought a large roller. It was originally built in Barnet and it had been sold to that blacksmith's shop in Barnet. It's still there, a big activity barn now, on the main drag. Who's that fellow who died that used to work in this barn all the time? He was a good talker. Anyway, he helped us. This roller, a huge roller, was sold to a man who collects material up in the Orleans area. We went up to Fred Webster's barn in Coventry. We paid, I think it was four thousand dollars for that old beat up snow roller. But it was a very large one. [Allen Thresher] moved it to the barn.

V: Is that the one in the barn right now?

D: It's the oldest, the biggest one in the barn. It's the second largest roller in Vermont now that's left. But anyway we're talking about the barn. We went to the select board and got a few bucks every year or two, and the roof was fixed. We had to build up the cross pieces inside, We gradually fixed the barn. One man was hired to fix the floor.

V: And Omri Parsons stored the roller in the winter time for a long time.

D: He stored it in his barn. It was a huge barn and a huge roller. That's where it lived while we were repairing the barn. This fellow came along and he built the floor, but it was way too high for our rollers, so he and his man crawled into that bottom, took what they could out from the bottom, and dropped the floor a foot or so. And because of that we were able to put all our rollers in there.

Annette Lorraine was interested in old things and, man, she worked hard to get the thing put together. So we had a floor in there, and the outside of the barn needed a lot of work. The latest thing was a walk that they built into the barn so anybody interested in a roller barn could go into it through this walk. And she helped us with that.

M: How many rollers do you have in there now?

D: We have probably eight, and that's more than anybody else in the state. And we're the only barn [left] that we know of that was used to store rollers.

M: Do you know how many they would have had in the town of Peacham at that time?

D: Probably four or five. But none of them were available. During the war they were burned for the metal outside [or else] they were hauled outside and fell apart. Are you acquainted with using the rollers for the town? They were drawn by horses and they would pack the ground down.

M: So when tractors came in, that would have been in the 40s, they would have stopped using the rollers?

D: That's pretty close. They stopped using rollers. They stopped using rollers in our town in 1935, I think. They bought a tractor, and they had both the rollers and the tractor for about two years and then it was all done by tractor.

M: Is your book, *Snow Rollers of Vermont*, still in print? Is that something people can easily buy?

V: They can buy it from Dad, we've got it here, or they can go on Amazon and buy it.

D: We were doing everything we could to fill up that barn so there wouldn't be a lot of junk in there. So we started then to find rollers, and we went all over Vermont.

V: When we say "we" we meant "he", we meant Dad.

D: When we'd hear of a snow roller, we'd go look at it. Some we bought, some were given to us.

V: We went to look for one on the Fourth of July, remember?

D: Yes. We're still looking for that one.

M: You're still looking for rollers?

D: Oh yeah. We learned of one that was the last one we got, in West Barnet.

V: They were having an auction, and Allen Thresher called me about it because he was at the auction. He said, I can't stay; I have work to do this

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PHA Board 2018

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Editor: Jane Alper

Contributors: Susan Chandler, Johanna Branson, Jutta Scott,,Dart Thalman, Jane Alper, Jock Gill, Dick Hovey, Valerie Chimienti, Marilyn Magnus

.Design: Joanna Bodenweber

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afternoon. You go. And I went to the auction, got there in time. I called Dad. I'd been given a number, don't go above this number. I took a look at [the roller]; it looked good. And I bid it right up to that number, and the guy standing right beside me was meeting that number every time. The second I bid, he bid above me. So we got to the high number, and he turned out to be one of the kids in that family. He grew up on the farm and his son, who's an adult now, when they pulled it up for the auction, saw it. He'd been to the snow roller barn and knew what it was. And he wanted to keep it, but of course it had to be auctioned, because that was the deal. Anyway I spoke with him about it afterwards because Dad asked me to find out who it was. I told him who I was and why I was bidding on it and that we'd like to have it for the barn if he ever lost interest in it. And I got a call the following Monday and he was willing to let us use it for--

D: Four years.

V: Four or five years.

D: (Laughing) We think we'll have it for four or five years. We'll have it forever.

V: Allen Thresher brought it over.

D: It's just sitting there now. It's a perfect little roller. It was made so it has square nails in it. We only have one other that has square nails. And it's in great shape.

New Peacham Corner Historical Walking Tour Brochure

A revised and updated brochure of the Peacham Corner walking tour is now available. The brochure includes brief descriptions of Peacham Corner's historic buildings together with old photographs of the featured buildings and a map. The self-guided tour starts at the Green that was the town center until the 1840's and ends at Elkins Tavern, built in 1787 and the home of Peacham's first settler in 1776. The brochure includes a brief overview of Peacham's history and tells the Town's story through the descriptions of the early homes and commercial buildings. Visitors can use the brochure for a historical tour of the village, taking a step back in time as they walk past pre-1860 homes, the iconic Congregational Church, old schoolhouses, former taverns and stores. During the walking tour of Peacham Corner visitors will explore the legacy of this Vermont hill town's early history through the stories of its 19th century buildings. All the homes and many more are also described in another Peacham Historical Association publication, *Historic Homes of Peacham*.

The new Peacham Corner Historical Walking Tour brochure is available at the Peacham Corner Guild, Peacham Library, and direct from Peacham Historical Association. Cost: \$5.00.