

Peacham in the Pandemic

The March 3rd Town Meeting was the last public gathering many of us attended. As usual here in Peacham, the discussion was respectful, potential controversies were resolved amicably, the potluck lunch was delicious and plentiful, and all seemed well. Peacham's Health Officer, Josh Kantrowitz, addressed the assembly briefly at the end, urging us to adopt precautions to prevent contracting and spreading the COVID-19 virus, but no one seemed unduly alarmed.

About a week later everything changed. The first COVID case in Vermont, in Bennington County, was reported on March 7: the first deaths were reported on March 19. On March 10, the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center was activated to address the crisis. Three days later, Governor Scott established the COVID-19 Task Force and declared a state of emergency. A series of orders issued over the next few weeks. People were told to stay home except for important errands; non-essential businesses shut down, and schools were closed at first for a month and then for the entire school year.



A banner designed by Craig Harrison to celebrate our local heroes. Photo by Jock Gill.

Peacham's school, library, café, churches, and town offices closed their doors in mid-March. The post office installed a plexiglass shield at the counter. The transfer station adopted procedures to limit the number of people in the recycling shed at any one time and to protect the attendant and the rest of us.

The town, in an exception to the new policy suspending all public gatherings, called a special meeting at the church on March 16 to initiate its emergency response plan. The main focus was how to assist people at higher risk to remain safe by recruiting volunteers to help with food shopping and other essential tasks.

In the days after the meeting a team was assembled, headed by the emergency management coordinator, Neil Monteith, and his assistant Erin Lane. Andrea Kane served as operations chief, recruiting volunteers and creating a database of Peacham residents who might need assistance. Volunteers recruited by AWIP (Aging Well in Peacham) were given lists of people in their area who might be at risk and asked to check in with them at close intervals and provide help as needed. Mel Reis took on the role of logistic chief. She organized regular delivery of local food products through Green Mountain Farm Direct in Newport to residents who needed them. Selectboard chair Mike Heath picked up the food in Newport every two weeks and delivered it to the Peacham School where volunteers divided the produce into bins and delivered them to people's homes. Some Peacham residents subsidized the cost of the bins for families who couldn't afford to pay.

The Peacham Select board established The Peacham COVID-19 Relief Fund, overseen by an Advisory Committee of seven Peachamites. Dave Edwards was asked to serve as the fund administrator. To date, over \$16,000 has been raised to help our neighbors in need. The first

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Visitors tour the Peacham Pandemics Quest. Photo by Jock Gill.

LETTER FROM THE PHA PRESIDENT

It is startling today to read the last issue of *The Peacham Patriot*, published in time for Town Meeting in March. We were full of plans for summer programming. Building on the popularity of the Kalischer photography exhibition in 2019, we were working with Richard Brown to exhibit his photographs in 2020, and to cooperate with the library again on the summer series of evening speakers, with Peacham artists as our theme.

Only two weeks later, it was clear that all plans were off. The COVID-19 virus, discussed only briefly at the end of Town Meeting, had become a new organizing principle for much of our behavior. We were living through an extraordinary time. Thinking as historians, we began working in two ways. First, we began gathering materials on this history-in-the-making, building an archive for future generations. Second, we wanted to do what we could to give our community some historical perspective.

Hosted by the library, PHA board member and archivist Karen Lewis held an online meeting open to anyone interested in collecting and donating objects relevant to this time, from hand-sewn masks to photographs of empty bulletin boards. She advised that the PHA would be collecting these materials and urged people to start collecting them.

Social distancing requirements forced us to cancel our usual exhibition in the Historical House, Ghost Walks, and the summer series of evening speakers in the community room of the library. Working in partnership with the Peacham Library, we devised a new kind of summer programming. Since everyone was looking for information about viruses and treatments, we thought it would be useful to look in the PHA archives for materials about what had happened in the past. Inspired by Craftsbury resident Susan Dunklee's

village quests, we decided to devise one for ourselves, *Peacham Pandemics of the Past*. A team of people from both the PHA and the Library did research, settled on 11 sites around town, wrote and designed markers, devised a puzzle for questers to solve, and offered prizes at the Peacham Café.

Peacham has in recent years become famous for its 4th of July celebration and PHA's summer programs that began on that day. This year the town reinvented the celebration by staging spectacular fireworks that people could enjoy in safe groups. The *Peacham Pandemics Quest* was accordingly scheduled to begin a 10-day run on July 3; it was extended two more weeks by popular demand.

Part of the challenge, and the fun, of designing the Quest was figuring out how to use the village itself as a site to encourage historical imagination in the participants. Some sites were easy choices. Through Jutta Scott's work on the Civil War, we knew that more young men died of disease than in battle; we have the Civil War Monument as well as graves in the Cemetery of some who died. We also knew through earlier preparations for a Ghost Walk on the theme of village doctors and midwives that tuberculosis was a chronic deadly disease, especially during the 19th century. We knew this could be made visible by having questers locate sleeping porches added to houses to provide fresh air and by visiting the Kemble House, built by a nurse to be a summer residence for convalescing patients. Other evidence of disease needed to be evoked by engaging people's imaginations. We asked them to look across the valley where the Bayley Hazen Road followed an Abenaki trail to consider the decimation of indigenous people by European-introduced diseases. We brought questers to the less-visited Old Cemetery to notice the gravestones from the truly terrible

epidemic of 1811 that killed so many children. And we also paid tribute to the steady stream of good doctors who lived in Peacham by placing a marker in front of Dr. Luther Parker's house.

One of the real surprises for us was how few people in Peacham appeared to be victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. Assistant Town Clerk Rebecca Washington worked diligently, reading through death records from 1918-1922 and sending us scans of the only two that listed "Influenza" as cause of death, as well as a few that listed bronchial pneumonia. We became aware that other remote villages experienced the same low rate of death; we still have much to learn about what happened. We nevertheless used it as an opportunity at one of the sites of the quest to introduce the concept of herd immunity.

All in all, we welcomed the opportunity to rethink the programs we have to engage the public. The other major social upheaval of the early summer, of course, was the demonstrations around issues of racial justice and policing. Even though it may seem remote from Peacham, in fact it is not. There is much to learn about this history here, and a second quest focusing on abolition and race in Peacham is in our plans.

JOHANNA BRANSON

Special thanks to:

Peacham Library Trustees Jenny Mackenzie and Craig Harrison

Peacham Library Director Susan Smolinsky and Board Chair Gillian Sewake

PHA Board member Jutta Scott

PHA Web Designer Terry Miller

Assistant Town Clerk Rebecca Washington

Photographer Jock Gill

Pandemic *continued from page 1*

grant was awarded in June and applications are currently being accepted and due the 15th of each month. Thanks to everyone for stepping up to help!

Teachers at the Peacham Elementary School worked hard to shift as much learning as possible from the classroom to remote formats. Lessons were sent out via email and an online platform, and students and their parents were responsible for doing the school work each day at home. Poor internet connections in many parts of town were a constant problem. It was a new and very challenging experience for all. At the end of school in June the entire school staff formed a convoy and drove past every family's house to celebrate each student.

While the town was locked down, our librarian, Susan Smolinsky, worked hard to make the library's resources available to everyone. Patrons could place orders for books, puzzles, and DVDs; assistant Barbara Hegenbart made home deliveries to people unable to get to the library. The library provided free streaming services for movie and added additional resources for downloading ebooks and audiobooks. Free wi-fi was available outside the library along with outdoor seating. A Story Walk® appeared on the green opposite the fire station. Friday morning coffee hour, the book discussion group and other events continued on Zoom.

The Peacham Congregational Church provided recordings of Sunday services and on-line scripts of Reverend Sonia's weekly sermons.

Many Peacham residents whose names may never be known stepped up to help. An anonymous benefactor placed a bin filled with handmade masks in colorful fabrics outside the Post Office and refilled it as needed. People delivered gourmet meals to their homebound neighbors. Some picked up and delivered orders for their neighbors from local markets. Folks from the Congregational Church organized several food drives. Jim (Mini) Minichiello emailed a daily chuckle every morning during the lockdown and beyond it, to keep us in good spirits.

The traditional July 4th activities—the tractor parade, ghost walk, church dinner, and the rest—were put on hold. In their place, the selectboard organized a spectacular fireworks show in the field behind the fire station on the night of July 3. People parked nearby and watched the display from their cars. On the 4th we were treated to a bicycle parade, with riders, aged 3 to 12, on decorated bikes. A self-guided Quest on the theme Pandemics of the Past was organized by the Library and Peacham Historical Association. It seems likely that some of these activities may become permanent features of Peacham's July 4 celebrations in future years.

Thanks to the leadership provided by state and local government, public cooperation, and Vermont's rural culture, the effects of the pandemic have been quite small so far compared with other states, including some of our near neighbors. As of the beginning of July, Peacham had had only one possible case. The state total to date was just over 1,200 infected and 56 deaths. As in other states, the burden was not shared equally: people of color, older people, and those with serious health conditions were disproportionately affected.

Peacham's extraordinary effort to alleviate the hardships of the pandemic was recognized in an article in the June 10 issue of *Seven Days*. The cover of that



The July 4th firework display in Peacham. Photo by Jock Gill.

issue, (see page 8), features three local heroes in a familiar setting.

As of this writing in the second half of July, most of us realize that the crisis is far from over and may well get worse in the coming months. But we have good reason to believe that whatever happens will be met with the same generosity, exertion, and strength that our townspeople have already demonstrated.

JANE ALPER

Thanks to Susan Smolinsky, Beatrice Ring, Tim McKay, and Dave Edwards for their contributions, and the help and advice of PHA board members, and many others.



Free masks outside Post Office, April, 2020. Photo by Jane Alper

More photos from this article can be found on page 8.

Peacham's Forgotten "Oregon" Part 3-Southwick and Blake Family Hardships

In part one of this series, we explored the origins of Peacham School District 13, formed in 1846. It was listed as "Oregon", a word likely derived from the Algonquian words ouragon or olighin, both meaning "good and beautiful" or "beautiful river." Today this forgotten and remote school district is part of New Discovery State Park in the Groton State Forest. Because of the difficulty in traveling from the village of Peacham to this settlement, early residents aligned themselves with Groton, Cabot and Marshfield, and their story has largely been forgotten as part of Peacham's history.

In part two of this series, we examined the early settlement of Oregon by James Heath in 1825. James, Sr. and his wife Marcy led a difficult life on 100 acres in this isolated area, but did manage to acquire two more lots totaling 250 acres. These lots were cleared and farms were constructed, to be later owned by their son James, Jr. and by their daughter Mary. The family faced numerous hardships, including the sudden suicide of their eldest son, Montgomery, in 1831 at the age of 24. The family built a small cemetery near their homestead where the elder Heaths and their son Montgomery were buried. By the late 1840s, the remaining Heath family had sold the three farms and moved to Peacham village and neighboring towns.

The next group to settle in Oregon was Willard Southwick, Daniel Wooster Blake and Elijah Rickard. Willard Southwick served as the District School Payee in 1850, and Elijah Rickard was the final Payee in 1852.

Willard Southwick was born in 1809 in a family with roots in New Salem, Massachusetts. In 1838 he married Sally Hoyt of Cabot. Their first son was born in 1840, but died less than one month later. A second son was born in early 1842, and just six months later, Sally died.¹ Willard was left a widower at age 33 with an infant son.

In May of 1843, just 10 months after his first wife's death, Willard married Mariett Conant, daughter of the well-known physician Dr. Ebenezer Conant of Plainfield and Marshfield.² Willard and Marriet (aka Marietta) came to Oregon in 1847 or 1848 and leased Mary Heath's farm. The Peacham Land Records show that on July 23, 1849 Willard was able to buy the farm. The record reads: "...Mary Heath of Ryegate to Willard Southwick of Peacham for the sum of \$600, my farm in Peacham, commonly called the Heath Farm and where the same name Southwick now resides, 100 acres more or less, including the occupied premises, rent(ed) buildings and family burying ground."³

Willard and Mariett had three children together and also raised his first born son, John. By 1850, Willard became the School Payee, tasked with overseeing the administration of the District 13 School. This was an extremely remote district, far removed from other areas of Peacham. We know very little of the Southwick's life in Oregon except that they were farming; the town of Peacham taxed their land and livestock. They were listed as having a horse, eight cattle and two hogs.⁴ In February of 1852, Willard suddenly died at the age of 42.⁵ Mariett was just 34 years old and had the responsibility of running their secluded farm in the dead of winter with four young children. The oldest boy was just 10, and the other siblings were six, three-and-a-half, and nine months. We can only imagine the terrible hardships Mariett faced during this time.

Later, in 1852, two new neighbors arrived. The names J. Laird and Elijah Rickard were added to the land records. We know very little of J. Laird and only a few details about Elijah Rickard. Elijah (aka Eliager) became the School Payee in 1852 and may have been leasing land. His name was not on the Grand List until 1854 with ownership of 150 acres. Elijah's surname was likely a variant of Ricker, a prominent and industrious family associated with the lumber industry in nearby Groton. Elijah married Sally Carter in Peacham in 1813 and was listed as a farmer.⁶

In 1854 Daniel Wooster Blake arrived in Oregon. Daniel was born in 1825

in Cabot, one of 13 children.⁷ He purchased 100 acres of the original Heath farm, adjacent to Mariett Southwick, listed as lot 29, 3rd division.⁸ In April of 1855, less than a year after his arrival in Oregon, Daniel Blake married widow Mariett. They continued to farm, had a substantial homestead with 250 acres and had 3 three more children, the oldest born seven months after their marriage., Their life was disrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War. Daniel enlisted in Cabot in January of 1862 as a private in Company H, 7th Vermont Infantry.⁹ Mariett was alone again, and although her children by Willard Southwick were older, she again had three children under the age of six to raise alone. The records are not clear, but Mariett moved away from Oregon to Cabot/Walden sometime during this period.

It is worth noting that many Peacham men also enlisted into Company H in 1863. Company H was the longest serving Vermont regiment during the War, had the highest rate of re-enlistment, and lost the highest number of men due to "extreme sickness."¹⁰ Daniel Blake fought at the siege of Vicksburg.¹¹ Following this battle, large numbers of men were ravaged by yellow fever and malaria. We do not know if Daniel Blake contracted one of these diseases, but he returned home in June, 1863 on a disability discharge after serving only 18 months.¹² Tragically, Mariett's daughter Malintha Southwick died in May of 1863 at the age of 18, one month before Daniel's return. The following year, in 1864, another daughter was born. Daniel and Mariett never returned to Oregon, and just 7 years later, Mariett died at age 53.¹³

The final group of settlers to Oregon were Winchester Laird (related to J. Laird, and born in 1814), his wife Sarah Kenniston, and Francis (Edward) Loveland with his wife.¹⁴ The records hold few clues about these families except that they were listed as poor farmers. The Lovelands may have purchased the Southwick-Blake property.

One wonders what drew families to Oregon when there was ample productive land available in less isolated areas. Oregon's land was not substantially lower in price. A clue may lie in the

records of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Cabot Circuit 1828-1867.¹⁵ These records list the names of family members who joined the church and were ministered to by the local circuit rider or traveling minister. Many family members with the surnames of Heath, Laird, Kenniston, Blake and Southwick are listed.¹⁶ Perhaps they met through family members affiliated with this church, and later formed a community in Oregon. We'll never know for sure.

In the next part of this series, we will explore the end of the Oregon community and the sale of the land by the Town of Peacham to the State of Vermont.

SUSAN CHANDLER

- 1 <https://Rootsweb.com> A division of Ancestry.com. Genealogy records for Willard Southwick and Sally Hoyt. Additional information taken from the Southwick family plot, West Hill Cemetery, Cabot VT.
- 2 Hemenway, Abby Maria (collator) 1882. History of Washington County Vermont, Physicians and Lawyers.
- 3 Town of Peacham Land Records, 1849.
- 4 Town of Peacham Land Records, 1851.
- 5 <https://Rootsweb.com> A division of Ancestry.com. Genealogy records for Willard Southwick and Mariett Conant. Additional information taken from the Southwick family plot, West Hill Cemetery, Cabot VT. No information has been found regarding Willard's cause of death and his death record has not been located.
- 6 Marriage Records and Grand List, Town of Peacham
- 7 Watts, Jennie Chamberlain and Choate, Elsie A. 1965, *People of Peacham*, Vermont Historical Association. Daniel Blake is erroneously listed with a birth year of 1785. Cemetery records show his date of birth to be 1817.
- 8 Town of Peacham Land Records, 1854
- 9 Holbrook, Wm C., Col. Seventh Regiment. *The Union Army: A History of Military Affairs in the Loyal States 1861-1865*, Madison, Wisconsin: Federal Publishing Co.
- 10 *ibid.*
- 11 *ibid.*
- 12 *ibid.*
- 13 <https://Rootsweb.com> A division of Ancestry.com Additional information from the Blake family plot, South Cabot Cemetery, Cabot, Vermont.
- 14 Town of Peacham Land Records, 1857.
- 15 Vermont Vital Records, Middlesex, VT. Microfilm Reel F8530. A Record of the Methodist Episcopal Church on the Cabot Circuit 1828-1867: Cabot, Calais, Goshen Gore, Marshfield, Peacham, Walden and Woodbury.
- 16 *Ibid.*

Notice of Annual Meeting Tuesday, August 4, 2020 7:00 pm

The Peacham Historical Association will hold its 2020 Annual Meeting on Aug 4. This will be an online business meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions on social gatherings. You are welcome to attend via email or telephone. If you would like an invitation, please email Johanna Branson, branson.johanna@gmail.com or call 592-3539 and leave a message with your contact information.

Alas, no historical pies this year.

Peacham Landings and OHMS

Peacham Landings is a community-building project, led by the Peacham Library and the Peacham Historical Association, with the goal of sharing stories about what draws people to Peacham. The project began in 2019 with a series of interviews with Peacham residents to discuss how they "landed" in our town. These interviews are preserved in digital format.

In order to better utilize and share these interviews, Peacham Landings is making use of the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), a web-base system created by The Louie B Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries. OHMS provides users with a word-level search capability and an indexed interview which connects the search term to the corresponding moment in the online interview. When indexing is complete, each interview will be divided into segments with keywords indicating specific topics of the conversation. These keywords will allow users to jump to the segment of the interview where that topic is being discussed.

Work is currently underway to index each interview from the Peacham Landings Project using the OHMS tool. The indexed interviews will be made available to the public through the Peacham Historical Association website. In addition to Peacham Landings, the Historical Association has been conducting interviews for a number of years. There are many digital files available to be indexed and made accessible to the public.

TERRY MILLER

Marilyn Petrie's Memories of Life in Peacham

Editor's Note: *The following is excerpted from an oral history Marilyn Magnus recorded in 2018. I'm very grateful to Marilyn Petrie for reading my first draft and making corrections; she has greatly improved it.*

Marilyn Magnus: Please tell me your full name and your date of birth.

MP: Marilyn Astrid Hagen Petrie.
I was born Dec. 6, 1929 in Worcester Mass.

MM: Tell me about what your family was doing then.

MP: My mother, Gwendolen Somers, daughter of Lee and Carrie Somers, graduated from Peacham Academy June, 1927 along with her sister Beulah. Then they went to Worcester to attend Becker Business College. My mother attended one year then married my dad, Oscar W Hagen, who worked at American Steel and Wire in Worcester. They lived in the Worcester area until 1946 when they moved back to the farm in Peacham to help out my granddad who was aging and not able to keep it up. Mom loved farming, Daddy not so much, but with my two brothers they made a go of it for a while.

MM: Where was the farm?

MP: It's in the South Part of Peacham on the Green Bay Loop. up on the hill. My granddad, Lee Somers, bought the farm in 1913 to be close to the school which was just down the hill. The farm adjacent to it was bought by my parents in 1947, which made it one large farm. Both farms were deeded to Albert Hagen in 1956. He sold the Hagen place in the 1960's and the Somers Farm after my mother's death in 2004,

MM: Is the farm still there?

MP: The Hagen place barn was torn down by my husband at the direction of my brother Albert; then the property was sold. It was used as a summer place but remained empty for a lot of years; then some kids from Groton burned it down. The best picture of it was taken by a reporter from *The New York Times*. The Somers farm was sold to a family in Burke and the house was moved

further down past the orchard. So many memories gone.

MM: So you were born in Worcester, Mass. How long did your family live down there?

MP: About 20 years. I was a junior in high school the year we moved to Peacham.

MM: When you came here to the Academy as a junior, what did you notice that was different between being at the Academy and where you had come from?

MP: Everything was different here. It wasn't in the city and everybody was much friendlier. The size of the classes was much smaller; there were seven in my graduating class, so it was much better here.

MM: Did you feel like the teaching was similar? What did you notice about the teaching?

MP: I remember Ruth Bartlett. She married Maurice Chandler.

MM: OK, yes, I knew her as Ruth Chandler.

MP: We only had the two teachers, and the other one was Edmond Houle, who was the principal. They taught all the classes at Peacham Academy.

MM: Can you think of anything else about the school that you remember that you liked?

MP: I loved to play basketball. I enjoyed going to Howard Hebblethwaite's store at the library. He used to have ice cream and stuff; we liked to go down there.

Albert Petrie and I married right out of high school. We lived at a number of places in Peacham, Passumpsic, and Danville. Driving past this house with Father Petrie I said, I really like this house. Because I was one of his favorites, he wanted me to have it. That was in 1966, and I've been here ever since. Albert did a number of jobs and eventually got into road construction when they began building the interstates in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

MM: Was your husband still in the same line of work when you moved here?

MP: Yes, but he died in 1991.

MM: And then you stayed here, by yourself?

MP: Yes, I'm very independent.

MM: What I remember about you when I first came here was, somebody would say if you want wallpapering done, you were the person to call.

MP: Oh yes, I did that for about 40 years, mostly after moving here.

MM: How did you get started in it?

MP: When we lived at Mother Petrie's, she used to do her own papering, so I decided I could probably do it, too. I got practice at the different places we lived.

MM: Didn't you paint at the church down here?

MP: Yes, I did. The Women's Fellowship hired me to paint the big dining hall. You know, those windows are very high; I had to use 10-foot ladders. It was a big job.

MM: Tell me some other places in town that you did.

MP: I worked all over the place. I think the first place I papered—Pat Kempton wanted a room papered for one of her daughters so I did it. Then of course other people found out about it so it went on from there. Even now I can go driving over many of the back roads and remember I worked at many of those places.

MM: Where did you get your paper supplies?

MP: I did a lot of business with Ellis's Paint & Wallpaper. I did so much business with them that Derwood would say, why don't you just get what you want and make out your own slip. Most people I worked for picked out and ordered their own paper. But I didn't buy the paper for anybody. I just told them where to get the best deals.

MM: You obviously are also an artist. You probably did that painting right there.

MP: Yes.

MM: When did you get started doing this? How did you learn?

MP: Horace Gilmore had an art studio right down the road. I always liked to draw so I started going down there to classes. That's when my husband was

living. He didn't like it at first because we always did things together, but when he saw my first painting he really approved. He wanted me to keep going.

MM: So that would have been in the 70s?

MP: Yes, I think so

MM: What other paintings did you do? Did you do them for friends or relatives?

MP: Yes, I did. I have paintings all over the place. And then some people wanted to hire me so I did it on consignment. I have albums with all my paintings in them. And the Historical Society had an exhibit one year. I took my paintings there.

MM: Are you still finding the time to do it now?

MP: No I'm not. My daughters say, well, winter time, don't you think you could get back to painting?

MM: You have to be in the mood.

MP: Yes. And I was more in the mood when I was in art class. When you're in art class, different people would make comments about the painting like "Don't you think that would look better if you did this or that?" Especially Hertha Forrai; I liked her advice. She was amazing. They had horses down there on the farm and she did a painting of this horse's head. She wanted to do another painting and she just turned that painting around and did another painting right over the horse's head, a completely different painting.

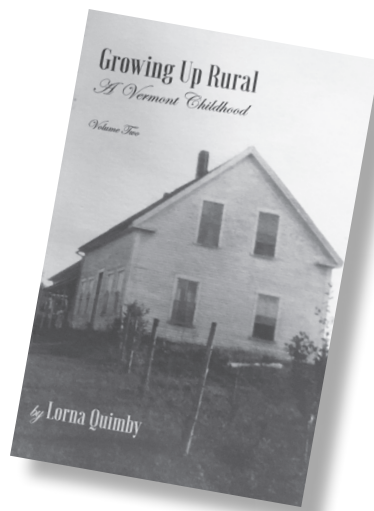
MM: How long did you go to the classes there?

MP: A few years, then Helen Gilmore died and then Horace wasn't really able and he needed help and people to be with him around the clock. Joan Blankenship headed it up and she stayed with him some and somebody had to be there at night too, and sometimes I was there, Candy Crocker, I can't remember the different ones that came to stay with him until he died.

MM: Do you go to church or did you go to church in this town?

MP: No. I went to Groton Baptist, where I still go. I've been there for years.

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Memories of Life on a Peacham Farm

Lorna Quimby's two-volume memoir, *Growing Up Rural: A Vermont Childhood*, has just been published. Based on her columns in the *North Star Monthly* from 1995 to 2019, the book tells the story of Lorna's childhood on her family's farm in South Peacham. Readers of her columns will be familiar with her lucid writing style, warmth, and humor. Reading it is sheer delight. In addition to many photos of the farm and the family, the book is filled with charming line drawings by Lorna herself.

Order it by sending \$25.02 along with your address to Lorna Quimby, PO Box 2, Peacham, VT 05862. The price includes mailing.

Letter to editor:

I was delighted to read about Yutaka Minakuchi, particularly since Father relished telling of the occasion when he and the minister and several others were enjoying cocktails & talking about Peacham's virtues & one of the other guests announced that "Peacham's a thoroughly broad-minded community . . . as witness (with a large gesture of inclusion) this gentleman!" Father saw it as cringe-worthy but also as representing a kind of bucolic naiveté & even generosity that he cherished & told the story perhaps a little TOO frequently!

Hilary Smith

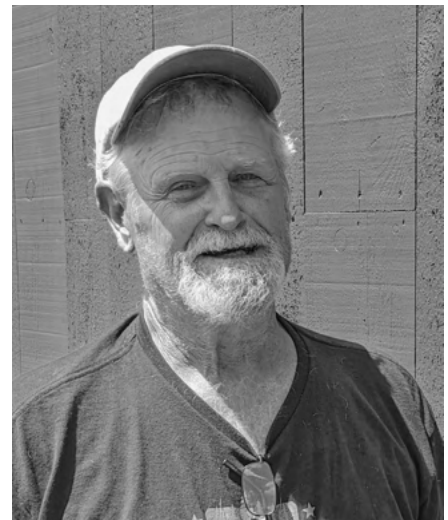
Archives and Research Center Repainted

Completed in 2015, the Lorna Field Quimby Archive and Research Center (ARC), protects Peacham Historical Association's (PHA's) remarkable array of manuscripts, archives, photographs, textiles and art objects that tell Peacham's story from its settlement in 1776 to the present.

The PHA Board is committed to preserve Peacham's historical collections and to ensure the maintenance of this building. Peacham's weather poses a continuous challenge to any building. After five years of sun exposure and natural aging of the wood siding, the building needed restaining on the three sides most exposed to weather. A noticeable problem was the loss of paint on the knots in the pine boards. Knots are more resinous, and over the five years sap leached out and caused peeling.

In June, the Peacham Historical Association contracted with David Stauffer to repaint the south, west, and north sides of the building. Over the course of several dry days in June, David sealed the knots in the pine boards with oil-based primer and then applied a new coat of stain. The work was completed in late June, and the building looks splendid with its new coat of solid red stain.

JUTTA SCOTT



Dave Stauffer in front of the restained ARC.
Photo by Jock Gill.

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Editor: Jane Alper
Contributors: Jane Alper, Johanna
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Terry Miller, Susan Smolinsky,
Jock Gill.
Design: Joanna Bodenweber

KEEP UP WITH PHA!
peachamhistorical.org

Petrie *continued from page 7*

MM: Where's the Baptist church in Groton?

MP: You go down Minard Hill. It's just to the left on the other side.

MM: So you've gone up and down Minard Hill all these years? You're a brave soul.

MP: Well it depends on what car you've got. I did have a station wagon at one time. I was going down the hill and it started sliding and it slid into a neigh-

bor's driveway, over the bank and into the driveway on the left side. That was scary. I have learned to have studded tires, go in low gear and press the clutch so you're not getting any push, and use the brake very tenderly, and it works.

MM: Well, can you think of anything else about Peacham that you want to say?

MP: I'm glad my mother wanted to come to Vermont, to Peacham. I would not want to be down where we were from.

More images from Peacham in the Pandemic

Remember wishing the weekend would last forever? Happy now?!?!

One of the "daily chuckles" shared by Jim Minichiello.



Signs in Peacham village show support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Photo by Jock Gill.



The June 10 issue of *Seven Days* with Mel Reis, Andrea Kane, and Neil Monteith on the cover.