

GL VER HISTORY

Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past
1783-2001

Vol. 10, No. 2

Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Summer 2001

A Tribute to Wayne Alexander

This issue of the Glover Historical Society newsletter is dedicated to the fond memory of Wayne Alexander. For the last six years he has been not only the president, but the moving force, the thorn in our side to get us off our butts and get stuff done in the good name of preserving local history. It got to a point at monthly meetings that every-

one was afraid to suggest a new project only to hear Wayne say, "That's a great idea. Why don't you do it and let us know how it goes." He was not one to just pass tasks on to others,

however. He was always out measuring the roads with Bob Clark, or hiking to document old cellar holes, or sprucing up some cemetery or another. He was definitely a man of action and carried more than his part of the load. While I'm sure he ruffled more than a few feathers in our town, his results were and are impressive.

My first "working relationship" with Wayne was doing the video histories of local residents. I was always impressed with his ability to convince people that they "did have a valuable story to tell" and arrange for him and me and Peggy Day Gibson to descend on their



homes, equipment in hand, and allow us to ask all of these really personal questions about their past. Of course, Wayne, like a good attorney, already knew the answers to most all of the questions we asked, it seemed. But he had a wonderful way of bringing out the personal perspective from these friends and neighbors, giving life to the stories that are this town's heritage. As his daughter Julie said, Wayne understood that each of us is like a library full of knowledge and stories and it would be a damn shame if we didn't try to save as much as we could of it. Certainly there are lots of artifacts out there and many have been collected in our museum above the Town Clerk's office. But it is the stories of the people that used or made those artifacts that make them all so special.

I will miss Wayne, not only for his hard work and his honest straightforward approach to leading us down the sometimes rocky road of history, but also for his infectious passion for life and all that we can learn from it.

—Randy Williams

The Glover Historical Society acknowledges with thanks the many contributions which the Society has received in memory of our beloved President Wayne Alexander. The donations are still arriving in the mail, but as of the date this issue went to press the total was in excess of \$4,500, providing a fitting memorial to Wayne who served as President for six years and held the Society close to his heart. Individual acknowledgments are being mailed to all donors.

Inside: Read about Wayne Alexander & Glover History, Pioneer Day Camp, GHS at Vermont Expo 2001 and Warning for the Glover Historical Society Annual Meeting!

OBITUARY: Wayne Henry Alexander

Wayne Henry Alexander, 74, died May 15, 2001, at his home in Glover, surrounded by all his family after living with cancer for over a decade.

Mr. Alexander was born May 20, 1926, and raised on a farm in Glover, the third of six children of Joseph W. and Mary (Stone) Alexander. His grandparents were Edwin L. and Francena (Aldrich) Alexander and also Henry E. and Blanche (Hyde) Stone, all of Glover. He attended Glover Village School, Barton Academy, and Coyne Electrical in Chicago. He worked during high school (the war years) at Urie's Garage, later at Webster Motors, and then at the Corner Garage in St. Johnsbury.

On July 21, 1951, at Saint Aloysius Church in Saint Johnsbury, he married Martha Lena Perron, also of Glover, the daughter of Ernest J. and Maria L. (Gagnon) Perron. At that time they moved to Chittenden County, where he was employed by General Electric Company as an instrumentalist for 36 years, and lived in Jericho for 34 years. It was here that their family was born and raised.

He is survived by his wife, Martha, and by their 11 children: Joan Francena Alexander of Glover; Edwin Elijah Alexander and his wife, Susan (Turcotte), and their boys Tyler and Matthew, all of Richmond; Lisa Maria Rothman and her husband, Dan, and their girls Sara, Emily, and Anna, all of New Boston, New Hampshire; Cedric Ernest Alexander and his wife, Susan (Slocum), and their children Calvin and Lillian, all of Cabot; Laura Mary McGillicuddy and her husband, the Reverend Terrence McGillicuddy, and their children Caitrin, Conor, and Maura, all of Plymouth, Massachusetts; Martha 'A' Alexander and her husband, Chris Graves, and their children Eliza, Addison, and Alexandra, all of Richmond; Mary 'B' Peet (fraternal twin of Martha) and her husband, Danny, and their children Jesse and Rachel Haven and Jacob Peet, all of Richmond; Paul George Alexander and his wife, Lesley (Chandler), and their daughters Chelsea and Lauren of Waterbury Center; Peter Mark Alexander (identical twin of Paul) and his wife, Jeanne (Allendorf), and their daughters Catherine and Elizabeth of Derby; Wesley Wayne Alexander and his wife, Darlene (Oxton), of Glover; and Julie Louise Alexander of Washington, D.C.

He is also survived by his three sisters: Eleanor (Alexander) Jacobson and her husband, Richard, of South Burlington, Elaine (Alexander) Urie and her husband, Bernard, of West Glover, and Rebecca (Alexander) Munson of Colchester; by two sisters-in-law, Pearl (Whalen) Alexander of Cabot and Lorraine (McClary) Alexander of Vernon; and by 19 nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, and by his two brothers, Joseph Warren and Richard Edwin.

He was especially pleased and proud of his wife, children, and grandchildren; they enjoyed many happy family gatherings. He was a selectman in Jericho for 12 years, Mount Mansfield Union School director for 15 years, and he served many years as justice of the peace.

In 1989 after retirement, he and Martha sold "Steeplebush Hill" in Jericho and built "Elijah's Place" in Glover, where he continued with his many special interests, some of which were hunting, fishing, gardening, wildlife, forestry, photography, music, electronics, machinery, computers, cellar holes, Vermont and local history, and as you may have surmised by now, genealogy!

He wrote and published two family genealogies and belonged to many state and local historical and genealogical societies. As a true "graveyard aficionado" and active member of Vermont Old Cemetery Association, he inspected many of the cemeteries in Vermont, published the "VOCA-NEWS" for a few years, and helped a little with *Burial Grounds of Vermont*.

You see I was a "small potato who didn't amount to much," but I wrote my own obituary!

Mr. Alexander wrote this obituary in 1990 when he was first diagnosed with prostate cancer. In the years since, he accomplished much and enjoyed life, handling each new challenge of his illness with remarkable grace and spirit.

This month, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Vermont Historical Society, recognizing his accomplishments in documenting local history. As president of Glover Historical Society for the past six years, he researched and compiled several publications, including Runaway Pond: The Complete Story, and he spearheaded the relocation of the Runaway Pond monument as well as the creation of Runaway Pond Park in Glover.

Of all his accomplishments, none was more meaningful or dear to him than helping his sons and grandsons build a new deer camp in Wheelock last year. It replaced the family deer camp from where he had always hunted, built by his own father in 1921.

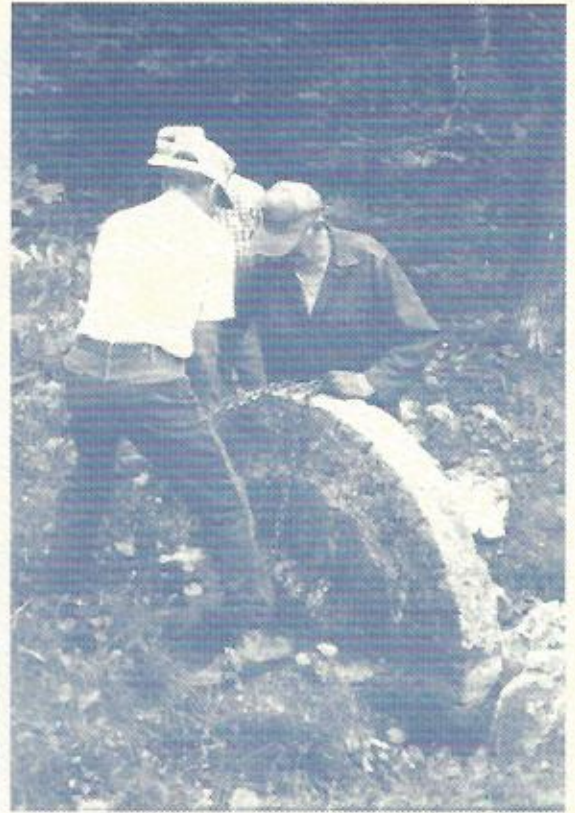
His wit, curiosity, wisdom, caring, and enthusiasm will long be remembered. He will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Mr. Alexander's memory to Glover Historical Society, 1225 Perron Hill, Glover, Vermont 05839.

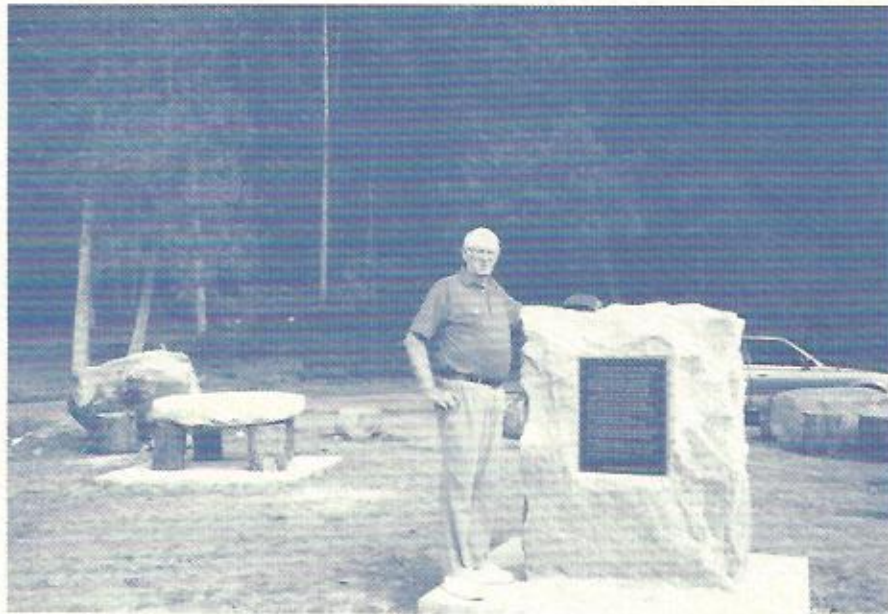
Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Church in Barton on Saturday, May 19. Interment followed at Westlook Cemetery in Glover.

Arrangements are by Converse-Rushford Funeral Home.

— from *the Chronicle*, May 23, 2001



Wayne was the driving force behind the creation of Runaway Pond Park in 1996.



Wayne Alexander Honored for a Lifetime of Achievement

by Peggy Day Gibson, *the Chronicle*, May 9, 2001

RUTLAND—The Vermont Historical Society presented an Individual Award to Wayne Alexander of Glover for his lifetime body of work at its annual meeting on Saturday.

Due to failing health Mr. Alexander was not able to be there, but his son Edwin, second oldest of 11 children, accepted the award for him, with a speech in the Alexander style that would have made his father proud. The assembled members of local historical societies from around the state marveled at the wealth of Mr. Alexander's accomplishments in historic research and preservation, and were impressed that over 80 people had signed a petition nominating him for the award, including someone named "Uncle Ed."

Mr. Alexander grew up in Glover and married a Glover girl, Martha Perron, one of a family of 16 children. They moved to Jericho, where they raised their family, and Mr. Alexander worked at General Electric as an instrumentation analyst for 37 years. While in Jericho Mr. Alexander was active in the local historical society, as well as researching the family genealogy. As a member of Vermont Old Cemetery Association, he has been instrumental in documenting and preserving old cemeteries.

Upon his retirement, he and Martha moved back to Glover in 1989 and built a house on Perron Hill. He became an active member of Glover Historical Society and served as vice president and winter interim president until 1995, when with the passing of



Wayne Alexander is pictured in the summer of 1995 surveying the old granite monument for Runaway Pond erected near the road for the extravagant centennial celebration of the event in 1910. Since then the road was widened and paved, cars sped past without seeing it, and it was in danger of being hit by the snowplow. By the next summer he had organized and completed the project to move the monument across the road where people could stop to see it and learn the story of Runaway Pond.

Photo by Peggy Day Gibson

president Ruth Evans, he assumed full-time leadership.

He was the driving force in the videotaping of over 50 oral histories of the older residents of the area, a

project begun in the early 1990s, which documented a lifestyle that has disappeared. Mr. Alexander spearheaded the Runaway Pond Park project, which culminated in 1996 with the moving of the old granite marker from the side of Route 16 to the rest area across the road, with a new plaque telling the story, old grindstones set up as picnic tables, and piped-in spring water as well as a buried time capsule. In recent years he has thrown his considerable energy into gathering and publishing historical records, censuses, and genealogies.

Through the years, for the fun of it, he has pursued the elusive Vermont catamount, following leads on tracks and sightings with his trusty video camera. In 1994 he went with his sons Peter and Paul to a reported sighting in Craftsbury. They were able to collect a sample of catamount scat, which he stored in a plastic bag in Martha's freezer until it could be sent to the state for positive identification. He is on record for proving that there are still catamounts in Vermont.

He has enjoyed every minute of it. In recognizing his lifetime body of work, Vermont Historical Society honored him with an Individual Award reserved for those people who have contributed the most to researching and preserving the history of the state of Vermont.

Betsy Day transcribed below the last five minutes of the awards presentation so that you can all experience the joy and the humor of the moment. At some point in the future, the video will be aired on Public Access TV in the respective towns whose historical societies received awards that day.

Patty Wiley: (Head of VT Historical Local Societies Awards Committee)

“The last award today, but by no means the least, is to be presented in the individual’s category to Wayne Alexander of the Glover Historical Society and his award today is also an award for a lifetime of outstanding contribution to his local historical society and community. I need to start out by telling you that our awards committee received literally a carton of nominating information and glowing recommendations about Wayne from members of the Glover Historical Society and from the entire community of Glover. There is an incredible groundswell of support for this man and respect for his lifelong efforts toward the advancement and study of local history in Glover. We received a petition from the citizens of the Town of Glover recommending him for this award. The petition has over 80 names on it including a signature from someone named Uncle Ed....

“We received from his daughter a huge notebook with a collection of some of his work including family genealogies, publications, and cemetery projects. We also received another packet documenting some of his work during the last ten years while he has been president of the Glover Historical Society. He commandeered the Runaway Pond Project. He has produced over 50 oral history videos.

“Betsy Day, trustee of the Glover Historical Society, wrote in the nominating packet, ‘Please understand that these are only a sampling of the myriad of projects that Wayne has inspired over the years. We could not possibly convey to you the immensity of his extensive body of work.’ After having read through the entire packet, I think I now have at least some idea of what Betsy was talking about.

“Wayne, unfortunately, is also in very ill health and is unable to be with us here today, but I believe that his proud son, Edwin Alexander, is here today to accept the award on his behalf.”

Edwin Alexander:

“....I have just a few words. The part about me being proud, that certainly is true. I’m one of Wayne’s children. I’m his oldest son. I’m a school teacher. I wish I

could tell you I was a history teacher but it didn’t work out that way. I’m a math teacher. But, my mom and dad have 11 children. I’m the oldest son. And we got to talking about this award; when we heard that he was winning a lifetime achievement award, many of my siblings thought probably my mother ought to get one also. Don’t you think? And also, when Dad became the president of the Glover Historical Society, he got many pats on the back from the folks in the society because suddenly the membership of the ranks swelled dramatically. I don’t think they realized he signed up all his children to become members. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Vermont Historical Society for this wonderful award and also to Betsy Day Williams and Peggy Day from the Glover Historical Society.

“My father would very much have loved to be here to accept this award today but he is unfortunately in the advanced stages of prostate cancer and couldn’t make it, but luckily we have it on film so he’ll get a chance to watch it. I see Keith Briggs out there in the audience from Richmond who worked with my father for many years forming the Mt. Mansfield Union School District, so ‘Hello, Keith.’

“I guess that’s all I have to say. I think they must’ve known I was a little bit verbose or else they were worried my father was really going to show up because I would have thought in the individual awards, Alexander would have come first. I’ve noticed they’ve put us last, hoping that maybe lunchtime was upon us. So, thank you all you wonderful people. I know this is going to mean a great deal to my father, and this one’s for you, Dad.”

Patty Wiley:

“Thank you very much. We did actually put you last just for that very reason. I would like to have another round of applause. We had 13 winners today and we had some other wonderful entries and I would like to congratulate everybody who nominated people and who nominated entries and others of you who I know also have fabulous projects out there and hopefully this will inspire you to nominate someone in your group or nominate projects for next year, so thanks again to everybody.”



Members of GHS, Wayne Alexander, Betty Putney and Jean Borland fill the time capsule that was buried in the Runaway Pond monument's foundation.

The following excerpts are from the Chronicle: "Profile – Wayne Alexander," by Bethany M. Dunbar, October 9, 1991, and "Catamounts," by Tena Starr, September 21, 1994.

Wayne Alexander on . . . *doing oral histories*

...Mr. Alexander is a tall, rangy man with a thick shock of white hair. He speaks with a fairly thick Vermont accent and seems to be cheerful about almost everything, even the formidable task he has set himself and the fact that lots of people aren't as interested in it as he is. Sometimes he can't even convince older townspeople to let him interview them on tape.

"Some people say, 'I don't know enough.' They think I'm going to give them a quiz," he said with a laugh. Some of the older people he's interviewed have never seen their own tape because they don't have a VCR. These small stumbling blocks don't bother Mr. Alexander, however. He shrugs and says most people don't think about family histories until they get older. Then they start asking their parents questions, if the parents are still around.

"Damn fools that we are, we don't do that when our grandparents are around," he said, shaking his head. Even if the families aren't interested in the videos he's making right now, he figures they will be later. The tapes should have a pretty good shelf life.

Mr. Alexander is doing the videotapes for the Glover Historical Society. He and Randy Williams and Peggy Day Gibson started the task. The other two turned out to have less time to devote than Mr. Alexander, so he

has been doing a lot of it himself.

"I've got the equipment and the time, so I offered to videotape the people. They spit out probably 50 names," he said. So far, he's taped about 30 people. Those people and others have come up with more suggestions of people to tape.

"My list is still sitting at about 50 even though I've done 30," he said.

...Since he had the video camera, the only real cash outlay that had to be made was for blank videotapes. In order to pay for those, the society charges \$10 apiece for copies of the finished interview tapes. Talking to older people is a lot of fun, Mr. Alexander said, because he finds out about how Glover used to be.

...Often he'll show a still photograph of a building or place someone is describing, on the end of an interview tape. He said that seems to add some interest. Mr. Alexander knows a lot about how things were in Glover from personal experience.

"I was raised without electricity, and without telephone and without automobile, and walked to school," he said. "'Course during the Depression, we had some stories of people, all they ate is salt pork, salt pork, salt pork."

studying cellar holes

...Mr. Alexander has been interested in genealogy for 20 years. He has been an active member of the Vermont Old Cemeteries Association, and he edited its newsletter for four years. The cellar hole project sprung from all these interests, and it has kept him busy over the summer. Videotaping has been put on hold until winter while he pursued that interest.

He started looking for cellar holes in Wheelock, where his deer camp is located, and he went so far as to put up some plaques on old foundations. He's afraid many of these sites will be lost when people are logging

tracking the catamounts

Yes, there are mountain lions in Vermont.

At least there were three in Craftsbury in early April. And district wildlife biologist Cedric Alexander [one of Wayne's sons], who is a walking, talking encyclopedia on the subject of catamounts in Vermont, is confident that there are more and probably have been for some time.

Theoretically, catamounts vanished from Vermont more than 100 years ago—in 1881, many believe, when the last one was assumed to have been shot in Barnard.

But, Mr. Alexander said, sightings have been reported for decades. And he, at least, has been convinced that many came from reliable sources.

Still, state biologists have not had firm proof that the catamount lives in Vermont—until this month that is. Mark Walker saw the three mountain lions, also called cougars, catamounts and panthers, at his mother's Craftsbury home on April 2 while he was dumping suet, meat scraps and bird seed out behind the house.

"He got a real good look at them," Mr. Alexander said. Lots of people claim they have seen mountain lions, and they probably have.

"In this case, my aunt, Elaine Urie of West Glover, heard the report of catamounts in Craftsbury on Saturday morning over the scanner," Mr. Alexander said. "The dispatcher was trying to reach the warden or whatever.... So my aunt called my father and he called the Derby [State Police] barracks and asked about the report."

The police in Derby knew nothing about it so Wayne Alexander, Cedric's father, called State Police in St. Johnsbury. They gave him the name and number of the fellow who had seen the catamounts.

and dig them up with heavy equipment, making roads or landing sites.

"They can obliterate cellar holes in a minute," he said. "I get kind of sentimental to see all the work those settlers put in."

He has tracked down many of Glover's cellar holes through use of two historical atlases, the 1878 *Beers Atlas*, and the 1859 *Wallings Atlas*. It makes kind of a fun afternoon, looking for old cellar holes, he said. When he finds them, he writes out a careful description of where they are—more specifically than is listed on the maps—and what kind of shape they're in....

Tracking the catamount has become something of a family endeavor for the Alexanders. When Wayne... became interested, he began to videotape the stories of those who claimed to have seen the big cats.

On this day in April, Cedric's twin brothers, Peter and Paul, were at their father's house in Glover and willing to go along in search of the mountain lions.

"So they all went over and videotaped the guy's story and then they went to look for tracks," Cedric said. "But it was ten degrees Fahrenheit that morning, so there were no real good impressions."

Wayne and a second man eventually decided to turn back, but Peter and Paul continued on the trail for about an hour. "Then they came across this scat," Mr. Alexander said.

Of course they didn't have a container for it, so they scooped it into the box that normally held camera batteries. "The scat that was collected by my father and brothers was stored in my mother's freezer while I was trying to find out who would be willing to analyze it free of charge," Cedric said.

A scientist at the state's forensic crime lab agreed to do the analysis but warned Mr. Alexander that since it was not a criminal case, it would not receive top priority.

He received word just this month that the analysis was completed. The results provided the first concrete proof in decades that catamounts live in Vermont. "They definitely found mountain lion hair in the scat; the hair is ingested while they groom themselves," Mr. Alexander said. "That's the same manner in which the presence of a mountain lion was confirmed in New Brunswick in 1993."...

Glover Man Writes the Complete Runaway Pond Story

Reviewed by Bethany M. Dunbar, from *the Chronicle*, May 16, 2001.

Runaway Pond: The Complete Story; A Compilation of Resources by Wayne Alexander. Published by Glover Historical Society in Glover, Vermont. Printed by The Little House Desktop Publishing. Large format, softcover, \$20.

The legend of Runaway Pond is well known. *Runaway Pond: The Complete Story* is a fascinating look at the actual event—the facts that underlie the legend. Wayne Alexander has done quite a service by gathering up original documents and putting them together. The reader gets a sense of the overwhelming magnitude of the event itself, its aftermath, and the wide variety of accounts.

Amazingly, it is not established with absolute certainty exactly who ran ahead of the flood and whom the runner was warning. In fact, one of the most intriguing aspects of this book are the questions raised within.

History is, after all, a story. By its nature it has imperfections.

What is known with certainty is that a group of men who wanted more water for Aaron Willson's mill decided on June 6, 1810, to carry out a plan. The plan was to dig a trench at the north end of Long Pond to let some water

flow into the Barton River. Before the incident, the water flowed south to the Lamoille River.

It turned out that the hillside that was holding back the pond (about 100 feet deep) was made mostly of quicksand, with a thin layer of "hardpan" holding the water back.

"The fracture, to use the sprightly language of my principal informant, one of the individuals concerned in letting off the water, resembled frozen gravel," wrote the Reverend S. Edwards Dwight, who traveled to the site 13 years after the flood and wrote a long piece about his findings.

Once the trench was dug, the water started to sink through the quicksand below.

"The pond emptied completely in about one and one-half hours," wrote Mr. Alexander in a summary at the beginning of the book.

Miraculously, none of the workers was killed. Spencer Chamberlain, who it was noted was half Native American, is largely credited with running ahead of the flood waters to warn the mill attendant.

"There are geological puzzles and human ones," wrote the editors, the folks at The Little House Desktop Publishing of West Glover. "Why did this particular pond run away, and only this one?"

Apparently there was an attempt to let out a pond in Bath, New Hampshire, "for a day of fun, an amusement



According to Wayne Alexander, family legend claimed his great-great-great-grandfather, Elijah Stone, took the last shovelful of dirt at the letting of Runaway Pond. This photo was taken when Wayne was probably still a teenager. Even then Runaway Pond was an important part of his life.

in seeing the water run," but the level of that pond was only dropped by 18 inches.

"Who was the hero that long ago day in 1810—Spencer Chamberlain or Solomon Dorr? Perhaps both of them ran. Did they both reach the mill? How lively did this dispute become in Glover in the years after Runaway Pond? Did it reflect other personal or social divisions in the community?"

Most accounts say that Spencer Chamberlain was the runner. In an account by E.T. Wilson of Barton in 1890, he is described as follows:

"He was a young man in the very prime of his life and strength, 25 years old, over six feet tall straight as an arrow, a great wrestler and runner, in which capacity he had no equal among the settlers far and near. Quickly throwing off his jacket he sprang, it is said, over a fallen tree fully five feet from the ground and disappeared into the forest."

According to this account, Mr. Chamberlain ran around the flood waters in order to get ahead of them. He stopped at a house along the way for a drink of whiskey, before finally reaching the mill, seizing the miller's wife so he could "literally drag her up the hill to the high bank."

An account written by Judge Parker of Coventry in 1875 credits Solomon Dorr instead. In this account, Mr. Dorr ran ahead of the floodwaters to warn a man who was using the mill at the time.

"Mr. Dorr started and ran at his utmost speed through the woods, got ahead of the flood, and stimulated by the noble incentive of saving the life of his neighbor, he taxed his powers to the utmost and did not flag in the race of some four miles, but gained the mill, dove down the bank by the shortest way, and with a motion and a whisper, for he could not speak loud, started the man, when they both scrambled up the bank to a place of refuge just in time to see the moving battery of trees and water strike the mill on the roof and put it out of sight."

Anyone who has wondered how someone could run ahead of a flood might better understand the concept after reading some of the descriptions of this particular flood. The flood was not only water, but trees, branches, dirt, and rocks.

"An inhabitant of Barton, who was standing at the time on a high ground, told me, that, hearing the noise, he looked up the stream and saw the flood marching rapidly forward, opening itself a path through the valley, and bearing a moving forest on its very top; so that those who were with him gave the alarm, that the forest from Glover was coming down upon Barton."

... The book also includes details of a lawsuit that arose from damages created by the flood. It covers all documents from the realm of court to that of literature.

Among the most interesting parts of this book are the poems, long ballads of the story of Runaway Pond. One is by Spencer Chamberlain's daughter, Jeannette Chamberlain Phillips. The other is by Harry Alonzo Phillips, Spencer Chamberlain's great-grandson. It is called, "History of Glover and Runaway Pond." What follows is an excerpt:

Beautiful lakelet with silvery wave,
Prayers are now futile thy waters to save:
Led beyond human or spiritual control,
Soon must thy liquid make dash for its goal;
Lake of the northland, how sad is thy fate!
Errors prove fatal discovered too late:
Barriers are broken, thy bonds are cut free,
Soon, lashed to fury, must race to the sea;
Soon must thy mirror reflecting the hills,
Bright ripples dancing like gay daffodils—
Charms of thy bosom, thy nautical world,
Down the long valley in madness be hurled.
Gem of the mountains—of woodlands so wild,
Peacefully sleeping, an innocent child
Cradled in emerald, and blue as the sky:
Soft winds are kissing thy waters—good-by.

Runaway Pond: The Complete Story is a wonderful new resource for anyone with a bit of curiosity about the information behind the commonly heard tale.

The book can be purchased for \$20 plus \$2 postage and handling by writing to Martha Alexander, Treasurer, Glover Historical Society, 1225 Perron Hill, Glover, Vermont 05839. Checks should be made out to the society. The book can also be purchased on-site at the Old Stone House Museum gift shop and at the Glover Town Clerk's office.

Glover Historical Society at Vermont Expo 2001

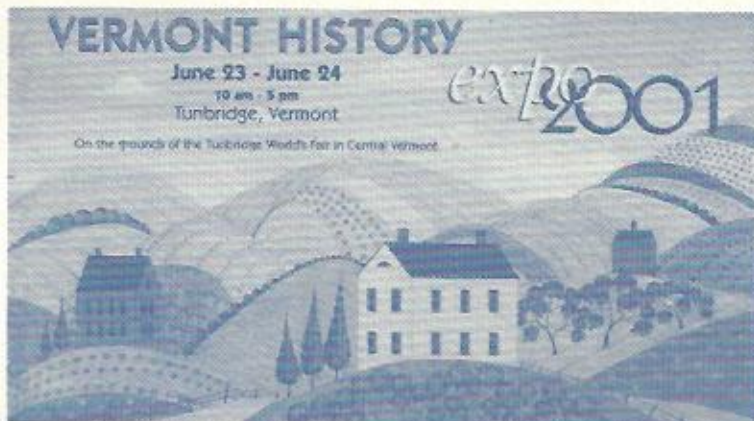
The Glover Historical Society will commemorate the story of Runaway Pond 1810 at the Vermont History Expo 2001 in Tunbridge, Vermont June 23-24. The Society will also make available for sale a plethora of GHS publications, including *Runaway Pond*, compiled by Wayne Alexander. (See review on pages 8-9.)

In Vermont's 251 towns and cities, local history is kept alive by small bands of organized volunteers—the membership of Vermont's 170-plus local historical societies. Once a year, their collective efforts are showcased in a statewide exposition dedicated to the celebration of Vermont's rich heritage.

Now in its second year, the Vermont History Expo has been selected by the Vermont State Chamber of Commerce as one of the "Top Ten Summer Events." The event will be held on the grounds of the Tunbridge World's Fair, a Vermont treasure in its own right.

Ninety-eight local historical societies, from every corner of the state, have accepted an invitation from the Vermont Historical Society to participate in the Vermont History Expo 2001. Using artifacts, documents, and

photographs from their collections, the societies will create unique exhibits that "tell an important story about their community." They will be joined by 26 of Vermont's major museums and heritage attractions.



Civil and Revolutionary War buffs will not want to miss the fully replicated encampments set up on the grounds, complete with tents, flags, cook fires, equipment, and uniformed soldiers engaged in the daily activities of the time. For those interested in tracing their

family's history, there will be a Genealogy Resource Center. Some of Vermont's outstanding traditional crafts people will exhibit, demonstrate, and sell their products in a juried show with a Silent Auction. Twelve Vermont authors will be on hand to sign their latest books.

Daily admission costs are adults \$5 and children and students (6-18 yrs.) \$3. Children 5 yrs. and under are admitted free. There is a 20% discount for groups of 20 or more.

For information call the Vermont Historical Society at (802) 828-2291.

The Historical Society Presents "Reading Old Cemeteries"

In coordination with the Glover Pioneer Day Camp (see next page) and with the Glover Historical Society's cemetery documentation and publication project, the Glover Historical Society is hosting a slide presentation and lecture on Sunday evening, June 24, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. at the Glover Town Hall. The speaker is Andersen Thorp from South Strafford, Vermont. She is a member of the Vermont Old Cemetery

Association, a co-author of *Stones and Bones* and also the president of the Justin A. Morrill Homestead Society. Her topic on Sunday evening will be "Reading Old Cemeteries and Making Grave Rubbings."

She will also be accompanying campers on Monday morning to the old cemetery at Keene Corners, and will teach them the proper way to make grave rubbings and will help

us learn to read and document the graves and to respect the value of the old cemeteries. It promises to be an interesting and enlightening experience. Everybody is welcome.

This lecture is the first in a series of lectures that the historical society hopes to present during the summer on topics of local historical interest and importance. Look for posters and details of upcoming events.

Glover Pioneer Camp

by Peggy Day Gibson

Glover Pioneer Camp will once again be held the last week of June, starting on Monday the 25th and ending on Friday the 29th with our annual celebration and cookout up at the Parker Settlement. Everyone is invited to come at noon on Friday to enjoy the festivities, see what the kids have been making in their focus groups, and watch demonstrations of traditional skills.

We are planning to enlarge and improve our lashed thatched hut near the fire pit, and intend to raise a big new A-frame roof during the party.

The camp will begin at 9:00 each morning at the West Glover Church. We will end up at the Parker Settlement each afternoon, and finish the day with a swim in Parker Pond from Gary and Gail Lyman's lot at the end of the Settlement driveway.

This will be the fifth year that the Glover Public Library has put on Pioneer Camp. This year we received a \$3,000 grant from the Orleans-Essex Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, with money that they are distributing from the state tobacco settlement. That's over twice the size of our usual funding.

It will enable us to purchase some of the books that we have been borrowing for years, and have money to spend on supplies and salaries. We will also be able to rent a school bus for three days to transport the whole group to other parts of town. Sheila Butler, mother of two campers, has volunteered to drive the bus.

On Monday we are planning to travel up to the old Keene Corners cemetery on Dexter Mountain.

Andersen Thorp from the Vermont Old Cemetery Association is coming to teach the children about gravestone lore and show them the proper way to make gravestone rubbings. We then plan to hike the old path toward Rte 122, and the Bread and Puppet Farm, where Elka Schumann is going to greet us dressed like Daisy Dopp. Daisy farmed the place with her husband Jim, and wrote many stories about life here in the early 1900s.

On Tuesday we will travel to Runaway Pond, stopping at the park to see the monument and visualize the fact that 200 years ago we would have been standing at the bottom of a deep lake.

On Wednesday, we plan to take our annual hike up to the top of Lone Tree Hill. It is a great vantage point from which to view West Glover Village and the surrounding area. We will take maps, compasses and binoculars, and of course our picnic lunches.

On Thursday we will board the bus to Coventry to see Fred Webster's extensive collection of farm equipment and old tools. He has plenty to show us, and no lack of stories.

One of the major activities of Pioneer Camp is to let the children meet some of the town's older folks. We have been collecting oral histories on a tape recorder for a couple of years. Many of the people we have interviewed have been pleasantly surprised by the children's interest and the good questions they ask. Hopefully, we are inspiring the history buffs of the 21st century, the

future members of the Glover Historical Society.

Every afternoon we will end up at the Settlement, where the children will divide into three interest groups for hands-on projects. One group will fire the bricks that were made last year, make some more, and begin to build a stone fireplace in our campfire pit. Another group will try their hand at some of the skills that the early settlers needed to make their homes comfortable — making soap, candles and rugs. The other group will make some old fashioned toys and learn about how children spent their leisure time in early America — or if there even was any leisure time.

Adults, please feel free to join us at any time, and share your own stories and skills, or just come along on the hike. Glover children, or children with a Glover connection, like grandparents or a summer home, can enroll in the camp for the week for a fee of \$25. The program is open to children from grades 1-8. Registration forms can be picked up at the Town Clerk's, Currier's Quality Market or the Lake Parker Country Store, or call Peggy at 525-3034. Registrations should be returned to the Town Clerk's office. The earlier the registration is turned in, the more likely the children will get their choice of focus group.

Anyone with information about the history of the Keene Corners area, including cellar holes and old roads, please let us know. Members of the Historical Society have consistently been a primary resource for the information for Pioneer Camp, and we appreciate it.

Warning

The annual meeting of the Glover Historical Society, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2001 at the Glover Municipal Building.

The principal agenda item will be the election of four Directors to replace the following whose terms will expire as of the date of the meeting: Gisele Clark, Harriet King, Elaine Magalis, and Ulo Sinberg. At the Society meeting on May 9, the Nominating Committee renominated all four incumbents for election, to serve for three years through the 2004 Annual Meeting; all four candidates have agreed to serve if elected. In addition to this slate of four candidates, nominations will be accepted at the meeting from the floor. Moreover, since a vacancy has been created by the untimely passing of Society President Wayne Alexander, nominations will also be accepted for election of an additional Director to

serve through the date of the 2003 Annual Meeting, to replace Mr. Alexander. In the absence of such nomination, the Board of Directors will have eleven members until the 2002 Annual Meeting, at which time the issue will be revisited.

Also on the agenda will be a review of Society finances and accomplishments during the past year, followed by a review of activities and publication plans for 2001/2002.

All members are urged to attend. If you are unable to attend in person, please vote by proxy by designating another Society member to vote and act on your behalf. Proxies in writing should be mailed to the Glover Historical Society, Inc., Municipal Building, 51 Bean Hill, Glover, VT 05839, to arrive at least one day prior to the meeting date.

New Glover Map Published

A large format geographically accurate Town Road Map of Glover, printed in color and published by the Glover Historical Society, is about to go to press. Map size is approximately 28" x 40". We hope to have the map available for sale at Vermont Expo in Tunbridge (see page 10), and definitely on Glover Day, July 28th. The cost will be \$10. If you would like to have it mailed to you, please include \$2 for postage and packing and send a check for \$12 to the Glover Historical Society, c/o Martha Alexander, Treasurer; 1225 Perron Hill, Glover, VT 05839.

Glover History

An occasional publication of the
Glover Historical Society, Inc.
Municipal Building, Glover, VT 05839

Acting President Bob Clark
Secretary Ulo Sinberg
Treasurer Martha Alexander

Additional Board Members

Jean Borland, Gisele Clark, Betsy Day,
Peggy Day Gibson, Harriet King,
Rita Lombardi, Elaine Magalis,
Randy Williams

~ In Memoriam ~
Gertrude Bessette Montaquila
Died September 7, 2000