

# GL VER HISTORY

*Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past*  
1783-2005

Vol. 14, No. 1

Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Winter 2005

## President's Report

Another year has now become history. Your Historical Society has had a very busy year in the publication business. *Andersonville: The First 100 Years* has been very popular and enjoyed brisk sales. Our latest book, *Mother and Daughter: Two Diaries of Glover, Vermont Girls*, was also well received and was glowingly reviewed in *the Chronicle*. The long-promised and long-delayed geographically accurate E-911 map of Glover (available in two sizes) finally saw the light of day, and has sold well. There is still occasional demand for our earlier books: a full list of all available titles appears on the enclosed insert/order form.

We have not received any new data on the four veterans of the American Revolution who are buried in unmarked graves in Westlook Cemetery. Our current plan for this spring is to erect a common marker listing all four names so they will not be forgotten.

In 2004, we were visible at various events with a table of Society publications for sale, and ready to answer inquiries regarding Glover—both past and present. The primary events where the Society participated were Glover Day, Vermont History Expo in Tunbridge, Old Stone House Day in Brownington, and the annual Glover Christmas Craft Fair. We also hosted a Town Hall exhibit of restored historical curtains.

Our next regular meeting, after the winter “off,” will be on April 12, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Glover Municipal Building. All members and friends are invited to attend. Our Museum is located on the second floor of the Municipal Building, and is open during the summer months by appointment—call (802) 525-8855.

Have an enjoyable winter. Hoping to see you in the spring,

- Bob Clark

## From the Secretary

The regularly scheduled annual meeting of the Glover Historical Society was held on Wednesday July 14, 2004 at the Glover Municipal Building. As always, the agenda included a review of the past year's activities and accomplishments, planning for the future, and election of Directors.

The affairs of the Society are managed by a 12-member Board of Directors. The Board is “staggered”, with the terms of office of four Directors expiring every year. The terms of Gisele Clark, Harriet King, Ulo Sinberg and Jeannine Young expired on the date of the 2004 annual meeting. Jeannine Young had indicated to the Nominating Committee that she did not wish to serve for another term; the remaining three incumbents were willing to continue and were duly nominated for election to serve until the 2007 annual meeting. In addition, the Nominating Committee proposed the candidacy of Michael Ladd (to replace Jeannine Young). All four candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

The newly elected Board held its first meeting immediately thereafter, and proceeded to elect the officers for the 2004/2005 year: President—Bob Clark; Vice President—Betsy Day; Treasurer—Michael Ladd; Secretary—Ulo Sinberg.

We have just reprinted a juvenile version of the story of Runaway Pond, *Run, Chamberlain, Run* which was originally written and illustrated by the late Dan Cummings. Our tradition of publishing is expected to continue. Now in the planning stage is a volume of facsimile reprints of Glover news from the *Orleans County Monitor*. Jeannine Young is working on the second cemetery book covering the West Glover, Dexter Mountain and Andersonville cemeteries.

Coming soon: the Glover Historical Society web site!

- Ulo Sinberg



# Willing Workers 100th Anniversary



Only a few of these Willing Workers have been identified. Back row: Pearl Lyman (third from left), Mrs. Thomas (Lovilla) Hastings (dark dress). Middle Row: Adra Brunning (with glasses), Julia Magoon. Front row: Winnie Miles (hands on knees). Probably around 1909.

West Glover is fast approaching a centennial. The Willing Workers, the women's organization of the First Congregational Church of West Glover, will be one hundred years old on March 15, 2006. (The group was first organized as a Ladies' Aid Society on February 8, 1906. The name of Willing Workers was adopted on March 15 of the same year.)

With this forthcoming anniversary in mind, I looked for the group's original constitution, expecting to find a very ornate framed Victorian paper document. I had read excerpts of the constitution in the *History of the town of Glover, Vermont*. Barbara Wright had undertaken the original research on the history of the Willing Workers in 1982. I went to see her and was told that no such framed document existed.

Being somewhat skeptical, I continued my quest—and was rewarded with the discovery that Barbara had been correct. There is indeed no “framed document,” but I did find a true time capsule: the complete written history of the Willing Workers, including the minutes of every meeting of this group. The records are still intact, the early years in small cloth-covered notebooks. The handwriting is very neat and still legible.

It is hard to believe that such continuous records dating back to 1906 still exist! The recording secretary of the Willing Workers keeps the current

minutes, but at some time in the past it was decided to “retire” the old minutes. Now, we all know that we put things away for safekeeping and then forget about them. It would have been so easy for these records to have been damaged, or thrown out over the years. But they are all together, along with the minutes of the previous women's groups: The Foreign Missionary Society begun in 1876, and the Home Missionary Society started in 1889. (These groups joined together in 1914, and finally disbanded in 1931.) There is also a treasure-trove of old church and Sunday school records—all of which were found at Harriet King's who in turn had received them from the late Janice Butler. I wonder how many other women had a hand in keeping these records safe and intact, for future generations to peruse?

Reading the minutes from 1906 into the 1950s is indeed like delving into a time capsule depicting the life of women in rural Vermont. It is fascinating to see how important the women of this society were to the church and the community.

The women first got together in February 1906 to form a Ladies' Aid Society. We all know that even in current times, February is not the most pleasant month. Can you imagine going to meetings over snow-covered roads—not plowed roads; they had been packed down with rollers. Not in four-wheel drive cars but via horse and sleigh. The style of dress was long skirts and blouses with high collars—a far cry from today's fashions. There is no mention in the minutes of problems with bad weather—but in many years, no meetings were held in December, January or February.

The original constitution of the Willing Workers is the same that is in use today. The group was formed to help the church and community. It raised money in many different ways over the years, with most activity taking place on the second floor of School Hall in West Glover village.

Early records show that the women would get together to do sewing for people in the area. The Willing Workers would charge one dollar for a day's worth of sewing by ten women. This could be mending, the making of bed or table linens, or even clothing. If a woman wanted to come to the meeting but not participate in the sewing for others, she was



charged five cents for the day. The women would also make quilts to sell. It is interesting to note that between 1906 and 1927, the minutes refer to women "tacking quilts." After 1928, the word was changed to "tying quilts." They would charge anyone who brought a quilt top one dollar to complete the quilt. If the society made the quilt, it would be sold for two dollars and twenty-five cents. The first mention in the minutes of raising the price came in 1946 when the quilts were sold for seven dollars.

Most of the funds raised seem to have come from meals made by the ladies. In early days, the charge was fifteen cents per plate; this had increased to sixty cents for adults and thirty cents for children by 1942. The ladies staged chicken pie and oyster suppers as community social events and also cooked for the lumber and work crews that came into the area. It looks like the Willing Workers were the first group of caterers in the West Glover area. In the 1950s, money was raised by "pie-less suppers." Instead of making a pie, the women would contribute a sum of money to the group—perhaps everyone had got tired of cooking.

Many a dinner was made on the second floor of the Old School Hall in West Glover which the ladies used for a meeting room and where social and community events were held. All supplies, including water for cooking and washing dishes had to be hand-carried up the steps. The most interesting social fundraiser of the early years was held there on November 2, 1908. "About seventy-five people attended a dinner, followed by games, and to hear the election results." The Willing Workers had paid for the installation of the new electronic marvel, the telephone!

Reading through the notes, we see that some of the money earned was used to buy oil lamps for the Hall, which were replaced later by gas chandeliers and finally with the installation of electric lights. Tables, chairs and other furnishings were bought over the years, along with a series of stoves that used wood, oil, and finally electricity. As recorded in the minutes of the September 21, 1949 meeting, the Willing Workers gave all the furnishings to the school. It looks like the separation of church and school had become an issue at that time. The minutes read, "that the women can still help with meals as a community, but not as the Willing Workers, as the church and school cannot put on suppers together". (The Old School building was eventually torn down in the 1970s.)

The ladies also used funds they had raised to help the church by paying electric bills, taxes, the minister's salary, and by keeping the church and parsonage in working order.

Not all work by the Willing Workers was for fundraising. There is mention in the minutes of involvement with the Red Cross during the First World War in 1917, and then again during the Second World War. The ladies made quilts and sponges or bandages to be used for our troops. Naturally, this was strictly volunteer work. (But in June of 1816 eight ladies met and cleaned a Mr. Glover's house. They were paid three dollars and fifty cents for their labor.)

Interestingly, the Great Depression is never mentioned in the minutes, and no adjustment was made in the amount of dues paid. With its agricultural base, the area was self-sustaining and the effect of the depression may have been less severe.

The Willing Workers did not always meet to work. There are recorded minutes of picnics held in the summer on Parker Pond. And the minutes of January 21, 1930 show that "Mrs. Pearle Lyman and Mrs. Addie Nutting entertained the Willing Workers at a birthday party for Mrs. Bell Vance. Mr. Harry Phillips read three of his poems.... Mit came down to West Glover with the double team and got a load of ladies."

Still, the ladies have lived up to their name of



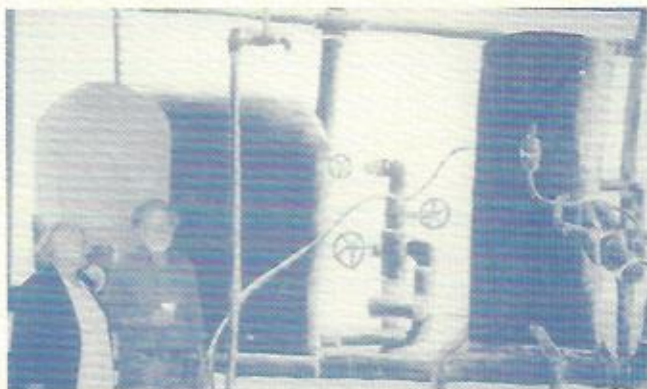
*L to R: Barbara Wright, Claire Stevens, Barbara Stevens, Joyce Bickford, Marjorie Bickford and Agnes Young. 1987.*

Willing Workers and these women from past and present have reason to be proud of their accomplishments. Perhaps in another hundred years someone else will do research on the two hundredth anniversary of the Willing Workers. May the spirit of giving and the importance of community be kept alive in the North-east Kingdom of Vermont until then—and beyond.



# Painted Theater Curtain Driving Tour

On the weekend of October 2 and 3, 2004, the Orleans County Historical Society, the Old Stone House and the Newport Rotary Club sponsored a



*Peter and Elka Schumann stand beside the curtain from the boiler room show.*

driving tour of the painted curtains in the Northeast Kingdom. The towns that participated were Albany, Barton, Burke, Brownington, Derby Line, Glover, Hardwick, Irasburg and Wheelock. Each town displayed their curtains along with presentations, ranging from talent shows, plays, and concerts to a slide show and discussion by Chris Hadsel, Project Director of the Painted Theater Curtain Project. The Glover Historical Society exhibited the newly restored curtains at the Glover Town Hall. They were painted by Robert Naves in the late thirties and were hung in the new Town Hall built in 1940 on the site of the Orleans Liberal Institute, which burned in 1938. Along with our advertising curtain and a lake scene, we also presented a retrospective of the painted curtains of Bread and Puppet Theater's Peter Schumann. Those curtains were hung along the walls in the Town Hall and some date back to the late 60s, when Bread and Puppet was based in New York City. There were some beautiful, brightly colored backdrops to puppet shows, one awash with pink flowers, another a Vermont landscape with Holstein cows in a meadow of daisies, another a field of wheat, swaying in the wind on a bright green background. Another was a black and

white scene of a boiler room in New York City. Peter even displayed his own advertising curtain which debuted at a hot dog stand on the boardwalk in Coney Island one summer in the early seventies.



*Peter painted his own advertising curtain, which hung at a hotdog stand at Coney Island in the early 70's.*

The show was a real crowd pleaser. The Glover Historical Society manned a table of publications for sale. Bread and Puppet sold "cheap art", and the refreshments included, of course, Peter's wonderful sourdough rye bread. Saturday was our busiest day. Chris Hadsel made a presentation in Wheelock, where other Robert Naves curtains were displayed, and she then encouraged the audience to visit the Naves curtains in Glover. We must have seen at least a hundred people that afternoon, including a guest visit from Peter Schumann. So inspired were we, that our exhibit at Vermont History EXPO this summer, on the weekend of June 25 and 26, will celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Bread and Puppet Museum, with the pink curtains from the Washerwoman show as the backdrop for our booth. Be sure to visit us in Tunbridge next summer.

- Betsy Day

## "Lest We Forget" Update

Correction to the listing published in our Summer 2004 news letter: The past farm name of the property now owned by Ed and Ellen Urie was "Slope Hill".



## Recent Society Publications

***Mother and Daughter: Two Diaries of Glover, Vermont Girls.*** This fascinating 176-page volume which had been pre-announced in the last two issues of our newsletter was finally published, just in time for Glover Day 2004. Compiled and annotated by Joan Alexander, the book features excerpts from the diaries kept by Edith Francena Aldrich in 1894, and by Edith Alexander in 1922 — both when the girls were fourteen. The 8" x 11" book is profusely illustrated with period photographs. To quote from the review by Richard Creaser published in *the Chronicle* last fall, "*Mother & Daughter* is a rare glimpse into Glover's rural past." An innovation: unlike other recent Society publications which were spiral-bound, *Mother & Daughter* features "regular" binding.

Please use the coupon on the insert with this newsletter to order your copy. The book is priced at \$12.00 plus \$5.00 for postage and handling (or it may be picked up at the Town Clerk's office without payment of the \$5.00 postage charge).

## Hot Off the Press!!!

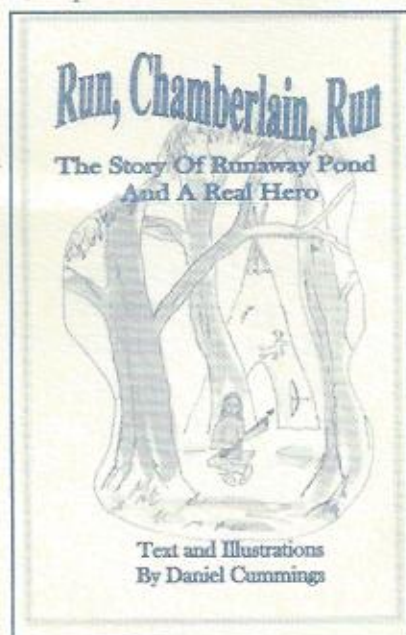
"**Run, Chamberlain, Run**" is a children's book written and illustrated by Daniel Cummings, Sr. Dan wrote and illustrated this fun little children's version of the infamous story of the letting out of Runaway Pond and Spencer Chamberlain's heroic run to save the miller's wife. Dan created this book as part of his Master's degree program. Unfortunately for all of us, Dan was taken from us by cancer last year. Dan, his wife Sue and their son Dan, Jr. lived on the Mud Island Road on the way to Greensboro. He was



Author Dan Cummings, Sr.

a teacher, a coach, a poet and a member of the Glover Ambulance Squad. He taught at Barton Academy.

In honor of Dan and his wonderful jovial spirit, the Society has published this 24 page book posthumously. It will sell for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling if mail ordered.



## Membership Dues

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. The label indicates the date through which your dues have been paid. In most cases, membership has been paid through December 2004 and payment for 2005 is now due. If your prepaid membership expired in December 2003, then please include the appropriate amount for 2004 dues. Please use the coupon on the insert with this newsletter to remit your payment. Rates have not changed: \$5 for individuals, \$8 for families (spouses, children under 18). Thank you for your continued interest and support!



**Glover Historical Society  
Treasurer's Report  
January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004**

**Opening Balances 1/01/2004**

Checking.....	\$1,576.54
CD #1741752.....	1,954.68
CD #1820435.....	1,149.36
CD #5730023497.....	<u>3,376.37</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 8,056.95</b>

**Income**

Membership Dues	874.00
Donations	327.25
Publication Sales	
911 Maps	1,100.00
Andersonville	4,367.00
Glover Fed Census	20.00
Glover History	460.00
Memories of Glover	30.00
Mother & Daughter	1,536.00
Runaway Pond	420.00
Union House	78.00
Westlook Cemetery	437.00
Video Tape Sales	10.00
Postage & Handling	37.50
Refunds	125.99
**Accrued CD Interest	116.51
Pioneer Day Camp Income	<u>1,000.00</u>

**Total Income** **\$10,940.15**

**Expenses**

Newsletter January	424.00
Newsletter June	484.00
Postage & Handling	458.52
Work on Publications	
911 Maps	1,155.00
Andersonville	4,031.58
Mother & Daughter	2,284.45
Westlook	60.00
Membership VT Historical	35.00
Insurance	372.00
Office Expense	50.00
P.O. Box Rent	24.00
Miscellaneous	34.00
Pioneer Day Camp	<u>610.76</u>

**Total Expense** **\$10,023.31**

**Closing Balances 12/31/2004**

Checking Account .....	\$5,480.43
CD #5730023497 (includes \$116.99 earned 2004 interest as of 12/31/2004).....	<u>3,493.36</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$8,973.79</b>

\*\*Accrued CD interest includes \$1.80 penalty at redemption on CD #1741752 & interest of \$1.32 on CD #1820435.

***Glover History***

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

President ..... Bob Clark  
Vice President ..... Betsy Day  
Secretary ..... Ulo Sinberg  
Treasurer ..... Michael Ladd

Additional Board Members: Joan Alexander,  
Martha Alexander, Eleanor Bailey, Jean Borland,  
Gisele Clark, Harriet King, Betty Putney,  
Randy Williams

**In Memoriam**

Loudon Young  
1930-2004