

GLOVER HISTORY

*Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past
1783-2006*

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Glover Historical Society, Inc.

Summer 2006



Randy Williams debuted his ballad, "The New Stone Wall Waltz," at the Andersonville Cemetery in West Glover before members of the Urie family and children and parents of Glover Pioneer Day Camp. Randy wrote the song to commemorate the building of a new stone wall in 2003 along the border of the old cemetery by the Urie brothers, Edwin, John, and Bernard. John Urie stands just to the right of Randy, and Edwin is leaning against the stone wall in the striped shirt. Edwin started building the wall from stones in an old stone wall beside it, and his brothers came to help him finish it. Edwin noted that, while some brothers don't even talk to each other, his brothers helped him build a stone wall. A story about this year's Glover Pioneer Day Camp appears on page 7.

Photo by Peggy Day Gibson

From the President

Summer is here again but it has sure been a very wet start. I hear even the ducks are complaining! Hopefully, as you read this, it is sunny weather.

On a more somber note, we were saddened with the passing of Elizabeth "Betty" Putney who had a wealth of historical knowledge as well as being one of our Society directors for many years. She will be greatly missed by all.

Our publications program is progressing with the printing of the second cemetery book covering Andersonville, French and West Glover cemeteries. It should be available on Glover Day, July 29, if not before. We also needed to do a second printing (and second edition) of *Andersonville: The First 100 Years*.

As this newsletter is a month late (due to the president not having Ulo to push him), we have now participated in Vermont History Expo at Tunbridge and held Glover Pioneer Day Camp with the children.

Our Society rooms are located on the second floor of the Glover Municipal Building at 51 Bean Hill Road and are open by appointment only by calling (802) 525-8855 to schedule a time.

Enjoy the summer and come visit us.

– Bob Clark

Website update

Well, school is out for the summer, and the students in the web design class that were working on the Glover Historical Society's website have scattered, but they have made a wonderful start! See what's there by logging on to www.gloverhistoricalsociety.org. This fall, webmaster Rick Kelley, who teaches technical education

at Lake Region High School, will teach GHS members how to maintain the site themselves. But for now, you can read our bylaws, some GHS facts and figures and history, see our publications list, and read about Runaway Pond. There is a feedback feature where visitors can make comments and suggestions as we continue building the site. Check it out!

Glover “Queens of Hearts” hold court at the Vermont History Expo 2006 in Tunbridge

The theme of this year’s Vermont History Expo was “Vermont Women in History,” and Glover women were showcased in the Glover Historical Society as “Queens of Hearts.” Over 20 community members created oversize playing cards honoring women of Glover. Creators used photos, memories, newspaper articles, handiwork, and interviews to tell the story of a particular woman of Glover they admire, living or deceased. The cards were then slipped into plastic sleeves and displayed in a notebook.

The exhibit was surrounded by artifacts from the Glover Historical Society Museum that illustrated the daily work, play, and lifestyles of Glover women over the years. The artifact that seemed to attract the most “oohs” and “ahs” was the intricate postage stamp quilt made by Mrs. Gilman that covered the front table of the exhibit. The Glover Bicentennial Quilt was the backdrop, with an old curling iron, early settler Jane Salmon’s pipe, Marguerite Bean Fiske’s grandmother Rozett Sherburne’s sewing machine, and many other items on display.

But the main attractions were the Queens of Hearts cards themselves. Tumbling out of a giant box of playing cards were seven of the women honored on Queens of Hearts cards, representing the centuries of Glover women. Their photos had been blown up and decked out with giant crowns with sparkling “jewels,” and attached to Queen of Hearts card backgrounds. The display was a hit with the crowd, with many taking away ideas to do similar projects in their towns. Betsy Day was interviewed on Sunday at the booth as part of a Vermont Women’s History Project videotaping all the exhibits that dealt with women’s history. Our



Photo by Winifred Martin

thanks to those who staffed the exhibit: Joan Alexander and her brother Cedric Alexander (who lives in Cabot, but has many roots in Glover!) on Saturday, and Betsy Day and Randy Williams on Sunday.

The GHS plans to continue the project, enlisting more Glover school students and community members to honor their Queens of Hearts. There are generations of Glover women whose lives have stories to be told! So far we have 30 cards, but we hope to fill many notebooks with Queens of Hearts cards! Please call Joan Alexander at 525-6212 if you would like a card to fill out, or if you would like to arrange a time to make a card with a group or by yourself. You can pick up blank cards at the Town Clerk’s office, where the Queen of Hearts notebook is now on display.

– Joan Alexander

Memorial gifts given to Historical Society in memory of Betty Putney



The Glover Historical Society received \$200 in memorial gifts in Betty Putney's memory. Betty was one of the founding members of the GHS in 1990, and was an interested, dedicated, and knowledgeable board member in all the years since then. In her generosity, she also arranged for several community organizations to get bequeaths from her estate after her death, and GHS is very grateful to be among them. She was a true Glover historian.

We thank the following people who made contributions in her name: Raymond and Donna Sweeney, Jean Borland, Martha Alexander, Joan Alexander, Eleanor Bailey, Richard Evans, and Mike and Bonnie Ladd.

We dedicated our "Queens of Hearts" exhibit at the Vermont History Expo to Betty, and made her the first Queen to come out of the box of cards. We were thrilled that her sister Winifred Martin of Williamstown came by the booth and was able to see the tribute to Betty. Winnie is giving the GHS a

collection of Betty's books that have historical significance. The books will either be placed in the museum or distributed to the school or town library.

Also on display at the History Expo was the sign "Bet's Beauty Nook" from Betty's days as a beautician, first behind the Busy Bee and then in the



Photo by Winifred Martin

Leonard Homestead (also the Town Clerk's office then as now), before she took on her 35-year job as Glover Town Clerk! Lucy Sample put together a "Queen of Hearts" card for Betty which is now in the display. Winnie took photos of our exhibit, one of which we share here.

Betty, we will miss you!

– Joan Alexander



Spoon story

Last issue, we told you about a man whose passion is old photographs. This time we bring you a story about a man who's wild about spoons....

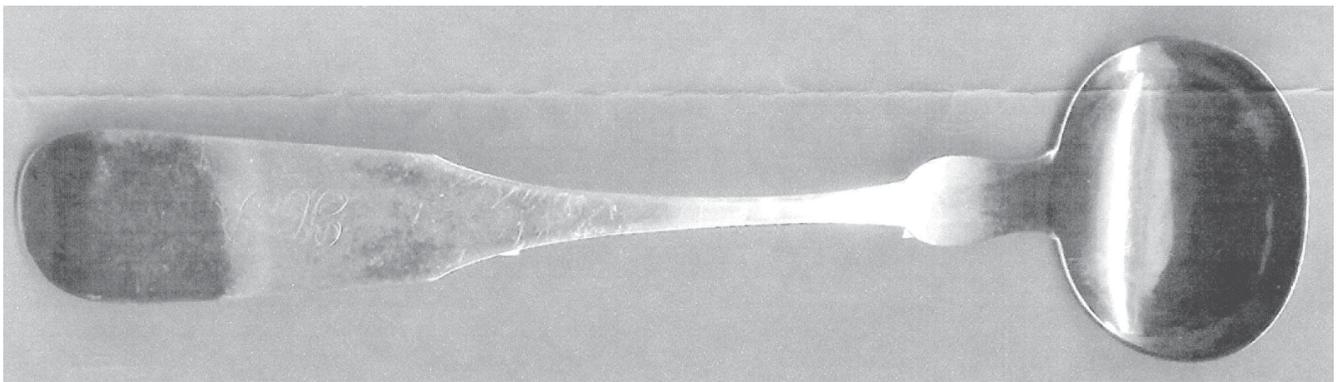
Many people can tell a good story, but it is strange indeed for a spoon to tell a story. But that is just what happens when David Perrin gets a hold of one.

David and his wife both became interested in old coin silver when they became the keepers of old treasured family spoons, and for the last 30 years they have been collecting pieces. Once David retired from his engineering job at General Electric in Burlington, this Berlin, Vermont native had more time to devote to learning all he could about coin silver. Over the years he has become a collector and an expert, and a wonderful teller of the tales of these old pieces.

Upon first hearing about coin silver, many assume the term refers to silver that is formed by melting down silver coins. Actually "coin silver" describes silver pieces made from metal with the same percentage of silver that was once used in coins, which was 90 percent to 95 percent.

set of silver spoons. As he explains, "To understand why your great-grandmothers loved their coin silver you have to imagine living in a dark house, with no electric lights and no other bright silver-colored objects such as chrome plate, stainless steel, aluminum foil or silver-colored plastic." The brightness and shine of silver spoons were appreciated. Adding to the spoons with other pieces of silver as the years went by was the plan, but a beautiful set of spoons to start off with was every girl's dream. To fill the need for silver pieces, Vermont had approximately 140 silversmiths and jewelers who sold silver with their names on it, with 13 located in Montpelier. Perrin explains, "Many of these silversmiths came from southern New England, New York, and New Hampshire, and frequently moved to New York."

What about Glover? Where would families have bought their spoons and silver pieces? For a short time, they didn't have to travel any further than Glover Village. S.S. Blanchard was only in his 20s when he opened his store on Main Street in Glover, his wife, Emily Baker Blanchard, five years younger. The S.S.



Ladle marked S. S. Blanchard

Photo by David Perrin

"Vermont was permanently settled in 1761, the year after Montreal surrendered to the British and we were safely located between the English colonies," Perrin writes. "The Revolutionary War delayed the making of silver in Vermont until about 1785. Manufacture continued until about 1875. Many Vermont families still have coin silver that their ancestor bought in the 1800s."

Perrin says that in the 18th and 19th centuries, the most coveted gift a new bride could hope for was a

Blanchard Store operated from about 1845 to 1857. In those days, Glover was the largest town in Orleans County, with a population of 1,151 people. You could buy a silver spoon marked with both the store name "S.S. Blanchard" and "Glover" stamped on the back of the handle.

Perrin knows that at the Blanchard store you could have bought a spoon, because he now has one, a six-inch flat ladle "with a rather wide .97 inch handle with a single curve that turns back," with

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the markings “S.S. Blanchard” and “Glover.” When he first bought it, he checked his atlas and discovered there are only two Glovers in the United States, one in Missouri and the other one right here! By checking Walton’s *Vermont Register*, Perrin found that there was a Blanchard listed as a merchant in Glover, Vermont, between the 1840s and 1857, and Perrin knew this was Vermont coin silver.



.79 inch long impressed mark. Back of ladle.

Just this year, Perrin came to Glover to do some research on S.S. Blanchard at the Town Clerk’s office. Piecing together information from censuses, deed records, vital statistics, and the *Orleans County Monitor (OCM)*, he found out some of the life of Blanchard, though there are still plenty of questions to wonder about.

Census records list Blanchard as born in Greensboro, son of James and Phebe (Caster) Blanchard. Emily was a Glover girl, daughter of Thomas and Huldah Baker. “The 1859 *Wallings Map* shows the S.S. Blanchard residence as the third house south of the crossroads in Glover Village on the east side of the road,” Perrin writes.

In 1860, the census lists him as a merchant, aged 41, Emily aged 38, Alma, no age given, in school, and Anna, age 79, born in New Hampshire, also living with the family. His personal estate was listed at \$400, and Emily’s at \$1,000.

Perrin found Blanchard’s name on ten deeds in the Glover land records. These included deeds to and from him, a lease, mortgage deeds, court records of a suit against him, and records of settling two estates. Blanchard leased his store to Samuel S. Kimball in 1857 when, as Perrin states, “He had severe financial troubles. Indications of severe financial problems are apparent when Samuel S. Blanchard was successfully sued on the 4th Tuesday of December 1857 by Newton and Boston, MA men in the County Court in Irasburgh, VT.” The amount of the suit was \$147.76, a tidy sum of money back then. Today’s equivalent would be many thousands of dollars. The award the men received was finally paid by “a complicated seizure of some of his property.”

At the time of the 1870 census, Blanchard was

back in business in Glover, this time as a “produce broker.” An *Orleans County Monitor* Glover news item from November 4, 1878 reads, “S.S. Blanchard has received an addition to his stock of apples consisting of new varieties and qualities.”

Not all stories have happy endings and the story this spoon tells ends in tragedy. Hard times hit again, for the June 27, 1881 Glover news in the *OCM* reported Blanchard’s death, of suicide. “On Tuesday



.42 inch long impressed mark. Back of ladle.

Photos by David Perrin.

21st, Samuel Blanchard who came into this town recently from Greensboro, cut his throat in attempted suicide. He was discovered before he had bled severely, a physician was summoned and the wound sewed up, but during the afternoon it set to bleeding afresh and he died. He was in a melancholy state caused by ill health.” The Glover death records show he was 64, occupation: farmer. And less than four months later, the *OCM* reported “Mrs. Emily (Baker) Blanchard died Oct. 15th, after an illness of only a few days. She was greatly esteemed by all who knew her.” Her age was listed in the Glover town records as 59, and cause of death was listed as inflammation of the stomach.

From his research on Blanchard and the coin silversmiths of Vermont, Perrin has concluded that there were “no other local merchants selling silver for most of this time. At some point, an active silversmith made silver for him and put his name and “GLOVER” on the silver using an impressed mark. If this silversmith was located in Vermont, it could have been one of the Montpelier chain of silversmiths including Ira S. Town, Town & Witherall, Witherall & Mead, Phinney & Mead, M.M. or R.H. Bailey, or Brinsmaid’s in Burlington.”

So this spoon, and all the research it inspired, revealed some glimpses into the life of the merchant S.S. Blanchard on Main Street in Glover. But what caused his business’s demise? Did his daughter Alma stay in Glover? Does anyone have photos of the family? Do Glover households still treasure coin silver spoons stamped with the Blanchard name? These questions are not answered.

Perrin has not yet run across an ad for the S.S. Blanchard store, though, in the *Orleans County*

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Gazette, on microfilm at the Vermont State Library, he (continued from page 5)

did find that Blanchard was listed as a source of patent drugs for two companies in 1851. "This is consistent with other jewelers including Pangborn & Brinsmaid who sold drugs," Perrin states.

It's not just spoons that Perrin collects. In his collection are all sorts of shiny wares, some simple and some delicately and intricately embellished. In addition to the spoons and ladles, there are forks, knives, salt and sugar bowls, and shovels, tongs, eye glasses, ladles, and even a casket name plate!

As Perrin began collecting, he turned to the best resource available to guide him, *Vermont Clock and Watchmakers Silversmiths and Jewelers, 1778-1878*, by Lillian Baker Carlisle of Burlington. Perrin has just published his own work, *Coin Silver: Is it a Vermont Mark? A Collector's Dilemma*, which builds on Carlisle's research.

Perrin loves to show his collection, and tell the

stories he has learned about the coin silver pieces and their makers. Dressed in garb from yesteryear with a straw hat, he is excited to travel to Vermont communities and share his passion. He has a series of silver bars showing each step of the spoon making process that were made for him at Williamsburg, so one can really watch the silver transform into a spoon, step by step. He invites the audience to handle the pieces. He built a 6.5-foot-long case for the Chittenden County Historical Society to display the coin silver in at the 2005 VT History Expo, and many pieces will soon be on permanent display at the Vermont Historical Society.

If you are interested in having David Perrin speak to a group in your area, or have some coin silver you would like to ask him about, contact him at 458 Carpenter Road, Charlotte, VT 05445.

- Joan Alexander and Skip Borrell both contributed to this story, which mainly draws on the research of David Perrin.

Warning

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Glover Historical Society, Inc. will take place on Wednesday, August 9, at 7 p.m., at the Glover Municipal Building.

The principal agenda item at the meeting will be election of four Directors. The terms of office of four members of the Society's "staggered" 12-member Board of Directors will expire as of the 2006 meeting: Joan Alexander, Bob Clark, Jean Borland, and Randy Williams. The Nominating Committee has nominated all four for re-election to serve a three-year term ending with the Annual Meeting in 2009. All four incumbents have agreed to serve if elected.

Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the time of the meeting.

Members are urged to attend the meeting in person, but should this not be possible, votes may be cast by proxy by designating another Society member to act on your behalf. Written proxies should be mailed to the Glover Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 208, Glover, VT 05839, to arrive no later than August 9.

The meeting agenda will also include reports on Society activities during the preceding year, and a review of plans for future events.

- Bob Clark

Thanks

Our thanks to John Simons and Eileen Wolfe of the Orleans Veterinary Service. Each year, they hold a Rabies Clinic in Glover, and donate a percentage of

the revenue to the Glover Historical Society. We thank them for their \$70 donation from the March 2006 clinic.

Glover Pioneer Day Camp

Glover Pioneer Camp marked its tenth year the last week in June, and it was the rainiest camp week on record. Less time than usual was spent on favorite activities like fort building, swimming, and hiking. But even on the day when it poured rain, campers were still able to work on their log cabin beneath a large tent, learn to tie fish hooks onto lines and lure night crawlers out of their holes, learn about birds, rub wool into felt, and trace the watersheds in Glover on a map.

This year's camp focused on the Scottish heritage of Glover, and the Andersonville section of town, referring often to Jeannine B. Young's compilation of Andersonville history, *Andersonville: The First 100 Years*. On Tuesday campers hiked up Rodgers Road to Andersonville Cemetery, where they were met by Johnny and Edwin Urie, who told them how they and their brother Bernard built the new stone wall along the cemetery border in 2003, from stones of the old fallen down stone wall beside it. The children sat on the wall and in the grass beside it eating their lunches, while Johnny and "Uncle Ed" told them how they built the wall as a memorial for all of the Scottish ancestors buried there.

Next to the stone wall, amid the gravestones, with the rolling hills and wind-blown clouds in the background, Randy Williams played his guitar and sang the song that he wrote commemorating the building of the stone wall, "The New Stone Wall Waltz."

On Wednesday Joan Alexander talked to the campers about what they had found as they explored the cemetery, and about how gravestones have changed through time. She also showed photos of her Salmon ancestors who came over from Scotland. Everyone was fascinated by the story of John Salmon, who shaved for the last time on his wedding day. She showed photographs of him through the years as his beard grew longer and longer until it finally fell almost down to his waist. He was a veterinarian, and would roll his beard up and shove it into his top pocket when he was working.

Every year, for their rotating morning activities,

the campers are divided into five groups based on ages, with names that relate to the camp's theme. In the past they have been birds, animals, and fish, and each day during morning meeting there is a short report on one of the groups. This year they were Scottish clans, with family names of Anderson, Gilmour, Young, Urie, and Patterson. They found people with those names buried in Andersonville Cemetery, and passed by houses that those families lived in. One of the morning activities was designing a clan crest with a family motto and symbolism. After hearing that the Young family waited in Canada until after the Civil War had ended before they crossed the border to settle in Glover, the Young Clan chose the motto "Always Smart."

Other morning activities included rope making, cooking potatoes, candle making, and tool safety. Afternoon focus groups were log cabin project, fishing, felting, nature and archaeology trail, and the power of water.

Campers spend the morning at the West Glover Church, go for a hike, weather permitting, and end up at the Parker Settlement for their focus groups in the afternoon. Despite the rainy weather, they did have one long session in which to build forts in the woods, lashing together branches with baling twine, and thatching their forts with balsam and cedar brush. Cozy little forts built by groups of friends are left empty up at the Parker Settlement after the week of Pioneer Camp ends. But hopefully the campers are inspired to build forts in their own woods during the rest of their summer vacation. Camp organizers also hope that they will be inspired to keep exploring our town, and notice signs of the past in stone walls, cellar holes, and old roads.

This year camp was once again funded by the 21st Century Grant, administered by the Orleans Central Supervisory Union. Glover Pioneer Day Camp is organized by the Glover Public Library, with inspiration and cooperation from the Glover Historical Society.

– Peggy Day Gibson

Found in the Museum *by Skip Borrell*

Book on John Glover

It is said that a museum is a slice of life. This is surely true of our own Glover Historical Society Museum. There can be found in the museum a variety of objects that is far-ranging—from top hats to topographic maps, from canes to cornets, and from Bibles to baby rattles. These are a few of the items I have discovered in the museum recently.

There is a fascinating book titled *General John Glover and his Marblehead Mariners* by George Athan Billias. These men made no small contribution to our country's fight for independence. They ferried General George Washington and his soldiers across the ice-filled Delaware River to attack Trenton, New Jersey on December 25, 1776. This caused a major turning point in the war. The book also states that later in the war when 9,000 of Washington's troops were trapped on Brooklyn Heights with their backs to the sea, General Glover and his Mariners helped rescue the trapped patriots. These feats are quite impressive for some of our local ancestors in their fight for freedom. A great book for the history buff.

Some old and some new

Not all items found in a museum have to be ancient and dust-covered. For instance, I came across two huge picture albums that contain color photographs of Glover and West Glover homes, circa 1996. This extensive compilation was done by Jean Borland of West Glover. Along with the photographs are the names of the owners of the homes at that time. Naturally I searched for my own home and found it. It is interesting to see how homes have changed over time or have remained the same.

I have done some research on the history of my home in West Glover, tracing the real estate records in the Town Clerk's office all the way back to its origin. It seems John Boardman owed the property. Before it was called West Glover, the village was known as Boardman's Hollow.

I was also pleased to find several early photographs and postcards in the museum that show my home.

People with an interest in tracing their home's history have a real advantage in beginning the search in the Glover Historical Society Museum. Your entire search could be done under one roof.

The first radio in Glover

The first radio used in Glover was made from a kit by Joseph Alexander in 1925. It was battery powered by no less than three different kinds of batteries. It had no "horn" speaker so the listener had to use headphones. It is said that Elaine Alexander heard the Coronation of King George VI on May 12, 1937 with this radio. The signal was weak and wavy; even so, this was state-of-the-art communications for that era. And it is preserved for all to see at the museum.

Reminders of wars past

While cataloguing items in the museum, a small black pot caught my attention. It seems it was used in the Civil War by Carl Ross of Waterford, Vermont. He was taken prisoner and spent time in the infamous Andersonville Prison. He is an ancestor of our own Barbara Wright.

The museum has numerous items of interest from wars ranging from the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 on up to Korea.

There is tucked away on a shelf a small brown notebook that is full of articles from a Newport newspaper titled, "Leaves from a Correspondent's Notebook." It contains articles by various war correspondents in Korea during the 1950's conflict. It is a running account of the war, the soldiers, and the living conditions. The novelty is that the articles are written in the style of personal letters being sent home.

Our local cemeteries have tombstone reminders of the many brave men and women who put their lives on the line for what they believed in.

It is sad to contemplate what future memorabilia may find its way into the Glover Historical Society Museum from wars of today and perhaps tomorrow.

Organizing all that stuff: acquisitions at the GHS Museum

The GHS Museum has a wealth of artifacts, books, and information housed in three rooms above the Town Clerk's office. (If you have been enjoying Skip Borrell's columns "Found in the Museum!" in our newsletter, you already know that!) Since GHS began accepting items for a museum in 1990 when the Historical Society was formed, it has used a huge ledger book to keep track of acquisitions, with a traditional museum acquisition numbering system. For many years, founding GHS members Ruth Evans and Betty Putney were the meticulous clerks logging in all the entries, carefully numbering and noting all the items that were donated to the museum. In the late 1990s, Wayne and Martha Alexander took over that job. Just last year, Skip and Judy Borrell transferred all the entries from the old ledger book

to the computer and matched up entries with actual items. A huge job!

What they noticed was that work needs to be done! Some items have not yet been logged in, some need to be taken care of with more attention to archival protection, and much needs to be organized and grouped so someone looking for information on a particular topic could have easy access.

So, the GHS has decided to work on protecting and organizing all the wonderful resources in the Museum. Glover resident Darlene Young, who was an archivist at the Old Stone House Museum, has agreed to advise a committee of GHS volunteers who will begin meeting to tackle the job. Interested in helping? Just give President Bob Clark a call at 525-8855.

– Joan Alexander

“What a lot of publications!”

We heard that comment a lot at the Vermont History Expo, as people walked by our booth and noticed all the publications for sale. We take it for granted, but as we visited other historical society booths from across the state, we realized that Glover really is unique—and blessed—to have this tradition of preserving some of the richness of our past into publications. And now we have another cemetery book, hot off the press, to add to the list!

The GHS recently purchased a beautiful birch

display rack from Shannon Hall in South Barton to better organize our publications when we go “on the road” to Old Stone House Day, Town Meeting, Vermont History Expo, craft fairs, or wherever! When we are not traveling, the rack fits just perfectly on Donna's counter at the Town Clerk's office, where you may purchase any of our 12 Glover books or two maps.

It is a lot of publications! What a rich legacy!

– Joan Alexander

Have a historical story you've been thinking of publishing?

Now could be the time! The Orleans County Historical Society is offering loans to cover the publication costs of works that relate to the history of Orleans County. Local organizations can now apply for loans from OCHS's Wharton Revolving Loan Fund. Contact them at 109 Old Stone House Road, Brownington, VT 05860, (802.754.2022), or by e-mail information@oldstonehousemuseum.org

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Glover History

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President Bob Clark
Vice President Betsy Day
Secretary Joan Alexander
Treasurer Michael Ladd

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

*Thanks to Lucy Smith for compiling our mailing
list and keeping it up to date.*

In Memoriam

Edward R. Dwyer
April 15, 1927 - December 17, 2005

Elizabeth “Betty” M. Putney
October 29, 1924 - April 21, 2006

