

Vol. 25, No. 2, Winter 2017

GL VER HISTORY

Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past



Plowing the Hard Way on Shadow Lake Road, Glover, in Early '40s

See caption on page 2.

Glover History

A semiannual publication of the
Glover Historical Society, Inc.
PO Box 208, Glover, VT 05839

PresidentBetsy Day
Vice PresidentDarlene Young
SecretaryJoan Alexander
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Additional Board Members

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Randy Williams.

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keeping it up to date, and printing our mailing labels.*

Contact us at

Website: www.gloverhistoricalsociety.org
Email: gloverhistory@yahoo.com
Mailing address: PO Box 208, Glover, VT 05839
Phone: Betsy, 525-4051 or Joan, 525-6212

Mission Statement

The mission of the Glover Historical Society is to advance the study and understanding of the history of Glover. This purpose shall be pursued by the acquisition, preservation, interpretation and display in a museum setting of items related to Glover history, by publishing a periodical Newsletter; and by engaging in or sponsoring of, the compilation, publication and distribution of material, printed or otherwise, pertaining to the history of Glover.

We would love to see old Glover photos and stories you have that we could share on the cover of each GHS History issue! Please contact the GHS if you have a gem to share.



Visit our website: www.gloverhistoricalsociety.org

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Front Cover: This looks like hard work! Going through old photos, Craftsbury Historical Society member David Linck realized that this photo of snow rolling might better live at the Glover Historical Society. On the back of the photo, Mac Derick of Orleans was identified as the photographer and the location was Shadow Lake Road, Glover, in 1941 or 1942. The men were not identified—can you help?

In Memoriam

Clemma Gebbie ~ 1924–2017

Richard Brown ~ 1934–2017

A few words about Dick Brown

Though he had not lived in Glover for many years, Dick and his wife, Cecile Montminy, both originally from Glover, came back to visit relatives each summer. Dick remained deeply interested in Glover history. He was a huge contributor to the Glover Historical Society's two books that record all the burials in our four cemeteries. He built on Jean Borland's work of transcribing gravestones and mapping all the burials and then added a wealth of genealogical information that he researched. It was definitely a labor of love.

After each issue of *Glover History* was mailed out, we would invariably get an email from Dick. I looked forward to them as they were warm and witty and full of details about different subjects in the newsletter. More than once, he noticed details we had confused, which meant we would be adding a "Corrections" note in the next newsletter! He had a head full of memories and, I was told, a wall full of file folders at his home where he kept genealogy of Orleans County families. When we updated the Westlook Cemetery book two years ago, I emailed him every single page, both the drafts and the final copy, and he carefully checked each line. I will admit I dreaded seeing those return emails, because it usually meant there would be a long list of details to double check or fix! Yet, even his corrections were given with kindness and humor! We were so appreciative of all his work, done far away in Virginia.

I always thought one summer day when he was visiting Glover I might bump into him at Westlook, but I never did. Though I never met him in person, I will miss him. Rest in peace, Dick. –JFA

President's Message

Hello, everyone. As expected, we had a very busy summer and fall. One of the highlights of those efforts was the fabulous wedding show, 100 Years of Glover Wedding Memorabilia, that was displayed at the town hall for Glover Day. What started out as a kernel of an idea, based on the artifacts that the museum has acquired over the years, soon developed into a full blown extravaganza with donated items from a multitude of local families. It was a beautiful show and we got so much terrific feedback that we decided to scale it down and reinstall it as the new display at the Old Stone House Glover Room. This winter, Randy will produce a video so that those of you that didn't get to attend will have an opportunity to get a feel for the show.

Of course, the other great highlight was the publication of the *Slab City* book. Of the 200 copies printed, there are only a few left at the Town Clerk's office. We plan to have more printed, but if you want a copy for a Christmas gift, you had better contact Donna or Jessica at the town clerk's office soon.

On November 17, author Peter Gould came to the West Glover Church to present his new book, *Horse-Drawn Yogurt: Stories from Total Loss Farm*, a patchwork of true stories of a young man's life on a Vermont farm commune at the height of the back-to-the-land movement. Since communes have been such an integral part of Glover's history in the 1970s, it was a program enjoyed by all who attended.



Town garage in West Glover, photographed by Jean Borland in 1996. It was an existing building (house or shed) when Wesley Aldrich bought it from Aaron and Candice Skinner in 1892 and remodeled it to be Meadow Brook Creamery. It went through several transformations, including becoming a gas station sometime in the 1930s or '40s.

Dennis Chamberlain, who lives in California and is a descendant of the Runaway Pond runner Spencer Chamberlain, found he has another reason to be proud. His daughter, Lara, discovered in an old newspaper item that Alonzo Chamberlain, Spencer's grandson, who lived on the farm that is now Gary and Gail Lyman's, opened his home to fugitive slaves traveling on the Underground Railroad. Until Lara's discovery, this was unknown to all of us at the Glover Historical Society.



Above three photos: The brand spankin' new town shed complete with state-of-the-art infrared heating in the ceiling.

(Continued on page 18.)

An Archeological Dig of a Glover Home

By Skip Borrell

My involvement with the Stevens homesite began with a serendipitous event. As I was driving up Bean Hill Road from Glover Village, I glanced into the woods and saw a stone structure about 25 feet from the road. This structure piqued my interest since there is nothing in the immediate area to connect it with. I went back later and measured this structure and decided that the stone structure must have been a chimney base. I was intrigued, wondering what and who had been here, and what had happened.

Days later, I researched it at the Glover Historical Society Museum. There was a very thin file about this site with notes and photos of the stone structure. The basic information was that a fire on

September 30, 1934, had totally destroyed a wood frame structure at the site that had been the home of a family by the name of Stevens.

Upon further research it was determined that back in the 1920s, when Monroe Corliss owned the land, he had given a small plot to the Ernest and Irene Stevens family to construct a home.

I contacted Charles Evans, the current owner of the land, and discussed the possibility of performing an archeological dig on the cellar hole site. Since the site is extremely close to the road surface of Bean Hill Road, and six feet below the road surface, with one fourth of the measured site covered by road fill, care was taken initially to distinguish between original site artifacts and the inevitable discards of people passing by—soda cans, beer bottles, Styrofoam cups,

plastic wrappers, and metal debris. A series of photos documented the original condition.

The dig begins

Next, I raked the site clear of leaves, and removed dead branches and low growing plants, and took another series of photos. A scraper removed the top one-quarter inch of topsoil. More human discards were found and set aside.

A house fire destroys much, but, left alone, time and nature preserve enough remains to reassemble the details of daily life prior to the fire. As well as the structure of the dwelling itself, the remains reveal a family's lifestyle, financial status, preferences, and work habits of the day.

The cellar hole dimensions were 14'1" wide by 15'2" deep, facing



The Stevens homesite, before the dig, photographed in 2015.

Bean Hill Road. I initially assumed that the home had faced Bean Hill, but that was later proven false. A compass told me the chimney structure was in the east corner.

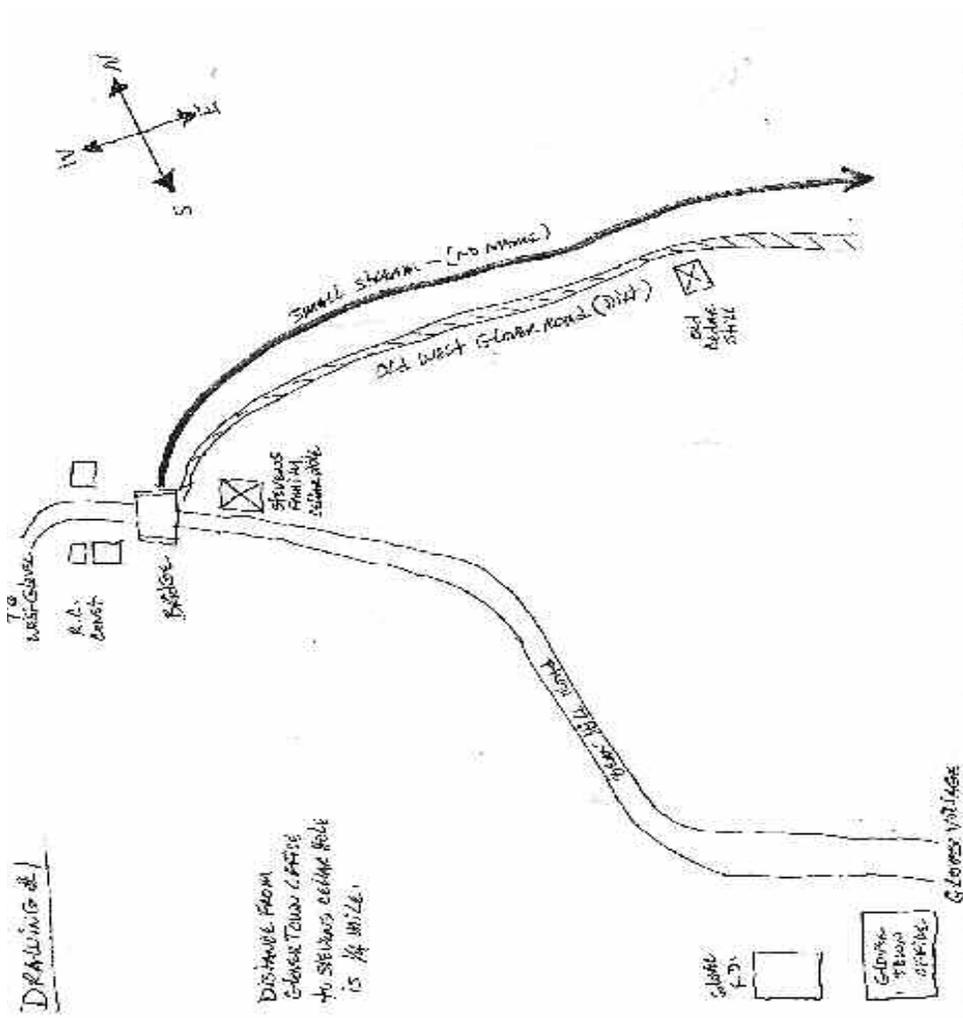
At this point, my background research into the site began to bear excellent fruit. I was able to make contact with Ernest Stevens Jr, a retired 6th grade school teacher (he taught over 4,000 students over his career), now in his 80s and living in Massachusetts. Ernie, I learned, was five years old in 1934 when his house burned. Along with some genealogical facts about his family, Ernie provided me with a description of his former home. It was a two-story dwelling, with two rooms downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs. In his words, it was “a clean, well-tended shack.” Ernie’s father, Ernest Stevens Sr., was a carpenter by trade, and most likely constructed the shack about 1921. His trade would have a bearing on uncovered artifacts discovered in the dig, i.e., woodworking tools.

Ernie told me he shared a double bed upstairs with his younger brother, John. His parents, Ernest and Irene, had the other upstairs bedroom, with a crib in the room for the youngest son, Royce. Ernie remembered that there were no other outbuildings, sheds or privy. His dad had dug a privy hole nearby. Another interesting fact was that the house faced what was then called the Old West Glover Road, a dirt road about 30’ in front of the shack. This proved that the home faced northeast. On the other side of the dirt road was the small stream that runs down to Glover Village.

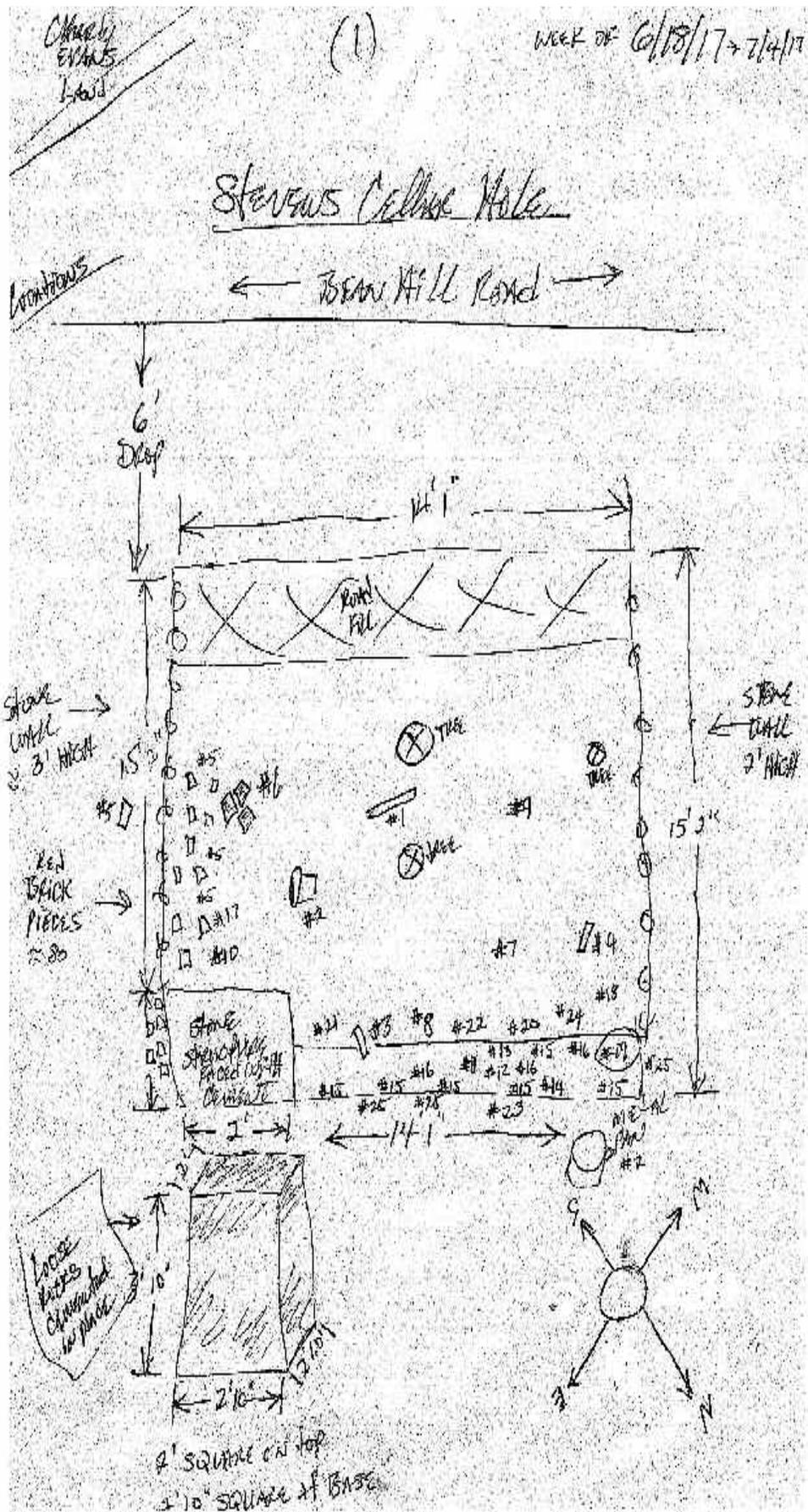
Ernest Stevens Sr. was married to Mildred Irene McDonald. (She



The Stevens family, 1937, in their Newport home. Left to right: Irene holding Eldred, Ernest Jr., Royce with toy dog, Ernest in back, and John in front.



Skip’s map of the site, just off Bean Hill, along an old road that used to connect Bean Hill Road with Rte. 16, just below Bailey Lane.



Skip's drawing of the site showing some of the first artifacts found. Number 1-5 were all lying on top of the cover. Five other drawings and many photographs recorded the artifacts and locations where they were found.

preferred to be called Irene.) Their first child was born in July 1926—and was a stillborn. Five boys followed: Ernest Jr., born in 1929; John in 1930; Royce in 1934; Bernard in 1941, and Eldred in 1947. At this time, Ernie and Bernard are the only living family members. “Odd that the oldest and the youngest have survived,” Ernie wrote.

The day of the fire

At the time of the fire in 1934 the three boys, Ernest, John, Royce, and their mother, Irene, were in the house. (The likely source of the fire was the wood-burning stove used for cooking and heating.) Irene got the three boys out of the house when the fire started and told the two oldest boys, Ernest and John, to go up the road to their neighbors, the Elliots. “I can still feel those cold cobblestones on my bare feet,” he wrote. His mother kept the youngest, Royce, who had just learned to walk, with her, and as she attempted to retrieve as much as she could from the burning house. She had to also work hard to keep the toddler out of harm’s way. It is not known how much she saved, but Ernie told me he still has a cast-iron fry pan that was saved from the fire.

Anecdotally, it is said that when the fire started, Irene knew that Ernest was working on a job down in Glover Village, about a quarter mile away, and she yelled for him so loudly that he heard her. The house appears to have burned quickly and thoroughly to the ground. Based on the number and variety of artifacts recovered, it is likely that the fire spread so fast

that Irene was not able to save many belongings. Ernie remembers that ironically the day of the fire was also his father's 30th birthday.

When I first began the site excavation, the "assumed" chimney seemed to be a good place to begin digging down, and I began in that east corner of the site. I soon uncovered numerous red bricks, (none with any foundry markings); 99% were broken, possibly from the chimney collapse. As I continued to dig down I encountered the first shards of glass, ceramics and nails. At a depth of 10 to 11" I came to a layer of white clay.

Note: The fire occurred in 1934. The site location is in a wooded area with many deciduous trees. Assuming a rate of 1/8" of cover buildup over the site by leaves, dirt, branches and other compost per year, over 84 years there would be a total buildup of about 10.4". I should find little or nothing below that level, and that proved correct.

There was much to indicate that a fire had occurred at this site; however, I was looking for archeological evidence to verify such an event did, in fact, occur. Proof was demonstrated by pieces of charred wood found at various locations and depths. A softball-sized rock was found, split in two halves, a sign of fire fracture. And many pieces of glass that were melted and deformed. A fire had indeed occurred on this site.

More artifacts...

As the dig progressed, and more artifacts were uncovered, a pattern began to take shape as to



Skip at the site.

placement of certain artifacts. I took into account that upstairs items would be interspersed with downstairs items, post-fire. The east corner of the downstairs, near the remains of the chimney, appeared to have been where the cooking/heating stove was located. Here, parts of the actual stove—pipe remnants and a damper—were found, along with many shards of plates and bowls, crockery, utensils and other food preparation items. Most of the ceramic shards were white, although some had colorful prints or patterns, depicting flowers, birds, people and designs. Some had the manufacturer's name, and one unique shard had the word "BABY" printed on the rim, with two other shards that fit to it, probably the baby's eating bowl.

On the northwest corner of the site, I found numerous woodworking tools. Two notable finds near the "front" of the home

were Lincoln head pennies, one marked 1919 and the other possibly 1913.

Other than the numerous shards of glass, pottery, ceramics and tools, the next most numerous finds were nails. They ranged from spikes to small finishing nails. The nails were used in the construction of the home, as well as for furniture and smaller items. There were many other ordinary items, or pieces of items, that help paint a picture of family life; here is a sampling: metal bed frame supports and bed springs, gear wheels, buttons and snaps, a bobbin, a small suspender clasp, belt buckles, drawer pulls, windmill salt & pepper shakers, a door handle, a sharpening stone, hammer head, saw blades, can and pot lids, hinges, an animal leg trap, two toy guns, a potato masher, and several knives, forks and spoons.

Since no distinct foundation was uncovered, it is assumed there

was no stone, brick or concrete foundation. Most likely a log or large timber base was used. Another assumption was based on Ernie's information. In the small stream nearby is a fairly deep pool. It is possible it was used for bathing as well as swimming by the boys. As to drinking water, downstream from the site is an old square concrete structure, approximately 2' by 2' that collects water from a natural spring.

There is no known photograph of the home. But in the collection at the museum is a photo of the Stevens family that was part of a Christmas card, as well as school photos of Ernie and John, taken in

1937. Also included is a photo of Ernest and Irene's headstone located at the south side of Westlook Cemetery. No marker has been located of their first child who was stillborn, though Ernie believes the child was buried in Glover.

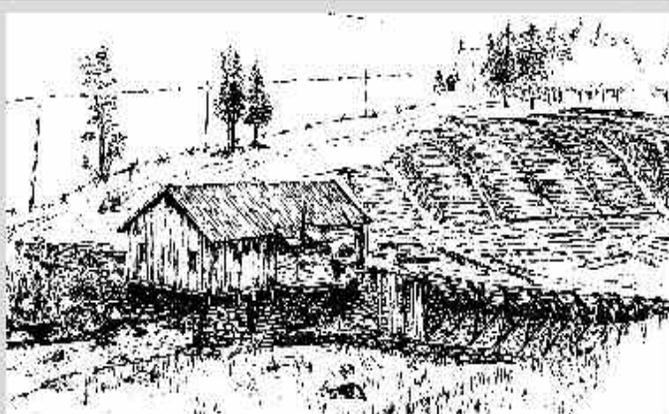
This excavation began on June 18, 2017, and concluded September 22, 2017. Approximately 2,000 artifacts were uncovered at the Stevens family site. About a quarter of the site remains covered by construction fill from Bean Hill Road, and it unlikely that any excavation can be conducted there due to encroachment of the road support bank.

In summary, I would like to thank Charles Evans for granting permission to have an archeological excavation performed on his land. I want to also thank Ernie Stevens Jr., for his invaluable help in bringing the "clean, well-tended, shack" back to life, as well as his invaluable first-hand information concerning the fire and many details that "fleshed out" his family, the home, and many other details of what otherwise might have remained a mysterious archeological site.

Note: Since there was no registered deed to the property the home was built on, it is doubtful there are any records of the Stevens site structure. Also, no newspaper accounts of the fire were found, perhaps because no death or injuries occurred.

There are many more details in Skip's full report on his archeological exploration of the Stevens homesite. A copy is at the Glover Historical Society museum, which is open most Monday afternoons, from 2-5 p.m. and also by appointment; call Joan at 525-6212. Also, the GHS display box on the counter at the Town Clerk's Office will feature some of the items found in the dig; watch for it in 2018. The artifacts will become part of the museum's collection.

*Christmas Gifts for the Person
Who Has Everything!*
Pick up your copy at the Glover Town Clerk's Office
and support the Glover Historical Society!



Slab City/South Glover, Vermont

A Busy Hamlet - Now Vanished

John Alexander, Connie Asse, Jack Burnberg



WANTED
The GHS is always looking for stories, including old diaries, journals, or letters, relating to Glover during an earlier time. If you have a story to tell, please submit it to joanalex_05839@yahoo.com. For those of you who don't use the internet, please mail them to Glover Historical Society, Inc., PO Box 208, Glover, VT 05839

Looking for Glover in Natalie Kinsey-Warnock's Books

By Joan Alexander

A letter with eight suggestions

Back in 2009 the Glover Historical Society received a letter from Phil Urie of Tunkhannock, PA. It was quite a unique letter, a list really, enumerating eight historical projects he thought GHS should research. Phil had grown up in West Glover, and though he had lived away from Glover for many years, he still came back regularly to visit his parents, Bernard and Elaine Urie, and, obviously, Glover was still on his inquiring mind!

Now don't think that Phil's suggested projects were not good ideas. They were! But to find the answers to his eight suggestions could quite possibly take a lifetime, and no one on the GHS board felt like they had time to tackle any of them. (Full disclosure: Phil is my cousin, though at the time he wrote the letter, I don't think he had any idea I was involved with the GHS. But being his cousin, and the GHS secretary, I felt comfortable writing him back to thank him for the ideas, adding the suggestion that *he* pick one and start researching.)

We did not dismiss his letter altogether, though. We discussed each of his eight suggestions at our next monthly GHS meeting, noted what some of our best town historians had to offer on each topic, and then filed his letter away in our archives.

It was interesting to revisit Phil's letter this fall, and notice



A collection of Natalie's books

that, eight years later, some of his suggestions had been addressed. One was about the fighter jet that crashed in West Glover in 1959. Over the years, GHS has been given newspaper clippings about that incident, and an extensive report of the event by Vermont historian Brian Linder. Another one of Phil's questions was about the old gristmill in the village, and, several years ago we were given the diaries of the miller who owned the mill during its heyday. Without even trying, we had acquired answers to some of his questions. (There are still questions left unanswered on his list for anyone with a little time and curiosity: Was Beach Hill once really the highest cultivated land between Boston and Montreal? Could more of the hills in Glover be officially named? Are the legends of pre-historic stone/cliff huts in Glover real?)

There was one of his suggestions that I decided to take

on myself. Number 4 on Phil's list was the charge that GHS should purchase all of Natalie Kinsey-Warnock's children's books as they contained many references to Glover. Now, the Glover Public Library has Natalie's works, but it was true that there was no record of all the places and events connected to Glover that she had included in her books. It was also true that, over time, the people who would recognize those references would be gone. So, this spring, on a long car ride to visit the school for the deaf in Hartford, CT, where the Glover 4th graders' 2017 Story Keepers project's focus, Anna Marnock, had gone to school, Natalie and I went through each of her books and talked about if and how Glover figured in the story, with Natalie's mother, Louise Kinsey, chiming in from the back seat. Below is at least some of the answer to Phil's Suggestion No. 4.

Glover in Natalie's books

"My brothers and sister and I grew up on a farm of steep wooded hills and fields with rocks as big as your head." So begins one of Natalie's books. She could have also added: "And our heads were filled with unending stories." Some of the stories came from books, her mother reading aloud each night by flashlight as she sat at the foot of the stairs, her voice carrying up the stairwell to Natalie and her siblings in their beds. But also there were many stories told orally—family stories—told and retold by great-grandparents, by grandparents, aunts and uncles, as well as Natalie's father and mother. Natalie's books are almost always inspired by a family story, and most are set in the Northeast Kingdom.

It is no surprise that Glover places and stories find themselves in Natalie's works; she lives in Albany, but right on the Glover border, and her ancestry in the Northeast Kingdom goes back seven generations, and there are many Glover ties.

Let's start with *A Farm of Her Own*, which is set in Glover on Sunnyside Farm. The farm sat just up from the corner of Daniels Pond Road and Mud Island Road. It had been the home of Natalie's great-uncle and aunt, Will Urie and his wife, Ada (Drew) Urie. Even in their old age, Will and Ada preferred using horses to work their fields, and their photographs in *Vermont Life* and other publications made them quite well known as an iconic Yankee couple. After their deaths, the neat and tidy Sunnyside Farm gradually deteriorated. This is where Natalie's imagination (and wishes) took over: The main character, who is one of their granddaughters, buys the dilapidated farm and gives it new life. Artist Kathleen Kolb of Greensboro painted the illustrations after looking at Natalie's family photos; if you wonder what the old farm looked like, her paintings are accurate. Today, in real life, the farm is gone.

Ada was also the inspiration for *Lumber Camp Library*. Ada was born in 1901, in a blizzard, in Glover's Black Hills in a lumber camp where her dad, Harley Drew, was working with his crew, and her mother, Emma (Wright) Drew, was the cook. One of the loggers was sent down to Glover Village to get Dr. Buck to help with the delivery, but Ada was born before he got there. In Natalie's book, the protagonist Ruby is also born in a lumber camp, in a blizzard.

Natalie's first book, *The Canada Geese Quilt*, was

published in 1989. It was inspired by a quilt Natalie made with her grandmother Helen (Urie) Rowell, who grew up in Glover. In that book, Ariel adjusts to changes in her family—her grandmother's stroke and her new sibling about to be born.

Moss roses and lilac bushes that had come with a grandmother from Scotland are dug up and moved, along with other more practical valuables, when a family makes the move from Craftsbury to Canada in *Wilderness Cat*. The very same roses and lilacs grew at Natalie's grandmother's childhood home on Beach Hill in Glover.

Natalie loves animals and nature, and they figure in every story, and also evident is her appreciation of all the cultures that are part of the heritage of the Northeast Kingdom, but sometimes overlooked: the Indians, French Canadians and the European immigrants. Coming of age is a common theme in her books, and the women (and girls!) are strong! I particularly enjoy reading phrases or old patterns of speech that she incorporates into her text that are rarely heard now.

One activity that works its way into many of Natalie's books—stargazing—comes straight from Natalie's memories, of nights outside staring up into the sky, with her mother pointing out stars and constellations. In *On a Starry Night*, and *The Fiddler of the Northern Lights*, the night sky is a character as much as a setting.

Sometimes the family stories that have woven their way into Natalie's books were full of sorrow. Natalie's grandmother had a nephew, James Urie, who drowned in Sweeney Pond in 1942; in *The Summer of Stanley*, a goat saves a young boy from drowning. Fires destroy homes and farms, losses Natalie's grandparents and parents faced. Wars, polio, the flu, accidents and old age take people away from families in her books, as in real life. Sorrows are endured.

The setting for the picture book *A Christmas Like Helen's* with Mary Azarian woodcuts, is the Beach Hill farm where Natalie's grandmother grew up, and all the details are true—Helen's mother really did entertain them at night with stories of her memories of Scotland, Helen really did get scarlet fever, there really was a locket. In this story, as in others, you learn about sugaring, snow rolling and sleigh rides. *From Dawn to Dusk*, also illustrated by Azarian, tells the story of the seasons, in both work and play, this time from the viewpoint of the two generations down

from Helen, that of Natalie and her siblings and cousins. The descriptions of the pastimes from previous centuries (and many still alive in our new century) and the landscapes and interiors of the woodcuts certainly would be familiar to Gloverites of the past and present.

The Night the Bells Rang was inspired by a story Natalie's grandmother Helen used to tell about hearing the church bells, from all surrounding towns—Craftsbury, Albany, Barton—being rung in celebration of the end of WWI from their Beach Hill farm. In this book, Glover is mentioned as the town where one of the boys goes to enlist, a town where people wouldn't recognize him and know he was too young to be signing up.

The book Natalie considers most autobiographical is *As Long as There are Mountains*, which she set in a town called Gilead, and shows a family struggling with how to keep the farm going another generation. This book was chosen by the Vermont Council for the Humanities as the Vermont Community Read book in 2006.

In all of her works, Natalie sets the scene with the events of the day, so that what is happening around the characters, whether it be local, statewide, national or world events, all impact the story. The Flood of '27 is the backdrop for *Nora's Ark*, from memories of the flood that Helen Rowell told Natalie. During the Depression, Lily is enthralled by the diving horse at the Barton Fair in *If Wishes Were Horses*. When writing all her books, Natalie does extensive research on the time period, and most all the details have their root in a historical account she found.

Natalie's books are peppered with Glover place names, though they might not be literally the place setting; sometimes Natalie chose to call a mountain Dexter Mountain just because she liked the sound of it. You will notice area place names that are factual—the bigger town near Sunnyview Farm is Barton; the trout are leaping at Willoughby Falls in *When Spring Comes*; Cabot Creamery, Johnson College and East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church, for example, all appear in *Sweet Memories Still*; and Wheeler Mountain, Pisgah and Hor all show up in *In the*



Natalie Kinsey Warnock

Language of the Loons. Some of the photographs described in *Sweet Memories Still* are actual photographs from albums of Natalie's family, like Ada Drew standing on the horses, with a written caption "Circus Girl," and others of Helen Urie.

Same thing with the character names she chose—I was trying to match up this and that character with someone with the same name now living in the area, but Natalie said that though sometimes that is the case, usually a name just eventually presents itself; sometimes a character will go unnamed for chapters and then, suddenly, one morning she wakes up and just knows that the girl's name is meant to be Quila, or the boy's name Mason.

With more to come...

Natalie has published 21 books, with more currently in the works, either being edited, revised, or in some other stage of publication. And there is an even longer list waiting in Natalie's head. She has over 70 ideas for more picture books or chapter books, all inspired by family stories. She might be busily working away at one story when a character from another story idea bursts in and demands to be attended to. Literally. She has actually felt a tap on her shoulder and heard the voice of a character saying, "Tell my story." Two of the Story Keepers subjects Natalie has explored with the 4th graders at Glover Community School have taken up residence on Natalie's "to do" list—Amanda Colburn Farnham Felch, the Civil War nurse, and Anna Marnock, the girl who attended the American School for the Deaf & Dumb in Hartford. Both these women, who Natalie did not know of before the research began, grew up in Glover—Albany right where Natalie and her family live, so they really have a tug on her! Sounds like the list of Glover connections found in Natalie's books is far from over.

Some of Natalie's books are currently out of print, but are available as used copies online through Amazon and other booksellers. Many of her books are award winners. They are a wonderful window into family farm life in the Northeast Kingdom, and no matter which one you pick up, you are likely to notice a Glover connection.

Old Letters

At the Glover museum we have several interesting letters that are both ordinary and unique at the same time. Ordinary because they are written by ordinary people; they would not fetch huge sums at any Christie's auction. But unique because of their content—they seem unusual in the subjects discussed and the voice of the authors. They are also special just by the fact that they still exist; it may have been their importance to the receiver that helped them survive all the intervening years.

Borrowing a column idea that Lynn Bonfield started at Danville's *North Star Monthly* newspaper, we will be bringing you one of these interesting old letters in each newsletter.

Here is the first in our series, written by May Warner Coomer, a young mother in Morrisville, writing to her chum (probably both had attended the Orleans Liberal Institute in Glover Village) Ida Dexter Sherburne, a young married woman in Glover, about to have her first child. The year is 1882.

Letter from May L.W. Coomer to Ida Sherburne

*Morrisville, Vermont
February 5th, 1882*

Friend Ida:—

Pardon me for calling you my friend until I have asked your forgiveness.

I have been thinking of you a great deal of late and have thought it unwomanly the way I treated you. I was provoked at something I heard and wrote to you before stopping to think of what I was doing. I ought not to have been so hasty and I was sorry as soon as I had done it.

Bert has hired out to my uncle here at M— [Morrisville] for a year and we live in one part of their house, we have some very pretty rooms and they are quite convenient. Bert works in a sawmill a part of the time and on the farm part of the time, we think that we are going to like [it] very well.

Oh Ida! how I wish that you could see our children we have two beautiful boys, they are both very pretty and they are smart too, if they are my boys. If I had known, when I was you last, that I would so soon be tied with two babies I believe I would have given up in despair, but I am, and you



cannot imagine how much pleasure I find in caring for them.

Dear Ida—Mother Coomer told me that you were expecting to become a mother soon, and Ida, my heart went o to you as soon as I knew it. You don't know how much pleasure you will find with a little one. I presume that you do not think so now but believe me you will. Before my last baby was born I hated him. I thought I could never love him, and would not try. But I do love him now that I have him. I think that I like him better than I did little Ray at his age. Be of good courage dear Ida and save all your strength for the coming trial and I trust all will be well with you. How I wish I could see you and have a good talk with you.

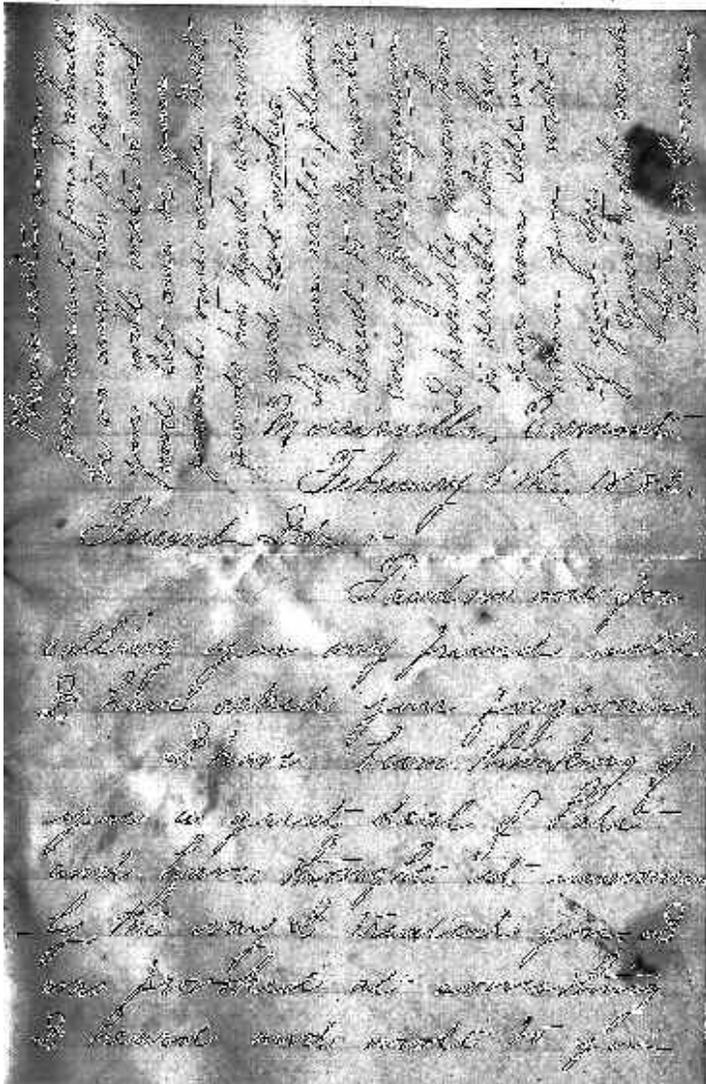
Now please Ida do answer this and I will write again if you wish me to do so. If you are not able to write and consider me worth of an answer please ask your mother to write me and let me know how you are.

Please write soon as convenient for I shall be so anxious to know if you will write to me and let me be your friend once more. Bert sends his kind regards and best wishes. If you write, please direct to Morrisville, care of J. A. Ferguson. I hardly know how to direct this but you can tell me when you write if you do.

Yours with much love,

May L. W. Coomer

Whatever it was that May was asking forgiveness for is lost to the years. Ida Sherburne's first child, Burleigh, was born just about a month after receiving



Though we could not find a photo of May, we do have many of Ida; we share one here, a carte-de-visite, taken when she was about 18 at the E.T. Wilson Studio in Barton.

this letter, and it wasn't until another 18 years that her second child, Daisy Sherburne, was born; she became Daisy Dopp. Ida and her family continued to live in Glover all their lives.

May's story was much sadder. In November 1882, she had her third child, Maggie. Two years later, her second boy, Guy, the son she wrote of loving so much, died of "dropsy of the brain" (encephalitis). May herself died of pleurisy in 1889, at age 29. Her oldest son, Ray, was killed by the husband of the woman he was having an affair with; the trial of Levi Partridge that followed was remembered by many in Glover. Maggie married Carmi Marsh, the oldest son of Zelora and Elizabeth Marsh. Maggie died of influenza in 1918 when she was 36 after contracting it four days earlier; her four children went on to have their own families.

This letter was found in the Muriel Leland Sherburne collection that GHS received this summer.

Glover Historical Society — Membership Form

***Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. The label indicates the expiration date of your paid membership. If your dues have not been paid, please include the appropriate amount for arrears with your renewal.**

Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

_____ \$20 Annual dues per household (calendar year, Jan.- Dec.)

_____ \$10 Senior household option (calendar year, Jan.- Dec.)

_____ Additional Donation

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Westlook Cemetery: New *Find A Grave* Additions

Westlook Cemetery, the largest of Glover's four cemeteries, with over 2,600 burials, has had lots of updates this summer on the Find A Grave website (findagrave.com). Find A Grave has listings of burials for almost half a million cemeteries in over 200 countries, and is a hot spot for family researchers. (By the way, in all those half a million cemeteries, there is only one named Westlook!)

Cindy Walcott of Grand Isle, daughter of Alden and Marilyn Walcott, retired recently and decided to honor her father's Glover roots by adding as many gravesites at Westlook to the website as time allowed. Not only did she add many new names, she also added links to those people's relatives' gravesites, added photos she took, and added information gleaned from obituaries found in old newspapers. It is an invaluable addition and represents hundreds of hours of work. Cindy also kept a list of any discrepancies she noticed between what was on the gravestones and what was published in the GHS Westlook Cemetery book—we thought we had caught them all when we published our third edition in 2015, but we missed some and are glad to have these corrections.

Jack Parry of Orleans, a seasoned Find A Grave volunteer who has added over 18,000 photographs to findagrave.com, added more Westlook gravestones this summer, complementing ones he has taken and uploaded in previous years. Barbara Destromp, who lives in Chittenden County, is another volunteer who in years past added many Westlook gravestone photographs, as she has for cemeteries all over Vermont.

And there were some young people adding to the Westlook pages this summer, too. Three Lake Region students working toward their community service hours graduation requirement spent two mornings a week repairing and resetting stones at Westlook. One day when it was too rainy to work, they uploaded photos of people buried at Westlook to their memorial pages on findagrave.com; the photos came from the Glover Historical Society Museum. Thanks to those student volunteers: Wayne Alexander, Mitchell Poirier and Ben Powers.

Check out findagrave.com. You might want to add photos you have or become a Find A Grave volunteer yourself.



Working hard: Wayne on left, Mitchell on right.

Christmas Gifts, 1899

The very first year our museum opened, 1990, a large collection of items from the Norton-Cobb family was donated by Marcus Cobb of Rutland, who was in his 90s. One of those items was an old ledger book, and this is one page from it, showing expenditures for December, 1899.

Most of the other items in the collection were inscribed with the owner's name; this ledger was not.

The name of the person who kept this tidy accounting is unknown, but we can make some assumptions. Though the handwriting brings to mind an elderly woman, it may not have been a woman at all, and the age is hard to guess at. Whoever it was, it looks like they were probably handy with a needle, a conscientious housekeeper, and no stranger to the kitchen. And it looks like it was someone with a kind heart, purchasing



Above: Dolly Abbott Norton, in 1915. We think she may have been the ledger-keeper.

Dec 1899		
5-	2 lamp chimneys	14
6-	5-gal kerosene	60
15-	soap	1 00
	sugar	
26	beans 25, raisins 18 =	43
	for christmas handkerchief	25
	handkerchief 2 for 20 1 for 58 + 12 = 50 =	78
	12 yds print 5-	60
	toy for Hazel Abbott 25 and for Varnum 25-	50
	book for Wallace	10
	game for Hattie Walker	25
	5 lb butter 22 =	1 10
	spool thread	25
		<u>20</u>

at least 16 handkerchiefs, probably to give as gifts to acquaintances or relatives. And she did not forget the children—the toys, books and games were for Hazel Abbott, 4, Hazel's little brothers, Varnum, 3, and Wallace, not yet 1; and for Hattie Walker, 4.

I am going to make an educated guess and suggest that the writer was Dolly Abbott Norton, who would have been 59 in 1899. The 1900 census shows that she and her husband were living on the Norton farm with their hired man from Sweden, Claus Anderson. (Claus would eventually buy the farm in the 1920s.) The Norton family lived near the foot of what is now Perron Hill, on a big farm that stood where Wanda Webster's house is today.

By 1899, Dolly's four children had all married and moved away. The Abbott children she bought gifts for were her great-niece and great-nephew, who lived nearby in Glover, and Hattie Walker, who lived on a farm on the Runaway Pond Road, was probably also a relation, as her mother was a Brunning, and back in the 1840s, a Brunning had married a Norton.

If you add up the cost of handkerchiefs and the book, toys and games, it brings the grand total for Dolly's Christmas gifts to \$2.18. Today the average an adult spends on Christmas gifts in the U.S. is about \$900. Even adjusted for inflation, Dolly's \$2.18 doesn't come close to that; one historic money converter estimates it would equal \$63.07. It is interesting to note that these gift expenditures were recorded for Dec. 26—maybe Dolly was taking advantage of some post-Christmas sales in Glover Village!

Happy Holidays, and don't forget to stock up on handkerchiefs!

—Joan Alexander

Scams - Sidewalks - and Bigamy!

Old newspapers are full of interesting tidbits! These four were found while researching something else. A common occurrence—when you look at an old newspaper, you might not find what you set out to, but chances are you will find lots that is interesting. If you haven't yet checked out the Library of Congress Chronicling America website, do! It's free, it's amazingly fast and searchable, and you can do a search of all the newspapers nationwide in their database, or you can select a limited number of papers to search. If you find an item you want to download, like we did here, it is easy.

THIS IS NO HUMBUG!
 By sending 30 cents and stamp, with age, height, color of eyes and hair, you will receive by return mail a correct picture of your future husband or wife, with name and date of marriage. Address W. FOX, P. O. Drawer No, 8, Fultonville, N. Y.

PSYCHOMANCY, or SOUL CHARMING.—
 A wonderful book; it shows how either sex can fascinate any one they wish, instantly. (All possess this power.) It teaches how to get rich. Alchemy, Dr. Dee's and Allen's Caballa, Bindings, Sorceries, Incantations, Demonology, Magic, Mesmerism, Spiritualism, Marriage Guide, and a thousand other wonders. Sent by mail for 25 cents. Address T. WILLIAM & CO., Publishers, South Seventh-st, Philadelphia, Pa.

Above: Hardly a day goes by that we don't hear about some new scam that is out there; it can lead you to believe that things are going to hell in a handbasket. But take a look at these two items, and you will be reminded there really is nothing new under the sun! Both were published in the *Orleans Independent Standard*, a weekly newspaper published in Irasburg from 1856-1871: "This is no Humbug" from Nov 24, 1868, and "Psychomancy or Soul Charming" from Nov 9, 1869.

The women of Glover village, for public good, will meet on Thursday, Nov., 14 for the purpose of repairing the sidewalk in the village. Meet at 9:30 a. m. bringing hammers, saws and nails.
 PER ORDER COMMITTEE.

Above: For consideration for inclusion in the Let's Just Get It Done! Department, we submit this notice that appeared in the Glover news column of the *Orleans County Monitor*, November 11, 1889.

GREENSBORO.
AGGRAVATING MATRIMONY.— A Mr. Montgomery of Greensboro, being desirous of taking a rib, and having engaged the hand and captivated the heart of a widow to that extent her whole soul yearned for him, the twain proceeded to a justice of the peace for the purpose of receiving the finishing touch to their desires. But alas, the justice had been forbidden by Mr. Montgomery's son to tie the nuptial knot, as he alleged his father had a wife living in New Hampshire. Not to be thwarted in his matrimonial attempts by an intermeddling son, he went to Glover with his (e)spouse.— There being several clergymen in the place, the son was unable to give them all timely notice of his dad's mormonic intent, and while he was prohibiting one of the clergymen from marrying the couple, another did the business.

Left: Mr. Montgomery's son was too late in getting to Glover to prevent his father, James S. Montgomery, age 73, born in England and at the time a farmer in Greensboro, from marrying the widow Sarah O. (Piper) Miles, age 43, on November 18, 1868. Rev. N.W. Scott (who along with Rev. SKB Perkins and George Severance performed weddings in Glover that year) did the honors, not realizing James' first wife, Nancy, was still living and still married to James. It was either their son James, age 31 or William, 29, who hurried to Glover to try and stop the marriage. A quick search on Ancestry did not reveal what became of Nancy, but in the 1870 census, James and Sarah were living and farming in Wheelock, Sarah's hometown, with Sarah's four children from her first marriage.



Town Meeting Day will be here soon...



Do you have a quilt (or two) we could borrow for the Town Meeting Quilt Show? Please let Betsy know (525-4051). This sketch was done by Haight, found on a set of four Glover notecards, each showing a different season. Please let us know if you know more about the artist



GOT QUILT?



We are looking for new or old quilts with a Glover connection to display it at the annual Glover Town Meeting Quilt show! Cynthia Perron Swert's quilt, which she made from vintage doilies and handkerchiefs (detail shown in photo), was one of the 25 quilts that graced the Town Hall in 2016. Please contact Betsy (525-4051) if you have a quilt for the 2017 display.

Check out the vintage aerial photos

If you haven't already checked out the website VintageAerial.com, do! As they say, they have "over 25 million photos, taken in 41 states over the second half of the twentieth century. If you are looking for an aerial photograph of a rural area or small township, we most likely have your picture."

It is an interactive website, with viewers encouraged to add anything they know about the history of the homes and farms shown, as well as personal memories. Each photo is dated, and the location is shown by the flight pattern



Aerial photo of Gaboriault farm, which was located just north of Westlook Cemetery, on the west side of Rte. 16. (Courtesy of Ruth Gaboriault Rowell)

the airplane took the day the photo was taken. The photos and comments that have been added are fascinating, and, of course, you can also purchase the photos

you see. You can search by state and county and then zoom in and get ready for a trip back in time!

Lastly, to celebrate the opening of the brand-new town garage, we were hoping to have a little history of town garages. Unfortunately, there seems to be precious little documentation of these important structures. We will have to do more digging in the GHS archives as well as the town's records in order to present a complete picture. But here are some photos for you to enjoy, one of the West Glover garage taken by Jean Borland in the mid-1990s, which is now the Glover Ambulance Bay since 1997. The other, of course, is the new facility which was long overdue. It also gave the Recycling Center a new home in the old garage. Dale and Andy are very happy about that, especially as the weather gets colder.



The recycling center got new digs as well.



The wedding show. We filled the town hall with dresses, wedding quilts and memorabilia arranged chronologically beginning in the 1840s around the room to the 1950s. The whole society helped put up the display. Special thanks to Joan Alexander, Connie Ashe and Betsy Day for bringing all of these pieces together into a beautiful show. And thanks to all of the Gloverites who contributed their families' wedding memories. For two days people streamed through the exhibit, fascinated with the variety and the stories and even contributing some of their own.



There were seven GHS board members, along with several other volunteers, who worked on the wedding exhibit for this summer's Glover Day. Fifteen wedding gowns representing 11 decades of styles, complemented by all sorts of other wedding memorabilia, made for some long days setting things up and then taking them down. This photo was snapped on the steps of the Town Hall, after dismantling the exhibit there, and taking a break before packing up a smaller version of the exhibit for the Glover Room at the Old Stone House (see it next summer!) Left to right: GHS board members Andie Neil, Randy Williams, and Betsy Day.



Right: When family researchers discover they had ancestors who lived in Glover, they often connect with us through our website, gloverhistoricalsociety.org. They send an email inquiring if we know anything about their family's Glover roots. Sometimes they follow up the email with a trip to Glover. This September, Cherrie Macintyre, from CT, spent a day at the museum looking for anything related to the Zelora and Elizabeth Marsh family. Because of a large donation this year of photos, letters, and other memorabilia given to the GHS by the family of Muriel Leland Sherburne (whose mother was Lila Marsh, the daughter of Zelora and Elizabeth), we had many Marsh family photos to share with her. Cherrie knew that Zelora, who had enlisted in the Civil War when he was 14, had attended the 75th reunion of Civil War veterans in Gettysburg in 1938, when he was 90. The find of the day, found in the Muriel Leland Sherburne collection, was nine postcards and a souvenir program that were sent from Gettysburg by Zelora's daughter Cora Marsh Erwin to her sister Lila in Glover. The postcards chronicled her and her father's trip, and were a joy for Cherrie to read. One postcard's message was that upon their arrival, they had been ushered to the Confederate campground by mistake, but had been warmly welcomed! Zelora died the following year.



This summer the GHS received a large collection of family photos and other memorabilia from Marion Bickford Hastings, all connected to the Leonard, Owens and Bickford families. What treasures! Because the Leonard family (and Marion herself!) grew up in the Leonard Homestead, now the Glover Municipal Building, housing the Town Clerk's Office, the Library and the GHS Museum, it seemed very fitting that these items were back where they came from! This is just one of the treats, a miniature portrait of George Leonard, painted in 1817 in Watertown, NY. The first Leonard came to Glover from Keene, NH, in 1800.



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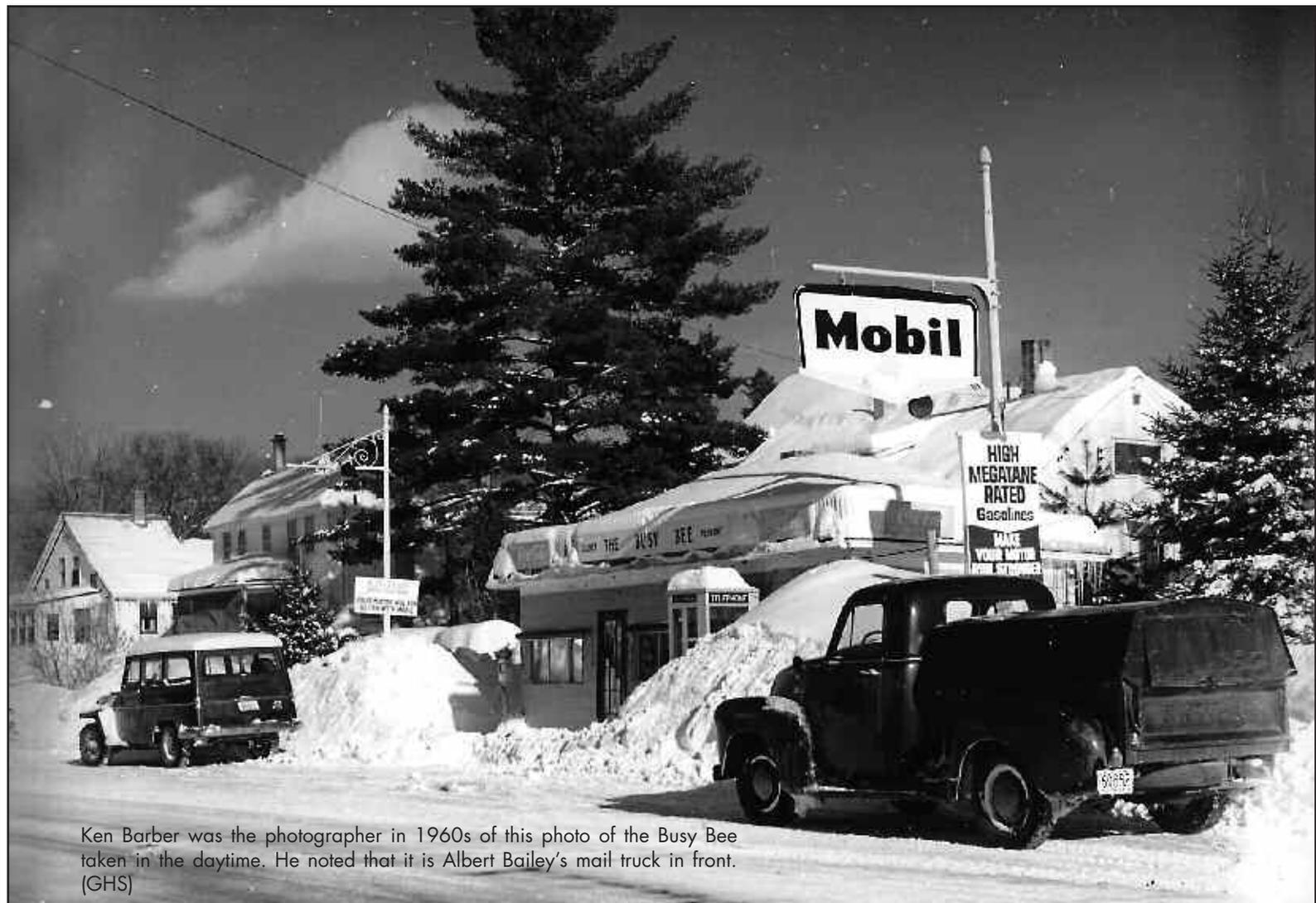
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Ken Barber



Ken Barber was the photographer in 1960s of this photo of the Busy Bee taken in the daytime. He noted that it is Albert Bailey's mail truck in front. (GHS)