

Vol. 26, No. 1, Summer 2018

GL VER HISTORY

Providing for the Future, Remembering the Past



The Glover Boys of Summer, 1903

Left to right, standing: Dan Gray, Harley Marsh, Will Roystan, Roy Bean, Alson Anderson;
kneeling: Leo Christie, Hiram Davis, Jessie Christie, Ed Walker; sitting: Claude King, Edwin Williams.

Story on page 17.

Glover History

A semiannual publication
of the Glover Historical Society, Inc.

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*Thanks to Lucy Smith for compiling our mailing
lists, keeping it up to date, and printing our
mailing labels.*

Contact us

gloverhistoricalsociety.org
gloverhistory@gmail.com
P.O. Box 208, Glover VT 05839
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 the compilation, publication, and distribution of material, printed or otherwise, pertaining to the history of Glover.

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In Memoriam

- Beverly Conley 1925-2018
- Richard Jacobson 1925-2018
- Manville Powers Sr. 1945-2018
- Elizabeth Redington 1923-2018
- Lawrence Rocheleau 1946-2018
- Bernard Urie 1922-1918
- Mason Urie 1948-2018
- Harold Vincent Jr. 1925-2017
- John Whitworth 1943-2018

We especially want to thank all the friends and family of Richard "Jake" Jacobson and Bernard Urie who donated to the GHS in their memory.

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 _____

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

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

_____ additional donation

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President's Message

Greetings from your very busy historical society. Summer is upon us for sure, with temps in the high 80s and mid-90. With the Fourth of July just behind us, we have lots of news and upcoming events to tell you about.

We have just wrapped up our 22nd year of Glover Pioneer Day Camp. We had ten wonderful counselors, mostly local certified or retired teachers, 13 junior counselors from Lake Region High School and St. Johnsbury Academy (many earning community service credits), and 46 campers, some from as far away as Massachusetts. In the mornings, we gardened, built a wigwam, celebrated pioneer holidays, made rope, tied knots and learned to lash, and got a taste of working with clay, using handbuilding techniques and applying textures and design. After wonderful homemade hot lunches by Tom MacNichols, our afternoon focus groups spread out around the old 1798 Parker Settlement in West Glover. Hiking to History, Bugs & Nature in different habitats, and learning about the old West Glover Cemetery, resetting and cleaning some of the old gravestones, were three options. The Carpentry 101 kids made bird houses and two corn hole games. Other campers produced a play adapted by Leanne Harple from Natalie Kinsey-Warnock's *The Bear That Heard Crying*, performing it at a party for friends, neighbors and parents on the last day of camp. We swam and built forts and played hard. The forts were exceptional! The kids had a great time and the Amish strawberry shortcake was a big hit; we cooked the biscuits in our new bread oven. On Friday, State Game Warden of the Year, Mike Scott, brought his collection of Vermont fur-bearing animal pelts.



The cemetery focus group split into three groups and got busy with shovels, pea stone and gravel, resetting stones that were fallen or badly leaning. This group also cleaned the stone they reset with a special product that does not damage the stone. We think Chase S.E. Graves (1785–1850) appreciated the work!

Thanks to the Vermont Community Foundation's Northeast Kingdom Fund for our new tent, picnic tables, benches, umbrellas, and more! And thanks to the town of Glover for their support these last few years. Stay tuned for some fun Pioneer Day Camp fundraising events this summer. Enjoy the photos of camp.

Glover Day is Saturday, July 28. Your historical society is having a quilt show and sale at the Glover Town Hall Thursday, July 26th through Sunday the 29th. Quilts from local artists as well as at least 17 local Amish quilts will be on display; many will be for sale. Highlights from last year's Glover Day GHS show, *100 Years of Glover Weddings*, is now on display at the Glover Room at the Old Stone House Museum in Brownington. And if you would like to visit our own Glover Museum, located over the Town Clerk's and Glover Public Library, please give Joan a call (525-6212) or me (525-4051) to arrange a time; the museum is open most Monday afternoons from 2–5; you might

want to check first if you are making a special trip! If you are interested in volunteering, there are many opportunities! We welcome all interested in Glover's history to join us at our monthly meetings, on the third Wednesday of the month, April–October at the Town Library.

Glover History began its life in 1992, with Jeannine Young as proofreader and editor and Elaine Magalis doing layout. In 2013, Theresa Perron took over as the layout master, and with this issue we introduce the work of Natalie Hormilla, who takes over from Theresa. We are so fortunate to have talented people right in Glover ready to take up the baton when others retire! Thanks so much to Theresa for all her work these past five years, and welcome, Natalie! (Jeannine, you are not ever allowed to retire!)

Happy summer and fall to you all! Look for the next issue of *Glover History* in December.

—Betsy



***The Bear That Heard Crying* told the true story of Sarah Witcher, a 3-year-old who was lost in the New Hampshire woods in 1783 for three days, reporting that a big black dog protected her. But the dog turned out to be a much different animal!**



Thanks to Game Warden Mike Scott!



A mighty sturdy looking shelter!



Some happy campers.

Dr. Sanford Atherton, 1806–1843

The Martyr of Glover



Dr. SANFORD ATHERTON
DIED Feb. 8th, 1843 Æ. 36 yrs. 9 m.

**“Sleep sweetly on thou peaceful dead
Till God shall the last crumpled soul ____
Then may you rise among the just
Angels and be with endless glory crowned.”**

This story of Dr. Atherton, researched and written by the 4th graders at Glover Community School, marks the seventh consecutive year that Jodi Baker’s 4th graders have worked in partnership with Natalie Kinsey-Warnock and her Storykeepers project and the Glover Historical Society to dig into the story of a mostly unknown Glover history maker.

Over the years, the 4th grade classes have uncovered the stories of a Civil War nurse; a missionary nun who spent time in a Japanese POW camp; a girl who went to a school for the deaf in Hartford, CT; a couple whose descendants left bequeathed money to the Glover Library; an inventor; and a child removed from her home because of neglect. All people with Glover roots, all people whose lives are no longer such a mystery. This year we decided to tackle the life of Dr. Atherton.

He is given a sentence in the back of the 1983 *History of the town of Glover, Vermont*, where, listed in a timeline of important events in Glover’s past, is this entry for 1843:

“Some 20 new graves were dug as a result of an epidemic of Erysipelas—including Dr. Sanford

Atherton, who died a martyr to his faithfulness as an attending physician.”

That one sentence was the start of our study. Right off the bat, there were some new vocabulary words to learn—epidemic, erysipelas, martyr, physician. Many more followed, along with lots of discussion of the art of medicine in the early 1800s. Of all the seven people the 4th graders have studied over the years, Dr. Atherton took us back the furthest in Glover’s history, and, because he did live so long ago (his death was exactly 175 years ago!), this study was particularly difficult. Photography was not commonly available in the United States until the 1850s, so we knew we were not likely to find a photo of Dr. Atherton. Knowing that it would not be an easy hunt, the students nevertheless took on the challenge to learn all they could about Dr. Atherton’s life.

Natalie Kinsey-Warnock made several volunteer visits to the class in January to introduce the students to the research tools of reading maps and census records, compiling family trees, and exploring artifacts and old photographs, some of the same lessons she does with her Storykeepers program in schools all over Vermont. Then, usually once a week from February until April vacation, Joan Alexander, a volunteer from the Glover Historical Society, came in to work with the students on the Dr. Atherton research. What follows is their report, with images and additional information in italics added by Joan.



Jodi Baker’s 4th Grade Class, April 11, 2018. Front row, left to right: Delanie Desjardins, Damien Conley, Caleb Bickford, Izzy Blanchard, Danica Booth, Jesse Hoadley. Back row: Max Demaine, Haven HillBarnes, Annabella Aiken, Marissa Brown, Hannah Breitmeyer, Willow Crow, Lindsey Brown, Duffy Willey. Two students were missing from the above class photo: Ethan Turner and Abby Darling.

Chapter 1: Sanford Atherton's Birth and Childhood

by Damien Conley and Delanie Desjardins

Sanford Atherton's birth was May 29, 1806, in Essex, Chittenden County, Vermont, USA. We don't know about his childhood, but we know he was his parents' sixth child of nine or ten children. His dad was a farmer and had a small sawmill. His parents' names were Samuel Atherton and Lucretia Mason. The family was large, and they worked hard for the little bit that they had. We wish we had a photo of the family.

Originally from Walpole, MA, Sam Atherton and his wife Lucretia came to Essex with their small son George as early as 1796. Four more sons were born (Solomon, Asa, Benjamin, and Rufus) before Sanford's birth, and Lyman followed Sanford. Both Ben and Rufus died as infants. There were also at least two daughters in the family; their names were not discovered. By the time Samuel died in 1829, the family owned about 86 acres in Lots 4 and 5, along the southern end of Essex's border with Colchester. Samuel's estate settlement shows he had a sawmill on his farm, but the estate was insolvent, with debts outweighing assets. Son Asa bought the farm; the widow Lucretia was given a home on two acres. The 1857 Wallings map of Essex shows that three Atherton families were still living on the land Samuel Atherton bought when he came to Essex. What was once the Atherton farm is now part of the Circ highway.

Chapter 2: Off to College

by all the students in the class



This building on Mason St. in Boston was the home of the Medical School of Harvard from 1816–1846. Sanford Atherton attended in 1840–1841. Drawing done c. 1824 by J.R. Penniman – Harvard University (Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Public Domain)

Sanford went to two colleges, Middlebury and Harvard. He went to college to become a medical doctor. In those days, you only had to take two classes to become a doctor! The cost to attend Middlebury

was only \$45.00! It would take six months to complete both courses. Then you had to apprentice to a doctor for two and a half years. The apprentice would pay the teaching doctor about one hundred dollars a year. Middlebury College's Medical School actually met in Woodstock for classes. What made Samuel decide to become a doctor? We would like to know!

Chapter 3: Meeting Abigail

by Annabella Aiken and Lindsey Brown

Doctor Sanford Atherton moved to Glover in the year 1835. He was already a medical doctor. He wanted to pursue his dream in Glover village, Vermont. We don't really know why he chose Glover. Maybe he came to Glover because that was where his teaching doctor was?

In the same year, he got married to his wife, Abigail Richardson, on June 14, 1835, in Abigail's hometown of Northfield, Vermont. They moved in together in a house on the corner of Still Hill and Main Street, in Glover village. They lived in what was called a "nice, old fashioned one-story house...a neat little house." Today, the house is still standing, but is now two-stories and has been renovated.

Even though they got married, Dr. Atherton stayed a medical doctor. He probably loved his wife very much, but he had to work a lot, so he usually wasn't at the house very much. We imagine Abigail waiting for him to come home, taking care of the house and their two children, and making a hot dinner for the family. In our minds, we see him coming home from work, doing chores out in the barn. Then he would go inside and eat dinner with his family. They would probably say grace before eating a meal. We believe they were a happy family.

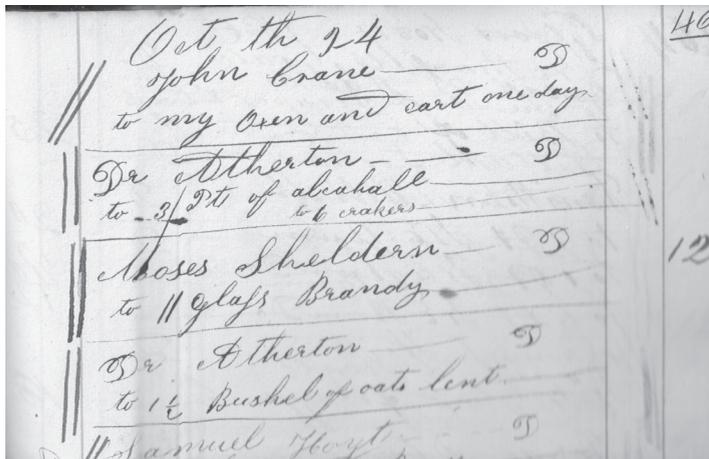
Nathaniel Richardson, the oldest of eleven children, was born in 1781 in Westminster, VT. When he was four, his family moved to Northfield. His wife, Abigail's mother, was Abigail Bosworth. Born in Lebanon, NH, "Nabby" was living in Berlin, VT, when she met Nathaniel. Nathaniel and Nabby's first two children, Nathaniel Jr. and Abigail, were born in Northfield, and then the family moved to Canada where six more children followed: Caroline, Sarah Ann, Melissa, Esther, Alonzo and Adelia. Sometime between 1831 and 1850, the family returned to Northfield. From the Northfield history book: "He held offices in town and was an industrious man." Nathaniel was a millwright and later built a sawmill.



Though we hoped to find a likeness of Sanford Atherton, or photographs of his wife and children (they outlived him and did live during the time when photography was common), this drawing of Abigail's father, Nathaniel Richardson, was the closest we came. This drawing was found in a history of Northfield, VT, titled *Centennial proceedings and historical incidents of the early settlers of Northfield, Vt.* by Hon. John Gregory (Montpelier, 1878).

How did Sanford and Abigail meet? We don't know, but it is possible they met while the Richardsons were living in Quebec, as when Sanford enrolled at Middlebury, it was recorded that he came from Lower Canada. Why he was living in Quebec, we do not know. They rented their house in Glover until December 13, 1839, when they bought it for \$300 from Eber Frost, mortgaging \$230 of the cost.

In old records and newspaper items, we learned two different nicknames Abigail was known by: Abby and Abba.



One of the finds in the ledger of Dan Gray's Tavern–Store–Livery–Inn (today the Union House Nursing Home), where it was recorded that Sanford Atherton bought alcohol, rum, and gin (perhaps for doctoring), oats and crackers, and where he also hired a horse and wagon or cart several times. This entry was from the year 1835.

Chapter 4: Dr. Atherton's Children

by Hannah Breitmeyer and Willow Crow

Sanford and Abigail's daughter's name was Areanna Caroline, their first-born child. (Arianna's middle name was probably chosen after her mother's

sister, Caroline). When Areanna grew up, at age 24, she married George Drew Bickford, a Glover farmer, born in Danville, VT, who was a Civil War veteran. We almost thought that Caleb Bickford, in our class, was related, but we could not find a connection to prove it.) Areanna and George farmed in Glover, Barton and Sheffield, and had eight kids.

Sanford and Abigail also had a son named Sanford Adolph. They called him by his middle name so they wouldn't confuse him with his father. After high school, he went to Keene, NH, where he worked as a moulder in a machine shop, until he joined up in the NH Infantry as a Civil War soldier. After he was injured in battle in Alexandria, Virginia, he was mustered out. He returned to Keene and went back to working with machines. He met his wife, Helen Everest, in Arlington, VT. In 1868, they moved to Iowa, where he worked as a cooper, starting his own business. They had two children, Marylou and Allen.

The Atherton children were very young when their father, Dr. Atherton, died. Areanna was only 5 years old and Adolph 3. Abigail and the two children continued to live in the house at the corner of Main Street and Still Hill through the children's years of attending grade school, and then high school at what was then the recently opened Orleans Liberal Institute, which stood where the Glover Town Hall is today. One year another Institute student boarded with the Athertons.

In 1852, almost ten years after their father's death, their mother's oldest brother, Nathaniel Jr., of Northfield, VT, was appointed guardian of the children by the Orleans County Probate Court in Irasburg.

Of Arianna and George's eight children (Harley, E. Kate, George A., Mary, Carroll, George D. Jr., Ormali Winnie, and Charlie), at least four of the children died as infants or toddlers. George D. was born seven years after the death of the first George. Mary, Carroll, and George lived to adulthood, though Mary died at age 22. By the time of the 1900 census, when Areanna was 63, only two of her eight children were still living—George and Carroll.

Adolph became a very successful businessman in Dubuque, Iowa. The Key City Barrel Co. employed 50–100 workers and expanded from making barrels to manufacturing horse-drawn "omnibuses."

Adolph returned to Glover at least once, in 1881, and most certainly visited his sister Areanna and her family and old friends. A cousin, Andrew C. Atherton (son of Sanford's oldest brother George), just a few years younger than Adolph, was also living in Glover at the time. [Another cousin, Alonzo (son of another of Sanford's older brothers, Asa) also lived in Glover

from 1887–1890.] I tried hard to connect Shelia Atherton, who lives in Glover today, and her uncle Henry Atherton, who grew up in Glover and died in 2016, to the Sanford Atherton family, but could not connect the dots, though I suspect there might be a relationship.

Chapter 5: The Erysipelas Epidemic: A Sad Time in Glover

by all the students in the class

In the winter of 1842–43, an erysipelas epidemic hit Vermont, and Glover suffered greatly. Benjamin Brunning, who had lived in Glover as a young man during the 1840–1850s, wrote: "...in the winter of 1842–43 [the coffin maker] was driven night and day as well as Sundays, for that was the year of the 'black erysipelas' when from the first of January to the first of June there were 23 deaths; mostly by that dread disease." From "Glover History, 9th paper" published in the Orleans County Monitor, March 20, 1868: "Glover suffered severely...a large portion of the people were called up on to watch with the sick or dying...new made graves numbered nearly 40."

The first symptoms are: high fever, shaking, chills, fatigue, headaches, and swollen skin rash. These symptoms appear after 24 hours of being infected.

It causes red bumps on skin, making it shiny and red. The bumps break out into blisters that turn purple-black on the edges. Usually the face is the area most affected.

Erysipelas is caused by the same bacteria that causes strep throat and scarlet fever.

It is very contagious, and spreads easily.

Infants, children, and the elderly are most affected by erysipelas.

The outbreaks usually happen in the winter months; the most deaths occurred in March.

Not to worry, today this disease rarely occurs and if it does, it is cured with antibiotics.

The word erysipelas comes from two Greek words that mean "red skin."

Another name for erysipelas is St. Anthony's Fire.

Humans can catch it from infected animals; if that happens the disease is called erysipeloid.

An 1835 medical book outlined the treatment for erysipelas: bleeding from the arm using cuts with a lancet or leeches, then wrapped with warm cloths and bread and milk poultices; medicine made from a mixture of calomel, rhubarb, tartar, magnesia, and water; a bland diet and "perfect rest" in a well-ventilated room. In the late 1800s, the standard treatment was

to administer laxatives to purge the disease out and paint the face with iodine or silver nitrate. They may have brought some temporary relief to the patient, and some satisfaction to the family that at least something had been done, but they did not cure the erysipelas.

Chapter 6: Dr. Sanford Atherton's Death

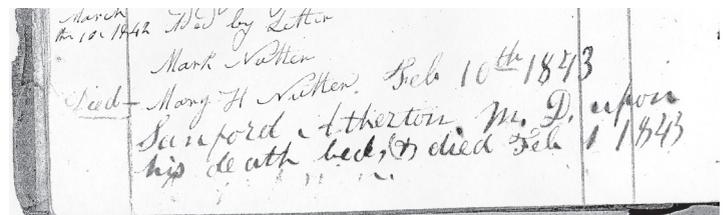
by Haven Hillbarnes and Ethan Turner

Sanford Atherton died in 1843 because he pricked himself during an autopsy on Paul Cook Jr., who died on January 16. Sanford was cutting Paul open when he pricked himself, got infected, and contracted erysipelas.

We don't really know how soon Sanford was showing signs of the disease, though for most people, it is within 24 hours of being infected. We do know that on February 1, it was in church records that Sanford professed "upon on his deathbed" (*see below*) to become a member of the church, "by profession." He then died on either February 1 or February 8. The records found do not agree on the date of death, but on his gravestone it says the 8th.

One historical account said that he died because he imbibed the infection. But most accounts say he contracted it through a cut, and that makes more sense.

He was buried at the Westlook Cemetery in Glover.



The erysipelas epidemic in Glover came right at the time when medical science was just starting to realize the connection between germs and disease. An outbreak of "childbed fever" (which was sometimes called childbed erysipelas) in 1843 at the New Hampshire Medical School (Dartmouth today), the same year as the epidemic in Glover, led a doctor to notice that the women waiting to give birth in the lying-in-hospital almost all got the childbed fever, and he began to link it to hygienic practices of the staff. The doctor's findings were not widely read until another ten years had passed. It wasn't until 1870 that French scientist Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch proved the "germ theory," the belief that microscopic germs caused disease.

In the late 1800s, the standard treatment for erysipelas was to administer laxatives to purge the disease out and paint the face with iodine or silver nitrate. It was not until 1928, when penicillin was discovered, that there was a successful treatment for erysipelas.

that the house and its one acre of land was to be sold to help settle the estate, it does not seem that ever happened. Abigail and the children continued to live there, and it was not sold until after Abigail's death. It may be that Abigail's brother and other family back in Northfield helped her out when she needed money.

Today we are accustomed to thinking of doctors as being financially secure, but that surely was not true in 1843 for Dr. Atherton, and perhaps this was a common situation for doctors of the time who practiced in rural places, who probably were often paid in grain and other farm products, or not at all.

Chapter 8: What Happened to Abigail?

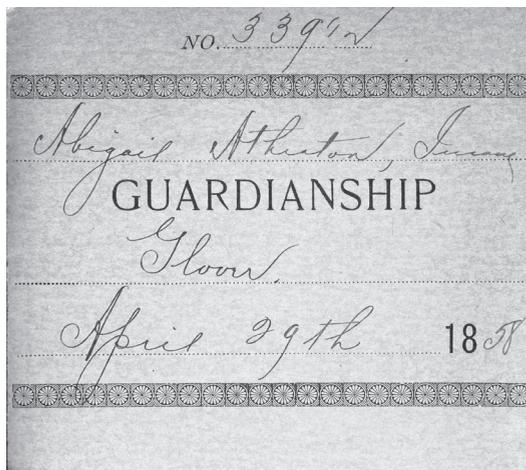
by Izzy Blanchard and Marissa Brown

We know Sanford Atherton died of erysipelas.

Arianna married George Bickford and had eight kids, but four of them died very young. Adolph left Glover and worked in Brattleboro, VT, and Keene, NH, before marrying and moving to Iowa.

But what about Abigail? She went insane.

Learning that Abigail had been labeled insane was a sad discovery. The archivist at the VT State Archives and Records explained that sometimes in those days, insane was also a term used for what today is called dementia or Alzheimer's. The Probate Court records did not elaborate on the nature of her insanity, other than to say it was "represented" and that Glover's Overseer of the Poor was appointed her guardian on April 29, 1858. After the students had completed their reports, I stumbled on more information about Abigail's insanity. Her name appeared on a list of the Brattleboro Insane Asylum (VT)



patients. She entered on May 1, 1858, just two days after the guardianship was granted, and remained there for 38 weeks, until discharged as "recovered" around June,

1859. It was wonderful news to learn she had recovered. That explained why she was living alone in Glover in the 1860 census; how would she have been able to live alone if she was insane?

What would have caused Abigail to have temporary insanity? She had become a widow at 28, with two young children, and with no sure financial footing. Lots had happened to her in the 1850s. The estate was finally settled in 1851; her

mother died in 1852; Adolph had left home to go out on his own in 1855; and both her father and her sister Sarah Ann died in 1856. Maybe the losses and financial woes were too much for her to face alone. After her return to Glover it appears she settled in the Parish School District area of Glover.

Abigail died on September 25, 1861, of consumption, a term for tuberculosis. Areanna and George had married just two weeks before Abigail's death. Abigail was buried next to her husband in Westlook Cemetery in Glover, though she does not have a marker. Areanna and her husband, George, are also buried at Westlook. Adolph is buried in Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque, Iowa, and probably that is where his wife, Helen, was buried.)

Here is the list of all the deaths we found that occurred in Glover from January–June, 1843. Some were found in the Glover Cemetery books that list all the gravestone inscriptions, some in church records, some in newspaper listings, and some in historical accounts.

Date of death	Name	Age
Jan 1	Content Sargent	60
Jan 4	Rhoda Cook	84
Jan 16	Paul Cook Jr.	47
Jan 23	Capt. Seth Hatch	68
Jan 29	Sally Allard King	66
Feb 8	Dr. Sanford Atherton	36
Feb 8	Jacob Cook	44
Feb 8	Mrs. Martha Bliss	?
Feb 10	Mrs. Mary Nutter	27
Feb 15	Quincy Bennett	67
Feb 16	Mrs. Sally Nutter	57
Mar 2	Andrew McLellan	74
Mar 4	Alma Minot	1 mo.
Mar 5	Caroline (Powers) Lawrence	32
Mar 12	Warren Sartwell Clark	31
Mar 16	Portus M. Clark	9 mo.
Mar 30	Olive Wheeler	34
Apr 2	Hannah (Pierce) King	45
Apr 5	Marsha S. Clark	6 mo.
Apr 8	Samuel Bean	68
Apr 10	George Wheeler	1
May 7	Royal Williams	89
May 11	John Crane	77

The most recent death attributed to erysipelas that is recorded in the Glover Death Records occurred in 1882, when 83-year-old Betsy White died on April 26, one of the 29 deaths in Glover that year.

Thank you!

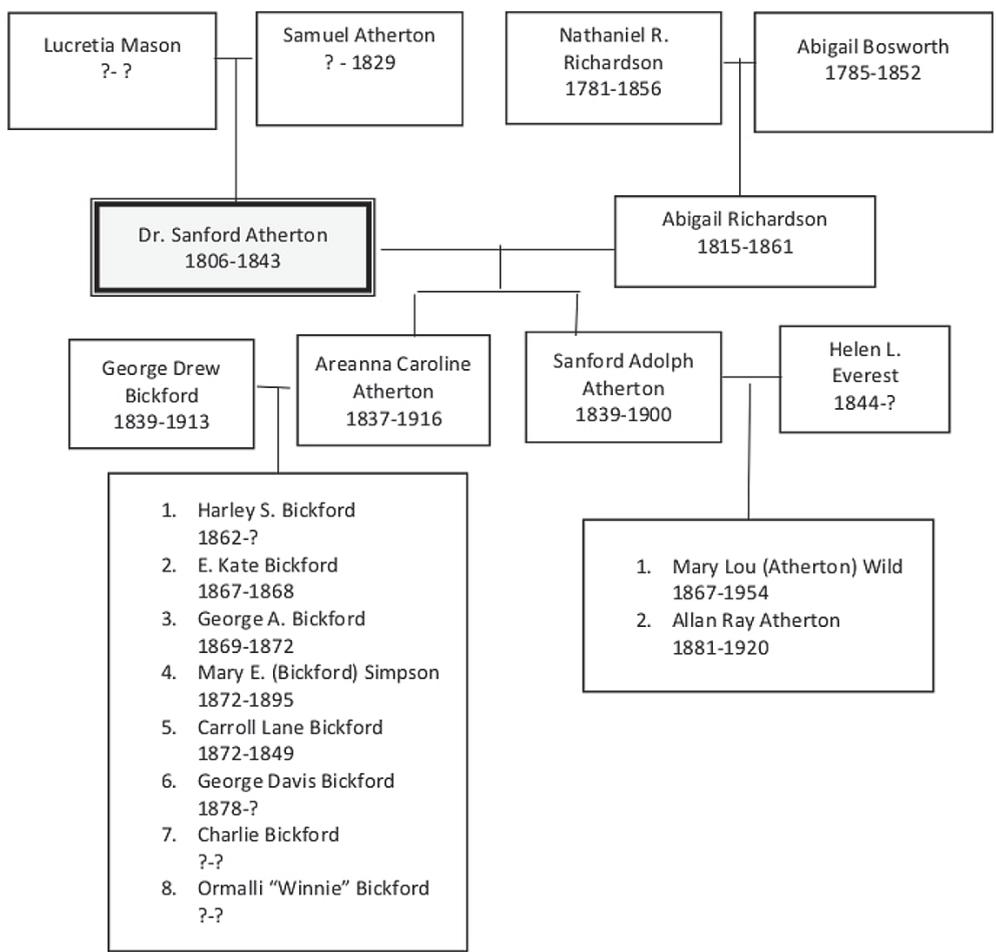
A big thank-you to the archivists, librarians, and historians who were so ready and willing to help with answers to our questions!

Jack Eckert, Librarian at the Countway Center for History on Medicine, Harvard University.

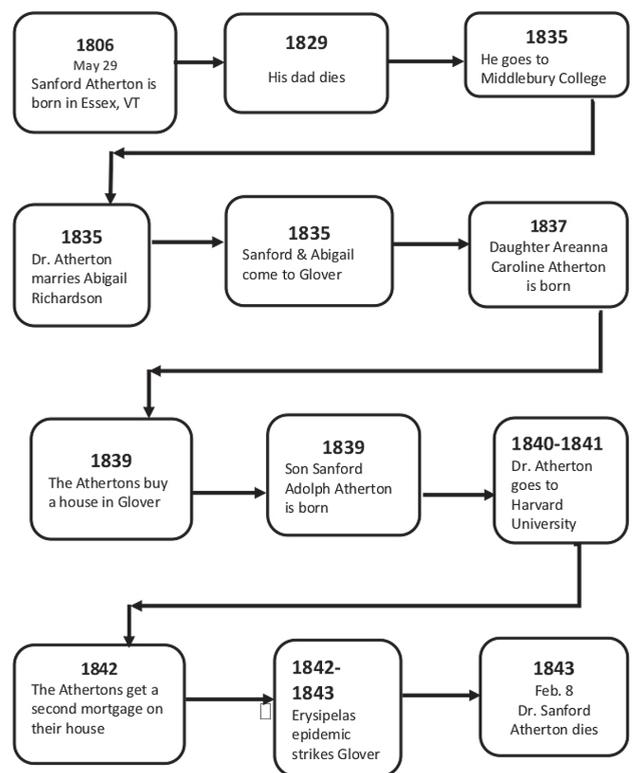
Br. Ford of Glover writes us as follows:
 The prevailing epidemic, which has carried off one in 30 of the inhabitants of this town, since the commencement of the present year, has very much abated within a few weeks; there have been 31 deaths in town since the first of Jan.

June 3, 1843, Universalist Watchman & Christian Repository (Montpelier, VT) Other accounts give the number of deaths from January to June as 23 or "about 20," another account says the total for the total epidemic were "nearly 40." We found 23 deaths recorded between January and the first of June, which matches accounts very well. The listing above does not include deaths that happened at the end of 1842, and, of course, there may have been other deaths that were never recorded. The most recent death attributed to erysipelas that is recorded in the Glover Death Records occurred in 1882, when 83-year-old Betsy White died on April 26, one of the 29 deaths in Glover that year.

Atherton Family Tree by Jesse Hoadley



Dr. Atherton Timeline by Danica Booth and Max Demaine



One group's task in the Glover town vault was to scour the cemetery records for any deaths that occurred in 1843. Would there really be between "20" and "nearly 40" deaths to match the historical reports made at the time? The state of Vermont did not require the recording of births, marriages, and deaths until 1857, so notices in newspaper, cemetery inscription records, and church records were what we looked for. In these two photos, left to right: Haven, Delanie, Max, and Duffy.



Left to right: Damien, Hannah, Willow, Danica, reading Sanford's purchases in old ledger.

Bethany Fair, Archivist at Vermont State Archives & Records Administration in Middlesex who helped find and photographed Dr. Atherton's probate court records for the estate settlement, the guardian records for his wife and children.

Eva Garcelon-Hart at the Henry Sheldon Museum in Middlebury.

Ann Gray and Tim German of the Essex Historical Society who shared the old lot map of Essex and all the Atherton info they had about Sanford's family.

Mikela Taylor, Special Collections & Archives at Middlebury College, who dug into old handwritten trustee's minutes and transcribed them for us, and also discovered the book *The Story of a Country Medical College* by White (Vermont Historical Society, 1935), which helped us answer the questions about what medical training was like in the 1830s.

Ancestry.com for the free classroom subscription.
And, closer to home:

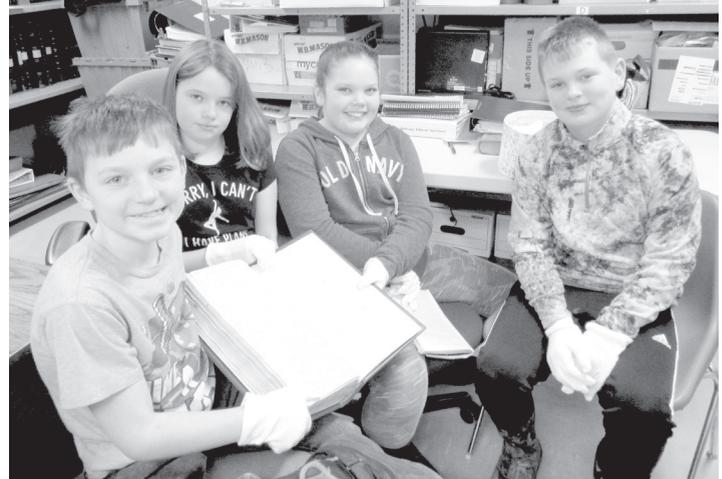
Glover's town clerk, Donna Sweeney, who made us welcome to research in the town vault.

Natalie Kinsey-Warnock of Storykeepers, and Joan Alexander of the Glover Historical Society, who guided the study of Dr. Atherton with the 4th graders.

Jodi Baker, who found time for her students to do this project, and for the support and welcoming from the front office secretary, Delores Pion, and Principal Angeliqe Brown.

Resources:

Gazetteer of Lamoille and Orleans Counties, Hamilton Child, editor (1883-4); *History of Glover* by Willard C. Summer 2018



Left to right: Jesse, Marissa, Lindsey, Ethan, researching in the land records.

Leonard (1940); *History of the town of Glover, Vermont* (1983); *Memories of Glover* (Brunning), (1907); Volume III of the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, Abby Maria Hemenway, editor (1877); & also: historic newspaper articles, census records, maps, Glover town land records, Glover vital records, County Probate Records, Glover Congregational Church records, Glover cemetery records, Glover town meeting records, Glover Grand Lists, Dan Gray's tavern ledger book, Northeast Kingdom Genealogy website, Ancestry.com website and other records of the Glover Historical Society.

Below, photo of a medical kit from the Glover museum, used c. 1840-1860, probably very similar to what Dr. Atherton used. Besides dispensing medicines, a common treatment doctors practiced at the time was blood-letting, believing that illness was carried in body fluids, and so releasing fluids would be healing. No doubt Dr. Atherton used blood-letting tools like these that were found in the kit: on the far right, lancets, and to the left of those, a folding set of phleam; both instruments used for cutting skin. Blood-letting was probably a last resort treatment for erysipelas, and very probably was used on Glover's erysipelas patients.



Medical kit from the Glover museum

The Medical Case at the Museum

Whose case was it?

This medical kit (12" x 7.5" x 6") was given to the Glover Historical Society by Jean Borland of Glover. Her cousin, Wayne H. Alexander, had been given the case in the 1980s by their mutual distant cousins, Merrill and Matt Salmon of Bridport, VT, who identified it as being their grandfather John Salmon's veterinary kit. John (1813–1881) emigrated to Glover in 1844 with his wife and four children from Scotland. John had a husbandry degree from the University of Edinburgh and once in Glover he was a farmer, schoolteacher, and veterinarian, according to family history and records. In the 1990s, Jean donated the kit to the Glover Historical Society.



Fleam.

It wasn't until 2017, when the kit was used as a visual aid in a talk about early medicine at the children's history day camp at the Old Stone House Museum, that a small silver plate was noticed on the front of the case with a name engraved on it—but the name was not John Salmon's, but "J.M. Sanborn, East Hardwick, VT, MD." Hmm! Why would a veterinary case with a provenance of belonging to John Salmon of Glover have a label with the name of Dr. Sanborn, MD, of East Hardwick?



Inside medical kit.

Glover History



Scissors, stamped LONDON. Hoof pick.

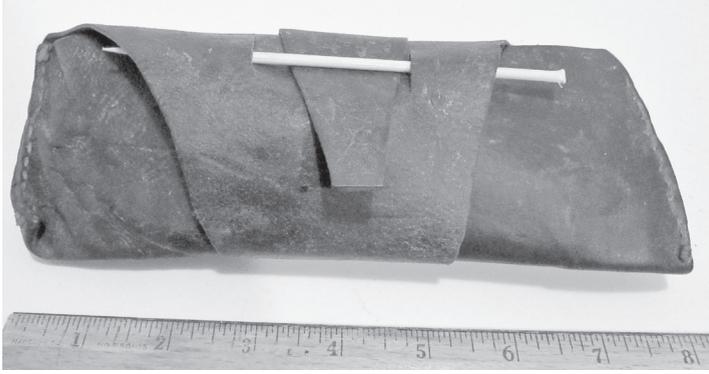
There are a couple of plausible explanations.

First of all, though we know of no connection between the Salmon and Sanborn families, the towns of Glover and Hardwick, even though in different counties, are only about 16 miles apart, and John Salmon and Dr. Sanborn may well have been acquainted, maybe even close friends.

Looking into vital and census records presented two Dr. Sanborns, a father and son, who both lived in Hardwick. John Sanborn (1810–1855) (no middle initial is given on any records, including his gravestone, so it might have been M.) was a physician. Perhaps after his death, John Salmon bought John Sanborn's doctor's kit to use in his veterinarian work. Jubal



Lancets.



Leather tool case.



Open kit.

Sanborn, a son of John Sanborn, who later became a doctor, was 15 at the time his father died. Perhaps the Sanborn family did not foresee that Jubal would ever follow in his father's footsteps and so did not save the medical kit for him to use. Jubal was working on a farm in Hardwick at the time of the 1860 census, and it appears he did not get his degree until 1866.

Jubal's middle initial is most often M. in all the records (though occasionally it is H, for Harrington, his mother's maiden name), so it is very possible that the J.M. Sanborn name on the metal disc stands for Jubal M. Sanborn, the son of John Sanborn. If that is true, then maybe the case originally belonged to the veterinarian John Salmon, and after his death in 1881, it was sold to John M. Sanborn, and he had the plate with his name added, and then when he died in 1888, the case was either given back to the Salmon family, or bought by them. If the families were already friends, the case may have been lent or gifted between the families.

Perhaps today a vet and doctor would not feel very comfortable using the instruments and medicines of each other's practice, but in the 1800s, the medical equipment and medicines used on animals were often



Medical case.



Unknown.

the same used on humans, so it is quite possible that both an MD and a vet could have used the same kit.

For now, the story of whose case it was originally remains unknown, but it is safe to say both John Salmon and one of the Dr. Sanborns used it for their work, and it was interesting for the Glover 4th-graders to examine it and realize that it must have been quite similar to a case that Dr. Atherton would have used.

The contents of the case:

Medicines: There were a few corked glass vials and bottles still labeled, a few still containing powders (the powders have since been removed): Powdered Deadadet; Powdered Peruvian Bark (a medicinal herb, also called quinine, Jesuit's bark, chinchona; a fever remedy); Mandrake (labeled empty bottle); Delladet; Arsenic label; Sulfate morphia (empty bottle with label from Powers & Weightman, established in 1847)

Instruments: (some of them stored inside a hand-sewn leather roll-up pocket): 2 fleams with clover-leaf blades; 3 lancets, 1 hoof pick, 3 pliers, 1 small wooden paddle, a pair of scissors with curved blades, and a few items of unknown name and purpose!

Miscellaneous: 10 empty glass vials/bottles (The case was designed to hold 16 skinny vials and 14 large vials); 2 rolled gauze bandages; cotton batting; curved needle, and chunk of wax that had been used for waxing thread and needle.

Resources: Medicalantiques.com (Arbittier Museum of Medical History); Mütter Museum in Philadelphia; Melnock Medical Museum at Youngstown State University; G. Tiemann & Co.; and the Museum of History of Medical Artifacts.



Pliers.

What is it? Contest Winners

Nine months of fun: Winners of the 2017–2018 school year “What is it?” Puzzler.

An acrylic box sits on a table in the lobby of Glover Community School, with some mysterious old item on view inside. Students have a month to think about what it is and what it was used for and submit their guesses on slips of paper in a box. At the end of

the month, a random winner is selected from all the correct answers and that student gets to pick a prize (books or souvenirs from the Glover Historical Society). All students with correct answers pick one of the 17 Glover History Cards to add to their collection. The answers, even when not correct, show that Glover kids are thinking and creative! Congratulations to all!



September: Zach Boutin, gr. 7. What could be inside the little boxes? Photographs!



December: Haven Hill Barnes, gr. 4. What caused the metal and glass to become melded together? A fire.



May: Abbie Blanchard, gr. 6. What's inside the wooden rectangular case? A nested fork and knife!



October: Left to right: Haven Hill Barnes, Annabella Aiken, Max Demaine, Marissa Brown, Abby Darling, Hannah Breitmeyer. Gr. 4. A soap saver.



January: Nora Demaine, gr. 2. Name at least 3 of the 12 good luck symbols on these Happy New Year's Day postcards.



March: Trent Young, gr. 5. Who would use these tools? A doctor or a vet.



November: Ruby Fecteau, gr. 3. Cross-stitched punched paper bookmarks.



February: Brie Dupree, gr. 6. Dance cards.



April: Abby Darling, gr. 4. A wood planer.

An Old Letter: "...the play has ended..."

A story of a deadbeat dad

Barnston, March 27th 1881

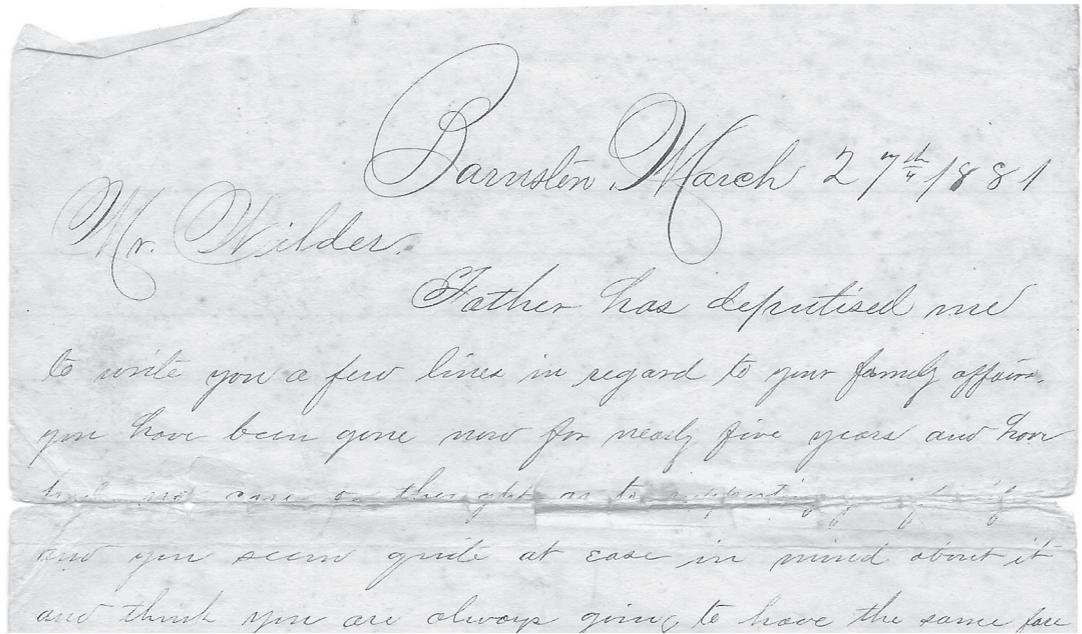
Mr. Wilder,

Father has deputized me to write you a few lines in regard to your family affair. You have been gone now for nearly five years and have had no care or thought as to supporting your family and you seem quite at ease in mind about it and think you are always going to have the same fare but it is a decided fact that if you do not come where your family are and try to do something for their benefit the children will have to be given away and your now wife will be free to act as she pleases. There are plenty of chances here where you could have a good comfortable living with your family if you had a disposition to and it has come to that you must do different in some way. It is not every one who has someone to be at all expense of family as you have had for so long a time. Should think you would feel it a sacred duty to be with your family and try and do something for them instead of leaving them on others charity in the shape you have that is if you have any feeling for them you should have I think. I have _____ [words torn off at fold at end of page] and that is not all.

Charles is soon expecting to have a family of his own and of course this is to be his home with out any doubts whatever and he thinks one family is all he will be able to support, and you must take yours to yourself. You must have very strange ideas of living to thank any one save yourself is under any obligation whatever to support you family year after year, and you fooling around as you have been for the last five or six years. You say [you] are going to be noted in the world and I think you would be more noted if you were living with your family and caring [sic] for them than any other way you will ever likely to be stricken. You may think of this as you will, but it has come to just this the play has ended and you have certainly got to take your own responsibilities after this.

Ezra Cleveland

Ezra Cleveland, the letter writer (who appears to have dictated the letter to his son, Charles, who was the actual penman) farmed in Barnston, Quebec, just over the border from Derby Line. The 1881 Canadian



census shows Ezra Cleveland, age 64, living with Charles Cleveland, age 23. Also living in the same house is Ezra's daughter Abbie Ann Wilder, age 32 (the wife of Ezra Wilder, the deadbeat dad to whom the letter is written), and her two young children, Fred Lee, age 6, and Winnie Idell, age 4. Abbie's mother had died in 1880.

Ezra Towne Crane Wilder, 26, a farmer from Compton, Quebec, and Abbie Cleveland, 25, a school mistress, married on May 18, 1874, in Coaticook, Quebec, in the Methodist church. Sometime around the birth of their second child, he left, and had been gone for nearly five years when Abbie's father wrote this letter.

The letter's plea for Ezra Wilder to return to his family apparently did not succeed in convincing the errant husband and father to return to his family. The following year, in March 1882, Abbie's father made her a notarized donation of a \$1,400, noting that she had also received \$500 from her mother's estate, and also a gift of land in Barnston. The donation stipulated that the money could never be used by the present or any future husband of Abbie's or any of their creditors; it was intended only for Abbie and her children. The donation records that Ezra Wilder had last been farming in Allison, Iowa, but was now in "parts unknown."

Six months after receiving the donation, Abbie married for a second time in Lyndon, VT, to William E. Dizan, a mechanic, who was born the same year

as Abbie in Barnston. The only other trace of her and her new husband is when they have a daughter in Wheelock, VT, who apparently died just months old, as did another child born two years later. Perhaps because of the various spellings of William's last name (Dezan, Desante, etc.), there is no more to add to what happened to them. Ditto for the deadbeat dad, Ezra Wilder—no records were found to fill in the rest of his life. But in the 1991 Canadian census, the two children of Abbie and Ezra were living in Barnston with their Uncle Charles Cleveland. Had their mother died by then and Charles took them in, or had they lived with him ever since her 1882 remarriage? In the letter Charles was "soon expecting to have a family of his own," and indeed he did; he married and had two

children and lived in Barnston all his life. Also living with Charles in 1991 was his widowed sister Corrilla and her two children.

This letter (without envelope) came to the GHS in 1990, as part of a large Norton family collection; the Nortons came in Glover in the town's early settlement years and stayed for many generations. However, no one in the Norton family seems to be connected to anyone mentioned in the letter, leaving one to speculate why this letter ended up with the Norton family papers and was saved for over 100 years. Elijah Norton served as a sheriff for many years, and perhaps he retained the letter because of official duties. Or, maybe Mr. Wilder had worked as a hired hand on the Norton farm. The connection remains a mystery.

The Glover boys of summer, 1903



Left to right, standing: Dan Gray, Harley Marsh, Will Roystan, Roy Bean, Alson Anderson; kneeling: Leo Christie, Hiram Davis, Jessie Christie, Ed Walker; sitting: Claude King, Edwin Williams.

Based on their dress, it looks like Dan Gray and Alson Anderson were the managers. Though almost every one of these ball players had grown up on a farm in Glover, only two were still farming at the time of the 1910 census: Ed Walker and Jesse Christie. Jesse's cousin Leo, was a teamster, gathering cream. Dan Gray was a carpenter and Harley Marsh a tub maker. Will Roystan was a photographer with a studio in Barton. Hiram Davis, Claude King, and Alson Anderson were all merchants at general stores in Glover Village. Edwin Williams worked as a road laborer, and Roy Bean was a banker.

Sometimes the *Monitor* gave inning-by-inning detailed accounts of the ball games but, alas, there was none for Glover in 1903, which was the year identified on the back of the photo. But there was this inviting

announcement from August 27, 1906. (A.E. Anderson is Alson Anderson of the baseball photo.)

"A social game of baseball will be pulled off on A.E. Anderson's meadow on Wednesday, August 29th at 2 o'clock p.m. The players will be chosen from the crowd, and seats in the grandstand are free, also lemonade, as long as it lasts. The object of this game is not to see how well we can play, but to get the people out for a half holiday and have a jolly good time. Leave your tempers at home and bring your wives, children and sweethearts. If the weather is unsuitable the game will be played on Thursday at the same hour. Everybody come. We'll have a good time if we don't save a cent."

Bits and Pieces

Don't miss the display box at the Town Clerk's



Sitting on the counter when you enter the town clerk's office is the GHS display box, which we change out every six months or so. Holding court at present is a display of different items Skip Borrell found in his archeological dig at the Ernest & Irene Stevens' homesite on Bean Hill. Many of you have mentioned how much you enjoyed Skip's account of his dig and finds in our last newsletter. Check out the display box to see this sampling in person!

Waterfalls and eulogies

Phil Urie, Glover native who now lives in PA, had two new suggestions for GHS. The first concerns his interest in waterfalls. He knows of a few in Glover and would like to compile a complete Glover list. Do you know of any? Send us an email at our new email address (gloverhistory@gmail.com), or drop us a line at PO Box 208, Glover VT 05839.

Phil's second suggestion was that it would be a good idea for the GHS to be a repository for Glover folks' eulogies that are given at funerals or memorial services. GHS has been collecting obituaries since its founding in 1990, and there are many obituaries clipped from newspapers that come to us in scrapbooks and candy boxes when families donated memorabilia. Eulogies, often with more personal reflections, would be a wonderful addition to the obituaries. Please consider sharing copies of eulogies you have for friends and family.

WANTED

The Glover Historical Society 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.

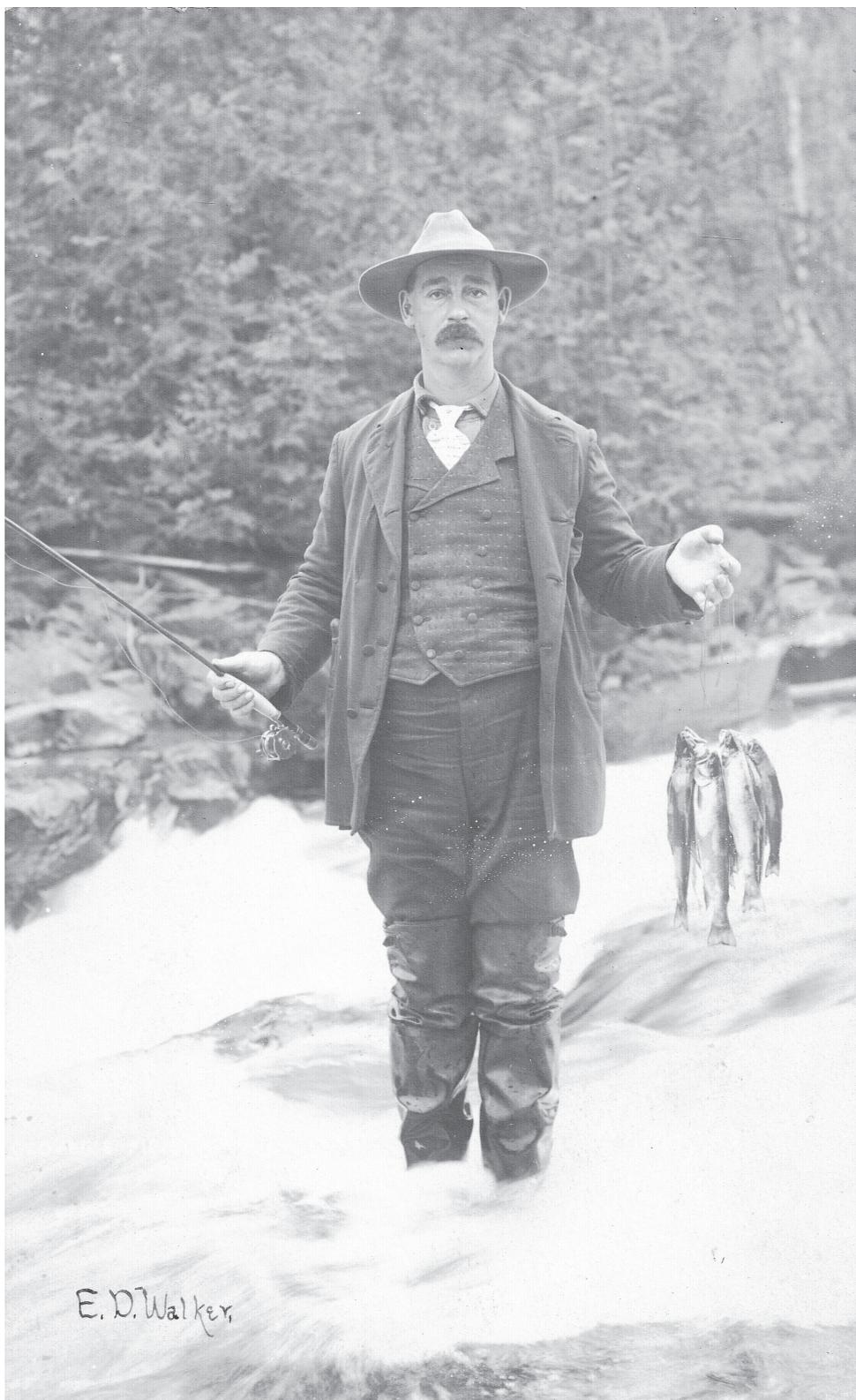
For those of you who don't use the Internet, please mail stories to:

Glover Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 208

Glover, VT 05839

Visit our website: gloverhistoricalsociety.org



An easy catch!

“W.A. Royston recently photographed E.D. Walker with a string of trout, the result of a couple of hours fishing in the river. The picture will appear in the National Sportsman.” (Orleans County Monitor, May 5, 1905)

This was an interesting item we found while reading the Glover news columns in old newspapers when we were working on our Slab City book. We copied down hundreds of these items, whether or not they had anything to do with Slab City. There was no *National Sportsman* article in the archives at the museum, but maybe someday we could search one out and see the picture.

It turned out to be an easy catch! This postcard of the happy fisherman, identified as E.D. Walker at the bottom of the photo, arrived at the museum last summer, part of a huge donation of photos and other memorabilia from the Muriel Leland Sherburne family.

Ed Walker lived along Runaway Pond Road, so maybe this catch was from the Barton River. Both Ed and the photographer Will Royston are pictured in the 1903 baseball photo also in this issue, another treasure from the Muriel Leland Sherburne collection.

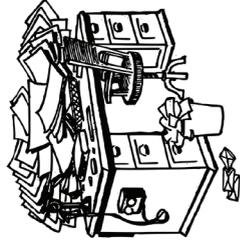
Alverton Elliot’s memoir

How often have you heard “I could write a book!” Alverton Elliot Jr. of Texas has done what many people think and talk about doing—writing a book of their life story. There is much about his years growing up in Glover and Barton. He has graciously sent a copy to us and you may borrow it from our museum; email first (gloverhistory@gmail.com) to reserve it.

Fourth of July at the river park

Here's another photo/newspaper match-up, possibly, also from the Muriel Leland Sherburne collection. The girl at the end of the arrow was identified as Lila (Marsh, b. 1887), who later married Burleigh Sherburne, was Roy Sherburne's mother, and Muriel's mother-in-law. Written on the back: "July 4, 1906? Back of Judge Owens, by the river." (Judge Owen's home was later W.H. Mason's, and in more recent years, the Howard and Bev Conley home. It burned a few years ago and a new home was built in the same spot.) Whoever dated the photo was not sure of the year, and so the following item from the July 7, 1902, edition of the *Orleans County Monitor* could well be a match, if you are willing to believe that Lila could be 15 and not 19 in this photo.

"Several of the members of the Grange and numerous other people met in W.H. Mason's river park to celebrate the Fourth last Friday. It was a beautiful day and a very merry company, and with tables and tents carried from the town hall, with croquet sets, swings for the children and athletic sports by the young men, a very pleasant time was enjoyed. This is an ideal place for picnics and the plan of fitting it up for a pleasure park was advocated by the men who assembled there. It is on the site where the old grist mill was located which was washed away when Runaway pond devastated the valley in 1810, and extends across the river covering some twelve to sixteen acres of land. "There are shades and cool retreats where the sylvan waters flow," which, if owned by some wealthy man who delighted therein would be fitted up into a beautiful park."



**Do you have old Glover photos and stories to share?
Contact Betsy at 525-4051 or Joan at 525-6212.
Please contact us to meet with a member.**

