



The Scott Bridge held up by cranes while steel cribbing is winched through to support the bridge until the repairs are completed. Renaud Construction Co. which repaired the covered bridge in Dummerston is doing the work.

Scott Bridge Update

Townshend's 145-year-old Scott Bridge is finally getting a badly needed repair job *to maintain this historic structure*. Built by town resident Harrison Chamberlin in 1870, it has been called the longest covered bridge in Vermont. Vehicular traffic was banned in 1955, and foot traffic was banned in 2012 due to the deterioration of the structure. Because of *the historic significance* of the bridge, now owned by the state of Vermont and on the National Registry of Historic Places, \$2.2 million has been allocated for a 14-month repair project using federal and state funds. The bridge was named after the Scott family farm, which was connected to Route 30 by the bridge.



Steel cribbing inside Scott Bridge, Nov, 2015.

Townshend's Vanishing Barns

We had a great turnout at the County History Fair, and at the Pumpkin Festival; we handed out 80 **Self-Guided Barn Tour** brochures. An enhanced exhibit of this tour with lots more photos will soon be available on-line at townshendvt.org. A majority of the photos were taken by Amie Schiller.



Heidi Clawson with exhibit at County History Fair.

Early Barns Testify to the Character of the Men Who Built Them

"Though we are tempted to romanticize and sentimentalize traditional Vermont, it is important to remember that it had its dignity, its darkness, and its own worth. It was based not on nostalgia or sentiment but on work, the real fundamentalism of the time.

"Many of the traditional values of that earlier Vermont—a respect for hard work, a love of independence and of doing for oneself, a closeness to nature, a care for one's community—still exist today, even though the living culture that shaped those values is now all but gone. The memories of traditional Vermont are passing gradually, as the people who knew and lived in that Vermont die. Yet it can be glimpsed from time to time and still colors the ways Vermonters think about themselves" (*Tom Slayton, Foreword, Up in the Morning Early by Scott Hastings, Jr, and Elsie R. Hastings, 1992*).



Inside-Out Barn Tour with Pete Newton

In October, fifteen people inspected three local barns for broadaxe marks, rabbets, and hand-hewn beams with Pete Newton, a noted local authority on barn construction. The barns on the tour were: the Fletcher-Faulkner English-style barn (c 1850) and silo; the Lawrence-Jackson side-hill English barn (1875), used for sheep, and the Gale-Holt high-drive bank barn with an interior silo (c 1880's).



Left: Lawrence-Jackson post-and-beam English barn
Right: Fletcher-Faulkner silo

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Cleveland Ohio in 1856 Memories from Charles Gray Atwood, Part IX

I left Madison in 1856. Alfred thought he had a job for me in N.Y. He knew I would have to stop over in Cleveland Ohio and told a friend of his there to be nice to me. I went to see this man. He asked me, "What are you going to do in N.Y.?" I said I didn't know exactly. "Why not take off your coat and work for me?" he suggested. "I need a man in my lace and fine silks department." He kept one of the finest dry goods stores in Cleveland. "Why not?" I thought. And I stayed.

One day, a lovely little black-haired, black-eyed girl came into the store with her mother to buy some fine point-lace and right then I decided that I'd probably stay in Cleveland for quite a long while.

The above selection was excerpted from "A Bit of Family History: Memories by Charles Gray Atwood," from Joyce Coil.



Atwood House in West Townshend 2015

Charles Gray Atwood, one of our most important witnesses to the life of Townshend in the early 1800's, moved west to seek his fortune as many of our young men did in those days. His career began humbly at the age of 14 as the sweeper and fire-starter at the Sawyer General Store in West Townshend; and he went on to become owner of a very successful dry goods store in Cleveland, Ohio. By the 1880 Census Charles' household included Carrie (the girl with the "black eyes"), two children, and four Irish persons (possibly boarders who helped in the store or household).

[The complete Atwood Memories will be available on our new web site in the newsletter archives.]



The main farmhouse at Maple Hill Farm

Those Jones Boys!

Part I of a series on Maple Hill Farm
by Priscilla Jones Mounts of Cavendish.

My dad Robert and his brother Perley Jones were born on the family farm in West Townshend, Vermont. Maple Hill Farm (occasionally called Maple Dell Farm) was located high in the hills of the West River Valley, two miles above the village of West Townshend

The farmhouse was the old-fashioned kind with lots of room for several generations of a great big farm family. There were also many small, functional sheds and outbuildings, all of it on 160 acres of land. The terrain was typical for southeastern Vermont, if hillier than some: there was a mix of hills, valleys, forests, fields, and streams.



House is at the center of photo; barns extend to the right.

The farm was less than a mile from South Windham village, an easy walk or drive for all, so that is where the Joneses attended church and the boys went to school.

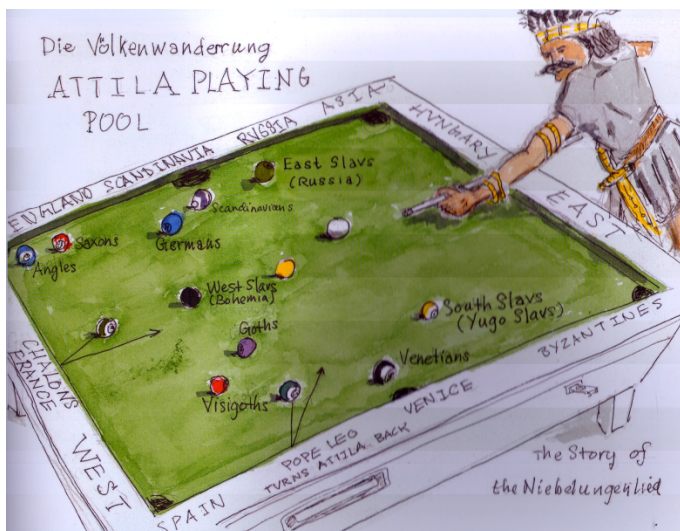


Teacher, May Burton, Kate Howe, Ora Cheney, Chrystal Cheney, Bernice Gibbs, Mildred Harris, Josephine, Daigneault, Louise Kingsley, Eva Howe, Robert Jones, unknown, Lillian Vaile, Greta Bridges, Lita Gibbs, Bessie Tenney, Harvey Corbett, Perley Jones, Randall Rhodes, Raymond Howe, Carroll Jennison, Cecil Bridges, Guy Tenney, Hugh Tenney, Weston Cheney, Fred Smith, Cola Howe (not related to the other Howes), Arthur Howe, Fred Harris, _____ Daigneault, Ralph Howe.
1907 District #12, serving W Townshend & S Windham,
(labels by Robert L Jones)

Perley was the first child born to Charles and Kathrina (Shaw) Jones, arriving in the spring of 1899. A little over two years later Perley got a little brother, Robert, who was called Robbie throughout his boyhood.



Charles and Kathrina Jones
with Perley standing and Robbie sitting



Danforth introduced his new book, **The Eastern Question: A Geopolitical History**, with 40 slides of remarkable illustrations reflecting humorous glimpses into 3,000 years of history in the East --of nomads trading by horse, then camel, and eventually by ship. Over time, the question is, what separated the East from the West --religions, dynasties or crusades? Danforth's sense of history combined with our present situation of eastern terrorism come together in this historical research. The book with 108 colorful maps and drawings --all by hand -- is available at the West Townshend Country Store and at Misty Valley Books in Chester. Also on the web site: www.easternquestion.com

Blame it on the Babylonians is the title of a talk by town resident, Ted Danforth on Nov. 8, co-sponsored by the Townshend Historical Society and the West River Community Project. Danforth describes his background as "history scholar, printer, and publisher."

NEW Web Site for THS

Keep your eyes open for our exciting new web site which we hope to have up and running by the end of December. There will be an expanded Barn Tour, a Town Hall Painted curtains exhibit, newsletters, and much more.



Become a Member! Preserve & share Townshend's history.

Your membership will help fund projects and activities and entitle you to a print copy of our informative newsletter, a vote at general membership meetings, and exciting learning and volunteer opportunities.

Annual dues are just \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families and are payable January first of each year.

Join Townshend Historical Society by returning the enclosed member reply envelope. Include your email address to ensure easy contact and save postage.



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