



**Fair Brook Stone Arch Bridge**

## Stone Arch Bridges in Need of Repair

Our Follett stone arch bridges are in desperate need of repair. The Fair Brook Bridge, in particular, has suffered “fractured and crumbling stone” such that the “integrity of the arch has clearly been impaired” (*National Register* 1976). It’s time to do something about it. We plan to get a professional assessment of all of our stone arch bridges so that we can set priorities and raise funds for their preservation. We hope you will join us in our efforts.

More bridge photos and info are available on our website and in the Town Hall display case.

## Scott Bridge Celebration

A celebration marking the restoration of Scott Covered Bridge is in the works! With the blessing of the Vermont AOT who partnered with the federal government to fund this significant preservation project, our plans include a dedication ceremony, pot luck supper, and square dance. A time will be set as soon as work by Renaud Brothers is complete. Keep your eyes out for our announcement of the date!

## A Favorite Spot on the Common

The Townshend Common is unusual in that it was leased to the inhabitants of Townshend in 1803; the terms of the lease being that “the common must be maintained as long as the meeting house [now the church] exists.” A unique feature is the cast iron fountain and pool in the center of the Common. Long a favorite of children and thirsty dogs, the fountain was installed in 1893 at the cost of \$526 and was originally under the control of the Townshend Park Association. When the association dissolved in 1906, the Select Board took over the maintenance. The original water source was a spring on the side of Peaked Mountain; the water now comes from the elementary school. It is thought that this distinctive fountain may have come from the “Stewart Iron Works” of Cincinnati, Ohio, the source of our cemetery gates that were purchased the same year.

*--Research by Charles Marchant*



**Note the finial shown here on the original fountain**

## "Those Jones Boys"

Part IV of a series on Maple Hill Farm

*The series opens with Charles and Kathrina Jones running a farm and summer boarding house on Windham Hill Road with their two young sons, Perley (born 1899) and Robbie (born 1901). The previous item shows a photo of a lynx that Robbie had trapped.*

JUSTIFY:

...As to deer hunting, there is a story to go with the following picture, which I copy from the item in the Vermont Phoenix. You'll see the reason for Robbie's uncomfortable expression when you read the newspaper report.



**Left to right: Robbie Jones, Raymond Howe, and Perley Jones with their deer**

After an article about successful deer hunters, this item appeared in the local newspaper:

***South Windham:....Raymond Howe and Perley Jones, six-point buck, 200 pounds.***

*This deer had been shot by Robert Jones the day before and its under jaw broken. The boys took the trail the next morning on Turkey Mountain and followed it above Jamaica village before bringing the deer down.*

Another event involving my dad and a gun also got notice in the paper. This one was important enough to have a headline in the Phoenix:

## ***Seized Burglar by Leg***

***A burglar was discovered in the workshop on the Jones premises while the Joneses were at prayer meeting. Two shots were fired at him, but he escaped.***

*Miss Fitz, a city boarder at the Jones' had been playing with Robert, young son of the Joneses. She went into the shed in the dark, from which place she saw someone lighting matches and looking at tools in the workshop. Thinking the boy had taken a back way to enter the shed and was waiting to jump at her, she sat down and pretended to be asleep.*

*The person came nearer and Miss Fitz, still thinking it was the Jones boy, seized him by the leg. The burglar jumped in an effort to get away, knocking Miss Fitz over, and ran through the barn. Robert Jones then shot twice at the receding form.*



**Maple Hill's extensive barns**

Too bad there isn't a photograph of that event! But with no way of taking pictures at night and slow lens speeds requiring still photos, most of the pictures we do have are undramatic and are usually posed.

--Priscilla Jones Mounts (daughter of Robert Jones)

## **Windham County History Fair**

**Save the date!  
August 19, 2017**

on the Newfane Common.

**Fun for adults and children.**





**Left to Right:**

**Don Boutell, Lon Chamberlin, Ray Fitts, Will Blood, Hays Sanders, Frank Blood, Jean Cudworth, Russell W. Blood (brother of Frank and Will)**

### Work Crew at Townshend Elementary c 1915

In 1914, the school needed “quite extensive repairs. Not only are the present lighting, heating, and ventilating systems and toilet arrangements unsatisfactory, but the floors are old and worn, the blackboards are in poor condition, and the building needs painting inside and out” (comments by School Superintendent F.L. Drew in the *1914 Townshend Town Report*). In addition, the roof needed to be re-shingled, the grammar grades room enlarged, and a good supply of running water added.

Enter the multi-talented Blood brothers, Frank, Russell, and Will, (sons of Arthur Blood) plus the team of workers pictured above and we get a completely renovated school building. While we don’t know if all of the updates were accomplished, we can see, by comparing the above photo with one taken around 1910 at the right, that the front entrance and steps were given a completely new look. The *Town Report* shows \$7,149.11 spent for school repairs in 1914-1915; and \$940.62 in 1915-1916.

--Lee Petty

#### *Stitch in Time:*

#### *Townshend Vermont, 1753-2003*

on sale for \$30 at [www.townshendvt.org](http://www.townshendvt.org)  
Click on the “Store” tab at upper right.



**Early Board Members, Front, L to R: Marge Holt, Tom Lyman, Virginia Chamberlin; Back: Marcia DeWitt, Frank McCarthy, Tiz Garfield, Robert DuGrenier**

### Tribute to Tiz Garfield

Townshend Historical Society owes a great debt to Elizabeth “Tiz” Garfield who died on March 8, 2017. One of the original founders of the society, Tiz shared her vision of documenting the history of Townshend through the publication of the award-winning book, *A Stitch in Time, Townshend VT, 1753-2003*. Her talent for researching and gathering financial support and enthusiasm for the project made it a reality and ensured that the earlier years of our unique town were not forgotten. Even as she approached the end of her life, she continued to write grant applications and work for the good of the Townshend community. In addition to being key to the success of the endeavors of the Historical Society, Tiz served for fifteen years on the Townshend Planning Commission and as a Director of the Townshend Library. What a blessing it is that she chose to move to Townshend in 1970 and start a new life here with her family.



**Elementary School before the 1915 repairs**



P.O. Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353

## Church Window Returns to Townshend

In 1895, a year after a disastrous fire destroyed the east side of town, the Second Baptist Church of Townshend was dedicated. A beautiful stained glass window was installed to honor the memory of Aurelius Chapin Howard and Hannah Cobb Howard. The Howards were prominent residents of the community and the originators of the Howard Legacy Fund which to this day provides funds to assist those in need in Townshend.

To make room for the present Leland and Gray school built in 1970, the church was demolished along with other buildings on the east side of the Common. For many years the window resided at Gove Hill Baptist Conference Center in Thetford, VT. When Gove Hill closed in 2014, members of the Townshend Historical Society reclaimed the window and brought it to its present location at the Robert DuGrenier Art Glass Gallery. Plans to repair the window and install it in a permanent setting are in the process.

--Marge Holt



The Howard Commemorative Window was at the left  
(on the north side of the church)

### Townshend Historical Society Board

President: Robert DuGrenier

Vice President: Charles Marchant

Secretary: Marge Holt

Treasurer: Walter Corcoran

Trustees: Heidi Clawson, Priscilla Lyman, Lee Petty

**Join Now, It's not too late!**

**Individual \$10; Family \$15**

**Your support helps preserve our history  
for future generations.**

**Send your dues to:**

**P.O. Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353**

**Or go to our website: [www.townshendvt.org](http://www.townshendvt.org).**