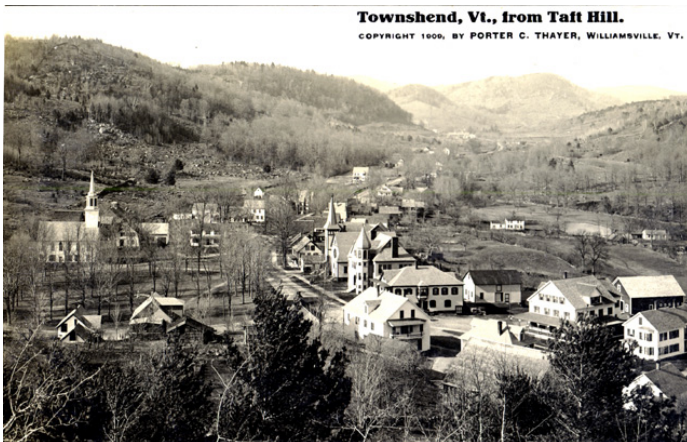


THS ANNUAL MEETING

Townshend Photographers

**Presented by
Charlie Marchant**



A View of Townshend by Porter Thayer c 1900

**Sunday, November 3
3:00pm Town Hall**

Light Refreshments Served

All are invited to attend our Annual Meeting and presentation in the Townshend Town Hall at 3:00. The event will begin with a brief business meeting that will include a vote for Board Members and Officers.

Next will be a presentation about Townshend's photographers and their photos, given by our President, Charlie Marchant. (SEE p 3 for an article on photographer, Henry Bailey.)

If Trees Could Talk

The movie, *Funny Farm*, was not funny to us trees on The Common. When the film crews arrived in September, 1987, radical changes were made to accommodate the *desired season*. While everyone knows that maple leaves change color in the fall, this was a surprise to the film crew. Our leaves were painted green; all leaves on the ground hunted down and eliminated. To add insult to injury, we were then winterized with white foam and cotton balls.

Rumors ran rampant. A nearby resident had heard that the great snow guns from Stratton Mt. ski area were on their way, and would be arriving the following night. She was advised to get a good night's sleep before the noise began. Her reply, "When God makes snow, there is no noise at all!" As with most rumors, this one proved to be false.

After the movie crew departed, fourteen of us began to feel poorly during that winter, and come spring we produced no buds. Specialists were rushed in to examine us, and they predicted our demise. Though denying their guilt, Warner Brothers brought in seven little saplings to take our place. Imagine! The townspeople were dismayed, and soon a truck appeared with three mature maples weighing 12,000 pounds each. Our dying wish is that they may have a long life –and keep well out of the limelight!



Early view of trees on Townshend Common

The Peaked Mountain Schoolhouse

Interview with Winnifred Lawrence, Part III

My parents, Fred and Pauline Lawrence, came from Windham. . . . and we moved to the old schoolhouse in 1925..

This is where I was living when I started school [down at Townshend Elementary]. There was a Mr. Knapp from down on Route 35, as you came up, that drove the school team [of horses]. In the summer he had a wagon and I think it had three seats in it; I don't remember, it must have a roof on it because the sleigh that he had in winter had seats set sideways with a roof on, with curtains that you could roll down. . . . The winds used to sweep in there terribly in wintertime and make drifts. Well, he had a pair of horses that he used to carry scholars with and I've seen those horses go into snow way to their bellies. Us girls, all the kids on the sleigh, were screeching, "Gonna tip over; gonna tip over." Mr. Knapp would say, "Get on the upper seat and hold it." We'd get on the upper seat; sure enough, it wouldn't tip over.



Early school bus --art by Pokey Lyman

We had a school teacher in our first grade named Carlotta Lawrence who was from Grafton and a distant relative. . . .the only girl I knew when I started school, was Lillian Davis. She lived over where Nancy Eckhardt lives now [on East Hill Rd]. So her brother, Richard, stayed at home and helped his father. They had a telephone. Lillian and I were really homesick [when they started first grade.]

One day we went over to Mr. Robinson's store (CC Robinson's IGA on the Common). We were crying away when we went in the store "What is the trouble, girls?" Mr. Robinson said. "We want to go home! We want to go home!" And he said, "Oh, go back to school." "No! We want to go home!" Lillian said.

"Would you call Rich [Winnie's brother] and ask him if he'd come down and get us?" Of course, Mr. Robinson wouldn't do that, but he did say to us girls, "Go back to school; if I give you some candy, will you go back to school?" Oh, sure, we'd go back to school if he gave us some candy, penny candy. Back to school we went. We were still homesick for a long, long time. I don't think Lillian knew anyone else. This is why it's great now to have play school and kindergarten. Kids know each other when they go to school. In that time there was no kindergarten or play thought of. It was a hard time for us the first year, but we made it.

Interview by Rose Steiner Tarbell Lyman



Townshend's IGA Store



Townshend Historical Society Board

President: Charles Marchant

Vice President: Robert DuGrenier

Secretary: Marge Holt

Treasurer: Lee Petty

Trustees: Heidi Clawson, Eileen Fahey





Those Illusive Bailey Photos

by Charles Marchant

I recently came across a newspaper photo of a Leland and Gray Seminary basketball team dated 1893. The photographer was listed as Henry Bailey. Having studied local photographers for years I couldn't think of much that was attributed to Bailey. So the question is, are there other Bailey photographs?

Henry Bailey's granddaughter is Ellen Bailey who has for many years worked at the Historical Society of Windham County. She is the "go to" person for genealogical information in the HSWC's collection. According to Ellen, Henry Bailey lived from 1856-1925 and is buried in the South Newfane cemetery. He lived in Townshend, Newfane, and Marlboro. While in Townshend, he was both handyman and photographer. Before coming to Townshend, he was a teacher at schools in Williamsville and in Marlboro. After Townshend, he moved to Waltham, MA.

A deed search in the Townshend Land Records shows that Bailey bought a "house and one [acre] on the highway from Townshend to Grafton." After much searching in land records, I made a lucky guess, and found that it was Barbara Bedortha's

house that Bailey had owned from 1892-1904, --a space of only 12 years.

According to Ellen, his studio was not at his house, but in a small building next to (north of) the Stoddard House which still stands on Rt. 30, and is known as the Otis/Russell/Morrell property.

With Ellen's help, and a copy of the *Brattleboro Phoenix* article about the December 1896 fire, we find that the studio was destroyed intentionally to stop the spread of the fire that was moving from north to south along the east side of Rt. 30 on that day. As it happened, the fire did not reach the Stoddard House; however all of Bailey's photographic materials were destroyed.

Apparently, Bailey never practiced commercial photography again, which makes images of his work scarce. If you have Bailey photographs, the Townshend Historical Society would like to see them and if possible, scan them.

If you have other photos of Townshend, we hope you will show them to us --including: photos by Jonas Allen, Lucius Cathan, Edith Webster Thayer, Porter Thayer, Harry L. Chapman, Everett M. Vaile, and Alice Perham.

New Holiday Cards Available



West Townshend Stone Arch Bridge
Painted by Arlo T. Hibbard

Hibbard Cards --*Stone Arch*
10 cards for \$15

Phoenix Cards --*Church in the Snow*
8 cards for \$10

Time to Join and Renew THS Membership for 2020 !

(Membership year runs January to December.)



Please mail your dues and updated info
in the enclosed envelope or on-line at
www.townshendvt.org using PayPal.



P.O. Box 202, Townshend, VT 05353

THS at Jamaica Old Home Day



Board Member Eileen Fahey tends our booth
at Jamaica Old Home Day

Fun at the Windham County Fair Celebrating the Stone Arch Bridges

Nowadays, everyone loves photos! We now have a new exciting photo booth (at the right) with an image of James Follett, builder of Townshend's Stone Arch Bridges. Our aim is to get children physically involved with their local history including the stone arch bridges (SEE our website for more info.)

This interactive photo booth was created by illustrator Nate Marshall, partner at FinAllie Ferments, a kimchi farm on Windham Hill in West Townshend. Special thanks to Nate for his gift!

Wanted!

Recorders are needed to document current Townshend life. Duties: Clip obituaries and articles pertaining specifically to events in our town. If interested please call Eileen Fahey at 365-4030.



The kids really loved our interactive photo booth