

JULY 2018

HALIFAX NEWS

TRAGEDY ON THE ROAD TO SCHOOL 9

Tony Hanson was not yet born when the event recounted here happened on the road named in his honor. At that time, it was known as “The Road to School Number 9”, and later the school came to be called “The Hatch School”. A sign at the corner of Hatch School Road and Hanson Road notes the location of the former school with the words, “District #9”. The sad event recounted below happened on the farm on that road (pictured) closest to the school, my home now, then owned by Luther and Emeline Adams.

Luther and their son Mervin were cleaning up the spring that fed water to the family house in January of 1885. At that time Mervin was 20 years, and I am sure both he and his father were strapping farmers in their primes.

According to Clarence Canedy (1903-1971), who told me this sad tale, they had managed to lift the cover of the spring and had propped it open. I have looked at that cover and could not even budge it with the bucket of my Kubota tractor. I can barely imagine two men shifting it, even with pry bars. Once they had it opened, they certainly would not have wanted to let it just flop on the ground. They must have made every effort to prop it open safely but failed. At some point it fell, crushing Mervin.

Clearly tragedy was not usually a feature of life on this farm. From 1787, when Joel Hall bought the acres that completed it until 1868 when Luther and Emeline bought it, only the Halls, Higleys and Houghtons had owned it, and I have reason to believe the Higleys and Houghtons were all one family. Remarkable good luck was the usual fare of its owners. However, the loss of Mervin Adams left the family short-handed. They were plagued by financial troubles that led to mortgaging the farm. Even after they paid it off, Luther’s death a few years later left Emeline and her remaining son unable to cope, and the family eventually lost the farm to the Jamaica Savings Bank. These details can be gleaned from a title search at the office of the Town Clerk in West Halifax, as a very interesting morning’s activity.

- *Art Copeland, June 20, 2018, Halifax, Vermont*



HALIFAX UNION SOCIETY SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN, REPAINTING SCHEDULED

The Halifax Union Society opened its 2018 season of inter-denominational summer services on Sunday June 24. Services are held each Sunday evening at 6PM through Labor Day. Rev. Dr. Marcia Dorey and organist Merrilyn Courser lead us on most Sundays, supplemented by occasional guests. Everyone is welcome to join. No collection is taken but we do bring non-perishables to support the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry.

The Society was founded in 1891 to take ownership of the former Baptist church in Halifax Center in order to provide a meetinghouse for worship by any denomination. In its 127-year history, the Society has evolved to become an inter-denominational summer church serving full- and part-time residents and seasonal visitors. The Society has also hosted lectures, exhibits, and musical performances.

When the church was built originally in 1854, Halifax Center was a civic and commercial hub. Today, the church and many nearby residences retain the historic visual character of a typical Vermont village of the mid-1800s and are entered in the State Register of Historic Places.

In August, we will restore and repaint the church exterior to preserve the building for years to come. To date, we are very grateful to have raised over \$16,000 from church members and Halifax residents toward the total cost of \$30,000. Additional contributions are very welcome. Contributions can be mailed to P. O. Box 108, West Halifax, VT 05358. You can also use a credit or debit card to give at <https://www.gofundme.com/halifax-restoration>. The Society is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, so contributions can be tax-deductible.

For further information, you can write us at HalifaxUnionSociety@gmail.com or call Merrilyn at 368-2455.

~David W. Jones, June 26, 2018, Halifax, Vermont

Community News

TOWN EVENTS REPORT

On Saturday, June 30, 2018, the next fabulous **Benefit Breakfast in West Halifax** at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road will take place. As this newsletter goes to print before that event, I will report on how it went next month. The event is put on by the Breakfast & Suppers Clan (affectionately known as 'the BS clan')

HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Halifax Historical Society (HHS) Annual Meeting will be on July 13th at the Halifax Community Hall (20 Brook Road, West Halifax VT) —potluck supper, brief meeting and program featuring a panel of folks who grew up in Halifax during the 1940's and 50's. Potluck begins 6 PM. HHS Meeting begins 7 PM.

FIREMEN'S AUCTION

The Annual Firemen Auction is July 7 this year (always the First Saturday in July) at the Fire House in West Halifax, starting at 10 AM. Contact: Wayne at 368-7733.

CLAMBAKE

Tickets are now on sale for the 2018 Fireman's clambake on August 4th at the old Cody farm in Halifax Center (head up Jacksonville Stage Road from West Halifax and follow the signs). Serving runs from 1 to 3 PM. Lobster Tickets are \$38.00 per person, Chicken Tickets are \$18.00 for adults, child ages 6 - 12 \$9.00, under 6 free. A Lobster Ticket consists of: a lobster, clams, 1/2 a chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, coleslaw & watermelon. A Chicken Ticket consists of half a chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, coleslaw & watermelon. Soda available for purchase.

For Clambake tickets call Wayne at 802-368-7733 or Lewis at 802-368-2824 or see a fireman. Tickets sell out quickly, so don't delay!

HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY WILL BE SEPTEMBER 29TH

The date of the celebration day for the Town of Halifax is **September 29**. Much is being planned for this one-day celebration of Halifax with weekly meetings at the town office. **Volunteers are needed**. Call Patti Dow at the town office 368-7390 for more information or to volunteer.

COMMUNITY CLUB

The Community Club's ice cream trailer will be dipping at Rowe, MA. on July 7th, the first Saturday in July. Hoping for a good 'ice cream' day.

We will also be dipping at the Halifax Fireman's auction on that same day. Unfortunately, the folks in Rowe changed their date this year from second Saturday in July to first Saturday. It makes it kind of difficult to be in two places at once! We have a friend who is loaning us a small chest freezer, and Pete LaFogg has graciously said we could use his place (old Grange hall) to dip ice cream. So, Laurel and Leslie will be working the Firemen's Auction event, while John & Joan do Rowe duty with Edie and Laurel coming later in the day to help us. Ice cream dipping is a major fundraiser for the community hall upkeep.

The next meeting of the Halifax Community Club is Monday, July 9, at 6:45 pm; <http://czresearch.com/halifax/> Contact: LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or 368-7097.

Our historic Community Hall is seeing lots of use. This summer it will be repainted and get some renovations in the kitchen area (pictured). The Hall is available for celebrations. Call Joan to reserve (368-7733). Also, Gentle Yoga classes are being held each week.

We are happy to see the Hall being used.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: The LP gas tank need painting this summer. HCC is **looking for volunteers** for this task. John Kirk painted the inside of the Ice Cream Wagon: thank you! Email Joan at jwcinvt@gmail.com or call her at 802.368.7733.

FIREMAN's NEWS

On 6/3, at 4:15 PM, ten men and two trucks responded to a mutual aid call to Whitingham to help at a brush fire.

On 6/9, at 11:46 PM, six men and one truck responded to 'a man down' on Rte. 112. Nothing was found.

On 6/11, at 1:15 AM, four firefighters and one truck responded to a 'cover' call to the Guilford station.

On 6/21, at 8:28 PM two firefighters responded to a rescue call on Vaughn Road to a bee sting call.

On 6/22, at 11:15 AM four men and one truck responded to a motorcycle accident on Rte. 112.

On 6/26 at 11:05 AM four men and one truck responded to a 'cover' call in Marlboro. While en route they were redirected to the scene of the house fire in Marlboro. Returning at 12:30 PM.

On 6/26, at 7:20 PM five men responded to a medical call on Branch Road. Deerfield Valley Rescue transported to Brattleboro hospital.

On 6/27 at 9:02 AM, five firefighters and one truck responded to fire alarms sounding on Collins Road. Nothing found.

Remember... **You DO need a PERMIT to burn.** Call Malcolm Sumner @ 368-2484 or Wayne Courser @ 368-7733 for a burn permit.

Other concerns? Contact First Constable Andrew Rice (802-380-1986) and Second Constable Roy Richardson: halifaxconstable@gmail.com.

SENIOR MEAL – FRIDAY JULY 20, NOON

July 20th at the Community hall is the next meal. Serving at noon. July is our 'indoor' picnic. Menu: hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, rolls, homemade baked beans, macaroni salad, chips, pickles with watermelon for dessert. Sponsored by Senior Solutions. All seniors are welcome.

- A call to Joan is appreciated **802.368.7733**. Mmmmmm! 😊
- THERE WILL BE NO SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX IN AUGUST.



SIGHTINGS

I haven't heard from many this month about 'sightings'.

The summer birds are busy, busy at the feeders; seems they are eating as much as in wintertime.

I know I need to fill the feeders twice a day. But I do enjoy seeing all the colorful birds; they brighten each day.

Have Cardinals, Orioles, a Catbird came for a visit, many Sparrows, Chickadees, Red-Breasted Grosbeak, Mourning Doves, Blackbirds, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Grackle, haven't seen that Veery again. Nuthatches, I did see my 'Jenny wren' building a nest in one of my birdhouses, but Mama must not have approved because they did not nest there! Red-winged Blackbirds, Titmice. I miss my Rufus-Sided Towhee that spent the winter here. A Blue jay now and then, a Flicker -- that was a pleasant surprise!

I loved watching the Swallows while in NJ; sure miss them here. Saw a few Brown-headed Cowbirds. WOW....that's a lot of birds...oh, how I enjoy all of them. Haven't seen any evidence of 'Mr. Bear' lately, just tracks in the mud down back where the beaver pond was. The beavers apparently ate themselves out of available food and moved on. Boy...those beaver left a BIG MESS!!!

I am so very sad ...found Grandma chicken dead in the nest this AM and just buried her. She was just 2 years old!

Please share your bird and other animal sightings with us: e-mail jwcinvt@gmail.com.



SORROW

Roger Mason son of Osbourne and Ruth Mason passed away. Roger grew up in Halifax. Condolences to his family & friends. The 'old-timers' of Halifax will remember Roger.

Russell Denison long-time constable in Colrain, MA. living in Halifax the past several years passed June 24. Condolences to his family and friends. Russ knew many, many people and was a good friend.

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over! We look to you, folks, for our front-page stories and short articles, too. PLEASE contact Joan if you have a story to contribute to the Halifax Newsletter: jwcinvt@gmail.com 802.368.7733 or Laurel at laurelacopeland@gmail.com. Keep our newsletter going! Thank you to all contributors, past and present.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please take note of the date in red on your address label on the front of your newsletter!!!! That is the date your subscription is due. MANY, MANY of you are due in August. Renew promptly!

PLEASE MAIL \$ 7.00 TO:
NEWSLETTER, PO BOX 27, W. HALIFAX, VT 05358.

Please ear-mark your check for Newsletter. If you prefer e-delivery, email LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit Halifax Community Club.

Please save me the time and effort of putting notices in each and every newsletter. Thank you!!!

– Joan Courser

Editor & Photos: Laurel Copeland

Halifax museum opens for summer season

By BERNICE BARNETT

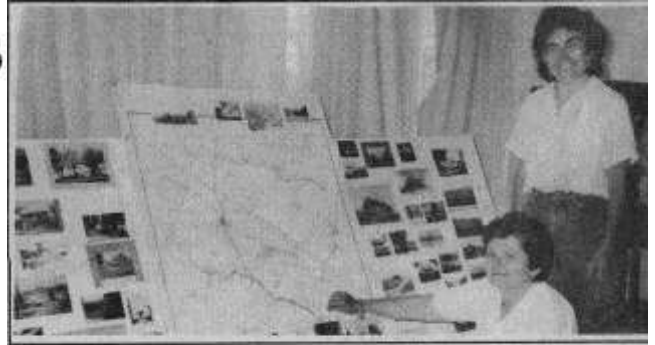
HALIFAX — The Halifax Historical Society opened for the summer season last Saturday evening, with many interested visitors viewing its artifacts.

A large map made by Stephen Sanders and curators Mariette Sanders and Susan Rusten was the central attraction. The map was accompanied by photographs of old homesteads of Halifax. Black threads connected the photographs with the locations of the homesteads on the map.

The map will be on display throughout the summer. The society is interested in acquiring more photographs Halifax' history.

The museum is open periodically throughout the summer. The next opening will be Saturday July 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Popcorn, lemonade, and cookies will be on sale.

JUNE 1989



Bernice Barnett

SPECIAL ATTRACTION - Halifax Museum curators Mariette Sanders and Susan Rusten point out photos of old homesteads in the area.

Historical Society Holds Annual Meeting At Hildene

By Bernice Barnett

About 24 members of the Halifax Historical Society held a picnic and annual meeting at Hildene, the Robert Todd Lincoln home in Manchester, Vt. on July 14th. After the picnic and an annual meeting, the group toured the home and gardens.

At the meeting, the nominating committee, which was Vincent Caroleo, Anita Amberg, and Elaine Fairbanks, presented a slate of officers which were elected for the coming year. They are: President, Elaine Fairbanks, Vice President, Gary Richardson, Treasurer, Teresa Cageao, Clerk, Jodi Kleven, and Auditor, Anita Amberg. Two trustees for three year terms are: Stephen Sanders and Elaine Maynard.

The following one year appointments were made by President Elaine Fairbanks: Membership chairpersons, Eileen Marguet; Fund-raising chairperson, Lavern Corey; and "Halifacts" newsletter editors, Jeremy and Suzanne Freeman.



Members of the Historical Society at Hildene.

DAYS OF YORE — The Halifax Historical Society Museum opened for the season on Saturday, with the main feature being the exhibit, "The Vanishing One Room School House." A gift of an old hay knife was presented to the museum and popcorn and note paper were sold in front of the building by the historical society. The society's annual meeting will be held today at the Community Hall and will include a covered dish supper beginning at 6 p.m. and election of officers at the business meeting. A vote will also be taken on the recent revision of the bylaws. Everyone is invited to attend. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.. Annual membership dues for the society are \$2 per person and membership is open to anyone.



Iris - June 2018 - Halifax VT



NEWSLETTER
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