

NOVEMBER 2019

# HALIFAX NEWS

KYRA MARKHAM – HALIFAX ARTIST

## Help Wanted: Who Is Who in Kyra Markham's Jamboree Painting?

Many will recall the November 14, 2012 issue of *The Commons* that featured Kyra Markham's "Family Restaurant" painting on the front page (pictured). Vermont Country Store owner, Lyman Orton, an avid patron of Vermont art and artists, had purchased the Markham painting at a Sotheby auction and was seeking help identifying the setting and people.

The newspaper article, still online at [www.commonnews.org/site/site05/story.php?articleno=6459](http://www.commonnews.org/site/site05/story.php?articleno=6459), includes a biography of Elaine Hyman, an artist and actress who was born in 1891 in Chicago where she studied at the Chicago Art Institute. Ms. Hyman worked as an actress for more than a decade. She lived with actor and playwright Theodore Dreiser in New York City 1914-1916, and took Kyra Markham as her professional name. She was married for a few years to Frank Lloyd Wright, Jr., son of the more famous architect of the same name, then married scenographer David Stoner Gaither in 1927. The Gaithers moved to a farm on Tucker Road in Halifax during the summer of 1946. In 1959, several years after the death of her husband, Elaine Gaither sold their home and studio to John and Dorothy Christie. She lived briefly in Jacksonville, Vermont before moving to Haiti where she continued to paint until her death in 1967.



Upon seeing the article about "Family Restaurant", I phoned Bernice Barnett to ask who she recognized. Bernice thought there were several people in the "Jamboree" painting – another Markham work on display at



the Halifax Historical Society in West Halifax – who had been identified and might resemble people in the “Restaurant” painting; however, with the Historical Society museum closed for the season, there was no way to view the original (pictured). We agreed that Mr. Orton’s painting seemed more like a church or grange community supper than a restaurant.

Recently, while hosting the museum during “Halifax Celebration Day”, I revisited the Jamboree painting and copied the list of names posted with it. Regina Carr Hardgrove was visiting in the museum and happy to help match the names to the figures. Regina and her late husband, Philip Hardgrove, together with LaVerne and Alfred Corey had planned and initiated the first Jamboree held at George Mount’s property on Deer Park Road in August 1955. Proceeds from the event were divided among four local organizations – the Fire Department, Grange, Community Club and PTA. The Jamboree Committee, headed by Leon LaRock, with Treasurer, Bub Visser, the Hardgroves, Coreys, Dalrymples and no doubt many others, kept the Jamboree going until 1962 when it was superseded by the Fire Department barbeque and clambake held in Whitneyville.

Regina matched all the figures in the painting with the names on the list: Sarah Miner, Henry Miner, Tom Rafus, Lewis Sumner, Lucy Sumner, Homer Sumner, Rachel Eddy, Alice Ryan, Helen Whittemore and Genevia Church (in the black dress). She added Florence Ryan to the list as well. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to identify them all? Who is the man in the foreground, wearing a hat and accompanied by his dog? He bears a strong resemblance to a man seated at one of the tables in the Family Restaurant painting. The dog is a sure-fire match in both!

A tag on the back of the framed painting indicates the scene is from the “First” Jamboree held in 1956 at George Mount’s place, reading, “Medium: Glazed Tempera. Price \$300.00. Item #183 at the 9th annual Fall Exhibition in 1959.” The exhibition most likely took place at the Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester, Vermont, where Kyra often displayed her works. The “Jamboree” was the gift of Helen Sallop in memory of her husband, Henry Sallop. The Sallops lived in Halifax Center and were well acquainted with Elaine Gaither, a.k.a. Kyra Markham. Her painting of their former home now resides in the Halifax Historical Society collection, courtesy of their daughter, Myrna Popper.

The Halifax Historical Society welcomes any suggestions and best guesses regarding the identities of the people portrayed in these two paintings. We are putting together a book featuring details of the artist’s life and works during her years here in town, to accompany a special art exhibit during Old Home Days next August.

~ Constance Lancaster, Halifax Historical Society, [halifaxvthistory@gmail.com](mailto:halifaxvthistory@gmail.com)

## TOWN NEWS

### HUNTERS SUPPER - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Mark your calendars for this delicious supper at the Halifax Community Hall. Serving 5-7 pm on 11/16/2019.

### APPRECIATION FOR HALIFAX CELEBRATION - - SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Hail to the Halifax Celebration Committee! The coordinated efforts of the dedicated individuals who organized the splendid observance of our unique village; its charm, warm atmosphere, and its multi-talented population, deserve public recognition for the results of their time-consuming accomplishment. The golf cart tour of the town was a marvelous way to obtain an overview of the varied, interesting, and entertaining displays and activities. The evening dancing in the streets with a fine band for inspiration was a roaring success, and delicious food was available from early breakfast to an evening pig roast with the eighth-grade grill serving up hot dogs & burgers and the ice cream wagon selling ice cream cones. The weather was perfect. Thanks to the many generous volunteers for their invaluable assistance. CONGRATULATIONS! AND THANK YOU!

~ Lynda Copeland, Hanson Road

### HALIFAX ART VISITS CANADA



Event details: Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 6 PM – 9 PM, Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1M6. Halifax artist Netta Kies presents 24 oil paintings with the 24 short pieces by composer Alexander Scriabin that inspired them played by her collaborators, pianists Gregory Millar and Lisa Raposa. The art & sound event, “Clavier à couleurs: An Exhibition of Piano Preludes,” will be presented in Toronto (Ontario) the Saturday before Thanksgiving. To learn more and see some of Netta’s work, visit this webpage: <https://www.nettakies.com/clavier-a-couleurs>. Hope to see you in Toronto! Left: Ms Kies’ painting #7 for Scriabin’s A Major Prelude is pictured.

**SENIOR MEAL (CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN HALIFAX) will be Friday, November 15, 2019.** Menu: fruit with cottage cheese, carrot salad, lasagna, vegetables, garlic bread, and apple strudel bars made by Heidi. Serving at noon at the Halifax Community Hall at 20 Brook Road in West Halifax. All seniors are welcome! If you are coming, a call to Joan is appreciated 802.368.7733. Set up a ride to the Meal with Moovers (1-888-869-6287 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm).

**HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB** will meet in mid-December, date TBD, at the New England House, 256 Marlboro Road, West Brattleboro, at 5:30 pm for our annual holiday dinner (Dutch treat). All are welcome! But let me know if you are coming as I make a reservation for us: 368-2439 or [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com).

**HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is now on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/Halifax-Vermont-Historical-Society-113563599997907/> For information on joining the HHS, contact [GretchenB@myfairpoint.net](mailto:GretchenB@myfairpoint.net).

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The fire dept. has monthly 50/50 raffle tickets available, \$ 10.00 a month. Contact Wayne 802-368-7733 if interested.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS, CONTINUED

Sep. 20 Four men responded to Karen Day road for an ill person, Deerfield Valley ambulance transported to Bennington.

Sep. 28 Five men responded to Collins Road for a fire alarm sounding.

Oct. 4 Three men responded to a call at Thomas Hill.

Oct. 5 Five men responded to Collins Road for someone who hit his head and passed out in a walk-in cooler then was able to crawl out. He was transported to Greenfield hospital.

Oct. 7 Nine men and one truck responded to a call in Whitingham; they were turned back en route.

Oct. 12 Seven men responded to a smoke investigation in Whitingham.

Oct. 13 Two men responded to Thomas Hill for a medical call. Rescue Inc. responded but here was no transport.

Oct. 18 Four men responded to Hanson Road for a man fallen.

Oct. 22 Three men responded to Rte.112 for a medical call; the person was transported by ambulance to Bennington.

Oct. 22 Five men and one truck responded to a chimney fire on Pennell Hill.

Oct. 24 Six men responded to an alarm sounding at Halifax Falls.

Oct. 28 Six men responded to Brook Road for a woman fallen.

**HALIFAX RESIDENT** Lynda Copeland, 93, danced with grand-daughter, Thea Bransby, at the last Deerfield Valley Jazz Benefit Concert Series in Wilmington in October (pictured). The benefit concerts are put on by Whitingham resident Chris Bakriges and his trio which includes Avery Sharpe and Billy Arnold.



## JOAN'S SIGHTINGS

"He's back!" After nearly two full months, 'our' bear appeared here again. It looks fat and healthy. It helped itself to two suet cakes, suet cages and all!! I was able to get a few good pictures of it. I am glad it has survived bear season so far and hope it continues to. And Gretchen Becker saw 3 little bears near Warriners' one day!

I am happy to report that the bird sightings at my feeders are picking up. I am overjoyed to have five or six Cardinals here. They just seem to be all over the place from one feeder to another and on the ground getting sunflower seeds. Seems there is at least one young one that male cardinal feeds now and then. I love having them here all the time; they raise their young here. I am seeing many more Sparrows here now. A few different types. The Titmice are here every day, three or four of them. The Chickadee seem to be coming more and more; love seeing them. Seem to be more Blue Jays here too. I am enjoying the White-breasted Nuthatch. That was my sister's favorite bird, so each time I see one, I think of her. I have a Downy Woodpecker and a Hairy Woodpecker. I am sure more birds will appear after the first snowfall. I am in no great hurry for that...but do love my birds!!

The Chipmunks are scurrying around getting their winter food. They make me laugh with their cheeks

just stuffed full of sunflower seed on their way to their tunnels into their homes underground.



Send your animal sightings to Joan at: [jwcinvt@gmail.com](mailto:jwcinvt@gmail.com) - Joan Courser

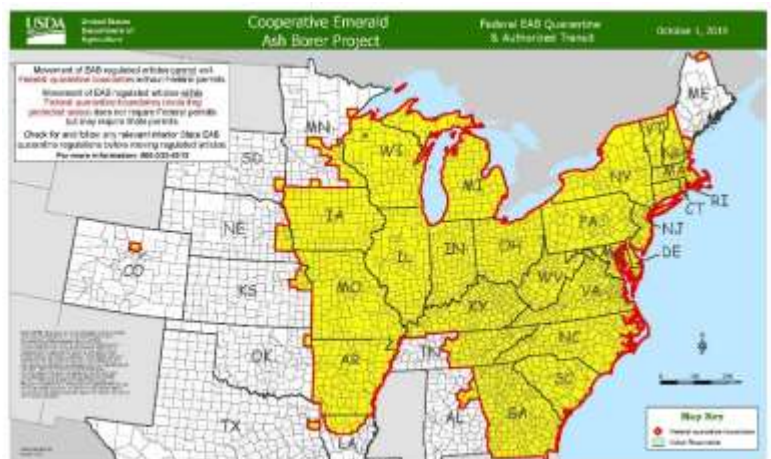
**Laurel's Report from Hanson Road.** October brought a wealth of light and color and, of course, migrating birds. I saw a flock of 6-10 bluebirds on two different days in October. Although some bluebirds will winter in southern Vermont, others head south. And I saw a white sparrow! This unusual color variation is called leucistic rather than albino as its eyes are dark; the white sparrow I saw also had faint grey lines showing the color pattern on the wings. I didn't get my camera out fast enough for a picture. Other visitors included deer, red fox, barred owl, red-tailed hawk, a lot of blue jays, chickadees, hairy woodpeckers, crows, and juncos. One of the juncos took a long vigorous bath in our birdbath one morning (pictured). We've also seen lots of turkeys & spiders & frogs. And early one morning I heard the coyotes singing. ~Laurel Copeland



**TOOLBOXES FOR VETERANS** – Here is a great idea for a gift for a wounded veteran who could use a set of tools. WWII Veteran Clarence “Bud” Shepherd runs a non-profit that ships toolboxes to combat-wounded veterans who want help transitioning into civilian life. More details on Bud and his toolbox program are available at this link: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/65480/wwii-veteran-creates-program-post-911-purple-heart-recipients/>

### EMERALD ASH BORERS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

EAB are now in Stamford and western Readsboro, putting Whitingham at high risk of infestation. The beetle arrived in MA in 2012, in NH in 2013, and in Vermont in 2018. EAB kills 99% of ash trees in any area it invades within 5-6 years, so the deadfall can be considerable, damaging property and lines, and blocking roads. The state of Vermont, like the states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, is currently part of the national quarantined zone, limiting the movement of all hardwood firewood, and green wood products, nursery stock, and any plant materials from any ash species in an effort to stop the spread of the beetle. Your firewood suppliers should all be aware of these restrictions. They are our front line of resistance to the spread of EAB. A national map of EAB infestation showing the Federal quarantine boundaries as of 10/01/2019 (above) is online at:



[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/emerald\\_ash\\_b/downloads/eab\\_quarantine\\_map.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/downloads/eab_quarantine_map.pdf)

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Newsletter  
P O Box 27  
West Halifax VT 05358



Monarch chrysalis in mid-October



October Color on Collins Hill

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NEWSLETTER - Send your Halifax story  
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