

November 2022

HALIFAX NEWS

MUSINGS ON NAMES

Laurel Copeland with Constance Lancaster, Vermont

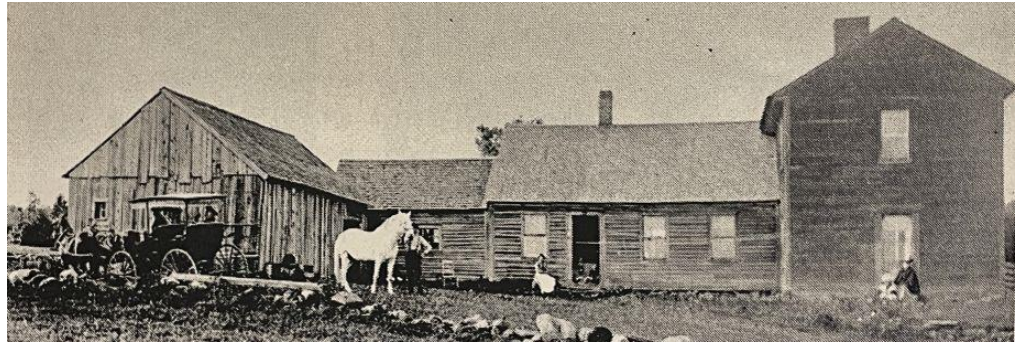


Martin Hall's shack on Hatch School Road shows activity these days. Most of the small lot has been clearcut. Timber logs lie here and there. Will a new house soon appear?

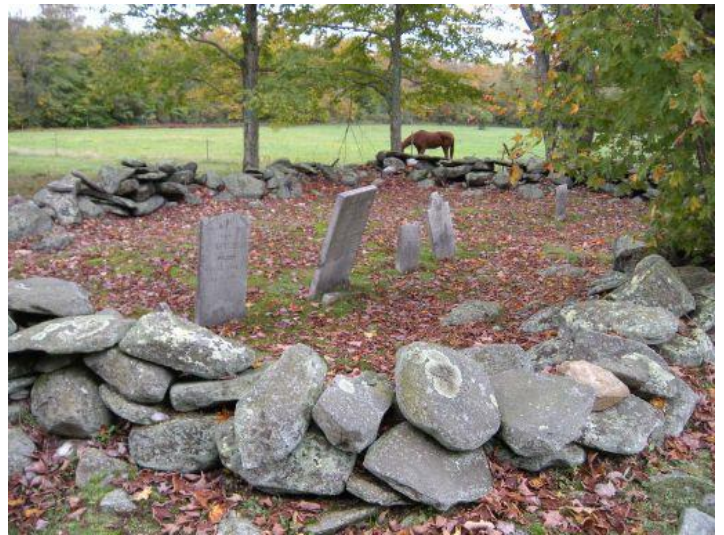
Martin Hall moved across the road to his cabin when he and his brother Asa Hall had a falling out. Asa stayed in the beautiful silver-grey, never-painted, 2-story farmhouse. This beauty later fell in upon itself sufficiently to warrant razing when the Lehrers acquired the property. My sister asked whether the little family cemetery was still in the field behind the house; I need to walk up there to see. When we were teenagers, we called the Hatch Cemetery the Hall Cemetery because of the prominent Hall family monument in the center of the graveyard. We knew who

Hall was. Who was Hatch?

Hatch referred to the James Hatch family, most of whom are buried in the Taylor-Stacy Cemetery, probably because Mrs. James Hatch was Easter Tucker, and the Taylor-Stacy Cemetery is on original Tucker land. At right is a fabulous photo of the Hatch farm from page 398 Vol. I of the town history (copyright 2008 Halifax Historical Society). The earliest Hall family members are buried in the Bascom Cemetery. Later Halls are in the Hatch Cemetery. The Hatches of Hatch Road are buried in the Taylor-Stacy Cemetery. And the little cemetery referred to as "Hall Farm" contains five members of the Capt. Levi Adams family. At right is a photo of it posted by Denise Crawford in 2011.



Connie Lancaster points out that all but a handful of roads in the Town of Halifax are named after families. Brook Road, Branch Road, Old County Road, Deer Park, Route 112, and Sodom are exceptions. (Why would you name a road Sodom?) Strictly speaking, Jacksonville Stage Road and its offshoot Old Stage Road are named after Jacksonville, the village, although "Jacksonville" does of course mean "Jackson's town."



TOWN NEWS

GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOV. 8 – HALIFAX folks....be sure to vote on November 8th at the Community Hall.

HOLIDAYS -- The Christmas candlelight service at West Halifax Bible Church is December 18th at 6:30 PM. All are welcome. It is a special night. The children will put on a play, and there will be lots of Christmas carols sung by all. Hope to see you there! – *Joan Courser*

CELEBRATION DAY IN HALIFAX – A WONDERFUL DAY!



Malcom Sumner manned the tractor pulling the hayride (top left). ~*~ The hayride put a twinkle in every eye. ~*~ Wayne Courser and Malcolm Sumner have a palaver (bottom left)



Halifax Celebration Day on Oct. 1, 2022 brought together many vendors, exhibits, and happy participants

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 12:00 NOON

The November meal is Friday the 18th served at noon at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, Vermont. The menu: Chicken & Biscuits with gravy, potatoes, vegetable, rolls and dessert. All seniors are welcome. For those 60 and over, there is a free will fee of \$3.00 those, under 60 years it is \$4.00. A call to Joan is appreciated 802-368-7733. December meal features ham. – *Joan Courser*

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS.

September 29, two men responded to a medical call on Sprague Road; Deerfield Valley Rescue transported to Greenfield.

September 30, four men responded to a tree burning on wires on River Road in Guilford.

October 4, two men responded to Stowe Mt. Road for a man fallen; he was transported to Brattleboro.

October 4, ten men and two trucks responded to a motor vehicle accident on Jacksonville Stage Road; Deerfield Valley Rescue transported to Brattleboro.

October 5, three men and one truck responded to a call of an alarm sounding.

October 6, three firemen went to Halifax School to assist Deerfield Valley Rescue on a medical call.

October 6, three men responded to Hatch School Road for a medical call also Deerfield Valley Rescue; there was no transport.

October 8, three men responded to Thomas Hill for a medical call; Deerfield Valley Rescue transported.

October 14, six men, one truck, and Deerfield Valley Rescue responded to Green River for a person with a broken ankle. The fire truck was turned back; patient was transported to Brattleboro.

October 18, five men responded to a residence on Branch Road for an ill person. Deerfield Valley Rescue transported to Bennington.

October 21, 10 men and two trucks responded to Collins Road for a report of a structure fire. It was a blow back from the furnace. Chimney cleaning was advised.

October 24, four men responded to Branch Road for a child fallen, found child sitting in a chair with a wound to the back of the head. Family transported the child to the hospital for possible stitches.

Remember to call the Fire Department BEFORE you burn brush!

Call Wayne (802) 368-7733 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484

Emergency services — call 911

New Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — call 988

Veterans Crisis line — call 988 then press 1, or you can text 838255

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. Andy Rice saw an eagle (that is always a special sighting). Wayne has been seeing many wild turkeys. I, Joan, am enjoying the many birds at my feeders. A very special one never seen here at my house



before was a Rufous Sided Towhee! I have seen them in Georgia when I was there at the training track (racehorse) years ago. I was thrilled to see it at my house in Halifax. It did not stay long--maybe a few hours, fueling up for its long trip south. I have a shiny headed Blackbird quite often. – *Joan Courser*

Side Note on Blackbirds: According to www.birdadvisors.com/blackbirds-vermont, “There are 25 species of New World Blackbirds spotted in North America, and 13 of these are spotted in Vermont, including **Blackbirds, Orioles, Meadowlarks, Cowbirds, Grackles, and Bobolinks.** Although named “blackbirds,” they are, in fact, often brightly colored and are all the Icteridae family, which are common songbirds. They are classed as New World Blackbirds in North America to distinguish them from European Blackbirds which are part of the thrush family.

Of the thirteen species of blackbirds in Vermont, nine species are recognized on state checklists as regularly occurring, four species are considered rare or accidental, and three of these are also regarded as near-threatened or vulnerable.

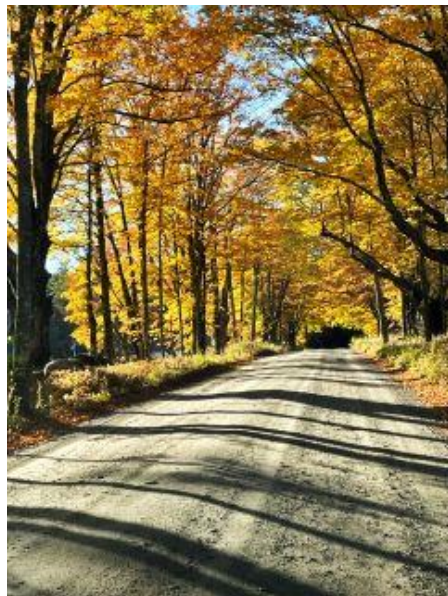
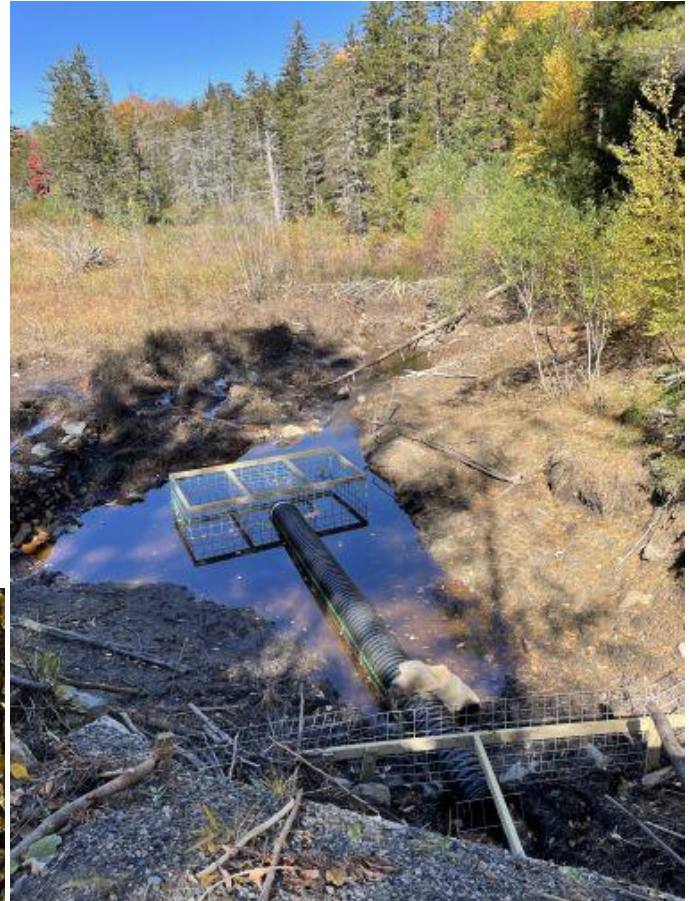
Whether you consider them noisy pests or intelligent and bright acrobats, there is no doubt that blackbirds are fascinating birds.

Full moon setting over autumn leaves Due to their ability to devour vast quantities

of seeds and grains, Blackbirds are considered an agricultural pest. In fact, Bobolinks have decreased by up to 60% in the last 50 years, in part due to persecution and declining habitat.”

Elsewhere Around Town Up on Hanson Road we see grey foxes, whitetail deer, red squirrels, and voles as well as juncos, white throated sparrows, pileated woodpeckers, crows, and the broad-winged hawk. I’m walking the roads of Halifax just now to add to the inventory of ash trees, so I’ve seen bluebirds and golden-crowned kinglets up on Reed Hill, and turkeys, blue jays and cardinals everywhere. - Laurel Copeland

BEAVERS – Beavers restructure the landscape, bringing wetlands to gentle valleys, filtering streams, and slowing soil erosion. But their instinct to dam up a small stream, or even a small culvert running under a road, can lead to roadway flooding. On Hatch School Road, private citizens paid to have Skip Lisle install this Beaver Deceiver © when the beaver pond level began rising precipitously. In the photo, you are looking down at the (mostly drained) lower beaver pond and the flow-control device. To the upper right, you might make out the first dam. Beavers tend to make sequential dams, if they have the space. The Beaver Deceiver installation protects our road and makes good use of the existing culvert, which is in good repair and should serve us well for many years to come.



At left, our last gladiolus blooming in October...A sunlit road in Halifax

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE 5 ANIMALS CROSSING A ROAD? As part of a wildlife connectivity project, I am interested in where five wide-ranging mammals cross the road. If you see one on or crossing a road, or if you see tracks that suggest one crossed the road, let me know (LaurelACopeland@gmail.com, 368-2439). Include **date, time, & location**. The 5 animals are **Moose, Bobcat, River Otter, Fisher** (photo with ruler), and **Black Bear**.



INVASIVES IN THE AREA – The pretty yellow and red berries pictured at the bottom of this page belong to a rather nasty plant, the invasive vine dubbed Asiatic Bittersweet. It is a cold-hardy, deciduous, woody vine. It prefers open woods and disturbed areas. It grows best in partial to full sun and is very adaptable. It is an aggressive vine that can grow rapidly, sometimes more than 10 feet per year! It climbs easily on vertical structures of various sizes. On trees, it tightens its grip like a boa constrictor, ultimately killing the tree.



Unfortunately, the leaf shape and fruit color of Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) look very much like the native Vermont vine, American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*). The best way to distinguish between the two plants is by the location of the flowers and fruits on the stem. On the invasive Asiatic bittersweet, they are scattered along the entire stem (left), while on the native American bittersweet, they are found at the terminal end of each stem (right).



Asiatic Bittersweet reproduces by seed and also asexually from runners, roots, root fragments, and root crown. Insects, primarily bees, and wind pollinate the flowers which bloom May through June; fruits appear in July and October. A plant typically produces >350 fruits, and each fruit contains 3-6 seeds. The seeds have a high germination rate (90%) and remain viable for less than one year. Fruits remain on vine well into the winter.

Take control: For small plants: Hand pull entire plants, including all roots and runners. Place everything into a plastic bag for disposal. **Do not compost!** For large plants: Cut climbing or trailing vines close to root collar. Repeat every two weeks. Adapted from flyers produced by The Nature Conservancy, Montpelier, Vermont, www.vtinvasives.org



Newsletter
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Red-backed
salamander –
photo by Bill
Oglesby



Porcupine -- photo by Bill Oglesby

Halifax News

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