

Volume 11, No. 3



November-December 2013



## Windham News & Notes



### TIME FOR THE HARVEST SUPPER AND SQUARE DANCE!! *by Imme Maurath*

Mark your calendars for the annual Harvest Supper and Square Dance, November 9th at the Meeting House at 5 p.m. The traditional dinner will consist of ham, butternut squash, baked beans, scalloped potatoes (also a wheat-free version), sweet breads, rolls, and assorted home made pies. The cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, or \$25 per family. We will be asking for donations for the band.

This event includes the very popular photo contest. Eight-by-ten photos are submitted and hung on the walls for you, the dinner patrons, to vote on. The winners become part of the 2014 calendar, sold by the Windham Library as a fund raiser. The theme of the contest is "Capturing the Beauty of Windham," so photos have to be taken in Windham. The only other rule is "*no people.*" Please drop your entries off at the library between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. Deadline: Wednesday, November 6. First prize is a \$30 gift certificate to the Northshire Book Store in Manchester; second prize is \$20; and third prize is \$10.

***November 6—Deadline for entries, "Capturing the Beauty of Windham."***

***Photos will be judged at the WCO Harvest Supper.***

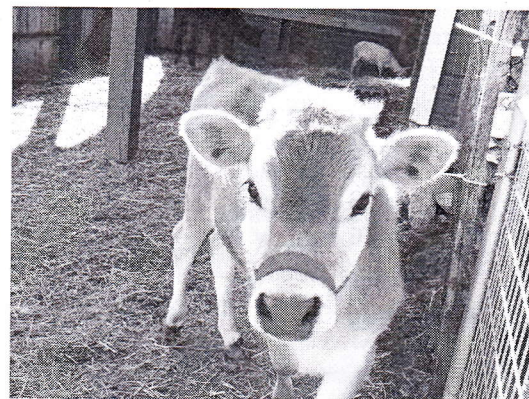
***Last Year's Winners:***



*Ice on Blue*, by Radina Welton, first place



*Hi, Neighbor*, by Dawn Bower, second place



*The Guernsey Calf*, by Bev Carmichael, third place



## TOWN OF WINDHAM BUSINESS

### SELECTBOARD NEWS

*Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer, Frank Seawright*

The last two months have been very busy for the Selectboard, including a number of special meetings in addition to the regularly scheduled Monday meetings. These meetings were held to deal with the re-adoption of the Town Plan which was due to expire in September. They were also necessary to address employee issues, repairs needed for a bridge in town, and potential funding for ongoing repairs due to damage from Tropical Storm Irene. We have also been meeting regularly with Peter Chamberlain and Kathy Scott to go over current financial information and to get an early start on preparing our budget. They recently informed us that the \$100,000 loan from People's United Bank has been paid off. We also met with Sheriff Keith Clark to review our current contract with the Windham County Sheriff's Department. The minutes of all our meetings are available at [www.windhamvt.info](http://www.windhamvt.info). Here are some highlights:

#### **August 19, 2013:**

Added to draft of revised Town Plan: 2010 census information and an Economic Development section now required by state law.

#### **September 17, 2013:**

Reviewed insurance plans available under the VT Health Care Exchange to help the Town decide which plan to offer the two employees who currently receive health insurance through the Town. Accepted resignation of Rodney Watkins, Road Foreman, effective September 27, 2013. The Selectboard acknowledged its appreciation for Rodney's 24 years of hard work and discussed ongoing roads projects.

#### **September 23, 2013:**

Hearing to re-adopt the 2008 Town Plan, with the addition of an Economic Development section and 2010 US Census Data.

Discussed Friedli bridge project.

Updated personnel policy and prepared to launch search for a new Road Foreman.

#### **September 30, 2013:**

Met with Road Crew member, Bill Roberts, to discuss roads issues.

Re-adoption of the amended current Town Plan. (Copies available at the Town Office.)

Discussed funding culvert replacement through the Community Development Block Grant.

At the time of this writing, the Selectboard has reviewed all applications for the position of Road Fore-

man and unanimously agreed to promote Bill Roberts to that position. Bill has worked for the Town as a member of the road crew for six years and is familiar with the equipment, roads and needs of the Town. We are confident that he can maintain our roads and keep us all safe during the upcoming winter months. Now we need to round out his team with an equally competent crew member.

That is all for now. Get your leaves raked up, your gardens put to bed and get ready for another wonderful Windham winter!

### BOARD OF LISTERS NEWS

*Michael Simonds, Jerry Dyke, John Lingley*

The Windham listers wish to thank everyone who has returned the information cards we sent to all town property owners. These cards will be used to schedule site visits for property appraisals. So far, we have had a return of nearly 50%.

The team from Green Mt. Appraisers will conduct the site visits and our town-wide reappraisal. When all the visits are complete, each owner will receive a report which will state the appraised value of their property, including information on three other comparable properties that have sold recently.

Our town-wide reappraisal will use a market-based approach, which is widely considered more accurate than the cost-based approach used in Windham since 2006. The latter results in many property valuations that are higher or lower than the likely selling price. We don't know which property values will change under the market-based approach, but we believe it will be fairer and more accurate for all.

If you haven't already returned the information card for scheduling your site visit, please do so in the self-addressed stamped envelope we provided. If you've lost the envelope, send the card to the Windham Town Office, 5976 Windham Hill Rd., Windham VT 05359. If you've lost the card, please call the town office at 874-4211 and ask for another. This will save us time, effort, and the expense of contacting you again.

Some site visits will take place this year, but most will be next spring. Your cooperation is appreciated. The reappraisal process will not only give you a more accurate assessment of your property's value, but it will also ensure that everyone in town is treated equitably.

**TAXES DUE OCTOBER 31**



**REFLECTIONS SO FAR ON BEING TOWN CLERK** *by Alison Trowbridge*

"Hey, how is being Town Clerk?" is a question I hear very frequently since March. After approximately six months, I think I'm getting the feel for the job and it's many varied responsibilities. Of course, this is an odd year so no state or federal elections, (I dodged that bullet for the time being!) but other than that, this job that at first seemed very convoluted and overwhelming is making some sense. I am settling into the position with the team, our new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Peter Chamberlain and Kathy Scott, and Mary McCoy "Mac," our well-seasoned Assistant Town Clerk.

One of the duties of the job that takes up a lot of my time is responding to requests from banks, mortgage companies, etc., requesting parcel information such as the correct address and the parcel number. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these requests are for other towns. People get confused between Windham, the town, and Windham, the

county. It's doubly confusing because in many areas outside of Vermont, this property information is kept at the county level, not in the towns. To add to the chaos, many of these requesters for information have very heavy foreign accents leading me to suspect that many of these big title search companies hire the work out internationally. When I ask if they are looking for the Town of Windham they get confused. But if I refer to our town as the City of Windham they understand right away. Whoever thought Windham would be considered a city? Just one of the surprises of the job, I guess!

**WINDHAM  
NEWS & NOTES**

A publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

**N&N Team**

Dawn Bower Mary Boyer  
Bev Carmichael Leila Erhardt  
Imme Maurath Dona Robinson  
Nancy Tips

Thanks to all who contribute.  
Send articles of around 300  
words to the address on the last  
page or email to:

[windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

**Next deadline: December 15, 2013**

**FROM THE WCO** *by Dona Robinson, President, Windham Community Organization*

Suzanna Grannis and Nancy Dyke

photo: Bev Carmichael

On Wednesday, September 25th, WCO and community members were treated to a very moving presentation by Nancy Dyke and Suzanna Grannis on their trip to Africa. Nancy and Suzanna traveled to Rwanda last spring as part of CHABHA (Children Affected by HIV/AIDS), a program initiated by Suzanna. In their presentation Nancy and Suzanna focused on the people of Rwanda and shared meaningful insights into the people and their needs, thoughts, and aspirations. Thank you Nancy and Suzanna, as well as Jerry and Joe the AV crew, for a memorable evening.

Our next event will be the ever famous and fulfilled Harvest Supper on November 9th. Don't miss it.

*WCO is a not-for-profit organization that provides financial and other assistance to Windham-area residents. With News and Notes subscriptions and our WCO fund raising events, we are able to provide for our residents in need. If you or anyone you know could use some assistance please let us know. Call Dona at 874-7242. We are here to help. Confidentiality is honored.*



**WINDHAM CHANGES AND STAYS SAME IN 1800S** by Mary McCoy

Vermont's physical landscape changed in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century from being almost completely forested to being two-thirds open land. Trees were in the way for the subsistence farmers who settled here. By mid-century, the land had been transformed. Not only were the forests depleted, but many fields were exhausted from constant planting on thin top soil. Raising sheep, which was popular on Vermont's hillsides, caused erosion because sheep pulled up by the roots the plants they ate.

A shift began in Vermont from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture and related enterprises. This was fostered in part by improved transportation using waterways and the railroad to get goods to market. By 1880, Chester and West Townshend had depots. But according to researchers Elizabeth and Jonathon Stevens, Windham remained unusually self-sufficient, with its own craftsmen and general store that supplied everything people couldn't grow for themselves. Some embraced this life style. Others moved west where the land and the climate were more suitable for farming and where industrialization offered other opportunities. Our town experienced a population change from 429 people in 1800, to a high of 931 in 1820, followed by a steady decline to 536 in 1880. These figures come from Hamilton Child's *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windham County, VT 1724-1884*.

This book also contains an interesting list (summarized in box) of the occupations of 139 people in Windham in 1880. Almost all of the them had more than one job listed. There were only seven women named – 1 teacher, 1 farmer, and 5 whose primary job was "widow". Yet there were probably more women here than men (the Civil War had ended many male lives), and there were more children than adults, as most couples had many offspring. In 1880, Windham had 165 students (ages 4-18) in six schools.

Jonathan and Elizabeth told me about two families that spanned the century here named Cobb and Harris. Col. Daniel Cobb came to Windham in the 1790's. His son, Capt. Daniel Cobb, lived in the southern part of town and at various times held title to the majority of the land in Windham, either by warranty deed or mortgage (he acted as town banker). He took over his father's lumber business, raised sheep, ran a general store, and served as town representative. He purchased a mill site on Turkey Mountain Brook, south of where Burbee Pond is now, which he ran until he was killed in 1842 when he got caught in his mill wheel.

The Harris family, early settlers of Brattleboro, came to Windham in 1823 after an unsuccessful attempt at life in Ohio. William Harris served as town clerk and treasurer for 23 years, justice of peace for 40 years, and county judge, town representative, and state senator. The family owned and operated the "William Harris and Son" general store (see ad here) located on Windham Hill Road opposite Corn Hill Road. They also functioned as town bankers, much as Capt. Cobb had earlier. The Cobb and Harris families were officially connected when William Harris Jr. married Mary Dorothy Cobb, daughter of Capt. Cobb and Lucy (Stevens) Cobb. Throughout the 1800s, life centered around Windham's two churches, located in its two villages. The Congregational Church building was erected in 1802 and had 118 members in 1880. The South Windham Baptist Church, organized in 1807, erected its church building in 1826. In 1880, it had 100 members. These two buildings remain, although the stores and mills are long gone.

**Windham Occupations  
Around 1880**

~ 139 people listed, working 212 jobs ~

- 105 farmers
- 31 wool growers
- 24 sugar orchard owners
- 5 carpenters, joiners
- 5 widows
- 4 dairy cattle owners, breeders
- 4 laborers
- 3 11th Regiment Vermont Volunteers
- 3 listers
- 2 bankers
- 2 clergymen
- 2 general merchants
- 2 grist mill & chair stock factory workers
- 2 post masters
- 2 potato growers
- 2 real estate owners
- 2 saw mill owners
- 2 scythe stick manufacturers
- 1 blacksmith
- 1 cattle & sheep dealer
- 1 flour, meal & feed dealer
- 1 grist mill & chair stock factory owner
- 1 overseer of the poor
- 1 painter
- 1 potato dealer
- 1 shingle mill & wheelwright owner
- 1 shoemaker
- 1 stage coach driver
- 1 surveyor
- 1 teacher
- 1 teamster
- 1 telegraph operator
- 1 town clerk & treasurer



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**WINDHAM, VT.**



### WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS by Carolyn Partridge, Beth McDonald, and Antje Ruppert

School got off to a great start with our traditional community breakfast. It is always so good to see the children excited and ready to learn. Our soccer team has two new coaches, Rachel Spengler and Amy Carson. Thanks to both of them for working with our athletes as they develop their soccer skills, as well as good sportsmanship. An additional thank you to Rachel who kindly donated 10 new soccer balls! Thanks also to all of the parents who help out with tying cleats and supplying drinks and snacks. We are also very fortunate to have four former students, Joel Emmons, Jake Ires, and Owen and Patrick McDonald, volunteering to referee the games and help our athletes learn more about soccer. Where else but Windham do you have former students who have moved on to the high school coming back to help our younger students? A big thank you to Joel, Jake, Owen, and Patrick! While we lost to Jamaica, the students and families from both towns enjoyed a fun afternoon.

A parent group has formed and, with the leadership of Lisa Beshay, organized a fall festival at the school on October 5. Thanks to all of the parents who helped out and made the day a lot of fun, as well as successful!

We also have an update regarding the Regional Education District Committee process. The Committee has decided to reschedule the vote for June 3, 2014, so mark your calendars.

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### FROM THE WES NEWSLETTER by Gail Wyman

From October 4: *Apple picking at Green Mountain Orchards* was a perfect afternoon, just like always. Many parents drove. First on the agenda was a picnic lunch at the table, then a hay ride through the orchard. After the hayride everyone received a small bag to take into the orchard and pick apples. Of course, many apples were eaten throughout the afternoon. There is a new cider processor there this year which was very interesting for the kids. The apples were turned and washed on a line, then carried up a conveyor, falling into a small press. The liquid presses out the sides as cider. From there it goes in a small line to the pasteurizer. This is a great day as this is part of their Vermont heritage.

Although they did not win their soccer game against Wardsboro this week, the players have figured out team work, how to get in and push for the ball, figuring ahead where they need to be on the field. Good games, guys.

**MAPS tests are completed.** Now it is back to homework throughout the week. There is nothing like having our normal routine.

*Each week while the newsletter is being written, I am usually listening to the librarian with her different age groups. The older students may do computer work looking up subjects about government, history, presidents, interesting news. The younger kids are read to by the librarian. Many of the stories have to do with current holidays, seasons of the year, children in foreign countries and the way they live. There is always discussion during class. Each week a student gets to check a book out, but only if they brought back last weeks book. So make sure your children return their library books every Thursday.*

\*\*\*\*\*

### FIRECO GOES TO SCHOOL by Marcia Clinton



Learning about the fire hose

Photo: Meredith Tips-McLaine

On Wednesday, October 9th the fire alarm went off early in the school and all the students and teachers quickly and silently walked to their assigned area at the Town Office. Soon the fire trucks with firemen arrived and all gathered to learn about the functions of the equipment on the two trucks, apparatus the fireman uses, and how it feels to hold the hose and spray water. Inside the students watched a movie on safety tips and offered their own insights on safety in their homes. Each child received a bag with stickers, a glow-in-the-night safety sticker to put on their bedroom window, a frisbee, educational booklet and pencils.

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**FOR MANY VERMONTERS, VT HEALTH CONNECT MEANS MORE CHOICE AND HELP IN PAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE** *by Carol Belucci, "Navigator"*

Starting January 1, 2014 all Vermonters will be required to have health insurance. October 1, 2013 marks the start of a six-month open-enrollment period when Vermonters who don't have employer coverage will be able to enroll in a health insurance plan. For information, go to: [www.VermontHealthConnect.gov](http://www.VermontHealthConnect.gov). There you can compare health plans and determine whether you qualify for federal and state subsidies.

There will be two public options, Medicaid and Dr Dynasaur, and two private companies, BC/BS and MVP. Both companies offer four standard plans, two high-deductible plans, and three non-standard speciality plans, for a total of 18 different insurance plans. If you currently have insurance with either BC/CS or MVP, you may want to call them and ask if VT Health Connect has a plan similar to the one you already have. If so, you may be eligible for an income subsidy that will lower your monthly premium.

**For information:**

**Website:** [VermontHealthConnect.gov](http://VermontHealthConnect.gov)

**Hotline:** 855 899-7600

**Small Business Hotline:** 855 499-9800.

**Town of Windham Navigator:** Carol Bellucci, 874-4413

**FLU SEASON** *by Marcia Clinton*

There's no excuse for not getting a flu shot. Flu season, which peaks in February, can last until May. And because immunity to flu viruses tends to be short-lived, having had the flu or the vaccine in past years is not sufficiently protective. Access to the flu vaccine is widespread: in pharmacies, stores, clinics, health departments, schools and at work, as well as at doctors' offices. Often, as for people on Medicare, there is no charge for the vaccine. Remember that it takes two weeks from the time you get the shot for you to build up immunity to the flu.

The flu is no joke, especially for pregnant women, the very young and the elderly, people who are chronically ill and those whose immune systems are suppressed. The flu virus can travel 6 feet on droplets from coughs, sneezes or talk. Those infected can spread the virus before symptoms develop and for a week or more after getting sick. Less often, flu is spread by touching a contaminated surface, then touching one's eyes, nose or mouth. While some who are infected may not develop classic flu symptoms (fever, cough, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, fatigue runny or stuffy nose), they can still transmit the virus to others at home, school or work.

The flu vaccine does not work for everyone; many can still get the flu, develop pneumonia or a worsening of a chronic condition, and die. But when more people are immunized, fewer get sick and the chances of keeping



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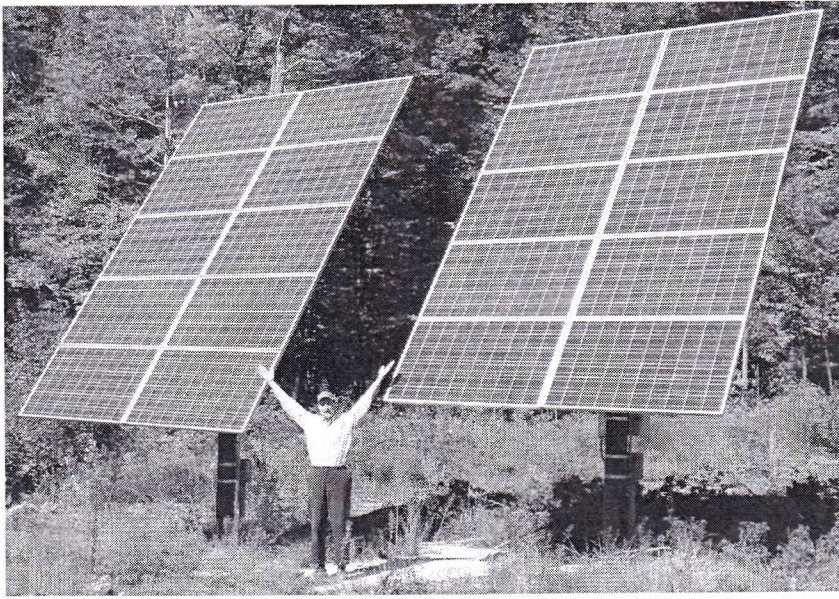
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## Our First Year as Power Producers *by Michael Simonds*



On August 4, 2012, our solar array on Old Cheney Road began producing clean, green electrical energy. This is a grid-tied, 4.8 kilowatt-hour (KWH) system composed of 20 solar panels mounted on two poles, 10 panels to a pole. My wife, Mary McCoy, and I call the two Fred and Ethel after Lucy and Desi's "energetic" neighbors.

Grid-tied means we sell the electricity we produce directly to Green Mountain Power. At our home, we buy power back from GMP, but probably not the same electrons we produce. Because of Vermont's progressive policies to promote small producers, we sell power for \$0.23261 per KWH, and we buy power for \$0.14557 per KWH.

When we talk to people about our system, they routinely ask, "How long till you pay back your investment?" We don't think that's the right question to ask. Many people pay \$20,000 to \$30,000 for a new car and spend many hundreds more for gas and maintenance. They don't expect their car to pay for itself, or to earn a dividend.

A better question is: "How can I invest \$20,000 into something that reduces my carbon footprint, slows global warming, eliminates my electrical bill, requires virtually no maintenance or additional cost, is not subject to property tax, and delivers 6% return annually?" The answer is: Invest in a solar array.

We paid \$30,000 for our system but got in on the tail-end of the federal stimulus program, which reduced our cost to \$21,000. We paid more than we might have because we invested in American-made products to support the industry here. Fred and Ethel produced 5682 KWH our first year, which we sold to GMP for \$1321.69. For our \$21,000 investment, we earned a 6.3% return.

Since we purchased Fred and Ethel's components, prices for panels both domestic and foreign have come down significantly, so you could probably install a system at less expense than ours. The federal rebate is no longer available, but you can still claim a 30% federal tax credit and a 30% Vermont tax credit. Even if you don't have a solar location, Vermont allows you to invest in a solar farm in another location and reduce or eliminate your electric bill.

So be a smart investor. Go solar!

*In photo: Michael Simonds with Fred and Ethel      photo: Mary McCoy*



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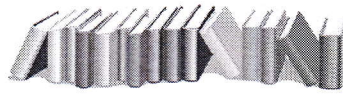
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### NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY by John Hoover

One of the genres I frequently enjoy reading is the mystery/thriller genre. In this I am not alone. In fact while I haven't done any formal research, my experience at the Windham Town Library tells me that mystery/thriller books may be the most borrowed books in the library. Thanks to the interest of Marcia Clinton in this genre, we now have two new mystery/thriller series in the library.

Marcia's love of mysteries led her to the books of Norwegian writer Jo Nesbø. Nesbø's series revolves around Oslo police detective Harry Hole whose expertise lies in solving cases involving a serial killer. Starting with *The Bat*, Nesbø introduces Hole and proceeds to develop his character through the next seven books, concluding with a cliff hanger at the end of *Phantom*. Two new Harry Hole novels due out this year include one that chronologically follows *The Bat* and a second that picks up with the end of *Phantom*. The library will order those two as soon as they are available.

The second author Marcia introduced us to is Stella Rimington. Rimington is the former head of MI5, Britain's equivalent of our own FBI, and she has written a series of novels featuring MI5 agent Liz Carlyle. Beginning with *At Risk* and going through six more novels, Agent Carlyle finds herself facing terrorists both foreign and homegrown as well as a mole within her own service. In addition to the exciting story in each book, Rimington brings insight into Carlyle's character by developing her personal life throughout the series.

We at the library are always interested in books that you enjoyed and would love to hear from you. Feel free to stop by any Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and share your thoughts with us.

### BOOK REVIEW—HISTORY BOOKS BY CANDICE

MILLARD by John Hoover


One of the common problems with works of history is that they are usually written by academic historians. Candice Millard's degree is in literature and thus she brings a very different feel to the writing of history. Two of Millard's books in the Windham Town Library bear testimony to her

ability as a writer and are also excellent history.

*The River of Doubt*, published in 2005, is the story of former President Theodore Roosevelt's participation in an expedition to explore a previously unexplored river in South America. Indians with poison-tipped arrows, piranhas, rapids that destroyed boats, sickness and fevers; all these were encountered and overcome during the course of the journey. Roosevelt himself became so sick he contemplated suicide. *The River of Doubt* recounts a true adventure story that rivals many works of fiction.

On July 2, 1881, as President James A. Garfield entered the 6<sup>th</sup> Street train station in Washington, D.C. he was shot twice from behind by a disappointed office seeker. Thus begins *Destiny of the Republic*, Millard's tale of Garfield's assassination and follow-up medical treatment, published in 2011. Sub-titled *A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President*, the book provides an insightful account of the in-fighting over how Garfield's wounds would be treated, and of the often bitter behind-the-scenes struggle for power in his administration. Well researched and excellently written, *Destiny of the Republic* is history at its finest.

Both *The River of Doubt* and *Destiny of the Republic* were *New York Times* bestsellers. The latter book collected accolades ranging from Best Fact Crime Book to awards for literary excellence. If you like reading history these books are really good history. But perhaps you want to read history and have been put off by academic historians; in that case these books are a good place to start.



Misty Valley

## BOOKS

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### Death of Ida Dutton

Ida C. Dutton died on October 6, 2013 after a long illness. She lived in West Windham most of her life. In 1947 she married Herbert Dutton, and together they raised six children and realized their dream of a registered Holstein dairy farm. Her favorite hobbies were gardening, sewing (especially quilting), reading, and farming. She is predeceased by her husband Herbert in 2008, and more recently by her sister, Margaret Woodruff. She is survived by her six children: Clara, Abigail, Rebecca, Paul, and Stephen Dutton, and Ruth MacNeilage; twelve grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. Graveside service will be held at the Windham cemetery at a future date.



## LOCAL FOOD RECOMMENDATIONS

*From Lydia Pope France:* We have a couple of places just across the river from Bellows Falls that we like. The first is **Pete's Stand**, on Route 12 just north of RiteAid and Shaw's Plaza. It is a farm stand in the true sense, open only during summer harvest and run by people who also do the farming. Have had great success there with canning tomatoes, squash and other veggies. Further south on the same road is **Alyson's Orchard**, with an amazing variety of fruit, from berries and plums to peaches, pears and of course, apples – all PYO and at their stand; they have heritage apples, including Cox's Orange Pippins, our favorites in England but hard to find here. They also offer "seconds" peaches for jams and chutneys. And if you don't need anything, it is a wonderful place just to go and walk any time of the year, but especially when the hills of apple blossoms are out. You will also find their bee boxes out then, and everywhere you turn the scenery is just gorgeous. We have had a few chickens from **Idyll Acres** in Grafton. Not any special breed or anything, and they are frozen, but they are raised right there, free range and humanely treated, and have been very good each time. Idyll Acres also has other meats raised on the farm, and sometimes feta cheese and some vegetables. Self service at the small building just off Rt. 121, between Grafton and Cambridgeport.

*From Mary Boyer:* If you are desperate for local farm produce during the winter and enjoy a Sunday drive, the **Dorset Farmers Market** is for you. Held indoors in the factory at AK Adams, the setting is industrial but you can find a variety of foods, produce, crafts, syrup, music and even cookware in the store itself. Not something you would do

every Sunday but once in awhile a fun outing. Route 30N out of Manchester: Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*From Nancy Tips:* **Lini Mazumdar of Anjali Farms** in South Londonderry uses nearly all local ingredients to create her amazing weekly tiffins, basically Indian take-out, with flavors that have to be experienced to be believed. Contact Lini for the details at [linimazumdar@yahoo.com](mailto:linimazumdar@yahoo.com). Also, the **West Townshend Country Store Cafe** serves wonderful sandwiches.

*From Beth McDonald:* The McDonald family loves the raw milk provided by **Windham Hill Community Dairy** on Windham Hill Road. The two cows, Clementine and Mercy, milk once a day and graze with their calves, Celeste and Molly Molasses. Making our own yogurt from the rich jersey milk makes for great smoothies. We also love when Windham resident **Claudia Holmes** (contact her at [cah36@hotmail.com](mailto:cah36@hotmail.com)) makes her fantastic desserts; her orange cream cupcakes are awesome.

*From Tom Price:* We like to buy meat, preferably raised locally, from local butchers. **Londonderry Butcher Block**, the new butcher shop in Londonderry, is great as is **Rushton Farm** (which is also known as Idyll Acres). And we highly recommend **Ephraim Farm** in Springfield. We do a lot of back road crusin' and find a lot being sold along side the road. Sometimes you hit the motherlode of veggies and go home happy. I rarely have to buy eggs from the store anymore. When traveling with company, have the rider looking for people's homemade signs alongside the road.

*Want to recommend your favorite local food discoveries? Send 250 words or less to [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)*

## HOLIDAY RECIPES

### Mary Boyer's Super Easy Cranberry/Citrus Compote

24 oz. fresh cranberries, stemmed and cleaned  
Zest 1 lemon \* Zest 1 orange \* 2 shallots finely chopped  
2 c sugar \*  $\frac{1}{2}$  c orange juice \*  $\frac{1}{2}$  c thinly sliced scallions (optional)  
350 oven

Mix first five ingredients, place in a square 3-quart pan and drizzle OJ over all. Bake, stirring occasionally, until sugar is dissolved and a few berries have popped open, about 30 -35 minutes. Cool thoroughly (the pectin in the excess liquid will firm up when cool), cover and refrigerate for up to two weeks. When ready to serve bring to room temperature, fold in sliced scallions and turn into a serving bowl.

### Turkey with a Tan

From John Hoover: Two years ago Marcia Clinton found a recipe for Roasted Cider-Brined Turkey With Madeira Gravy in Yankee Magazine. Web link: [www.yankeemagazine.com/recipe/roasted-cider-brined-turkey-with-madeira-gravy](http://www.yankeemagazine.com/recipe/roasted-cider-brined-turkey-with-madeira-gravy). We used the brine but not the rest of the recipe and the bird turned

out wonderfully moist and flavorful (it was also rather sun-tanned). Brine ingredients for a 15-16 lb fresh or thawed turkey:

1-1/2 gallons sweet apple cider \* 1 cup cider vinegar  
1 cup granulated sugar \* 2/3 cup kosher or sea salt  
1 medium-size onion, sliced \* 1 bunch fresh thyme  
2 cinnamon sticks \* 1 orange and 1 lemon, quartered  
6 bay leaves \* 10 whole cloves \* 1 tablespoon peppercorns  
1 quart ice water

Rinse turkey thoroughly under cold water. Trim excess fat. In a large pot (at least 8 quarts) over high heat, stir together cider, vinegar, and seasonings. Warm until sugar and salt dissolve, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat, add ice water, and cool to room temperature. If your pot is large enough (and your refrigerator can accommodate it), put turkey in brine and refrigerate 12-24 hours. Otherwise, double-bag two plastic roasting bags and set them, openings up, into your roasting pan. Add turkey and pour brine in carefully. Close bags securely, and refrigerate 12-24 hours, turning the turkey once. When you're ready to roast, remove bird from brine and pat dry. Discard brine.





*Alison Schantz and Antje Ruppert of Windham play the the whistle and fiddle respectively. Alison is also currently learning to play the Irish flute. Their style is Celtic music.*

**Are there more in the group, or just you two?** We both play with Inisheer, a nine-member band. We've recently started playing with Alan Partridge, something we enjoy

very much.

**How long have you been playing together?** We are both in a traditional music class taught by Becky Tracy and Keith Murphy at the Brattleboro Music Center (BMC), playing Celtic tunes from Ireland, Scotland, Quebec, Brittany, and Scandinavia. Classes are Wednesday evenings, 5:30 - 6:30 (advanced) and 7 - 8 (intermediate). These are group lessons open to any instrument that fits the Celtic genre; we learn all tunes by ear without sheetmusic.

**What sort of venues do you play?** Our band Inisheer plays at assisted living centers and farmers' markets in Brattleboro, Putney, and West Townshend. This year we played for the Heifer Stroll in Brattleboro and Puppets in Paradise, a delightful puppet festival with multiple performances at Hayward gardens in Putney.

**When is your next event?** December 22 at the Putney Farmers Market, indoors at the Green Mountain Orchard.

**What other musical interests do you and Alison have?** Both of us are involved in classical ensembles. Alison plays the clarinet in the Windham Orchestra led by Hugh Keelan and I play 2nd violin in the BMC's senior orchestra led by Moby Pearson. Both conductors as well as the rest of the BMC faculty are amazing musicians and great teachers. We are very lucky to be able to work with such great talents. Also, we often attend an Irish session led by Randy Miller and Roger Kahle, recently moved from McCliment's Pub to McNeill's in Brattleboro, and running 7-10 p.m. Five times a year we support Amy Cann and her All Comers Band with contra and square dance at Pierce's Hall in Putney.

### **OUR MOVEABLE FEAST** *by Lydia Pope France*

Before we moved here, we always picked a weekend to head north, in hopes of timing our trip for that perfect fall foliage. Of course it was very hit and miss, and I eventually realized that if you wanted to see the best that the season had to offer, you pretty much had to be here for a month so that you would find yourself in that perfect spot on that perfect day.

Now that we live here, that is no problem, although some years are much better than others. This year was excellent, and I can pretty much tell you just when it really happened here in Windham. We left town around 7a.m. on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Leaves were changing, but it was really just that early stage. We came home sometime around 3p.m. that same day, and found Lawrence Four Corners completely ablaze with color. Honestly, it was like some switch had been thrown in those eight hours. I was in touch with someone who lives at that end of town the next morning, and she said that she too had noticed the dramatic change at the same time.

There are two sides to seeing spectacular foliage. One is the color of the leaves themselves, and here in Vermont we are lucky to have that glorious mix of reds, yellows, rusts and browns. I have seen very pretty fall color in other parts of the world, but often it is fairly monochromatic, so you don't get quite the same wow effect. The other component is light. Too bright and the colors look washed out. Too dull and there is no sparkle. This year we have had the happy coincidence of both great color and great light. And wonderful inky blue skies to set

off the perfect contrast.

So what led up to this better than average foliage season? We had two things in abundance this summer. One was rain, early and lots of it, and the other was heat. And then as the time came for the leaves to do their thing, we had nice, cool nights with sunny days following. It was also drier as summer ended. Scientists say these factors lead to a greater concentration of sugar in the sap, which stimulates production of reds.

The hummingbirds must have liked the conditions – we saw the last one at our feeders on a record-late September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Last year it was the 14<sup>th</sup>, which is more typical.

Below is a summary of our spring and summer rain. No doubt, we were much wetter in the earlier months this year. But what we suffered in constant rain and heat and humidity was more than paid off by the spectacular foliage. And as we were lucky enough to experience it, wherever we go, that memory will stay with us for the rest of our lives ...

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
May	6.5	10.0	3.9
June	12.4	2.7	7.8
July	8.1	2.0	4.0
May-June-July totals	27.0	14.7	15.7
August	2.6	1.7	18.0 (Irene)
September	5.0	5.7	11.4
October *	2.0	1.0	.75

\* through October 15<sup>th</sup>



VERMONT'S UNIVERSAL RECYCLING LAW *by News and Notes staff*

Over the next seven years, it will become illegal everywhere in VT to throw away mandated recyclables (see list below) as well as leaf and yard debris, clean wood scraps, and food scraps. Vermont's recycling law will be phased in gradually. On the following dates, these materials will be banned from the landfill:

**July 1, 2015:** Mandated recyclables: aluminum and steel cans; aluminum pie pans and foil; glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages; PET and HDPE plastic bottles and jugs; corrugated cardboard; white and mixed paper; newspaper, magazines, catalogs, paper mail, and envelopes; box board; paper bags.

**July 1, 2016:** leaf/yard debris and clean wood debris

**July 1, 2020:** food scraps

While the Londonderry Transfer Station now can recycle many things, it currently cannot accept food scraps. There are plans to start a pilot program at the transfer station to accept this material. Many people compost at home but many cannot for a variety of reasons. Even folks who compost at home often do not put meat, bones or dairy products into their compost bins. The transfer station will be able to take all of these materials once the pilot program is in place. More news about this program will be in future issues.

*(From "Universal Recycling Fact Sheet" VT Dept of Environmental Conservation, and Esther Fishman, Recycling Coordinator, Londonderry Solid Waste Group.)*

## BULLETIN BOARD

**ZUMBA GOLD AT WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 p.m. Fun and invigorating dance-fitness program providing low-impact and easy-to-follow moves. Latin-infused music and dance routines by ZIN certified instructor. \$8 for Windham residents, \$10 for the general public. Pre-buy 6 classes, get 1 free.

More info: Pauline O'Brien at 802-376-5397 or [paulinebob@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinebob@hotmail.com)

**HOW CAN WE HELP?**

Do you need a ride to the doctor's or dentist's office or a trip to the grocery store? Are you a caregiver who could use a short break? Do you need someone to stay with your loved one while you run errands? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, people from Windham Congregational Church are willing to help. Please call 874-4428.

**AUTUMN MORNING FITNESS AT THE MEETING HOUSE**

Mon. and Thurs., 10 a.m.: Strong Living (bone building, muscle strengthening, stretching, and balancing.)

Mon., noon, (after Strong Living): Yoga with Liza Eaton. **Note time change.**

All levels welcome in all classes.

**More information: Mary Boyer, 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden, 874-4049.**

**REMINDER** - change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon dioxide detectors when you turn back your clocks for the Fall. They don't work with dead batteries!

The Valley Bible Church invites you to check out our updated website at [www.valleybibleVT.com](http://www.valleybibleVT.com) for more information and a calendar of upcoming events.

**WINDHAM SPINNERS' GUILD**

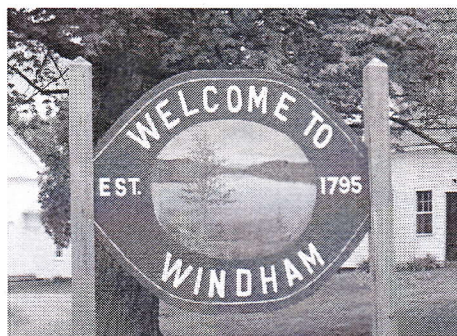
Spinners of all levels and types come together once a month to spin and share techniques and ideas. The Guild meets from 1 - 4 pm, usually on the first Saturday of the month. Whether you're a seasoned spinner or have an urge to learn, you're encouraged to join us. The Guild can make available to you spindles for drop-spindle spinning, but if you want to spin using a spinning wheel, you'll need to have your own. Email Bev Carmichael at [carmichaelbev@hotmail.com](mailto:carmichaelbev@hotmail.com) for more information.

**WINDHAM WOODLANDS DEFENSE FUND**

If you support Windham's Town Plan and oppose industrial development in Windham's woodlands, make a tax-deductible contribution to help pay for attorneys and experts in land-use issues, noise and light pollution, surface and ground water management, and wildlife protection.

Send tax-deductible contributions to the Windham Woodlands Defense Fund, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham VT 05359.






Windham News & Notes  
5976 Windham Hill Road  
Windham VT 05359

Windham News & Notes welcomes submissions. Send articles of up to 300 words to the Editor at the above address or preferably by email to [windhamnews@hotmail.com](mailto:windhamnews@hotmail.com)

Please keep us informed of any address changes

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<p><b>REGULAR MEETINGS &amp; SCHEDULES</b></p>	<p><b>Town Clerk:</b> Mondays, 12-6 (closed Nov 11); Tuesdays, 8:45-2:45; Thursdays, 12-3 ; Saturdays, Nov 15 &amp; Dec 21, 9-noon.</p>	<p><b>Selectboard:</b> Mondays, Nov 4 &amp; 18; Dec 2 &amp; 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.</p>	<p><b>School Board:</b> Mondays, Nov 4 &amp; Dec 2, 9 a.m. at Elementary School. Open mtg.</p>
<p><b>Listers:</b> Wednesdays, 9-noon at the Town Office. Closed Dec 25.</p>	<p><b>Planning and Zoning:</b> No Nov meetings; Thurs, Dec 5 &amp; 19, 6 p.m. at the Town Office. Open meeting.</p>	<p><b>Library:</b> Wednesdays, 3-5. Book Group will meet Nov 6 &amp; Dec 4 at the Meeting House during library hours. Closed Dec 25.</p>	<p><b>Volunteer Fire Company:</b> Thursdays: Nov 7 &amp; Dec 5, 6 p.m. at the Fire-house. Heavy refreshments served.</p>
<p><b>Windham Community Organization:</b> Wednesday, Nov 27, 7 p.m. at the Meeting House. Everyone invited.</p>	<p><b>Windham Congregational Church (UCC)</b> Sundays: Worship Services at 9:30 a.m. Christmas Celebration, Sun Dec 22, 6 p.m. Everyone invited.</p>	<p><b>Valley Bible Church:</b> Sundays: Sunday School, 9:55; Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Potluck, 12:10; Afternoon Service, 1:10. Tuesdays: Bible study/Prayer, 7 p.m.</p>	

### SAVE THE DATES

NOV 6: DEADLINE FOR "CAPTURING THE BEAUTY OF WINDHAM" PHOTO CONTEST  
NOV 9: 5 P.M., WCO HARVEST SUPPER. MEETING HOUSE  
NOV 29: 4 P.M., TREE LIGHTING AND CAROL SING