

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514
Bartlett, NH 03812

www.BartlettHistory.org

Fall 2022 Edition (2022:4)

The Bartlett

Historical Society

The Campaign Continues...Thank You For Your Continued Support

Thank You to all who have given to our museum renovation project. Your support continues to help us drive forward with the renovation effort for our future Bartlett History Museum. Our recent request for support from all Bartlett property owners has received a warm response with 84 people, to date, making museum contributions. We are very appreciative of your support and thank all of these new donors for their help in bringing this museum to life in Bartlett.



Renovation Progress: Latest developments — We have adjusted our renovation plans bringing the building



South side of
Museum with

residing project into scope. This unplanned work came about after we discovered water damage to the sheathing boards when installing the new windows. All of the vinyl and old clapboards are being removed, damage is being repaired, a mildew film found on the building is being bleached, we are preparing to install the new clapboards in October. A

crew of volunteers including Mike Tamulis, Mike Bannon, Susan McIver, Ray Hodgkins, Sue Franklin and Phil Franklin applied a first coat paint on the new clapboards while they were being stored in the building. Lucy Hardware generously gave us a discount on the paint. We extend our thanks to all of these volunteers and Lucy Hardware for their support. In other renovation news, the railings for the front stairs were donated by Dick Glines and Steve Fox at Mount Washington Fabrications. They will be installed in October. The ADA mobility ramp will be installed in October. Our thanks to the Coleman family for donating the concrete for the ramp platform. Bill Duggan, our General Contractor, is working on the light-boxes for our display of our stained-glass windows. Work on refurbishing the windows is complete. A prototype light-box revealed a problem with the back-lighting design for the windows. We are now planning to purchase LED lighting panels that will provide an even, daylight-like illumination of the stained-glass. You'll be amazed at the beauty of these windows when seen with the LED technology. We thank the Goldberg Charitable Foundation for their support with these stained-glass light-boxes.

Campaign Progress: To date, with the generous donations of 524 individuals, foundations and businesses, many having made multiple donations, we have raised \$406,218 out of recently revised \$602,300 campaign goal! Our paid expenditures for the project to date are about \$340,680; of that total, \$311,225 in real capital value has been added to the building. We are estimating that we need to raise \$196,000 to complete Phase 2 and open the museum. Our forecast was impacted by the addition of the residing effort to the project scope and rising costs for materials. As we've noted, where possible, we are looking to manage and reduce costs through volunteer support. We currently have three grant active applications and are searching for other revenue streams to help support the project. *How can you help get us to this goal?* First, any donation you can make to the project is greatly appreciated. Second, if you know of anyone who is interested in adding their name to our growing list of donors, please contact Phil Franklin, at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Thank you.

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President's Message

As I write this note on the third day of fall 2022, the wind is howling, Mount Washington Observatory recorded a 116 mile per hour wind gust last night, the trees are starting to turn their brilliant fall colors and the sun is shining brightly. The temperatures are now in the 40s and 50s with frost warnings. Fall has arrived!

Entering the last quarter of the year, I've started to reflect on the year that has so quickly passed and the year that will be here soon. To say that our BHS year of 2022 was "busy" would be an understatement. We had a very successful 2022 membership drive, we accomplished several things on our checklist for the museum renovation project, we hosted four very interesting presentations with very engaging speakers, we restarted our golf tournament fundraiser event, and held a couple of very successful dining benefit fundraisers. In the process we welcomed new members and met some very interesting people. Looking forward, we see a very positive future for BHS with continued strong membership and donor support, hopefully the opening of the museum, another cast of interesting speakers for our Quarterly Presentation Series, several BHS sponsored events and, as usual, we look forward to responding to inquiries from people interested on our local history and making new friends along the way.

We've had a couple of changes on our BHS Board of Directors recently. With regret, we have accepted the resignation of Peg Fish. Peg has been one of our Directors for the past two years. She is wealth of local knowledge as her family has a long history living in Bartlett Village. In a conversation with her, I let her know that we'll miss her input and that she's always welcome back. On the other side of the coin, we welcomed Rob Foppiano to the BHS Board as a new Director. Rob has been a BHS member for many years, he is no stranger to volunteer and non-profit work as he volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and the Tin Mountain Conservation Center. We look forward to having Rob as a part of the BHS Board.

Our museum project is moving forward. For the past couple of months, we have been focused on the work to reside the building. One of the things we did to prepare for the residing effort was purchase the new hemlock clapboards long before we needed them. The price was right and they were available – two big considerations. We took the time to apply the first coat of finish paint to them in the building before they were installed outside. I was a part of that painting project and had help from some other BHS volunteers. A sincere *thank you* goes to Mike Tamulis, Mike Bannon, Susan McIver, Ray Hodgkins, and my wife, Sue for their assistance in painting the 10,000 square feet of boards. Their help saved us several thousand dollars in expenses. Also, Lucy Hardware helped us with a discount on all of the paint so we extend our *thanks* to Nat Lucy for his generosity as well. Finally, Bill Duggan and I spend a considerable amount of time discussing this project. I *thank* him for his ongoing generous support, advice and counsel.

Please don't forget that we have a couple of fundraisers underway. Our 2022 Quilt Raffle drawing will be on Wednesday, October 19th at the fourth quarter presentation on one-room school houses. Raffle tickets are still available. Also, you'll find a flier in this newsletter announcing a BHS Christmas ornament sale.

In the past years, we've started our 2023 membership drive with an announcement in this newsletter. This year, we're trying something different and will be sending out a separate letter in late November to start the 2023 BHS Membership Drive. Also, please keep BHS in mind if you are looking to make a year end donation. Unless otherwise designated, all donations will be directed to our BHS Museum Fund.

In closing, I hope you have a wonderful fall and holiday season. Our BHS plans are to continue to work on the museum renovation, review our short term and long term BHS objectives and plans for 2023 and beyond. Sue and I plan to spend some time with our family and friends enjoying the fall and early winter days. As always, we appreciate all of the support we receive from our members and donors. If you have any questions, comments or ideas about BHS or Bartlett, Hart's Location or Livermore history, please let me know by dropping me an email at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Phil Franklin

President, Bartlett Historical Society
Phil@BartlettHistory.org

Bartlett's One-Room School Houses

Thinking of our October 19th presentation on one-room school houses, we thought you might like to know a bit about Bartlett's one-room school houses. In the 1700s and early 1800s, schooling for children was a low priority for the settlers of New Hampshire. In 1805, Governor Josiah Bartlett encouraged the State Legislature to enact school districting. Districting forced all communities to provide educational services for their youth. Funding came from the state as well as through local taxation but not without debate.

On our BHS website, we learn "In the case of Bartlett, with its six districts, the voters were constantly arguing over how to divide up the funds. Raising tax money for schools was always a very difficult task and the tax collector had his work cut out for him to persuade folks to actually pay the taxes. In 1812 the town residents vetoed a proposal to raise \$25 for wood to heat the school buildings and instead, each scholar would furnish his (their) proportional share of the wood by his own labor for the ensuing winter."

Additionally, we learn from our website that "Most students had to travel a long distance to get to the schools and the method of transportation was entirely up to their own devices. In one case a "school-bus" was designed that consisted of a hollowed-out pine log, painted blue. About twelve small children could be huddled into it and it was towed by horses or oxen." We've come a long way since then!

Our schools' districts were:

- ◆ District 1: Lower Bartlett School (a.k.a. the Intervale School): This school would eventually go on to become a private residence on Route 16A. It was replaced by the Intervale Grammar School in 1938. The Intervale Grammar School eventually became the Bartlett Town Hall in the late 1950s.
- ◆ District 2: Glen School: Located on the main road (today's Route 302 but then that road was in a slightly different location), the building was between today's Jericho Road and the Massa Schussers Ski Club building. This building eventually became the Margaritaville Restaurant (now closed).
- ◆ District 3: Garland Ridge School: This school was located between today's Attitash Ski Resort and Roger's Crossing (the rail crossing on Route 302 with the sharp "S" turn by the former Rogers Farm).
- ◆ District 4: Kearsarge School: This building, today a private residence, was located on the west or Bartlett side of Hurricane Mountain Road between Mount Surprise Road and Timberline Road. In the late 1800s, it was moved across the road to the Conway side or east side of Hurricane Mountain Road. Bartlett paid tuition for their students to attend the school until the 1930s.
- ◆ District 5: Hilltown School: Hilltown was located about two miles east of the Route 302 and West Side Road intersection on West Side Road. Today, all that remains of this village today is a cemetery and a few cellar holes. The Hilltown School was moved in 1897 at the cost of \$15.00 to make way for a new school that was built for a total cost of \$331.96. That building is no longer in existence.
- ◆ Special District 5: Bartlett Village Grammar School: This building, located in Bartlett Village where the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School is located today, was built in about 1880, renovated in 1896 and burned in February 1931 and was later rebuilt. In 1925, Bartlett High School was built. The high school was closed with the high school graduating class of 1958. After 1958, Bartlett high school students went to Kennett High School in North Conway.
- ◆ District 6: Goodrich Falls School: This school was located on the old Route 16 near Goodrich Falls on the Ellis River. This building is no longer in existence today.



The Original Intervale School



Kearsarge School with Miss Lawrence & Students



Bartlett High School

Livermore and Hart's Location both had their own one-room school houses. Today, the Livermore school is a cellar hole and the Hart's Location school is now a part of the Notchland Inn.

Today, Bartlett is one school district with the school being the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School on the corner of Route 302 and School Street. It welcomes students from pre-school age through 8th grade. From there, most students go to Kennett High School. Students are transported by modern school busses or by car and the building is now oil heated. A far cry from the early days of education in Bartlett.

Railroad Committee Research Update

Scotty Mallett is back at work researching our local railroad history. One of the topics on his research list is a biography of the Mitchell family of Hart's Location. James Mitchell was the foreman for the last section of track coming out of Crawford Notch into Bretton Woods in the late 1800s. Loring Evans took over this position in 1902 when Mitchell retired. Scotty is also researching the valuation of the rail line in Bartlett and Crawford Notch as the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad leased it to the Maine Central Railroad in the late 1888. It's good to have Scotty back at his railroad research desk.



Thank You to Lloyd Chandler

In the late spring, Phil and Sue Franklin decided to dress up the front of our future museum building with some colorful petunias in three planters. As fall approached, they planted chrysanthemums. That was the easy part. To keep them alive and growing, they obviously needed to be watered so Hannah Chandler, our BHS Vice President, asked her brother-in-law, Lloyd Chandler, if he would take on the watering duty. Lloyd, who lives across from the museum building, accepted the challenge. Every day while coming home from getting his morning newspaper, he stops at the building and gives our flowers a drink. With Lloyd's help, the flowers flourished and have brightened our front walk. We even had visits from hummingbirds (before they migrated back to Mexico). Our sincere thanks to Lloyd for his help.

July Fourth—Renovation Open House at the Museum

In a continued effort to show the progress on our museum renovation project, we hosted another Renovation Open House event on the Fourth of July. As we arrived at the building at 9:30 a.m. to get it opened and take care of some last-minute details, we also welcomed our first guests. BHS Board members Phil and Sue Franklin, Hannah Chandler and Kathy Howard spent the next five hours talking with a steady stream of visitors who came to see how we are bringing this historic building back into a new life. The only time when they weren't busy was when Bartlett's Hellen Hayes Fourth of July parade came by the building. In the end, the Board members were so engaged chatting with visitors that they lost count of how many people attended the open house and we didn't even have time to take any pictures of the event. The one thing for certain, though, was that all of the visitors were impressed with what we are doing to repurpose this building. The most often asked question was, "When are you going to open the museum?" The answer was rather simple, "When we have the funds to complete the renovation." We keep moving forward.

100 Years Ago ...

Livermore, NH, once a bustling logging community, in the 1920s was now headed for a period of decline. By 1920, Charles and Daniel Saunders, the original owners, had died. The Saunders sisters along with one, Clinton Nash, took over the operation. Nash was described as "not a lumber kind of guy."

Still the operation continued. The mill, destroyed by fire in 1919, was reopened for operation in 1920.



Drawings By:
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BHS Quarterly Presentation Lineup!

As we continue to hold our presentations at the Bartlett Congregational Church, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the church leadership for allowing us to use their building for BHS presentations and other activities. Their support has been tremendous and we hope to some day be able to repay their generosity.

Closing out our 2022 Presentations

Wednesday, October 19, 2022: "New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools: The Romance and The Reality" with Steve Taylor (NH Humanities speaker)

In the 1700s, 1800s and even early 1900s, one-room school houses dotted the countryside. Bartlett had six schools across different town villages. Today, most are gone but a couple are still here, in disguise and used for other things. Steve will talk about the "lasting legacies of the one-room school and how they echo today." Bring your stories of Bartlett's school houses.



Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Announcing the 2023 Quarterly Presentation Series Lineup!

Sunday, January 8, 2023: The History of the Mount Washington Auto Road and Glen Houses with BHS Member, Howie Weymss

The Mount Washington Auto Road, known as the "oldest man-made attraction in the United States," was completed and opened to the public in 1861. Howie was the general manager of the road from 1987 to 2020. In his talk, he'll cover the history of the road as well as the different Glen houses, adding some fun facts and anecdotes as he tells the story of these sites.

Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 2:00 p.m.



Wednesday, April 19, 2023, The History of Livermore, NH with Dr. Peter Crane



Livermore was once a thriving logging town bordering Bartlett, Hart's Location and other towns. As the logging industry came to an end, so did the town of Livermore. Peter has done extensive research on the former town that today is the subject of legend and lore. He'll tell the story in his talk. Many people in Bartlett have connections to Livermore.

Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 21, 2023: Covered Bridges in New Hampshire with author Kim Varney Chandler

There were once nearly 400 covered bridges in NH; today only 54 remain. Bartlett had three covered bridges but today only one remains. Kim will talk about the romance and function of these bridges as well as tell us about some of the local bridges, past and present. Come and learn about how these bridges were essential parts of the community infrastructure, not just historic sites as they are today.



Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023: The History of the Willey Family and Crawford Notch with author Rex Wiley



Focusing on the family of Samuel Willey and the dramatic events that led to the tragic death of that family in 1826, Rex, a descendent of the Willey family, will talk about the facts and mysteries surrounding that family. Learn about their Bartlett connection and the rescue effort as well as other historical, fun and interesting news about Crawford Notch.

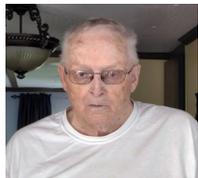
Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.

All of our programs are free and open to the public. We gratefully accept donations at the door. All donations are directed to our Bartlett History Museum project for the renovation of the former St. Joseph Church building. Please join us for these interesting presentations.

Ralph Mallett – Bartlett to the Mediterranean to Alaska to Bartlett

By Phil Franklin

On August 12, 2022, I had the great pleasure to have a conversation with Ralph Mallett in the living room of his house in the Glen section of Bartlett. We were joined by Ralph's son, Scotty, and from the porch, his wife, Jean, kept an ear on the conversation. I asked Jean to join us but she said this was Ralph's interview, although she did jump in on a couple of occasions to add to a story.



Ralph is a "Bartlett native" being raised in Bartlett Village on River Street. The Mallett's River Street house, the third from the right off of Route 302, is still there today. He was born on October 29, 1939 to Alfred and Helen (Crouse) Mallett. Alfred, born in 1917, was a self-taught master electrician who could "fix anything." Helen was a homemaker and shopkeeper.

Ralph and Jean were married in 1967. Ralph said they met at the Silver Springs Country Store and Campground restaurant at the west end of town. Jean's family lived on West Side Road in Bartlett. They have two children. Their son, Scotty also lives in Glen. He and his wife, Linda, have one son, Benjamin. Their daughter, Melanie, lives in Berlin, NH. Ralph has twin brothers, Dale and Alan.

Mallett's Store, the Television Business and the Railroad

Ralph began our conversation with the story of his family's store and some background to that story. He started by telling how his family had a seven-inch television when Ralph was growing up in their River Street home. He commented that on Friday nights, several friends from the neighborhood would gather at the house to watch the boxing matches ("fights"), which he said was more like watching shadows moving around on this little screen. This new thing called "television" apparently caught Alfred's imagination.



Mallett's Store Today

In 1955, the Mallett's purchased a store from James and Sadie Donahue on Albany Avenue in Bartlett, changing the business name from Donahue's Store to Mallett's Store. The building was and is located across from the Bartlett Congregational Church, only a few hundred yards from their River Street home. After completing some renovations to the building, the Mallett's moved from River Street to an apartment over the store. Alfred had a business called Mallett's TV and Radio Repair, initially running the business from a small shop at their River Street home, and later moving it to the Mallett's Store. He became an RCA television dealer. Alfred ran his television business from the back of the store and Helen ran the grocery business from the front of the store. Ralph said that his father worked long hours and enjoyed selling and fixing the televisions, exclaiming "he never slept!" Ralph told of how his parents were generous with extending credit to families in the Village. Credit slips were kept in a cigar box under the front register. After Helen died in 1973, it became hard for Alfred to run the store and with the opening of larger grocery stores in the area, business in their small local store began to decline. In 1983, the store was closed. Ralph said that when it closed, it could never be reopened as a commercial business. Zoning rules had been implemented in Bartlett and the Albany Avenue area was rezoned from a commercial district to a residential district. The store had been grandfathered and allowed to stay open as long as it did business at least one day per year. Alfred decided to just close the business, however. When he did, the cigar box full of credit slips went unpaid and Alfred never said anything about them. In 2005, in the settlement of Alfred's estate, the Mallett's store building was sold to George Vorrilas and Andrea Murphy. The "7Up" sign with the "Mallett's Store" name is still on the building today.

Like many families living in Bartlett, someone in the family was employed by the railroad. In Ralph's family, his father, Alfred was a Signaller. While he had his television and radio business, working at the railroad was actually his main occupation. We located a photograph of a ten-year-old Ralph in the January 1950 edition of the *Maine Central Railroad Employee Magazine*.

SIGNALMAN'S SON is Ralph A. Mallett, 10, whose Dad is A. R. Mallett of Bartlett.



... continued on next page

Ralph Mallett continued ...

“*The Family Grapevine*” section of the magazine included little stories about the railroad employees and their families, some of which gave a surprising level of “personal information.” Other railroad workers in Ralph’s family included his grandfather, Everett Mallett, and Ralph’s eventual father-in-law, Carroll Kelley. Scotty pitched in telling us that Carroll was a trackman and the next to the last Section Foreman in Bartlett. Carroll received his 25-year pin and, upon retirement, his gold watch from the railroad.

Growing Up in Bartlett Village

Ralph lived the typical life of a kid growing up in Bartlett Village, active and adventurous. Ralph recalled the names of many of his friends including the George brothers, Bert and Ben, Les Parker, Brian Hill, the Sanborn twins, Evelyn and Ellen (Evelyn Bailey and Ellen Hayes), Carroll Hayes, and Paul Taylor, (ironically, Ralph’s son, Scott, would eventually marry Paul’s daughter, Linda). Not wanting to forget anyone he also mentioned the names of several other families including the Ainsworth’s and Clemons’ who both had several children to add to the young population in the Village. Where many of the local folks had nicknames, Ralph said he never acquired one.

A very popular spot for the local kids in the summer was the Second Iron railroad bridge. Ralph said he “lived” at the Second Iron swimming hole in the summers. From others we’ve interviewed, we’ve heard the stories of kids climbing to the top of the bridge and dive off into the Saco River below. Ralph said he had jumped from the bridge deck and once tried to climb the bridge but stopped about six feet up, thinking better of his idea of scaling the structure. He said that Franky Trecarten and Curtney Mead were the only two he knew of who dove from the top of the bridge into about eight feet of water where the river bed was solid granite. Highlighting the dangers of swimming at this bend in the Saco River, he told the story of one swimmer who drowned when he was caught in a strong undertow and pinned underwater against some boulders. He also recalled that a couple of boys climbed to the top of the bridge and ran across the top. He added that he hasn’t been up to Second Iron in years.

Ralph told the story of the Albany Avenue square dance parties in the summer evenings of 1956. He said that Albany Avenue was closed off to traffic on Saturday evenings and his parents were the callers for the dancing. He also told of dance parties at the Cook’s house (now in the Attitash Ski Resort and Attitash Mountain Village area). He said that they were such good dancers that one time they were featured on a television program. He added that their mothers were always there to chaperone the party goers.

Other memories included skating on the peg mill pond, fishing in that same pond as well as skating and fishing at a pond in the woods behind Bert and Ben George’s house. He said in the winter to keep warm at skating parties, the kids would build a big fire and everyone had fun. Ralph enjoyed fishing. He fished in the ponds and talked about walking up Razor Brook casting his line as he waded through the stream. He said he wasn’t much of a hunter. He liked to play baseball and was on the high school baseball team. He played left or right field saying he “had a monster of an arm” and admitted that he was just an average batter. While in the Boy Scouts, he talked about the task of cleaning the Stanton Slope ski area for the ski operations. His Scout Master was Willard “Tink” Ainsworth; why “Tink?” Because he liked to tinker with things. He was also a pin setter at Bartlett’s River Street bowling alley, today’s Francis Murphy VFW Hall (across from the Mallett’s River Street home).

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Ralph Mallett continued ...

He also mentioned seeing the installation of the new water iron mains on River Street replacing the old wooden water mains. He remembered the River Street bridge when it was a steel structure truss bridge. Ralph said it was replaced while he was away in the service in the early 1960s. He added that the roadway to the steel bridge was higher than the current bridge roadway making it far less susceptible to flood damage. He also recalled being in the beautiful train station that was once in the center of Bartlett Village and mentioned Otto "Bud" Burdwood, the telegrapher, as one of the workers in the station.

Like many Bartlett Village kids, Ralph joined in on a little mischief from time to time admitting to breaking into the local fire house and blowing the siren on the engine, and getting into the congregational church and ringing the church bell. He talked about racing cross country motor-bikes across a field off of Cobb Farm Road. He also recalled a time when he was at a local hang out with the boys and one decided that they should race their cars so they sped up to the Crawford House hotel (by the current Notchland Inn in Hart's Location) and back. He said that with the bumps in the old road, he had the family's 1957 Chevrolet air born a couple of times, then, he had a little accident. That ended that story!

School Days

Ralph attended Bartlett Grammar School and Bartlett High School as a member of the second to the last graduating class in 1957. These schools were located on the site of the current Josiah Bartlett Elementary School. He said that he "hated" school but did well enough to get by. He recalled teachers John Garland, his favorite teacher, along with John Gagnon, his chemistry teacher, and Sal Mannar, his woodworking shop teacher. He said that he just talked with Mr. Mannar, now 96 years old, the other day from his home in Florida.



Bartlett High School

After graduating from high school rather than work in the family business, Ralph went to work at the General Thermostat Corporation located just over the tracks in Bartlett Village next to the railroad freight house on Albany Avenue. This was once the site of the G. K. Howard General Store and today it is the site of a condominium building.

Military Service – The Marines and Army

After working at the thermostat factory, he needed to get away so, as quick as that, he joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1958. He said that he thought he would never survive basic training. He mentioned one Drill Instructor (DI) who was so rough that he taunted recruits to try to cross this one particular swamp, saying that if they could get across it, they could go home. Ralph said that the recruits knew that the swamp was too wide, too deep and too dangerous to cross. He added that the DI was eventually drummed out of the military. During basic training, he said they didn't stop for a minute. He entered the Marines at 230 pounds and graduated from basic training at 185 pounds. ... continued on next page



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Ralph Mallett continued ...

Following basic training, he was deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as a part of a Demolition Mine Warfare unit at the rank of Spec 4 (three stripes) or the equivalent of a sergeant. Basically, he was trained to blow things up. He said he enjoyed this service, especially working with explosives. He really didn't enjoy the process of building things, however. His initial length of deployment was six months, however, enjoying the Mediterranean as he did, he transferred to another unit that was stationed there doing the same explosives work. In the end, he spent three years, his full-service commitment, in the Mediterranean. While there, he was befriended by a Greek gentleman, a member of the Greek tank corps, and his family. He was actually able to stay with this family while on leave. The family lived in a house at the base of the Acropolis. He said he liked Greek food but encountered a couple of surprises. One was the spicy nature of the food, Ralph doesn't eat heavily spiced foods but what was mild spicing to the Greeks was very hot to Ralph. At another meal, he was served "mutton." Thinking it was lamb or deer, he enjoyed it only to learn after dinner that the meat was from a dog. While in Spain, he said he was on guard duty right next to rows of plumb trees. He had his fill of these delicious fruits while there.

Thinking about his entry into the Marine Corps, he said that this was the first time he had ever experienced racial segregation. The only black person he had known living in Bartlett was a woman named Carrie Lebar and she was just another neighbor, no different than anyone else. In the south, he saw signs for "White Only" and "Negro Only" on things such as restrooms, bus seating, seating in restaurants and even on water fountains. He also had to get used to the southern accent of both the whites and blacks as he couldn't understand what anyone was saying nor could they understand him. These were some eye-opening experiences for a white kid from rural, northern New Hampshire.

Ralph was discharged from the Marines and returned home to Bartlett but that didn't last long. He decided to reenlist but not in the Marines, rather he joined the U.S. Army in 1962. While he lost two stripes, he didn't have to go through the Army's basic training program and was offered his choice of duty assignments. He chose Alaska and off he went to serve in an administrative company in Anchorage, actually a base in Eklutna, AK. While there, the Cuban Missile Crisis was heating up. He recalled the base being in a "Deploy Red" status. Chuckling, he said that while in the Army he was never issued a rifle whereas in the Marines, he and his rifle were inseparable. He told the story of how cold it was at times. While on maneuvers at Fort Greely, near Fairbanks, he said the highest temperature recorded for his time there was negative 57 degrees.

Ralph also regaled us with the story of going on leave and getting from Anchorage to Bartlett for \$1.80. Briefly, he went from Anchorage to Fairbanks on a free train ride, hitched a ride on a KC-135 refueling airplane to El Paso, TX where he bought his "expensive" lunch, then flew to McGuire Air Force base in New Jersey, then to a base in Massachusetts and then found his way home. While at the Strategic Air Command base in Fairbanks, he saw a strange looking jet roar over and asked if that was a U-2 spy plane. All he was told was that he didn't see or hear anything.



U-2 in Flight

Industrial Fishing, the National Forest Service and Other Employment

As he was leaving the Army in 1965, he secured a job in the fishing industry in the Aleutian Islands. After flying to an island in the Aleutian chain, he became a forklift operator offloading crabs from the fishing boats

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Mountain Valley Auto Brokers/Penske Truck Rental
at the Glen Warehouse

Rachael R Brown
Owner

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Ralph Mallett continued ...

and doing other assorted jobs at the processing plant. The crabs were processed at the plant, frozen in retail sale boxes and shipped to Seattle, Washington for distribution in the lower 48 states. He also worked offloading halibut that was also processed and shipped to Seattle. He said that halibut was the best tasting fish there is. The biggest one he saw weighted in at 1,000 pounds. While there, he saw the fortifications built by the Japanese military during their occupation of the outer islands during WWII.

In 1966, Ralph left the fishing world and came back to Bartlett. He was married in 1967 but went back to Alaska for the cycle year of the salmon run. He said the salmon were so thick in the water that you could almost walk across the water on them. On the salmon run, he hired onto a fishing boat. The operation consisted of the large ship and skiff boat, which he operated. The skiff pulled a large net that was attached to the ship. Salmon were caught in the net and hauled into the main boat. He said that salmon fishing is a competitive business. While on this boat, one of the crew abandoned the ship so Ralph took on the additional duties as the ship's cook and was paid a double share for his work. He liked to cook an Alaskan salmon stew. While on this boat, he was involved in one accident there his skiff hit rocks and he landed ashore. Eventually, the U.S. Coast Guard rescued him and brought him to Dutch Harbor.

Now, back home in Bartlett, Ralph found his first of several jobs. He was hired by the state of New Hampshire, Department of Transportation as the wing-man on a plow truck that patrolled Crawford Notch. From there, he moved on to being a home heating fuel oil truck driver for the Howard Oil Company. He said that heating oil was selling for \$0.11 per gallon at the time but few houses were insulated so people burned tremendous amounts of fuel to heat their homes. One day, he was approached by Edmund "Sonny" Pettengill to see if he was interested in a job working for the National Forest Service. So, Ralph then reported for duty with the forest service. There, he spent his time maintaining and repairing roads throughout the White Mountain National Forest. He traveled all over New Hampshire and Maine, learned how to run a backhoe and became quite independent, often working by himself on isolated and distant gravel roads. He admits that this was dangerous but he was always careful.



As work for the forest service slowed, Ralph then went to work for Kearsarge Metallurgical Corporation in North Conway. He worked third shift making parts for nuclear plants. He said that the furnaces in this plant never stopped running. The plant eventually went out of business in 1982. Ralph then returned to the forest service, doing the same road maintenance and repair work he had done previously.

Ralph retired in 2000 after a combined 22 years of employment with the federal government. Other jobs that Ralph had over the years included working for the Kearsarge Peg Mill and for the Glen Ellis Campground where Dick Goff employed him as a night security guard for thirteen years.

Travel and Local Changes

When we talked about traveling other than with the military and going to Alaska, Ralph said that he and his father-in-law, Carroll, traveled together yearly to places such as Las Vegas, New York City and Miami. The vacation for his wife and mother-in-law was to have the two men out of the house for a while. He got along famously with Carroll. Carroll liked to drive; they covered expenses with Ralph paying all expenses one day and Carroll the next. He added that they needed to call home every night while they were away.

When asked about the changes he'd seen in Bartlett over the years, Ralph mentioned a couple of things. First, the fact that there are some property owners who don't seem to take any pride in their property appearance, wishing that people would show more concern about the upkeep of their yards and, second, he referenced several fires that have taken landmarks away such as the Bartlett Hotel and peg mill.

In Conclusion ...

Ralph was another one of the people I've interviewed who started by saying that there wouldn't be much to write about. But, once we started chatting, I had little to say, only throwing out a question to clarify a topic or change the subject. His story, like so many others that we've profiled shows the diversity of the people of this town and area. I thank Ralph, along with Jean and Scotty, for telling us this story of his life.



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

The Historical Herald

www.BartlettHistory.Org

Facebook: **Bartlett Historical-Society**

Bartlett History Museum—Renovation Review

Our project to renovate and reopen the historic former St. Joseph Church building in Bartlett has been a dedicated effort supported by, to date, 524 donors to the project, many making multiple donations. Starting in 2016 with the fundraising effort, we've had our challenges but we've always moved forward.

Our list of key accomplishments is impressive.

Completed several small projects securing the building from collapse or fire danger	All hazardous materials removed from the building	Replaced of the entire roof structure with a solid truss designed roof; straightened and strengthen the building	Leveled and reattached the front foyer to the building; reroofed and resided the foyer
Reframed the interior of the building for museum functions incl. recreating the single original arch over the altar area	Resecured and leveled the choir loft; suspended it from the trusses removing the supporting posts under the loft	Installed new front granite stairs and concrete sidewalk plus the concrete slab for the ADA mobility ramp	Installed new building code compliant mechanical systems (electrical, HVAC, plumbing)
ADA mobility ramp was purchased and is soon to be installed	Installed new energy efficient windows & nearly 3,000 sq. ft. Rockwool wall insulation	Refurbished all of the stained-glass windows for display in LED back-lit light -boxes/frames	Currently residing the entire building with hemlock clapboards

We have taken a building that was considered for demolition and are turning it into a community asset.

So What's Next?

After the residing is complete, we turn our attention back to the interior work to be completed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheetrock installation • Refurbishing all the floor spaces • Finish details for electrical, HVAC, plumbing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing ceiling insulation • Finish carpentry details • Getting display cases ready for use • And many other small details
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Through the generous support of our General Contractor, Bill Duggan, we have the contractors to do the work to complete the project. Our biggest need is in the area of funding.

If you can help or if you know someone who is interested in helping support the last portion of this project, please contact Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. We Thank You for your support.

Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors

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Fallen leaves signal the change in seasons