

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514
Bartlett, NH 03812

The Bartlett

www.BartlettHistory.org

Historical Society

Summer 2020 Edition (2020:3)

The Campaign Continues...Thank you for your Continued Support

Our campaign for the funding to renovate our St. Joseph Church building continues. Below are the names of the most recent donors. We offer our sincere thanks to all of them plus everyone who has made a donation to this important historical society and community project. Your support has allowed us to take the first big step in our Phase 1 effort to save the building. With an environmentally clean building, we are now ready to take the next major step in saving the building—replacing the failed roof structure. When this step is complete, we will have completed our work to simply save the building from crumbling into itself. We couldn't have reached this point without the help of all of our donors.



The New Roof is Coming Soon!: Right now, our general contractor, Bill Duggan, is making plans to get the staging, a crane, dumpsters and other materials needed to tear off the old roof and install our new truss system roof. We will also straighten and strengthen the long walls of the building. We hope that in our next newsletter, we'll have another supplement showing the removal of the old roof and installation of the new roof. While it's unfortunate that the roof needs to be replaced, conversations with preservationists tell us that roof structures are the most common replacement item in old buildings. Our roof is 130 years old and has done its job. *The help of every single donor has made it possible for us to take this major step in the renovation of this historic building. Phase 2 is next with the renovation of the interior of the building.*

The Search for the Remaining Missing Stained Glass Window: In previous newsletters, we've said that we have all but one of the original stained glass windows in our possession from the former church. We are trying to find that last window. If you have any clues where it might be, please let us know. We've included a photo of what we believe the window looks like at the right of this note. The stained glass window that is missing was located by the emergency exit door on the north side of the building. We'd like to offer a reward for its return but we don't have a lot to give for its return—just our gratitude for making the building whole again.



Campaign Progress: To date, through the generous donations of 359 people, grants and businesses, many have made multiple donations, we have raised \$237,729 out of a \$525,000 renovation estimate. To do the work for the hazardous materials removal and a few other tasks, we have spent \$94,437 (not including the upcoming cost of the roof project). We are always searching for additional support for Phase 2 of the renovation to complete this project. 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.

Donors from 03/16/2020—06/30/2020

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President's Message

Summer is finally here in the White Mountain, the flowers and the mountains are covered in green once again. We also find ourselves getting used to a new era of social change across America and still fighting the pandemic. In a 1964 song, Bob Dylan wrote a refrain that said "For the times they are a-changin'." They certainly are.

Amidst all of this change, here at the Bartlett Historical Society, we have done our best to keep our focus on the museum project and moving our organization forward. Here are a few things that we've been doing.

- For the past three months, the BHS Board of Directors has been meeting by telephone
- We have continued to work with our general contractor to get the roof of our future museum replaced
- We are searching for funding for the important Phase 2 to complete our renovation project
- Unfortunately, we have cancelled two of our events in our quarterly presentation series and our 2020 golf tournament; this resulted in a fundraising loss of about \$4,000 for the museum project
- We are doing some housekeeping with our historic records and artifacts, cataloging and organizing them in preparation for the eventual opening of the museum.

As mentioned on our front page, we are searching for the top and bottom panes of the one stained glass window that remains illusively missing from the church building. All of the others are still in place or have been returned to us. If you can help us in this search, please let me know.

On another very positive museum related note, Tim Jackson, BHS member and owner of the White Mountain Stove Shop, has donated all of the display cases that we will need for the museum. Tim recently purchased another business where the previous owner left all of their display cases behind. Not needing them, Tim called and offered them to us. After a little cleaning, we'll have display cases that will look like new. *Our sincere thanks to Tim for this great in-kind donation.*



Finally, on the last page of this newsletter, you'll find a tribute to our friend and one of our founders, Bert George. Bert passed away on April 26, 2020. He was a wonderful man. Personally, Bert was one of the people who helped me get my footing in BHS and Bartlett in general. His family has named BHS as one of the organizations where donations can be sent in his memory. We thank the George family and especially, Bert's wife, Greta, for this gesture. Many people have already donated in his memory and as Greta has said to us, "Bert would be very happy knowing that these donations were supporting the museum."

So, we continue our work to move our organization forward. We await the days when we can safely hold our quarterly presentations and other events; we look forward to the day when we open the Bartlett History Museum. I extend my sincere thanks to all of our donors and to the people who have offered ideas and suggestions for making BHS an even better historical society.

Sincerely,

Phil Franklin

President, Bartlett Historical Society
Phil@BartlettHistory.org

2020 Bartlett Historical Membership Growth Continues!

As we closed our formal 2020 membership drive, we are very pleased with the support demonstrated by people who either renewed with or joined BHS. We currently have 213 members in BHS with 34 of them being welcomed as new members (2019 we had 196 total members). We have continued our upward trend in memberships. This is very positive statement of support for our historical society. The support of all members is greatly appreciated and means a lot to us. To help us continue to grow, please tell a friend or neighbor about BHS so they can join also. Our membership form and information can be found at :<http://bartletthistory.org/bartletthistory/join.html>. *We'll always welcome a new or renewing member!*

Searching for Nicknames of Bartlett People—Past and Present

Recently, one of our members was relating a story to Phil Franklin and mentioned that they had been asked about the health of one of their childhood friends. The person making the inquiry used the friends “real” or Christian name. The response from the person being asked was they didn’t know anyone by that name. When the inquirer said that the friend about whom they were inquiring lived next door to the other person, the light came on as this person only knew their friend and neighbor by their nickname!

This brought an idea to mind. We thought it would be fun and interesting to assemble a “Nickname Roster” of Bartlett and regional folks. There are many people who are referred to in stories or in real life by their nickname and that may be the only name we have for that person. Each nickname usually has a story of its own and each story is important to our town and regional history. We’re looking for names as far back as can be remembered—generations in the past if possible, maybe people from your family, ancestors or friends from long past as well as names of people we still see today. We don’t want to lose those connections.

Whether with people living today or from past generations, we’d like to include them in this roster. If you can help us with this project, we’d like to collect the following information about you, people you know or your ancestors:

- Their given name—their “real” name
- How you know or knew them or of them—your relationship
- Their nickname or nicknames, and
- The story (if known) behind the nickname because that’s what adds the color to the moniker (e.g. how they earned it or how it came to be, any other significance to the name).

Is that your real name or your nickname?

If you can help us with this venture, please send your information to our BHS email –

BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com or directly to Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. We’re not looking to embarrass anyone with the list of nicknames but, rather, capture these names so they don’t get lost over time. The people of Bartlett and our region, past and present, are the foundation of our history. This roster will be a way to capture another aspect of their life stories. We’ll also add a little color to each story. We thank you for participating in this name finding adventure.

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Thank you to ALL of our Newsletter Sponsors

We thank our many sponsors who cover the cost of this newsletter. Your support for this quarterly publication is greatly appreciated.

To our BHS newsletter readers —

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8th Grade Bartlett History Project—Award Winner Announcement!

With the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School in home learning mode due to the pandemic, we met with our faculty contact, Jennifer Lord, to discuss how this change could impact this project. Anticipating that many students would be challenged by home learning, we changed the project to a voluntary one. In the end, student Tyler McCluskey, pushed forward to complete his project - "Attitash Mountain Resort – Then and Now." Tyler presented his topic to an online audience of BHS directors and JBES faculty. Tyler's report was outstanding, demonstrating that he had mastered his topic. We are pleased to present Tyler McCluskey with our 2020 *Bartlett History Award*. Congratulations to Tyler. We wish him all the best in high school and in his future. We've already agreed with Mrs. Lord and Mr. Yahna, JBES Principal, to talk over program improvements for next year and continue this learning collaboration.



Tyler
McCluskey

Railroad Committee Update from Scotty Mallett

Scotty Mallett continues to research the Bartlett and Hart's Location railroad history. He's working on a biography for the landscape painter, Godfrey N. Frankenstein. Frankenstein was a friend of Dr. Samuel Bemis, an original Hart's Location landowner. Bemis' mansion, built in 1860 is, today, The Notchland Inn. Bemis named Frankenstein Cliff in honor of his friend; the railroad named the large Frankenstein Trestle after him. The committee is also working on the stories of Samuel and John Anderson, builders of the rail line through Crawford Notch. These tracks and Frankenstein Trestle are still used today by the Conway Scenic Railroad.



Looking up at
Frankenstein Trestle

Railroad Workers Roster: The committee is assembling a list of Bartlett railroad workers. We would appreciate your help by sending any information on Bartlett railroad workers (e.g. names, relationship to you, their railroad jobs, times of service to the railroad, etc.), to Scotty Mallett at Scottymallett@gmail.com.



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St. Joseph Church—Our Future Bartlett Historical Society Museum

If you know of anyone interested in helping support the restoration of an historic building, please have them contact us.



We'd enjoy talking with them.

Phil Franklin

603-374-5023 or 860-638-7966

Phil@BartlettHistory.org

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2020 Quarterly Presentation Series!



This has been a tough year for our quarterly presentation series. The ongoing dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus have forced us to continue to reevaluate our ability to pursue our 2020 Quarterly Presentation Series. As you are aware, we cancelled the April and June presentations out of our concern that our gathering could cause the virus to spread among our guests. When we make the decision to hold or cancel one of these events, the BHS Board of Directors considers the following things:

- The makeup of our audience: Our presentation audiences generally average 50 guests, most are in the high risk 60 – 80+ years old range.
- Location: Our presentation venue, the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School, has been closed and off limits to outside events as has our alternate location, the Congregational Church.
- Social Distancing: Even if we had a meeting venue, we can't create the necessary and recommended social distance spacing to try to keep people safe while attending a presentation.

While we really enjoy sponsoring the presentation series, we want our guests to feel safe as they join us for these evenings. Presentation evenings offer people a chance to socialize among themselves and with the BHS Board members. We look forward to the time when we can get back to bringing speakers to enlighten and entertain us on different topics. Let's hope that that time comes sooner than later.

If we are able to hold the fourth quarter event, here's what's planned:

Wednesday, October 21: "A Century of Railroading in Crawford Notch" with Ben English

From the 1860's to the late 1950's, the railroads played a major role in the growth and vitality of the area. Ben, a railroad historian and BHS member, will tell us about the rise and fall of the railroads in our area. This presentation is preceded by our BHS Annual Meeting. Bartlett Elementary School, Cafeteria, Route 302, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.



All of our programs are open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted at the door to help cover the costs of each presentation.



What are your ideas for presentations?


Thinking positively, we'll soon be looking into presentations for 2021. We've already had a couple of ideas offered to us by BHS members. We can also look to reschedule presentations that we had planned for 2020. Still we'd like to hear your ideas of topics that would be of interest to you. What other program ideas do you have in mind? Drop a note to BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com or Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org.



Reminder—There are Many Ways to Contribute to BHS

BHS exists through the generosity of members and donors. Aside from writing a check, donations can be made via credit card, appreciated stock transfers and in-kind support. Amazon Smile also offers a donation program that allows you to donate while you shop—even small donations add up!

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Bartlett Turns 230 Years Old

June 16, 2020 marked the 230th anniversary of the incorporation of Bartlett as a town in NH. From Aileen M. Carroll's book, "Bartlett, New Hampshire ... in the valley of the Saco," we learn that it wasn't until 1830 that the New England Gazetteer made a note of the existence of the town stating that Bartlett is in

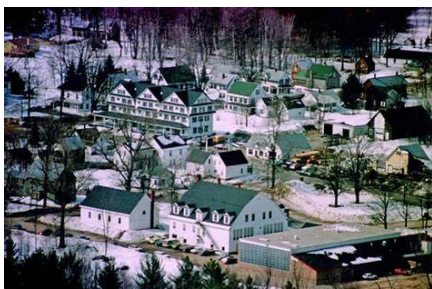
Coos County, 45 miles S.E of Lancaster, 82 miles N.N.E. from Concord and 85 miles N.N.W. from Portsmouth. It lies at the foot of the White Mountains on the eastern side. Its soil is various, and, on the Saco, in some parts good. This river meanders through the center of town. Bartlett was incorporated June 16, 1790. Population, 1830, 644.

The initial land acreage of the town was listed at 14,036 (21.9 square miles) but later boundary adjustments with Jackson and Chatham decreased the town's acreage to 13,000. Over the years, there were many land transactions and boundary adjustments that added and subtracted to Bartlett's acreage. Today, with all of the town line shifting and land acquisitions from bordering areas quieted, Bartlett is listed as being 48,192 acres or 75.3 square miles. In 1830, the value of "lands, improved and unapproved, was given at \$91,138." The "nosecount" farm animals was 661 sheep, 712 cows and 82 horses. Today, we don't have a nosecount for farm animals but our 2019 town's Annual Report listed the net valuation on which the tax rate is set at \$1,064,600,440.

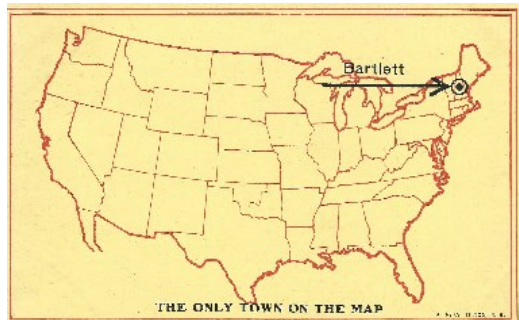
Bartlett was originally incorporated into Grafton County but in 1793, a petition to the legislature requested a transfer to Stratford County. On December 24, 1803, Coos County was formed and Bartlett was shifted to Coos County. Finally in 1853, Bartlett was annexed by Carroll County and that is where we are today.

Where in 1830, the population was listed at 644, today, the population hovers around 3,000 full time residents with many more people calling Bartlett a second home for weekend and get away living. To say the least, we've grown a bit.

Happy Anniversary to Bartlett at 230 years old! We've come a long way from 1790.



Bartlett Village—1950's



Clever old postcard—it's also the greatest town on the map!



Bartlett Boulder—image from about 1900

"Bartlett is a town of ruggedness and grace, of sterile, rocky mountains and rich, productive valley lands."

Quote from the *History of Carroll County, New Hampshire 1632—1889 [published 1889]*



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Hart's Location – The Smallest Town in New Hampshire

by Phil Franklin

Normally, we have a story about a person from Bartlett in the last section of the newsletter. However, with the COVID-19 virus casting its danger around us, we decided to take a safer road and profile our neighboring town of Hart's Location. While being the smallest town in New Hampshire, Hart's Location has a rich and interesting history, it has many natural attractions to draw people to the town in all seasons, and it occupies the area known as Crawford Notch, one of the most beautiful locations in the state. This article provides a brief sketch of the history of this town.

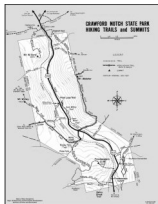


Historical Snapshot From the "Discovery" to Today

The history of the land we now know as Hart's Location dates back to 1771 when Timothy Nash and Benjamin Sawyer discovered an opening through the mountains that would shorten the route to Portland, ME for people from northern New Hampshire and Vermont. Nash and Sawyer were rewarded for their discovery with a land grant in 1773 from Governor Wentworth. The granted land was located above the area we know today as Crawford Notch, likely in today's bordering town of Bretton Woods.

A provision of this land grant was that Nash and Sawyer had to build a road through the notch. When they reached the eastern end of today's Hart's Location, the story goes that Sawyer finished their bottle of "junk" (probably rum) and smashed it on a large rock declaring it "Sawyer's Rock." That rock, still carrying Sawyer's name today, is located just outside the Bartlett town line on Route 302. While it has been cut back to accommodate the highway, it is still an impressive stone edifice.

Between the years 1689 and 1754, the French and Indian Wars were fought in America. After that war, on April 27, 1772, King George III of England honored Thomas Chadbourne with a land grant that basically defined the land we know today as Hart's Location. Chadbourne sold 440 acres to George Hart in November 1772, 510 acres to Robert Robertson in 1773 and 2,050 acres to Richard Hart in 1775. Chadbourne thereby divested himself of his King George land grant. The Hart family eventually became the grantees of the land in Hart's Location. By 1838, however, heirs of the Hart family had sold their property interests in Hart's Location. Even still, their name stayed with the town. According to Marion Varney's book, the town name evolved in early deeds referencing lot locations as "land in Hart's Location." Early maps, however, refer to the town name as "Chadbourne" or as both "Chadbourne" and "Hart's Location."



Hart's Location was incorporated in 1795. It was initially part of Grafton County. In 1805, it became a part of Coos County and, in 1853, acting on a petition from several town residents, it became a part of Carroll County where it resides today.

As more people came north, property in Hart's Location was sold to settlers. Abel Crawford was one of those early arrivers. In the early 1800's, Crawford opened the Mount Crawford House as a hotel with 30 rooms for merchants traveling to and from Portland, ME. The Crawford's were also trail builders, eventually building the Crawford Path, the first trail to the top of Mount Washington.

Abel Crawford was a leader in the formation of the town government. In 1835, the State of New Hampshire demanded that residents of the town form a government. With only eight land holders and fourteen men everyone had a part in town government. Even today, several residents hold one or more offices in the town government. In 1835, an initial act of the new government was to raise the sum of \$10 to support a school and another \$6 to support ordinary expenses of the town.

Mail service in Hart's Location started in 1775, according to Marion Varney, with a messenger bringing mail monthly. A post office was established on April 4, 1837 with ... continued on next page

Hart's Location History continued ...

selectman Nathaniel T. P. Davis being the postmaster. The post office moved to different locations over the years. The initial post office may have been at the Mount Crawford House. Other locations were Bemis (today, Notchland Inn), Avalanche Brook, Mount Carrigain (today near the Arethusa Falls trail head) also known as the Willey House post office. The last mail handled at this postal site was on October 19, 1973 when postal service for Hart's Location moved to the Bartlett Post Office, where it still is today.

The road that we know today as Route 302 through Hart's Location (there's only one other town road named Burke Road, all other roads in town are private), was commissioned by the state Senate and House of Representatives in 1803 and called the Tenth Turnpike Road. Interestingly, one of the men named as a proprietor of this road was Obed Hall, an early settler in Bartlett.

In 1827, Dr. Samuel A. Bemis, a dentist from Boston, began spending summers at the Mount Crawford House. Bemis was an inventor who dabbled in watch making but his most notable invention was that of false teeth that could be worn and used for eating (prior to this invention, false teeth were just for show, not for chewing food). This invention made Dr. Bemis very wealthy. Staying regularly at the Mount Crawford House, he naturally became friends with Abel Crawford and his son in law, Nathaniel Davis. At one point Crawford and Davis needed money for their business and Bemis loaned it to them. After Crawford's death in 1851, Bemis foreclosed on the loans and in 1855 took possession of the hotel and the majority of land in Hart's Location. (As a side note, Dr. Bemis apparently made several loans to people and when notes were past due, he would foreclose on the property and thus acquired thousands of acres in Hart's Location.)

In 1855, Dr. Bemis decided to build his retirement home in Hart's Location. In April 1859, he became a permanent resident of the town, living in the Mount Crawford House. By now, he owned 10,000 acres in Hart's Location. He fashioned his mansion after an English manor house. He sourced the granite for the structure from a quarry about half way up Sawyer River Road (heading into Livermore) and the logs from his own property. Construction took eight years and \$70,000. This granite mansion was and is a very notable property.



Bemis Mansion,
now Notchland Inn

Dr. Bemis was fond of the natural surrounding around him. He liked to hike and fish. He named Frankenstein Cliff after his friend, Godfrey Frankenstein, a landscape painter from the Boston area (the railroad named the large Frankenstein Trestle after him also). He is also credited with naming several mountains in the notch as well. A gentleman farmer, Dr. Bemis became self-sufficient on his land and entertained guests in his mansion.

Another road was built in Hart's Location and opened in 1870 but this road, known as the "Mount Willard Turnpike," was short in distance with a significant drop off at the end.

... continued on next page



Drawings By:
Greta George
Bartlett, NH
comfibrook@gmail.com

Greta's phone # 603 738 4958

Hart's Location History continued ...

The Mount Willard Turnpike started near the Mount Crawford House, at the top of Crawford Notch and extended up Mount Willard affording visitors a panoramic view of the notch. For many years, it was a toll road operated by Asa and Oscar Baron, then owners of the Mount Crawford House. They paid a lease to Dr. Bemis who owned the mountain. Initially operated as a carriage road, it was eventually made into an auto road by the work of the Civilian Conservation Corp. Today, all that remains of this road is the Mount Willard Trail, a short 1.6 mile hike from the Crawford Depot train station. The view from the top at the ledges is spectacular in any season.

In 1869, Dr. Bemis, being the largest land owner in the town, granted the right-of-way to the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad to survey the area and construct the railroad through the notch. In total, 210.4 acres of land were acquired by the railroad at a cost of \$677. This rail line would become the major freight and passenger route for rail service from Portland, ME to the North Country, with its final terminus at Ogdensburg, NY. In the heyday of railroading in the area, these tracks, eventually purchased by the Maine Central Railroad, would be used primarily for freight service, however, logging and passenger trains also ran on this line. Over the years, though, rail transportation for goods diminished and the last freight train made its way through Hart's Location on September 2, 1983. With the passing of that train, an era ended. Today, the rails through Hart's Location are used by the Conway Scenic Railroad.



Bemis Mansion &
Bemis Station on the
P&O tracks

Dr. Bemis needed help managing his farm so he enlisted the help of George Morey, a VT farmer. Morey became involved in local and state civics holding several public offices. The Morey family inherited the Bemis residence and property upon the death of Dr. Bemis in 1881.

A significant event in the George Morey years in Hart's Location was the selling of logging rights to J. E. Henry, the infamous logging baron of the White Mountains. Henry sold his rights to Milton Jones of Hart's Location and Benjamin Garland of Jefferson. This began the major logging operations in Hart's Location and the ruination of much of the old growth forest in Crawford Notch. Eventually, the logging settlement of Carrigain would be established. This logging eventually contributed to the passing of the Weeks Act and the formation of the White Mountain National Forest in 1911.



George Morey with
wife, Mary

Carrigain Village, within Hart's Location, was established in 1892 by the Saco Valley Lumber Company. The settlement was located at track section 129 of the old Maine Central Railroad according to Hart's Location historian, Bill King. This village was named after Philip Carrigain, NH Secretary of State from 1805 to 1808.

Carrigain was a "company town" designed to house the approximately 400 – 500 workers, mostly from Quebec, who were part of the logging operation in Crawford Notch. They lived in either a barracks style bunk house or in one of the several individual houses built for the families. Along with the living quarters, Carrigain also had a company store and offices, other miscellaneous company buildings, post office, a rail station, a church and school.

Logging operations in the Cutts Grant section of Hart's Location stopped in 1897 – 1898, as the terrain made the logging operation impossible. Logging operations then shifted to the slopes on the opposite side of Crawford Notch. According to Bill King, this extended the life of the village a couple of more years. Today, all that remains of this settlement is a sign on the side of the rail tracks and a few cellar holes that are on either state or private property.

By the time George Morey died in 1902, he had moved to Portland, ME. He was laid to rest, however, in the Bemis Cemetery, on the property of the Bemis mansion. Visitors to the Notchland Inn can visit that cemetery to view the graves of several notable Hart's Location residents. ... continued on next page

Hart's Location History continued ...

Upon George's death, his son, Charles Morey inherited all of the Morey property in Hart's Location. Charles attended school at the Bemis School as well as in Bartlett (the Bemis schoolhouse is currently a part of the Notchland Inn). Following in his father's footsteps, he held several public offices. Morey also continued the family farm, started a sawmill and opened a hardwood bobbin mill across from the Bemis property by the Saco River. The last record of Charles Morey, according to Marion Varney, is in 1924. He apparently left his wife, Florence, moving to parts unknown.

Florence Morey then continued the family tradition of being very active in local, county and state politics. She opened the Bemis House in 1920. This guest house was later called the Notchland Inn (prior to the current inn at the same location by the same name). In the 1940's the Notchland Inn name was changed to the Inn Unique and remained that way until the 1970's when it closed. In 1985, new owners, Pat and John Bernardin, reopened the inn.

Many stories tell of the "reign" of Florence Morey in Hart's Location. She was known as a lady with a lot of character, and from the stories that are told, she was quite a character. She died in January 1978 at the age of 91. Her holdings in Hart's Location were passed on to her son, George. He would eventually leave the town in September 1982. The vast landholdings of the Morey family diminished greatly over the previous several decades as the state and federal government purchased land that would eventually become Crawford Notch State Park and add to the land of the White Mountain National Forest.

In 1985, the Bernardin's purchased the abandoned Inn Unique. After an extensive renovation, they reopened the mansion as the new Notchland Inn. The Bernardin's were the innkeepers until the property was sold to the current owners, Ed Butler and Les Schoof, in October 1992. They did another renovation, making even more improvements to the inn. The Bemis mansion, today's Notchland Inn, sits high above Route 302 today and commands your attention as you pass by and see that beautiful granite structure.

As noted at the outset of this article, there is so much more to the history of this great small town but we don't have the space to cover it all here. However, here are some highlights that may interest you.

Hart's Location and Bartlett – Two Rural Towns in a Land Dispute

In colonial times, land grants were awarded to men who distinguished themselves in the battles of different wars. Bartlett and Hart's Location were started with these grant awards. One of those grants, 2,000 acres in size, in what is now the west end of Bartlett, was given to Vere Royse in 1769. His grant bordered on what would become Hart's Location. A similar land grant was awarded to Thomas Chadbourne in 1772. Unfortunately, the two land areas overlapped by 53 acres. According to Marion Varney's writing, apparently, a surveying oversight of 10⁰ formed a triangle of land where ownership would be claimed by both towns. In June 1861, this land was annexed to Hart's Location. In July 1878, this same land plus another 141 acres was disannexed from Hart's Location and annexed back to Bartlett. Again in 1969, there was another discussion over 12 acres of the same land listed as within the township of Hart's Location. This dispute was finally settled in 1971 when those 12 acres were annex to Bartlett after a final survey was completed. In 1972, voters in Hart's Location ratified the final settlement of the town boundaries, 200 years after the Chadbourne Grant was made.

The Legacy of the Willey Family

In 1825, Samuel Willey moved his family from Bartlett to Hart's Location. Their house was in the vicinity of today's visitor's center in Crawford Notch State Park. In August 1826, after a long period of drought in the area, a storm deluged the area causing the Saco River to suddenly rise 20 feet. A previous landslide in the area of the Willey's house had ... continued on next page

Hart's Location History continued ...

frightened the family and, as a result, Mr. Willey built a shelter nearby in case of another landslide.

Apparently in that August storm, the family tried to make their way from their home to their shelter but was caught by another landslide. The Willey family along with two hired hands were killed in the slide. The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Willey plus two of their children and their hired hands were recovered from the debris. The family was eventually buried in a graveyard behind the Scottish Lion Inn in North Conway. One of their workmen is buried in the Bartlett Cemetery. The bodies of the Willey's three other children were never found. Ironically, if they had remained in their house, they would have survived the night as the deadly landslide hit a ledge above their house causing the slide to split and flow around their house.

The Last in the State to be Electrified

The introduction of electric power in Hart's Location, supplied by the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, made national news. In Marion Varney's book, she describes the journey to electrifying the town. A first attempt to electrify portions Hart's Location occurred in 1931. A decision was made to abandon the idea as the cost of running the lines would not be practical for the power company. Residents continued to rely on their own methods for home electricity such as waterwheels, steam engines and gasoline powered generators.

In a March 11, 1969 town meeting, the topic of electrifying Hart's Location was discussed again. The NH Electric Cooperative required 15 guaranteed customers to bring power into the town. Fourteen residents were making this guarantee and the town decided to become the fifteenth customer. The Electric Coop installed a 31,000 foot of power line, much of it underground, extending from the west end of Bartlett. On July 15, 1970 the first electric light was connected at the Crawford Notch General Store and Campground, then the town snack bar.



First in the Nation Voting

Hart's Location is one of the three towns in New Hampshire that votes at the stroke of midnight on Election Day. Millsfield started midnight voting in 1952, stopped shortly thereafter and restarted in 1996. Dixville Notch started in 1960 and has continued since. The state of New Hampshire allows towns with under 100 residents to vote at midnight on Election Day closing the polls after all ballots are cast. Hart's Location voters started the midnight event.


In 1948, most of the residents of Hart's Location were workers for the Maine Central Railroad. To give the workers time to vote before daily work started, Hart's Location opened the polls at 7:00 a.m. In 1952, however, voters decided to begin voting at midnight. This tradition continued until 1964 when, according to an article on the Hart's Location website, "residents became tired of all the media ruckus and voted to end it."

In 1996, Notchland Inn Innkeepers, Ed Butler and Les Schoof, revived the midnight voting tradition. So, why does Dixville Notch get all of the attention? Hart's Location has very limited cell service where Dixville Notch has very good connections. In the race to be first in voting, the media have the race to be first in reporting.

... In Closing

These are just some of the highlights of the history of Hart's Location. Bartlett and Hart's Location share many services today such as Bartlett provides fire and ambulance support, we share a common transfer station and we coordinate on emergency management plans. The Bartlett Historical Society, as we reported in our spring newsletter, is very happy to be adding the history of Hart's Location to our scope of historic preservation for the region.

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The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

The Historical Herald

www.BartlettHistory.Org

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Remembering Clarence Herbert “Bert” George

On Sunday, April 26, 2020, Bert George, one of our BHS founders and a truly wonderful person passed away. Bert had been suffering from Alzheimer’s disease for several years and his passing, while a sad time for the George family and all of Bert’s many friends, was a blessing in so many ways.



Greta & Bert
George

Bert grew up in Bartlett. He had a great childhood playing with his friends, fishing in the streams and ponds, swimming at 2nd Iron Bridge and just being a “kid” in this small rural town. As a young boy, Bert helped care for the family horses and also worked at the family store, “The What Not Shop,” that was located on the corner of Albany Avenue and Route 302 (today this spot is the parking lot for the Union Congregational Church). Generations of his family owned and operated the Bartlett House, a guest house located across from the shop on the corner of Route 302 and River Street. That house would eventually become Bert’s home where he lived, with his wife, Greta, after he retired from the US Air Force at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Bert attended grade school at the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School; his high school years were spent at Kennett High School in North Conway. From there, he went on to the University of NH and enrolled in the ROTC program. As an officer in the US Air Force, Bert served in the Viet Nam War flying reconnaissance missions. While serving in the Air Force, he traveled to many locations in the world but declared that Alaska was his favorite duty station.

Retiring from the Air Force in 1987, Bert returned to Bartlett. He served as the Activities Coordinator for the town’s 1990 bicentennial celebration focusing on military history as well as serving on the Bartlett School Board and Bartlett Village Water Precinct board.

In 2006, Bert was one of the founders of the Bartlett Historical Society. He remained an active member of the society until his passing, serving in several capacities including as the society’s president. In October 2017, Bert was honored as a Lifetime Member of the society. Bert was one of the “go to” people if you had a question about Bartlett history.



Bert (l), Norm Head (r), as Norm honors Bert as a Lifetime Member



Bert (c) with Greta, Norm Head, Mike and Lloyd Chandler

In recent years, Bert struggled with the effects of Alzheimer’s but he continued to be as active as possible greeting friends who came to visit, sitting on his front porch in the good weather enjoying casual conversations and just being the quiet, gentle man that he was. While Bert is no longer with us, his spirit and inspiration will always be remembered by those who knew him as a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, cousin and, for the great many of us, as a friend. Thank You for Your Service and Rest in Peace, Bert.

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A view down Crawford Notch from the top of Mount Willard