

1 Nazarene Church

Read about the origins of the East Charleston Nazarene Church.

2 Josh Griffes

Josh Griffes honored with national award.

3 The Umsteads

Clair and Evangeline, a beloved couple, mourned by many.



Jean, Paul and Linda Gardner with Grandpa Gardner at the old homestead in 1953.

~ Gardner Newsletter ~

Re-Visiting the Early Days of the East Charleston Church of the Nazarene

By: Paul Gardner

When my sisters and I went to live with Grandma and Grandpa Gardner at the old homestead in the early 1950s, one of the best things we enjoyed was going to church. By the time we arrived in Vermont, the East Charleston Church of the Nazarene had already been organized by Grandpa and Grandma. Merrill Ladd was pastor and services were being held at the old Moulton homestead.

Perhaps one could say the real beginnings of the East Charleston Nazarene Church go way back to Friday evening on May 25, 1945. According to Richard A. Colburn, Sr.'s book *"The History of a Country Church,"* the official record of the Plymouth Congregational Church states on that day a special Church meeting was called to dispose of the following business:

1. To act upon the requests of Brother W. H. Gardner and Sister Mrs. Olive Gardner for their dismissal from Church membership.

2. If dismission is granted, to elect one Trustee and one Senior Deacon to complete the term of office to which Mr. Gardner was elected at the last annual meeting, also to elect an assistant organist to complete Mrs. Gardner's term.
3. To see if the members will grant permission to Rev. Gordon Whitcomb of Brownington to hold Sunday and mid-week services in the Church, at such time as not to conflict in any way with our own services. If so voted, to decide upon remuneration required for such use of Church.
4. To transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

As stated in his book, here are Richard Colburn's notes about that special meeting:

"The above mentioned events were undoubtedly the cause for the split in the church members. The Gardners and their large family conducted services in their home for several months and officially organized the Church of the Nazarene in their home in Octo-

ber, 1946 Several other members of the Plymouth Church soon decided to withdraw their membership and unite with the newly formed church. The present Nazarene Church was built in 1953 on the site of the former Wilder Hotel."

Note: 1953 was the year Jean, Paul and Linda Gardner went to live with Grandma and Grandpa.

Richard Colburn continues his notes within his book:

"This new church, in my opinion, was the result of a difference of opinion between two groups:

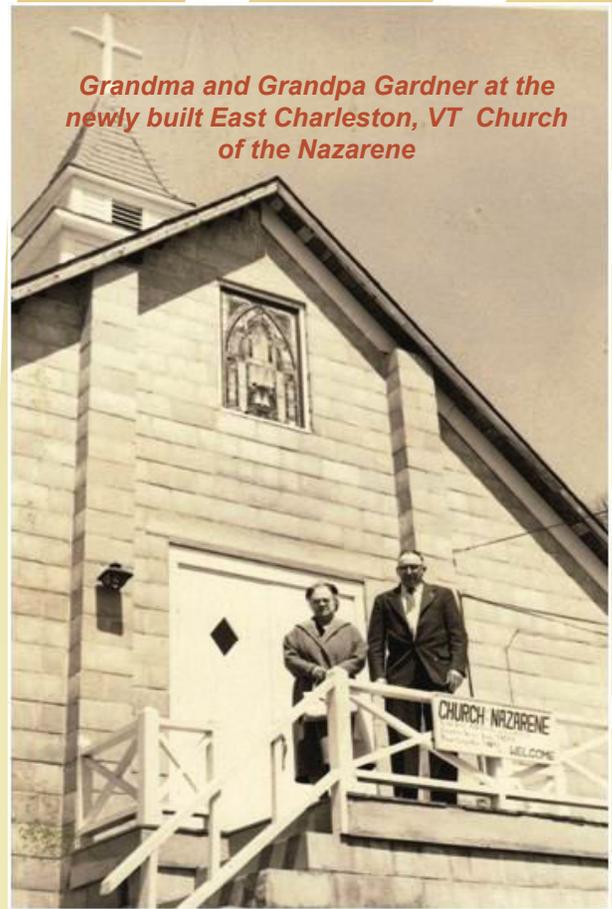
One group wanted to keep its ailing and elderly minister who was from England and believed and preached a straight-laced type of religion as was characteristic of the old church. The other group were followers of a local, young preacher who conducted evangelistic services, an unheard of thing in the Congregational Church in those days. As a young man, I was saddened by these events. My Sunday School pals left the Sunday School and older friends left the church. It was several years before the Church could regain new members and fill up the vacated pews."

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According to an article written by Don Griffes in an earlier issue of this newsletter, The Church of the Nazarene was organized in October 1946 and began worship services in the home of Will and Olive Gardner on Ten Mile Square Road. Then they purchased a house east of the Village and worshiped there until May 10, 1953. After that the Nazarenes moved into their newly constructed church building located on the former site of the Wilder Hotel.

For more interesting facts about the East Charleston Church of the Nazarene, read Margie Chatto's article in the Fall 2006 issue of *The Gardner Newsletter (Volume 9, Issue 36)* entitled: "Memories of an 'Insecure' Pastor's Wife." The Chattos replaced Merrill Ladd as pastor and presided over the Nazarene Church's new building program.

Grandma and Grandpa Gardner at the newly built East Charleston, VT Church of the Nazarene



**Above and Below:
The Griffes Family at Josh's Graduation
Len, Donna, (and the kids) Josh, Becky, Emily**

Joshua Griffes Graduates from Olivet Nazarene University

Griffes honored with national award

Joshua Griffes of Newport, a student at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, has received national recognition as an outstanding campus leader for 2013 by the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and College program. He is the son of Leonard Griffes and Donna Griffes.

Mr. Griffes is one of a select group of 53 seniors from Olivet to accept this prestigious award. More than 2,842 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated in nominating their students for this honor.

A political science major, Mr. Griffes received this honor for his achievements while at Olivet, including: member of Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society; member of Capitol Hill Gang; resident assistant and leader of discipleship group.

~ from Olivet Nazarene University



News from Aunt Lois

By: *Lois Cardwell*

April 16, 2013

A lot of people knew this couple – the Umsteads. They were in the Malden Nazarene Church and ended up buying a home in West Charleston and became a member of the East Charleston church. He had a stroke and was in a nursing home near me, so his wife lived with me to be closer to the nursing home. About two years ago she ended up in the hospital with an aneurysm of the brain and she never was conscious again. He lived just two years longer.

I am 95 years old now and still drive my car, which helps me with my errands around here and I still pick up Dawnita for church, but don't travel very far now.

Here is part of Clair E. Umstead's obituary as reported in the newspaper:

Clair E. Umstead

April 8, 1929 – April 3, 2013

Clair E. Umstead, 83, of Newport, VT passed away on April 3, 2013 in Newport VT. He was born April

8, 1929 in Royersford, PA, a son of Joseph and Mary (Druckenmiller) Umstead. On April 28, 1951, he married Evangeline Smith who predeceased him on December 6, 2008.

He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy in 1951 from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA, and then a Master of Divinity in 1954 from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, MO. In 1961 he received a Masters Degree in Music Education from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

He pastored and was minister of music at several churches throughout the Mid-Atlantic and New England areas. He was also a college music professor and taught trumpet at Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, MD.

Among his hobbies he enjoyed gardening, playing softball arranging sacred music, pastoral care, hiking around his home in Charleston and Arizona and playing the trumpet. He helped build the Knollwood Church of the Nazarene in Dayton, OH and Royersford Church of the Nazarene in Royersford, PA.



The Umsteads



Aunt Lois enjoying herself along the shores of Lake Memphremagog

Uncle Raymond Defies U.S. Army Orders to Report to KP

By: *Raymond Gardner*

All of Will and Olive Gardner's boys can be considered part of "The Greatest Generation." They all served in World War II. In a previous issues of the newsletter we published a wonderful letter from Adelbert to his mother written from the front lines of World War II in France. In other issues, we also highlighted some of Clayton's and Earl's military service as well.

Here is a rather humorous anecdote that Uncle Raymond remembers from his time spent on a troop transport

ship during World War II.

"It was on a ship leaving Seattle in April 1945. We were on a passenger ship which had been converted to a troop transport. There were 30 of us soldiers in this one space. We were designated as 'spare KPs.'

Once we left port, we ran into a storm and many of us became seasick. A call came to our room to send down men for KP duty. Some went. *Second call.* Others went. *Third call.* Still more answered the call. We were all supposed to report to the galley. It would be up to those officers

and sergeants making the call who certainly would determine who was sick and who wasn't. That left three of us in the room. A lieutenant and sergeant came in and ordered the three of us to go to the galley. Two got up and left. I still lay there.

I don't know if you have ever been seasick or not, but it is very uncomfortable. The lieutenant said, 'How about you, soldier?' I pointed to a revolver on the sergeant's belt and replied, 'If you have a bullet in there, shoot me.' They left."



"The food's fine. You're just seasick!"

Memories of Blake Hill School

By Clayton Gardner

First Days in School

When I was four, Adelbert was a baby, and Nita was two. Ruth, Elizabeth, Lois, and Earl went to our one-room red school house each school day. Maybe I do Mama an injustice, but I believe she felt her life would be better if there were one less child at home. So, in September, Mama packed my lunch and sent me to school with the others. Our teacher, Mrs. Gray, was Mama's good friend and neighbor. She accepted me as her pupil and for a while I attended regularly and was doing fine.

Mrs. Gray's immediate supervisor was Mr. Stone, our District Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Stone had a wooden leg - yet he often walked the three miles from his home in Island Pond to our school. One day after I had been in school for about two weeks, Mr. Stone walked in. He sat in back of our school room for a while. Then he asked Mrs. Gray to come outside for a conference. Shortly, they returned to the room.

I remember this next part as though it happened yesterday. Mr. Stone came to my desk, balanced himself carefully on his wooden leg, bent over and whispered, "How old are you?" I said, "Four." (I don't know why). But the next day and thereafter until the following September, Mama kept me home.

Sliding on Blake Hill

Our one-room school house was located near the top of Blake Hill. The gravel road went straight down to a ninety-degree turn, leveled out a bit just before another ninety-degree turn. Then it sloped gradually down to a bridge over a small brook.

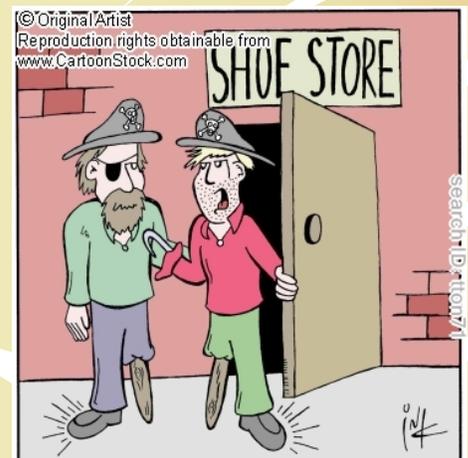
After a snow storm, Carl Gray, who was our teacher's husband, would roll the snow road packing the snow solidly. During recesses and noon hours all the pupils would get their sleds and slide merrily down Blake Hill. Of course, not everyone had a sled. So, we "doubled up." The first slider would lie with their stomach on the sled; the second slider would lie on their stomach on the first slider's back. Sometimes a third slider would get on top.

The ninety-degree turn at the end of the steepest part posed a problem. If the sled went too fast, it would fail to negotiate the turn. Then, if we were lucky, we ended in deep snow at the side of the road. If not lucky, we would hit one of the many trees beside the road.

We learned how to roll off a sled headed toward a tree. We would be in the snow beside the tree when the sled hit.



Uncle Clayton and Aunt Gerry



"Okay, Pete - same time next year?"

Please send in your articles to the newsletter for publication.

See you this Summer!