

Gardner Newsletter

FALL 2018

Is it too early to plan your 2019 summer vacation?

SAVE THE DATES, July 5 – 6, 2019!

Even though it's still 2018, it's never too early to plan your 2019 Fourth of July vacation! In 2019, the Gardner Family Reunion will be held at the NorthWoods Stewardship Center in East Charleston, Vermont just up the road from the old homestead. Check out this link..

[\(http://www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress/about-northwoods-stewardship-center/facilities/\)](http://www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress/about-northwoods-stewardship-center/facilities/)

This will be a two-day event starting on Friday, July 5th, and going through Saturday, July 6th. More people should be able to attend if everyone sets aside the time NOW! Overnight accommodations in the Bunkhouse are available, so reserve your space as early as you can.

Here are some tentative activities that are in the works and/or being planned:

- (1) The main family dinner will be held in the lodge/kitchen on July 6th.
- (2) A walk/hike through the Gardner Living History Trail. (See the Summer 2018 issue of the Gardner newsletter).
- (3) A walk/hike to Island Pond to eat a meal in one of the many local restaurants.
- (4) A presentation by Jonathan Gilbert, the

Executive Director, about NorthWoods' history and plans for the future.

- (5) Play "Gardner Family Jeopardy" – a Jeopardy-like game about the Gardner family!

We want your input too about other activities and fun things to do that everyone can participate in.

Since we're still in the planning stages, there are several ways you can contact Paul Gardner, your editor, and Cousin Rod Ames to ask questions, contribute ideas – and even confirm your reservation/attendance at the 2019 Gardner Family Reunion.

- (1) Paul Gardner's cell phone number is: (781) 346-3566.
- (2) Paul Gardner's e-mail is epaulgardner@msn.com
- (3) You can even go on-line and send your cyber-cuzzin', Greta Gardner, a message from the Gardner Newsletter website at http://www.gardnernews.org/greta's_newInterac-tive_page.htm.
- (4) A good way to contact Cousin Rod Ames is to message him on Facebook.
- (5) Cousin Rod's e-mail address is: ames_rod@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to SAVE THE DATES! More reminders and a final RSVP mailing will be sent out in the coming months.

HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY!



Who can forget Aunt Lois' 100th birthday party as celebrated in the *Gardner Newsletter's* Fall 2017 issue? Now it is a year later, and she is celebrating her 101st birthday. On this page you can see some pictures taken on that special day.

As you are probably aware, Aunt Lois suffered a stroke in late October and she is now recovering at Newport Health Care Center. Her 101st birthday party was held there.

At the top of the page is the group picture taken of everyone who attended her party. I don't know everyone, so I can't list them all. However, in the first row I recognize Sandra Baraw, Aunt Lois, Cousin Rod Ames, and one

of Sheryl's Hosford's daughters. Next, Sheryl Hosford is standing at the beginning of the second row. Then I see Dawnita Ames and Aunt Beulah. I need help identifying the other individuals in the picture. I'm sure Sheryl Hosford would be more than happy to provide you with their names.

The middle picture shows Sandra Baraw, Aunt Lois, and Beulah Griffes sitting together on a bench in the lobby of Newport Health Care Center. The image to the left is Sheryl Hosford helping Aunt Lois blow out the candles on her 101st birthday cake.

Don't you wish you could have been there?

Some of Uncle Henry Metcalf's Artwork



Uncle Henry's Sign Painting Artistry Becomes a Quintessential Logo for Bag Balm

Pastor Henry Metcalf, husband of Ruth Amy Metcalf, the eldest of The Original Gang of Ten, sadly passed away in 2003. He is Cousin Ruth Anne Metcalf's, Cousin Geri Rosser's, and Cousin Dick Metcalf's father.

Uncle Henry will always be remembered for his great oratorical skills, musical ability, boundless generosity as well as a great man of faith.

Under the terms of Grandpa Gardner's will, the old homestead and its surrounding land was bequeathed to Aunt Ruth, his eldest child. Uncle Henry and Aunt Ruth lived there for quite a few years after Grandpa Gardner's death.

During his tenure at the old homestead, Uncle Henry was known far and wide as a wonderful sign painter and he was involved in an iconic sign project in Lyndonville that is still there today.

Uncle Henry painted the Bag Balm sign that still adorns the building located in Lyndonville.

The original recipe for Bag Balm was designed to keep cows' udders soft in the Vermont dairy business, as repeated milking would cause them to become chapped.

In 1899, company founder John Norris bought the recipe from a local druggist and then took it to Boston in order to have the company's new logo designed.



In 1937, Bag Balm was used by explorers at the North Pole, who used the product to keep their skin from becoming chapped in the frigid temperatures. The product was also used to soothe the paws of dogs that helped search for survivors during 9/11.

As the company came into the 1980's, famous journalist Charles Kuralt talked about Bag Balm on his television show *On the Road with Charles Kuralt*. After the product was featured, it began to gain national notoriety from this publicity.



Today, the product's main ingredients are believed to be close to what they were when the company was founded, with only a few minor changes.



Vermont Public Radio Interviews New CEO of Lyndonville's Iconic Bag Balm Company

ANNOUNCER: A company that started in Lyndonville 115 years ago making a salve for cows' udders has new owners, and they hope to tap new markets. The yellow waxy bag balms soothe human as well as animal skin, and fans tell other uses as well.

VPR's Charlotte Albright paid the company a visit to find out how the new CEO and the handful of employees view the future.

CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT: CEO John Packard's office still has boxes on the floor and bare walls, but he's already got big plans for this quirky product. The middle-aged UVM baseball hall of famer works with the two out-of-state venture capital firms who bought the assets of Bag Balm from the family who founded it.

Commuting to Lyndonville from his home in Rye, New Hampshire, Packard sees a bright future for this iconic Vermont-made goo.

JOHN PACKARD: It's early, but I think there are two separate roads to go down. One is—what I'm calling now, which could change—but "Bag Balm People" and Bag Balm Pets."

CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT: Bag Balm

began as a softener for cows' udders and made its way into homes when farmers wives realized it softened their hands too. To make claims for human skin care Bag Balm will need FDA approval, a lengthy process. Meanwhile, Packard wants to anoint the veterinary market.

Animal owners rave about Bag Balm on its Facebook page. In fact, it was rubbed on the paws of dogs who search the twin townner rubble after 9/11.

JOHN PACKARD: Every vet in the country should have Bag Balm on his counter and they should be selling it. There are between 80 and 100 million dogs in the United States. Let's say the average dog owner has two dogs, that's 40 or 50 million dog owners. Every dog owner should have a can. In the history of Bag Balm, we haven't sold 40 million cans.

CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT: Typically, he says, annual sales are a few hundred thousand cans. Packard wants to add re-closable tubes, fill up half-empty Lyndonville warehouses, and ship out to big stores. He's hiring a sales team from New Jersey where the skin care industry is big. Packard also wants local employees, all seven



of them, to feel a bigger stake in growth and success.

JOHN PACKARD: So, I want somebody to own Accounting. I want somebody to own Manufacturing. I want somebody to own Marketing & Sales. And I want those people—I want that ownership from current employees.

CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT: So, Office Manager, Shauna Wilkerson, feels pretty sure she can keep her job after 17 years at Bag Balm.

SHAUNA WIKLKERSON: They're really gonna change. But it's all gonna be a good thing! A great thing!



Bag Balm in modern production today

CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT: On the third floor of an old wooden factory that needs a coat of paint and a new elevator, Steve Colby is putting the caps on one-ounce tins of Bag Balm by hand. That job may change with more automation. Colby has worked in paper mills no longer in business, so he's a little wary.

STEVE COLBY: Where I've been in other jobs where they've, all of a sudden, closed the doors, that's what I'm kind of worried about now. I'm worried about whether or not they're gonna move the company to another coun-

try, or something like that, you know.

CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT: But his new boss says Colby has nothing to fear. The first thing you see when you drive into Lyndonville is a giant green Bag Balm can jutting out from a wooden building. CEO Packard says neither the can nor the company is leaving its birth place.

For VPR News, I'm Charlotte Albright in the Northeast Kingdom.

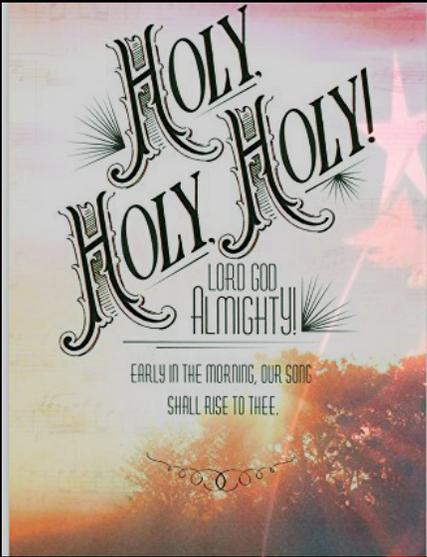


Merry Christmas to all our readers and subscribers

See you in 2019



Humorous Mistakes Printed in Church Bulletins



- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM . All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge. Up Yours!"

Please send in your articles for the Winter 2019 issue which will be mailed next February.