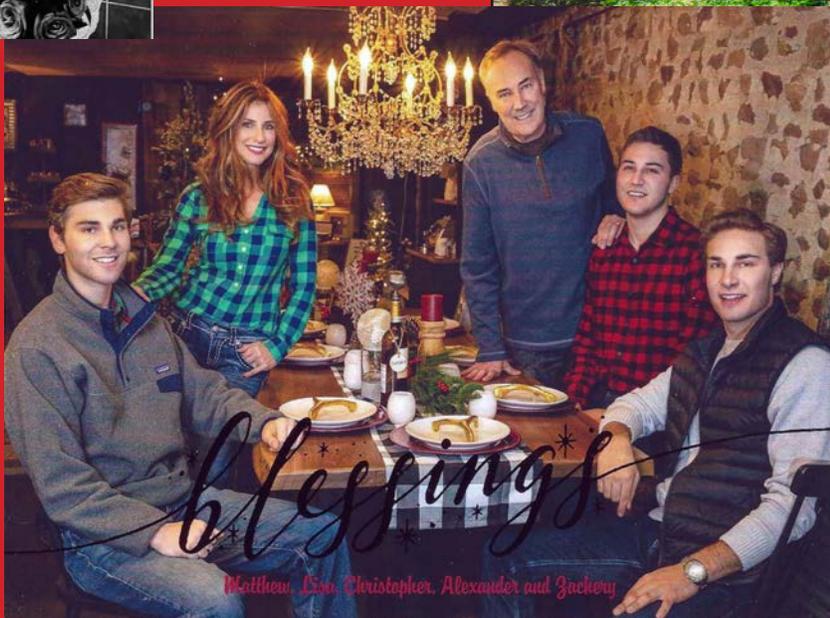


GARDNER NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020 ~ VOLUME 23 ~ ISSUE 89

All these people and this house are featured in this issue!



Matthew, Lisa, Christopher, Alexander and Zackary



Let's Learn All About Cousin Dr. Chris's and Lisa Cove's Victorian "Pattern Book" House in Historic Pittsford, NY

If you log onto www.gardnernews.org, and click on Aunt Elinor's face as shown in the opening picture (second to last from the right) you will be directed to her page on the *Gardner Newsletter* website. Scroll way down through the page until you see the caption "The Cove Family New Home – Christmas 2009!" Click on their Christmas card for that year and you will see a beautiful picture of their historic house at 44 South Main Street in Pittsford, New York.

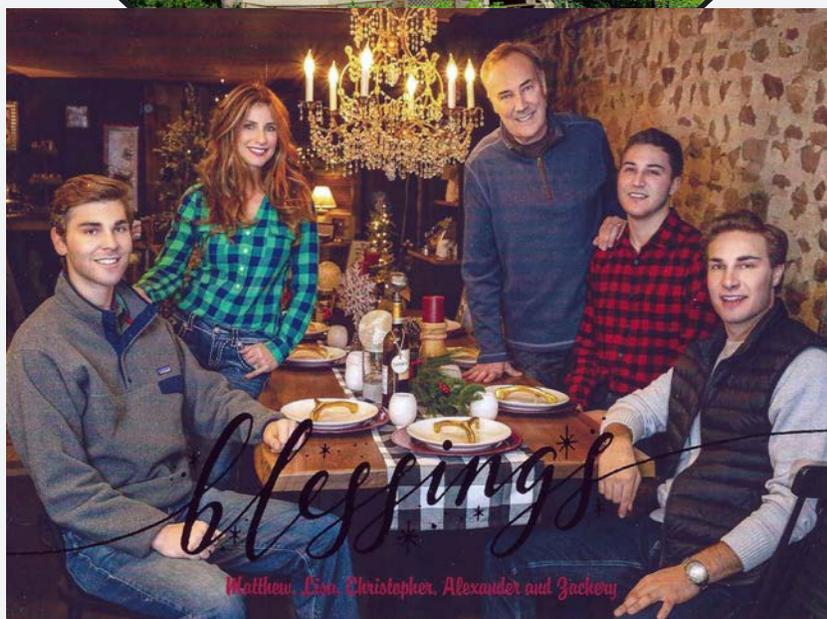
The Cove family home has a very interesting provenance. I'm sure all the history buffs in the family and beyond will enjoy learning more about this Victorian George F. Barker late 19th century "pattern book" home. You may even want to visit the Coves sometime and see for yourself everything that the Village of Pittsford has to offer and to experience and appreciate the history that abounds in the area as well.

Many thanks to Lisa Cove for allowing us to peek into the life of her historic home where she and Cousin Dr. Chris live to this day. After rearing their three accomplished and charismatic boys, she and Chris are now "empty nesters" living life to the fullest. Kudos to the Cove family

for showing us all how to live the American Dream!

44 SOUTH MAIN STREET

This beautiful Queen Anne house was built in 1894 for Grandin T. Vought. It is the most elaborate of the group of Gomph houses in



the village. "Gomph" refers to the style of building used for another residence in Pittsford located at 27 Lincoln Avenue built by Dr. George Gomph, his brother, and a carpenter. Dr. George Gomph was the minister of the Lutheran Church, then on Golf Avenue.

The asymmetrical house at 44 South Main Street features a corner porch pavilion, two-story bays, steeply pitched hip roof, and the distinctive "Gomph" detailing in the gables. These days if you want to build a house, you call an architect. But what did people do in the 19th Century, before the ubiquity of professional architects? In those days one option was to hire a carpenter and pick house plans out of a book. The design of the house at 44 South Main Street is based on a design published in one of George F. Barker's late nineteenth-century pattern books and was probably built by William Hetzer and George Hooker along the lines of Dr. Gomph's similar, though less impressive house. Other similar homes based on the same design exist in Michigan and Massachusetts.

A decade after it was built the house was sold to the Crump family. Irving Crump had a dentist office in the front parlor for a few years. He also converted the carriage barn into a house (1 Locust Street). In 1919, Dr. Lloyd Allen rented the house and moved his medical practice there. Dr. Allen bought the house in 1924 and lived there the remainder of his life. Dr. Allen was a well-known, active, and

well-liked member of the Pittsford community.

On November 30, 1974, Marion Corby of "Historic Pittsford" made these notes about the residence at 44 South Main Street and documented them on the New York State Historic Trust Office of Parks and Recreation's "Building-Structure Inventory Form" as follows:

"Great deal of paneling in every room, random width original floors, large kitchen (as pantry removed) with original well-scrubbed narrow width boards. Fine example of Victorian architecture, especially paneling, stairway, porch, etc.

In 1912, the small room (bookroom) off the present living room was made into a dentist's office for Dr. Crump. When Dr. Allen rented the house in 1919, he made the front room into a doctor's office and used the front hall as his waiting room. During World War II, when Dr. Allen was overseas, the office reverted for a few years back to a parlor. Dr. Allen built the garage after he bought the house in 1924."

SUCCESSION OF OWNERSHIP

1883 – Susan J. Hargous and Louis to Marianna Vought and Grandin (probably the land).

1894 – Marianna Vought & Grandin T. to Grandin T. Vought

1907 – Grandin T. Vought to Alice M. Crump

1912 – Alice M. Crump to Irving J. Crump

1912 – Irving J. Crump to Shelley G. Crump

1920 – Shelley G. Crump to Irving J. Crump

1924 – Irving J. Crump to Lloyd P. Allen, M.D., and Hazel H. Allen

Dr. Irving Crump added his dental office and converted the barn to a dwelling. The latter is now owned by Antoinette Stacy on Locust Street.

Dr. Allen had rented the house from 1919 until he bought it in 1924."

Tragedy Strikes the Voughts after Moving from New York to Denver

From the Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Colo., 12/25/1911 Page 10 (Includes photo)

Mrs. Vought Dies in Florence While on Tour of Europe.

Cablegram Tells of Sudden Demise of Well-Known Denver Woman.

Mrs. Mary Wells May Vought, wife of Grandin T. Vought, died suddenly yesterday at Florence, Italy, where she was on a pleasure trip. Mrs. Vought, accompanied by her husband and daughter Ida, left Denver last September to tour Europe. Letters received in Denver yesterday by relatives and friends contained nothing about Mrs. Vought's illness. W. A. Hover received a cablegram yesterday announcing her death.



Grandin T. Vought's Gravestone in the historic Village of Pittsford's Cemetery.

Miss Ida Vought was placed in school at Munich, Germany, and according to letters, was not with her parents at the time of her mother's death.

Mrs. Vought was well known in club circles in Denver. She was an active member of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, and was treasurer of the Denver Bible School, of which Dr. William McArthur is president.

Mrs. Vought is survived by her husband, one daughter and two sons, James T. Vought and Tracey Vought, both of Denver. The remains will be brought back to America and will be buried at Rochester, N. Y., the home of the Voughts before they came to Denver, eight years ago. Grandin T. Vought is associated with Otis & Houghs. The Vought residence is at 722 Clarkson Street.

44 SOUTH MAIN STREET – PRESENT DAY

Today the house is home to Lisa and Dr. Chris Cove. Lisa is a board member for the “Pittsford Village Historic Preservation.” She is also a nurse practitioner working as an educator for the Alzheimer’s Association and a yoga instructor at Breathe Yoga. Chris is an interventional cardiologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center and an avid photographer often focusing

on nature and wildlife.

They raised three sons in this historic residence, all of whom walked to the local Pittsford Sutherland High School. Their oldest twin, Alexander, is attending Medical School at Stonybrook. His twin, Zachery, lives in Cleveland, Ohio working for Morgan Stanley, and their youngest son, Matthew, is finishing his last year of college in Cleveland, Ohio.

Their doberman pinscher,

Rocky, is often seen prancing around the historic gardens of this house inviting neighborhood dogs to enjoy a cool drink at the “Dog Bar”, hung on the front gate. The two cats, Ciao and Bella, love to sit in the windows watching the walkers, runners, strollers and families stroll by. The home is surrounded by 5 churches within walking distance!

A Brief History of the Village of Pittsford *(from the Worldwide Web)*

The earliest history we have of our area is that it was part of the lands of the Seneca Indians, the western most tribe of the mighty Iroquois nation. We have records that show that the Marquis DeNonville crossed Lake Ontario from Montreal in 1687 with a force of two thousand French and Indian warriors to make war on the Senecas. DeNonville landed at what is now Ellison Park on July 10, and marched overland, following roughly the path of Irondequoit Creek. That army camped at the Big Spring, a favorite camping site of the Native Americans. DeNonville and his punitive forces were successful in driving the Senecas from this region but in so doing he created a powerful ally of the English against the French. Whenever there was conflict between the two nations, the Senecas sided with the British.

In 1788 Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham of Connecticut settled with the state of Massachusetts for a title to the land in western New York. On July 8, 1788, Phelps and Gorham met with the Senecas and signed the Treaty of Buffalo Creek at Genesee in Livingston County at which time the Indians gave up title to all the land between the Genesee River on the west and Seneca Lake on the east and from Lake Ontario south to the Pennsylvania line. This comprised about two and one-half million acres. Simon and Israel Stone, two cousins from Salem, New York, Washington County, had been officers in the Revolutionary War. They had heard about this fertile land in western New York State and arranged to purchase 13,296 acres of land, land for which they were to pay about 36 cents an acre. The two men came

to this area in the year 1789 and built crude log cabins. Israel established his site at the Big Spring and Simon’s was just a short distance to the south. The two cousins then went back to Salem and were able to persuade family members and friends to join them in this new venture in the “west”.

In 1792 the seven townships northeast of the Genesee River were organized into the District of Northfield as part of Ontario County. That same year, Simon built a grist mill on Irondequoit Creek. He built a saw mill the following year, and frame houses soon appeared giving the new community a more permanent look.

The early settlers were proud of this Northfield and wanted to be sure that it grew and developed into a thriving community. A school house was built in 1794 in the area where Mendon, Mendon Center, and Stone Roads merge.

This settlement of structures was called Stonetown but later was known as The Milepost. The cost of this school, the first in what is now all of Monroe County, was raised by subscription with each family paying in proportion to the number of children who would be attending. That cost was \$1.00 per student.

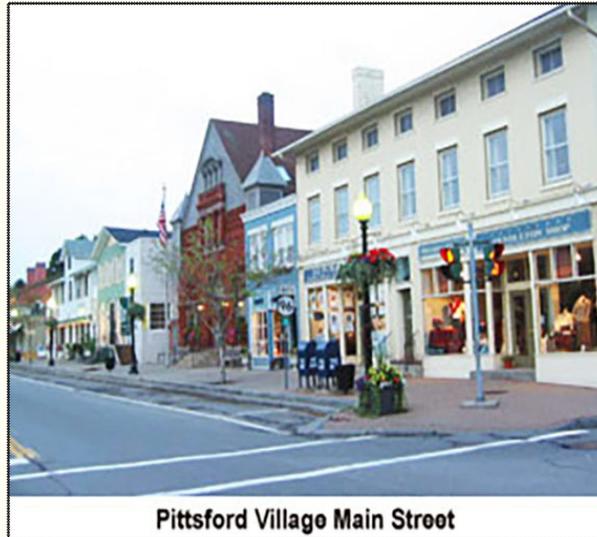
On April 5, 1796 the District of Northfield was organized as the Town of Northfield. A full set of town officers were elected

at that first town meeting held in what is now Pittsford village. Captain Silas Nye was elected the first supervisor and Dr. John Ray was chosen to be Town Clerk – a position he held for the next sixteen years.

In 1808 the town was divided and the name Northfield was changed to Boyle. In 1813 there were more divisions and the name Smallwood was given to this area. In 1814 Smallwood was divided and one part was called Henrietta and the remaining part was named Pittsford. That name was chosen by Col. Caleb Hopkins, a leading citizen who had been supervisor and a hero of the War of 1812. Hopkins named this town for his hometown of Pittsford, Vermont.

A great event in the life of our community was the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825. The village soon became a busy shipping port with produce being sent to the eastern markets. It also brought a heavy migration of settlers from New England and land values rose rapidly. The village expanded and was incorporated in 1827. Another important event which contributed to growth was the coming of the Auburn and Rochester railroad in 1842.

Prior to the Civil War, there had been stories of runaway slaves being hidden in homes and cellars – all part of the Underground Railroad. Unfortunately, we have very little documentation of this theory. We do know that Samuel Crump, a merchant whose store was at the Four Corners, is known to have received run-



aways into hiding in his barn and in turn, took them in his wagons to the Port of Charlotte where they boarded a boat for freedom in Canada.

There are also rumors of underground caverns and tunnels beneath the streets of Pittsford village. We have the accounting of more than one person who says they have been in those tunnels, but no

one alive today is able to corroborate this fact. If there are caverns and tunnels underground, there is no evidence of any connection with Underground Railroad trafficking.

Pittsford was established as an agrarian community by people of common stock who were willing to let commercialism pass them by. Industry was not encouraged, although there was at one time a thriving Pickle Factory in the community and Pittsford Milling Company was a flourishing business through World War II. The town today is primarily residential and serves as the “bedroom community” for the city of Rochester which is only about ten miles away. Pittsford is an area of beautiful homes and gardens, trees and historical buildings. The school has an excellent reputation as does the library. The municipal officers of both the town and village have paid particular attention to parks and recreational opportunities and have collaborated on many community events. There are numerous restaurants, shops, boutiques and places of worship. In a word, Pittsford is an ideal community in which to live and is ideally located in beautiful upstate New York.

SAVE THE DATE – JULY 11, 2020

It's still early, but why not start planning to attend the 2020 Gardner Family Reunion at the NorthWoods Stewardship Center NOW!?

This time around there will be no RSVPs or invitations. Just come - and perhaps you could bring a covered dish to add to the scrumptious offerings of others who attend. At some point, we will need a headcount; so, if you would please let

Cousin Rod Ames or Cousin Paul Gardner know that you will be attending, that will make the event proceed much more smoothly.

If you wish, feel free to stay overnight in the Bunkhouse on Friday or Saturday. Check on the rules of the Bunkhouse by clicking on this link: <https://www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress/about-northwoods-stewardship-center/facilities/>

SEE YOU THEN!

Please send in your articles for the Spring, 2020 Gardner Newsletter.

Dixie Spitler, Former Wife of Earl Gardner, Passes Away on January 10, 2020.

Receiving notice that one of our newsletter subscriber family members has passed on is never a good way to start a new year. However, that's just what happened when Laura Gilmore informed your editor that her mother, Dixie Spitler, died on January 10th of this new year/decade 2020. Sad news indeed!

I'm sure many of you readers know who Dixie was. She was the third wife of Original Gang of Ten Member, Earl Gardner, the firstborn son of Will and Olive Gardner. The couple's picture appears on all of the pages assigned to the Original Gang of Ten members on the *Gardner News* website (www.gardnernews.org).

The duo had recently married in the early 1980's and Earl wanted all of his siblings to meet his new wife. They traveled to Vermont to meet everyone and Aunt Nita even hosted a reception in their honor.

Earl and Dixie were a couple quite ahead of their time. Today, on-line dating sites are considered to be the best way to meet someone to date, get to know, and perhaps even marry. In the early 1980's, though, the internet was just a pipe dream, but Earl placed an ad in the personals section of the newspaper and Dixie responded. And so began the romance of Earl and Dixie.

Sadly, just a few short years after they met Earl Gardner died in 1985. This was during the time when the last picture of all the Original Gang of Ten Members and their spouses was taken at the Coves' and Ames' campsite that they co-purchased. Dixie subsequently moved back to Indiana where she had family and friends.

Dixie has always held the Gardner Family in high esteem in her heart and life. She was a regular contributor

from her marriage to Martin Endsley. One of Dixie's last wishes before she passed was that Laura get in touch with the Gardner family to let them know that she is now in the presence of the Lord. Dixie's request resulted in the sad telephone call to your editor from a bereaved and dutiful daughter.

Here is some more information about Dixie gleaned from several obituaries from newspapers in Indiana around Hudson where she lived:

Dixie Darlene Spitler, 83, of Hudson died Friday, January 10, 2020 at her home in Hudson with her family at her side.

She was born October 18, 1936 in Marion, Indiana. Her father was Clayton Noah Adkins and her mother was Edna Elizabeth (Schultz) (Adkins) Nimitz.

Dixie was a homemaker and also worked at Dana Corporation in Auburn. A very important part of her life was her church and her church family at Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Pleasant Lake. She was an avid bowler and made many, many friends while bowling in leagues in Auburn, Garrett, and Angola. She enjoyed bowling so much that when she had issues from carpal tunnel syndrome in her right hand and wrist, she switched and became a left-handed bowler.

Dixie was married three times, to Martin Endsley, to Earl Gardner, and



Here is the last picture taken of the Original Gang of 10 and their spouses. The year was 1985. Dixie can be seen standing in the back row next to Earl (in the red shirt) and Aunt Beulah.



Dixie Spitler - 1936 - 2020

to the Round Robin letters until family members discontinued them in the early 2000's. Many of these letters have been preserved on the *Gardner News* website.

Laura Gilmore is Dixie's daughter

to the love of her life, Bruce Spittler. She is survived by her children, Randy Endsley (Colleen) of New Berlin, Wisconsin, Diana Emehiser (Jeff) of Garrett, Sherry Endsley of Garrett, Susan Endsley of Auburn, Rick Endsley of Auburn, Laura Gilmore (Marcus) of Coldwater, and Larry Sollars. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren.

Services for Dixie were held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, at Mount Zion Methodist Church, 3365 South Golden Lake Road, Pleasant Lake. The Rev. Tamara Gerber officiated. Dixie's burial service was held at the Mount Zion Cemetery after her funeral.

Dixie's last communication with the Gardner Family was published in the Fall 2017 issue of *The Gardner Newsletter*, the issue which celebrated Aunt Lois' 100th birthday. If you re-read Dixie's article in that issue you will learn a lot about her family. You'll also see pictures of Marcus

and Laura Gilmore who got married on Christmas Day in 2016. Laura and Marcus lived in Waltham, MA for quite a few years and they have since moved to Coldwater, Michigan where they are now honorary subscribers to

The Gardner Newsletter.

They hope to visit the Waltham area in Massachusetts whenever they can because Marcus' family live in and around there.

Your editor's and Laura's phone conversation ended on a very positive note. Laura is going to send a "care" package containing pictures and perhaps other memorabilia pertaining to Dixie's and Earl's marriage. You can be sure that I will be sharing all the information/photos with you, dear readers, and many thanks to Laura Gilmore

for reaching out and fulfilling one of her mother's most ardent heart's desires.



Pictured here are Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Gilmore who were married on Christmas Day 2016. Laura is Dixie's daughter. Their current address is: 20 Sauk Boulevard, Apt. # D308, Coldwater, MI 49036.

WGBH's Public Radio Station Celebrates Veteran's Day with Uncle Raymond in Reading, MA

At the town senior center in Reading, Mass., veterans come together once a month for gatherings they call scuttlebutt meetings — named after the naval term for the cask of water on a vessel, where sailors would gather and talk.

At last month's meeting on Thursday, just days before Veterans Day, two dozen veterans packed into the room on the second floor of the Pleasant Street Center.

"There's something about being in the military, the camaraderie of being in the military, and when you get a bunch of veterans together from all

different conflicts, they tend to open up and relax and share stories. It's just amazing," said Kevin Bohmiller, the veterans services officer for the town of Reading. A Navy vet, Bohmiller has been hosting these meetings for four years.

The group celebrates milestones together, too. Air Force veteran Bill Brown, who served during the Korean War, turned 89 and was honored with a cake last week, along with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

World War II veteran Jack Swymer said this Veterans Day marks his 94th birthday.

Swymer grew up in Woburn and took part in the 1944 invasion of Normandy. His job on D-Day was to ferry troops and tanks onto Omaha Beach. He said one memory in particular has stayed with him — a conversation he had with one of the infantry soldiers as they waited to land.

"He says to me, 'You're going to drop me off, and then you leave.' And I said yeah," said Swymer, who became emotional as he recounted the conversation. "I often think of that soldier, and hope he made it out all right. I just hope he made it out all right."

Swymer returned home, graduated

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high school and college, and then sold insurance for 40 years. He has six children, and two dozen grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Army Corporal Ray Gardner attended his first scuttlebutt meeting last week. Like Swymer, Gardner is a veteran of World War II. He fought in the 1945 Battle of Okinawa, one of the final and most deadly battles of the war. While Gardner survived, 12,500 Army soldiers and Marines did not. He said that memory stays with him.



Veteran's "Scuttlebutt" Meeting in Reading, MA - Nov. 2019

"I dream about it. It comes up in the daytime, and then I have a dream at night," Gardner said.

Gardner grew up in Charleston, Vt., and after the war he returned to his family's farm. He married in 1950, moved to Reading, and worked for the Postal Service for 40 years. He has six children, 17 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.



Uncle Raymond in the Army

Arthur Hubbard, 95, is another World War II veteran living in Reading. Born and raised in Malden, Mass., Hubbard was assigned to a machine gun group and spent six months in England, training for what turned out to be D-Day.

"Truly, we didn't know when or what time or whatever was taking place, because it was all in secrecy," he said.

Like Swymer, Hubbard said he found himself on Omaha Beach. His captain ordered him to do reconnaissance. "What we saw was death and destruction. It was everywhere, and the worse thing, probably, is that you couldn't do anything about it."

Hubbard returned home, married, and got a job in the carpet business. He opened his own company in 1968, what is now named AJ Hubbard & Sons. Hubbard has three children, and one of his sons

now runs the family business.

Over the years, Hubbard has traveled extensively. His favorite pastimes have included golf and ballroom dancing. He went ballroom dancing with his wife every weekend for 35 years.

Bohmiller said Hubbard's life story, and all of the stories the veterans share, are amazing and humbling.

"People say, 'Thank you for your service,'" Bohmiller said, "and I know some veterans, they don't know what to say when people say, 'Thank you for your service.' So what I like to say now is: Welcome home."