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# VASSALBORO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MUSEUM located at:

327 Main Street, East Vassalboro, ME

P.O. Box 13, N. Vassalboro, ME 04962

Telephone: (207) 923-3505

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

What a year 2021 was! I hope that this year improves for all of us.

The Society has achieved a lot last year. Thanks to a grant from the Oak Grove School Foundation, we were able to hire a Textile Conservation Specialist, Lynne Bassett to consult with us at the museum for four 8-hour days. She helped us by identifying the clothing in our collection by years, type of fabric, and conservation needs. Volunteers Dawn Cates, Judy Goodrich, Maurine Macomber, Terry Curtis, Holly Widener, and David Theriault sorted, hung and boxed dresses, shirts, bodices, coats, and furs, etc. Volunteer Jeremy Cloutier removed shelving from the closets in the textile room so that they could be converted to hanging storage. Volunteer Ben Gidney wrapped the closets in muslin, so the clothing doesn't touch the wood. They also made wooden coat hangers shorter, wrapped them in batting, and then in muslin, this work continues as we get more wooden hangers. A few in the group learned conservation stitches to enable us to repair clothing. The board voted to bring her back for two days in the spring to work more with our men's and children's collections.

Several families came to visit and found pictures of their parents, grandparents, neighbors, and houses. What fun to take a trip down memory lane with them all. There were some genealogical blanks that were able to be filled in.

We received many wonderful donations through the year and will take good care of them going forward. We also purchased a couple of reasonably priced Vassalboro artifacts to add to our collection!

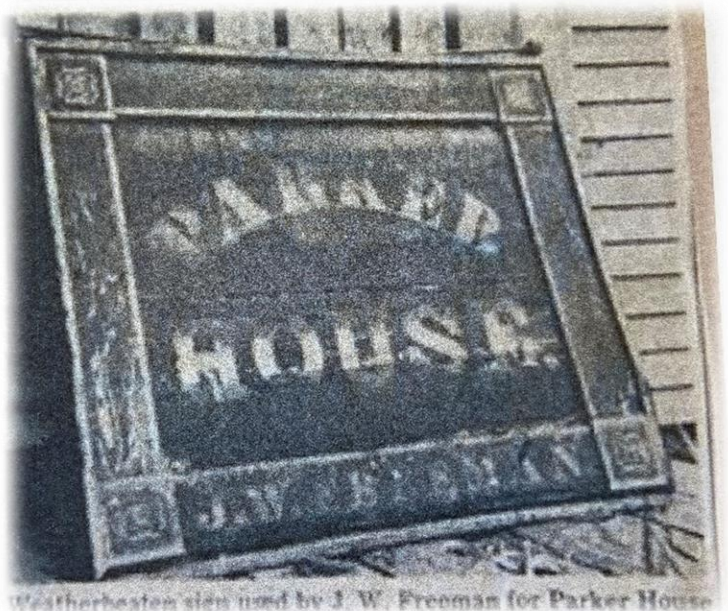
Jan Clowes, President

What a delightful surprise for me when I found a newspaper article in our archives. From the newspaper article (which is not complete) I read that on the northeast corner of the "town cross roads" (in the article it does mention Cross Hill) the above sign was found. The article noted that a story had been published in the Morning Sentinel. My grandmother Louise Freeman Oliver responded to the article and said that she thought she knew something of the sign's origin.

"At least I know that my grandfather John Wesley Freeman bought a tavern over near Three Mile Pond in Vassalboro. He did not keep it many years as Grandmother was strong for temperance and apparently had not realized that the tavern bar was an important part of the business. He sold out and bought a farm on the Taber Hill Road about a mile from East Vassalboro."

I had never heard of the Parker House, however I was raised at the blueberry farm on the corner of Hussey and Taber Hill. Maybe someday we will come across the sign and have it in our collection.

Jan Clowes



Weatherbeaten sign used by J. W. Freeman for Parker House

# Kennebec County Commissioners Report

*Volume 5 or 6/pages 472 to 475*

To the honorable commissioner for laying out roads within and for the county of Kennebec.

Respectfully show the subscribers. Inhabitants of the town of Vassalboro in said county that a county road is much wanted in the towns of Vassalboro and Sidney – beginning at Getchell's corner in said Vassalboro and running southwesterly in the most convenient place to the Kennebec River, near where the ferry was formerly kept, and is [XXX] established and from said river on the westerly side thereof to the county road in Sidney, being about 1 mile.

They would state that in their opinion the public convenience requires the location of the aforesaid road as there has been formally much leaping over the ferry at Getchell's corner so called and that in passing from Vassalboro to Sidney and the westerly part of the county and from Sidney to Vassalboro. The public have for a long time been subject to great inconvenience. They therefore foray that after due proceedings had the aforesaid road may be established.

**Signed Thomas Carlton and 13 others.**

This petition was entered at the April term 1834 and James M Bradbury Esq. County Attorney.

Being in court took notice of the same and satisfactory cadence having been received that the petitioners are responsible and ought to be heard teaching the matter set forth in said petition it was ordered that thirty days previous notice be given, that the county commissioner will meet at John Hussey's tavern in Vassalboro on Tuesday the second day of September 1834 at ten o'clock in the forenoon and thence proceed to view the road mentioned in said petition, and immediately afterwards hear the parties and their wihteper, and then take such further measures in the premise as may be adjusted proper. Said notice to be given by seeing copies of said petition and their consideration upon the respective clerks of the towns of Sidney and Vassalboro and by posting of such copies in three public places in each of said towns, and by publishing the same in the "ago" a public news paper printed in said county, that all persons and corporations situated may attend and be heard if they think proper.

Whereupon said petition was continued to this town

town to receive the report of said commissioners – and now at this time said commissioners make their return as follows:

Upon the foregoing petition by Thomas Carlton and others and pursuant to the foregoing order theron, we and the parties at this time and place designated in the said order. It was thus and there proved to us that all the notices by required had been duly given and all the requirements of said order fully complied with. We thence proceed with the parties and conceived the route for the roads prayed for in said petition. Whereupon we heard the parties and their [XXX] at a convenient place in the vicinity of said route and there upon judged and do hereby adjudge that common convenience and accessibility do require that the roads prayed for in said petition be located and established. We therefore immediately proceeded and located the same as follow viz:

Beginning at the east line of the river county road in Sidney at the stone monument marked R starting two rods southwardly from the dividing line between Major Brackett's and Stephen Springer Farms. Thence northwardly running East South East parallel to said dividing line sixty seven rods to a stone monument marked R. Thence south fifteen degrees west twenty three rods to a stone monument no. four marked R & thence continuing the same course to low water mark of the Kennebec river. The line thus described is the south and west line of said road. The north and east line thereof is described as follows viz:

Beginning in the said east line of said River County Road at a point four rods distant northwardly from the stone monument first above described. Thence running east south east parallel to said dividend line to a stake about 75 rods – then south about fifteen degrees west parallel to the line secondly above described and four rods distant eastwardly there from twenty seven rods to a point precisely opposite site to and four rods distant from said monument numbered three. Thence running south twenty seven degrees east to low water mark of said river. The road thus located lies in Sidney.

We allow time for the owners of the land, on which said road is laid to take off the wood, timber and trees there from until the first day of May next. We allow time till the twentieth day of August next for said town of Sidney to open and complete said roads. We are of opinion that no person sustains any damage by reason of said roads – beginning at

Getchel's yeoman at a stone monument marked viz in the west line of the river county road. Thus running north forty six and one third degrees west about thirty seven rods to a stone monument marked R. Thence north four degrees east twenty three rods to a stone monument marked R. Thence ten degrees west about forty rods to a stone monument marked R. Thence continuing the same direction to low water mark of said river. This line thus described is the north and east line of said road. Said road is four rods in width.

We allow till the first day of May next for the owners of the land to take off the wood, trees and timber. We allow till twentieth day of August next for said town of Vassalboro to open make and finish said roads. We are of opinion no persons injured by the establishment of said road, except the heirs of Oliver Springer deceased to whom we award in full compensation the sum of twenty five dollars. A plan of each said roads is annexed in this report.

Given under our hands this second day of September A. S. 1834.

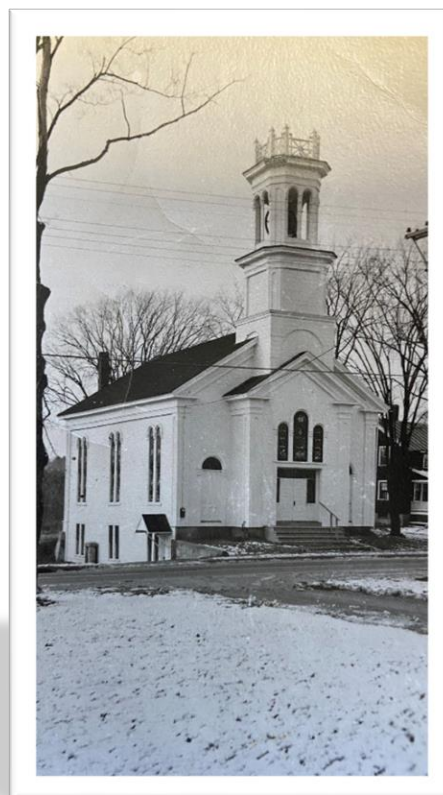
*This article was transcribed by Rick Denico Jr. from the original transcript. Not an easy task. Thanks Rick!!*



How lucky are we that our former curator and accession expert is back helping us out? Julie Lyon had taken a break and now she is back helping us out. From making boxes (above) to accessioning, to cleaning, to organizing, Julie is THE expert. Thank you, Julie, and welcome back!!!



**Louis Masse Scaling Logs**  
**Howard Merrill Trucker**



**North Vassalboro Baptist Church**



The Society meets every two months. Membership is not limited to Vassalboro residents; it is open to all who are “interested in the history of Vassalboro, Maine,” upon request and payment of annual dues.

Membership begins on January 1 each year. Some of our membership classes include:

- \$12 Under 65
- \$8 Over 65
- \$25 Family
- \$150 Lifetime
- \$100 Business

If you are interested in helping the Vassalboro Historical Society “celebrate and protect the heritage of our community” by becoming a member, please send your name, address, contact telephone number and payment to:

ATTN: Membership Secretary  
Vassalboro Historical Society  
P.O. Box 13  
North Vassalboro, ME 04962



Join our Facebook Community, Vassalboro Historical Society! We post pictures and keep you updated.

Also, if you are on Facebook and not yet part of the Facebook group “Vassalboro Community Events and Announcements” you should consider joining! It’s a great way to see what is happening in your community, your neighborhood or even your road!

**IS THERE SOMETHING YOU’D LIKE  
TO SEE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER  
OR A STORY YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE?  
SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS AND  
STORIES TO:**

[VHSPresident@gmail.com](mailto:VHSPresident@gmail.com)



*Photograph of Deeb Ferris’ store burning in the winter of 1974-1975. Exact date unknown.*



## MUSEUM

Located at 327 Main Street  
in East Vassalboro

PO Box 13  
North Vassalboro  
ME 04962  
(207) 923-3505

We are saddened by the loss of long-term VHS volunteer and former board member, Roy Brackett. Roy spent many years as one of the Three Amigos.



## The Three Amigos

*Paul Duplessie, Dave Bolduc, Roy Brackett*

The Society's Building Director, David Bolduc remembers that Roy started volunteering after the Society moved from North Vassalboro to our current location. There were 5-6 volunteers working on the building and grounds. Later it was the Three Amigos. The men were all two years apart with Roy being the oldest and Paul the youngest. Roy was an electrician and retired from Colby College. David said that Roy was a Godsend to the Society and that he installed all the electrical exit lighting throughout the building. David said that whenever he called with a work date, Roy was always ready to go. He NEVER said NO, I have other plans. They did lots of painting on the outside of the buildings and on the interior of the harness shop.

The last project that the Three Amigos completed had Roy using a heat gun on the old paint on the front doors of the museum so Paul and David could prime and paint the doors which are still in good shape today.

Former board member, Chuck Ferguson wrote:

"Today's gentle, modest obituary for Roy reminds me of one of his many services to the Historical Society. One rear window sash of the "Annex" (Harness Shop) had lost its muntins and been covered with plywood. I asked Roy if he could make replacements for the muntins, and he said he'd try. The replacements are perfect, of course."

Former President and Treasurer, Kent G. London wrote: "Roy Brackett was one of a kind. I believe he could repair anything, was fun to be with and part of a team that can never be replaced. Ruth (*his wife*) convinced him to come to a display of samplers at the Museum, they joined and became very active. Roy painted, moved artifacts, created display material, fixed doors, and washed wagons. He swore he would never move the "Fridge" again. Roy's volunteering helped the Vassalboro Historical Society become what it is now.

VHS' Building Director and leader of the Society's Three Amigos wrote: "Sometime after moving to East Vassalboro ex school building Roy Brackett came along. During those early years we had as many as 5 and 6 volunteers working on the buildings and grounds."

In later years some of these workers passed away, so in later years we were the Three Amigos, Roy, myself, and Paul Duplessie. We were all two years apart in age."

He went on to note that Roy retired as an electrician at Colby College and that he was a godsend to the Society. He installed all the electrical exit lighting throughout the building.

Dave wrote that "Whenever I called the work date he was always ready to go. NEVER said NO I had other plans." He did lots of painting on the outside of our building, plus interior of the harness shop.

The last project that the Three Amigos completed had Roy using a heat gun on the old paint on the front doors so that Paul and Dave could prime and paint the doors as they are today.

Dave wrote, "I must say he was one peach of a man" and he will miss him.

