



The Thompson Historical Society Newsletter



Summer 2021

PO Box 47, Thompson CT 06277

The Search for Jacobs Tavern in East Thompson

It is fairly well known that the Jacobs Tavern was owned and operated by founder Nathaniel Jacobs, circa 1740, in the northeast section of Killingly, later known as East Thompson. The tavern was located along the road that ran from Thompson Center and Douglas, MA which, in the early 19th century, became a turnpike. The operation of the tavern continued under the ownership of Nathaniel's son John and then followed by John's son Abel. The last of the Jacobs line to live in the tavern building was Abel's son Hail M. Jacobs. No evidence has been found to indicate if Hail actually operated the tavern, or if it was operated as a farm. President George Washington, while on his 1789 presidential tour of New England, wrote in his diary on November 7 : *"Saturday 7th, left Taft's before sunrise, and passing through Douglas wood breakfasted at one Jacobs in Thompson 12 miles' distant – not a good house"*. This was likely under the operation of John Jacobs.

For the past 75-100 years, the Jacobs Tavern was believed to be a house that is located on the north side of E. Thompson Road facing the Thompson Motorsports Park. A few years ago it was brought to the attention of a THS member that this house had been investigated to



(The only known photo believed to be of the Jacobs Tavern. Family is Maciej and Josepha Kroll and their children, 1907, last to live in the house.)

determine the age of the house and the result of the analysis indicated it is an early 19th century building, not early 18th century, thus eliminating it as being the original ca. 1740 Jacobs Tavern building. So, if this house was not the Jacobs Tavern, then where was the tavern located? As usual, we looked to Ellen Larned as she always seems to have the answers to our questions. Ellen stated that Hail (or Hale) M. Jacobs was last of

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Engine number 9: see upcoming movie event on this legendary Ramsdell story page 4.

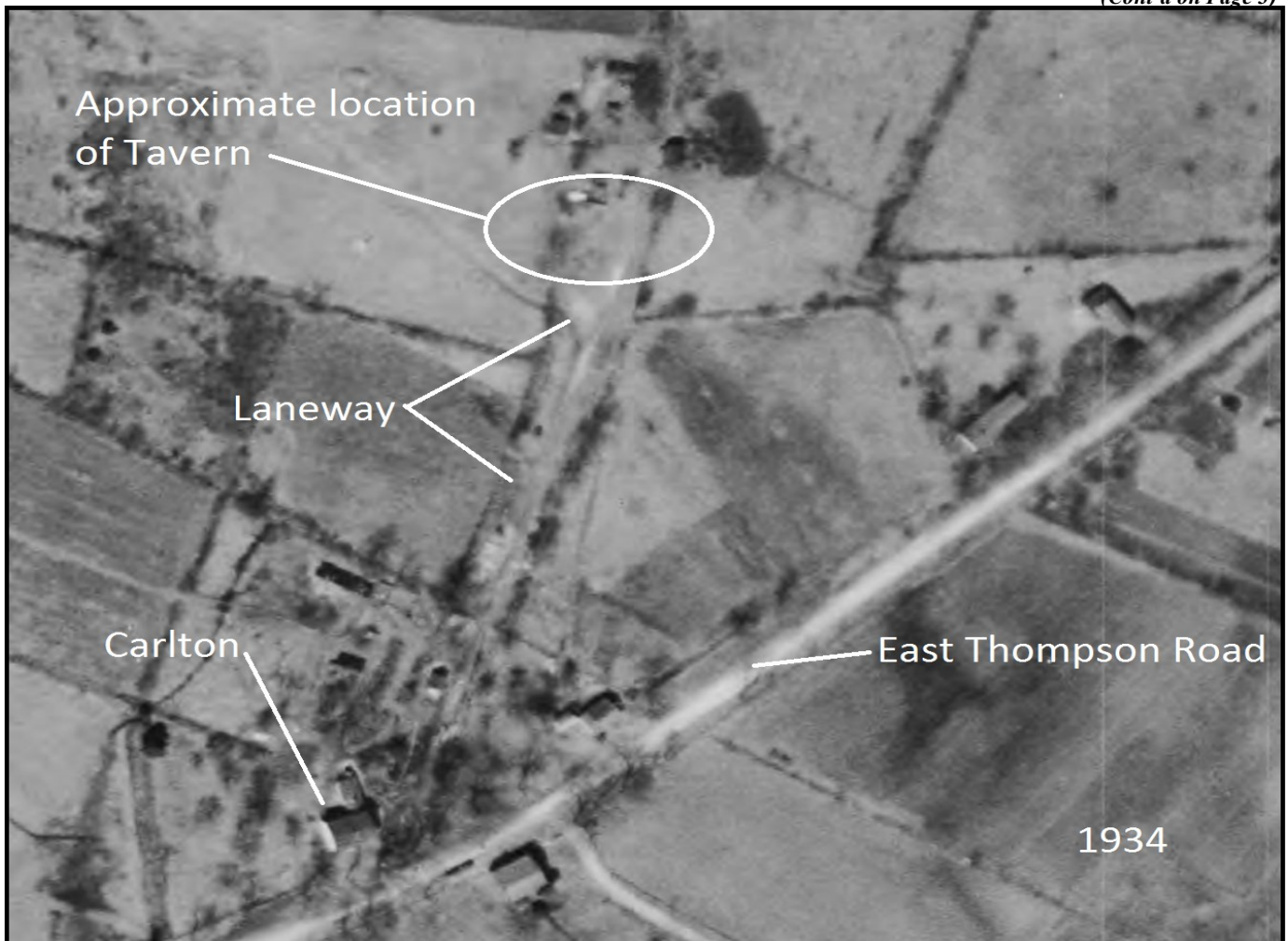
the name to live in the tavern building, which was "left a little west of the road", two very important clues.

More important was Thompson's first Librarian Harriett Lewis' presentation to the D.A.R. (March 1910) "Turnpikes and Taverns of Thompson". Harriett stated "Jacobs Tavern stands a little off the main road to East Thompson, back of the farm owned by Mr. Frank Carlton and owned today by a Pole named Kroll". In review of both the Woodford 1856 and Grey 1869 maps, we find a house on each map located on the west side of E. Thompson Road and set back from the houses that fronted the road. On the maps, the house is labeled "Hale Jacobs" and "H.M. Jacobs". Thompson Land records for this house state that there was a "laneway" just east of the "big house" allowing right of way access from the road to Hail's property, which is clearly visible on the 1869 map. The location of that house was on what is today the Raceway Golf Course and, obviously, no longer standing. Tracking land records, starting with Hail's ownership of that house and working forward, shows that upon Hail's death his property passed to his daughter, Ann Joslin and then from Ann to Maciej (Matt) and Josepha (Josephine) Kroll. The Kroll family

was listed in the 1910 census living on the "Thompson to East Thompson Road" and in 1920 they were in Webster, MA. Other documents have indicated that during that decade, the Kroll family was working the farm, but not living there. In April of 1918, the barn caught fire and embers traveled to the roof of the house, causing it to catch fire and, due to the lack of a ladder to access the roof, the house was completely destroyed.

Recently, a granddaughter and great grandson of Maciej and Josepha Kroll were located, Mrs. Carol Joyce Sullivan and her son Brian Sullivan. They were contacted and Mrs. Sullivan stated that her Aunt had shown her that her grandparent's house was located at the top of the hill and back from the road on what is today the Raceway Golf Course, at approximately where the third green or fourth tee is located today. Although this spot may not be exact, visible in the 1934 aerial photos are buildings at that same location, probably outbuildings not destroyed by the fire, as well as the "laneway" east of the big house. The Sullivans graciously donated a digital copy of the only

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(1934 Aerial photo showing what appears to be outbuildings and laneway.)

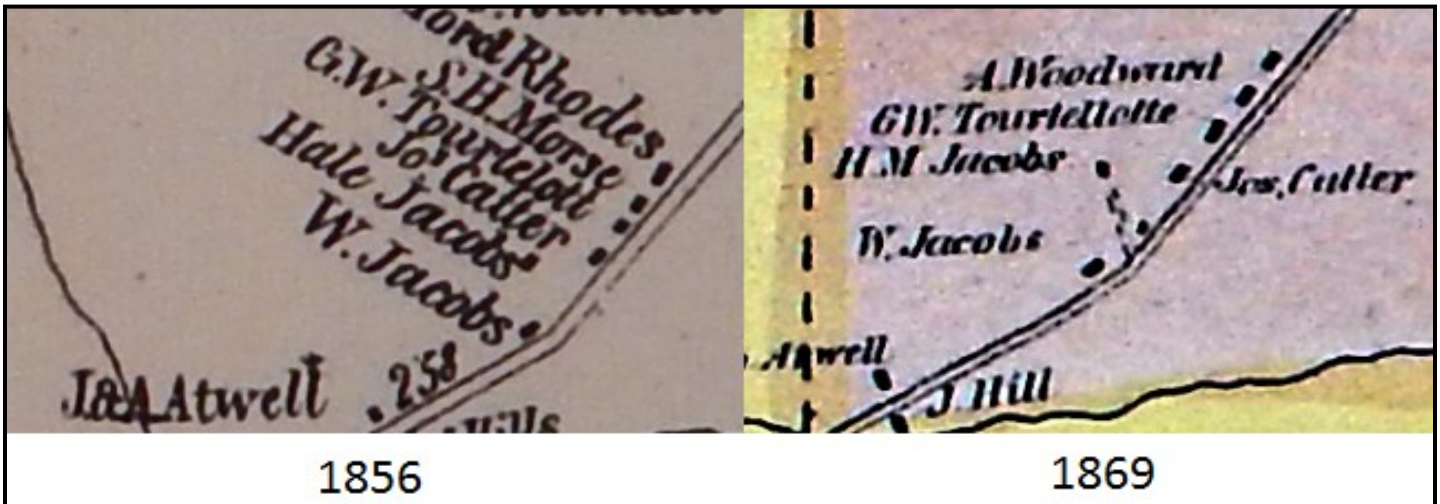
photo they have of the house, taken in 1907, that was the home of Matt and Josephine in East Thompson and have graciously allowed THS use of it. The photo shows Matt and Josephine Kroll and 9 of their 10 children. So, if the 1740 Tavern house survived to 1907, this is the only photo known to us of the building that could have been the Jacobs Tavern.

We would like to thank to Mrs. Sullivan and Brian for their help and generosity supplying us with the only known photo of what is to be believed to have been the Jacobs Tavern.

amazonsmile

Members who love to shop on line could help us raise money for maintenance of our two historical buildings by using **AMAZON SMILE**. It is the same as your Amazon account but donates .05% of your purchases to the Thompson Historical Society when you designate us as your choice. There is no cost. If you have questions about joining call Sue Vincent 508-847-9092. Thank you.

Go to org.amazon.com



(Above: Sections of 1856 and 1869 maps showing location of Hail M. Jacobs home and laneway.)

Howe-Marot School

The Howe-Marot School was established in 1905 at Dayton Ohio by Miss Melvina A. Howe and Miss Mary Louise Marot. The school was primarily an academic and college preparatory school for girls. During their time in Ohio they both dreamed of a more sequestered life for their students away from City life and preferring a country setting. In 1913, that dream was realized when they purchased the Doane estate consisting of 90 acres of land, a large kitchen, gardens, greenhouses and a large campus. We are not sure of the exact date of the move, but records show they reopened the school at Dayton after the great Dayton flood of March 1913 and also listed the opening at Thompson in October 1913. It is possible the Flood helped them to make the move when they did. Courses were offered for college prep., music, art and domestic science. Outdoor activities included horseback riding, driving, golf, cross country walking, ex basketball, archery, snow shoeing and more. Miss Howe died in April of 1915 and the school continued to operate under the management of Miss Marot.

Announcements for 1913-1914

THE HOWE-MAROT SCHOOL

MISS AVERY, Principal

The School

THE HOWE-MAROT SCHOOL, under reorganized management, will open as a Day School for Girls on Wednesday September 17, 1913 in the original school building, 513 West First street. The house and grounds will be in perfect condition, and there will be a new and enlarged Tennis Court and a new Basketball Field.

DEPARTMENTS—The school will continue its usual departments. Kindergarten, Primary, Intermediate, Academic, Art and Music. Boys are admitted to the Kindergarten and Primary.

SUBJECTS—The school will teach the regular subjects of school study and will give class instruction in French, Singing, Art and Physical Trainings to all who may wish it, with no additional charge beyond the annual tuition. There are no extra charges except for individual lessons in Voice Training or Piano, for private Art Lessons and for books and materials used by the pupils.

COURSE OF STUDY—The school thus covers the entire course of study offered by preparatory schools. The requirements for graduation are either sixteen credits or the College Entrance Requirements. The school prepares pupils to meet the examinations set by any of the colleges or for the College Entrance Board Examinations.

REPORTS—Written reports of the pupils' work will be sent to the parents.

Teachers

PRINCIPAL

MARY E. AVERY, A. B., Vassar Graduate Student at the Sorbonne Paris, and at the University of Bavaria, Munich; head of Modern Language Department at Putnam High School, Putnam, Conn. Registrar of Miss Howe and Miss Marot's school 1911-1913.

From The President's Quill - By: Joseph Iamartino



I was thinking about increased recycling and the heavy environmental regulatory concerns at work today. It brought to mind my dear friends John and Carol DeBerardinis and how we used to talk about this particular topic. I remembered something that Carol sent to me. She may have written it or borrowed it from someone else but the message below is clear. Lastly, before you read the article, remember who the inventors of these wasteful solutions and the parents of the current generation are! Regardless of your political affiliations, certainly we can agree that we can do a better job going back to the future.

How Wasteful the Older Generation Was...

In the line at the store, the cashier told the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bag because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day." The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. The former generation did not care enough to save our environment."

He was right, that generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, they returned their milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But they didn't have the green thing back in that customer's day.

In her day, they walked up stairs, because they didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. They walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time they had to go two blocks.

But she was right. They didn't have the green thing in her day.

Back then, they washed the baby's diapers because they didn't have the throw-away kind. They dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that old lady is right; they didn't have the green thing back in her day.

Back then, they had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief, not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, they blended and stirred by hand because they didn't have electric machines to do everything for you. When they packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, they used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, they didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. They used a push mower that ran on human power. They exercised by working so they didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; they didn't have the green thing back then.

They drank from a fountain when they were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time they had a drink of water. They refilled their writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and they replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But they didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or rode the school bus instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. They had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And they didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful the old folks were just because they didn't have the green thing back then?

Community Fire Company

"The Community Fire Co. is appropriately named because it is a community project and does not cost the tax payers a cent. The only cost to the town for the protection has been a \$6000 appropriation for part of the construction of a new fire station about 10 years ago and an annual appropriation to cover costs for insurance for firefighters. Sponsored originally by Oscar Swanson Post, American Legion, in 1938, the fire company operates through the activities of its members and some donations made for ambulance service. The company includes 45 active members and a general committee of

55. The latter supervises and, in general, steers the complete operation. Besides giving their services for firefighting and fund-raising activities, the company members pay a dollar out of their own pockets for suppers which feature their monthly meetings. The company has two fire trucks, one of them equipped with a two-way radio, and the ambulance. There is no charge for the ambulance service and donations are strictly voluntary. Fire protection is given to North Grosvenor Dale, Grosvenor Dale and Wilsonville." (*Part of a news article from the Evening Gazette 4/14/1958*)

Upcoming Event

The Thompson Historical Society &
The Thompson Public Library
present the movie premiere of

The Nine Lives of Engine #9 *Directed by Blair Cole*

This is a fascinating story of the little Engine #9 that was
brought to Frank Ramsdell's West Thompson farm in 1937.

Find out what happened in this 55 minute movie.

Saturday, August 14th

TMHS Auditorium

Showtimes: 1:15 pm & 2:45 pm

Tickets are free but limited and reservations are
required. Six tickets per family please.

Please reserve your tickets by calling or texting

Ginny @ 860-933-5239 or by email gffloodster@gmail.com

by 8pm on July 25, 2021.

Also open that day from 1-4pm:

Ramsdell Transportation Room

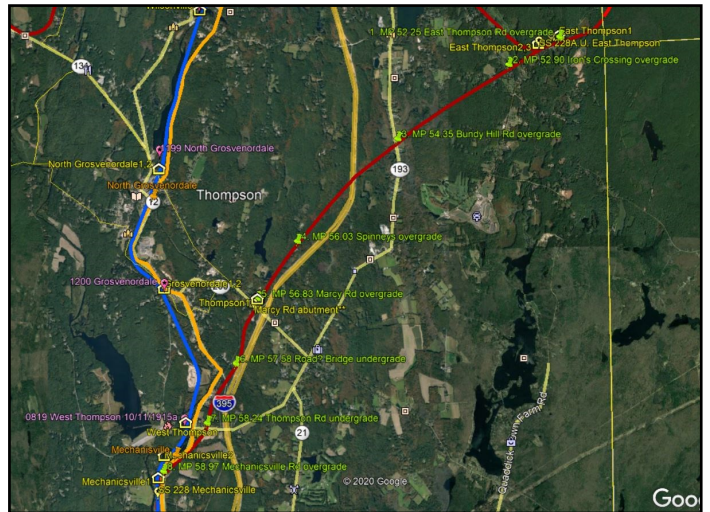
TMHS Memorial Room

Kenney Store and Villages Room

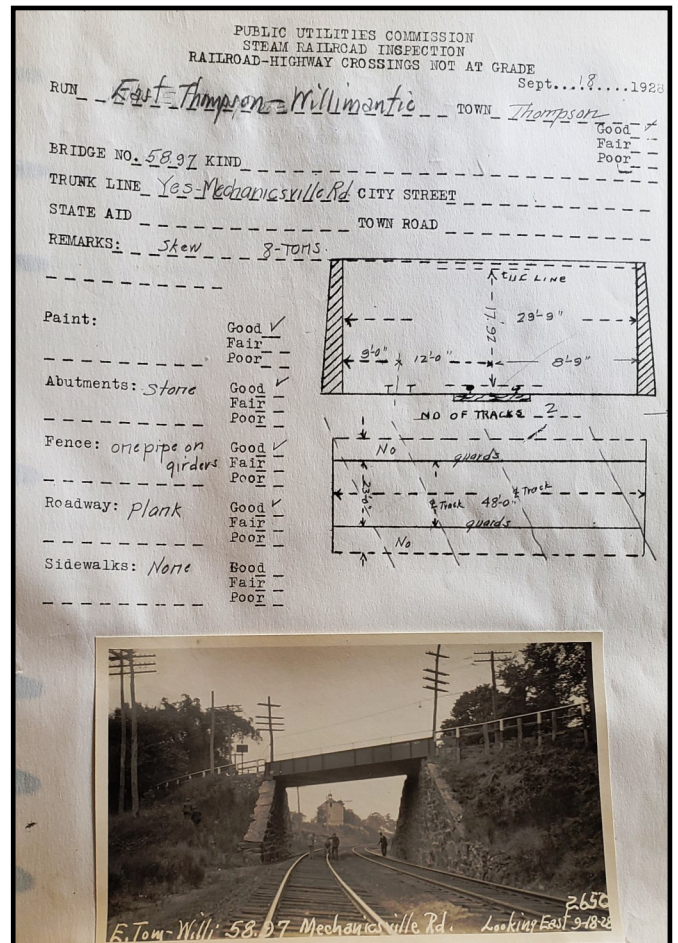
The Eight Airline Bridges of Thompson



(Building by Marcy Rd abutment is old passenger station (lower circle), turned into freight depot when the 1902 passenger station was built at other end of parking area).



The rail line from Mechanicsville through to East Thompson and on to Boston had 8 bridges. Here is a map of the bridges and some photos of these bridges about 90 years ago. Thank you to Bob Belletzkie for researching these for us.



*(left: Advertisement for help from Maine.
Does anyone know this company looking for help?)*



From Amy Callahan:

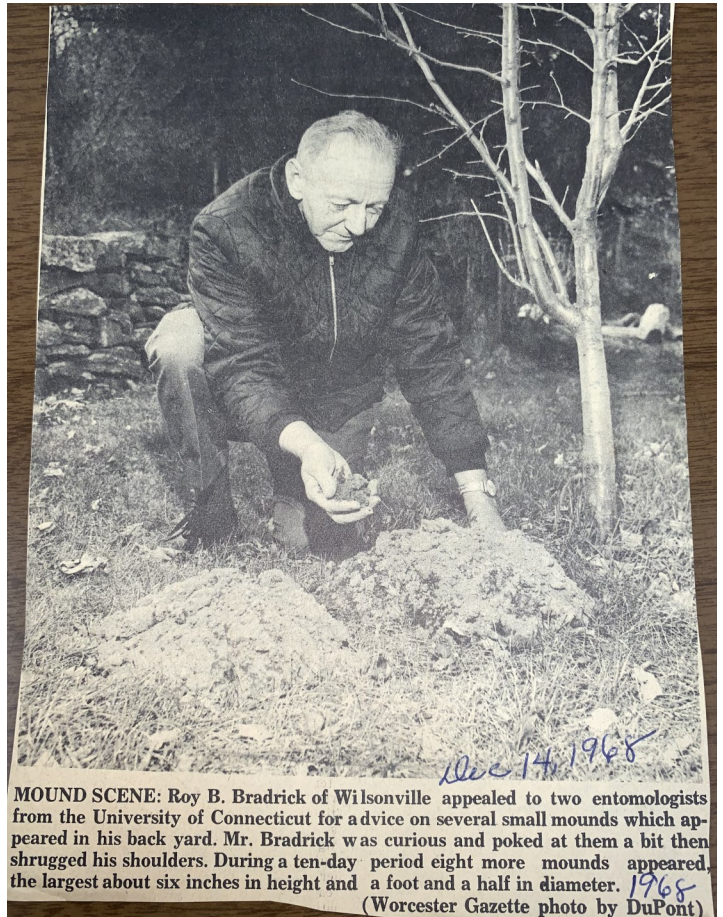
I have inherited my grandfathers uniform he wore while serving overseas during WW II. My Gramps full name is Leon Lewis Shippee. Born 7-16-24 and died 12-20-20. He lived in Thompson most his life.

The lady is my Grammie, his wife Frances Shippee (maiden name Chase), who still resides in Thompson, Ct where they lived for over 70 years. That photo was taken in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Archivist Corner By: Mark Snay

Donations sometimes come in at a rate that makes cataloging very difficult to keep up with due to all that we have happening and the small team of volunteers available to help. Regardless, we keep ticking items off the list as fast as we can and sometimes have unexpected surprises. That recently occurred while we were scanning a collection of glass plate negatives donated by the Deparasis family. It seems these may be the original negatives of some well know photos taken by George Pompeo. We easily recognized several flood photos and other known images of places in Thompson, however, a few were a mystery to us as to the location. After further study, we realized that the images were similar to the Howe-Marot School and a little research confirmed they were the photos used for the School's advertising pamphlet. Archiving donations is a treasure hunt and you never know what you might find. Now, to discover the location of the balance of the George Pompeo negatives...

What caused these Mounds?



Dec 14, 1968
MOUND SCENE: Roy B. Bradrick of Wilsonville appealed to two entomologists from the University of Connecticut for a dvice on several small mounds which appeared in his back yard. Mr. Bradrick was curious and poked at them a bit then shrugged his shoulders. During a ten-day period eight more mounds appeared, the largest about six inches in height and a foot and a half in diameter. 1968
(Worcester Gazette photo by DuPont)

Membership Information:

- \$10.00 Individual Membership
- \$15.00 Family Membership
- \$25.00 Contributing Membership
- \$5.00 Student Membership

Memberships are due by July 1 of each calendar year

Make checks payable to:

Thompson Historical Society
Po Box 47
Thompson, CT 06277

Anyone interested in joining the Thompson Historical Society can contact us at:

Phone Number: 860-928-5527

Web Site: www.thompsonhistorical.org



Museum Hours

Typically Open
 Sundays 9:00 a.m.—Noon
 Call Joe before you come
 (603) 657-6205

Officers and Contact Information:

Joseph Iamartino - President
 Ginny Flood - Vice President
 Mark Snay—Director & Archivist
 Sue Vincent - Treasurer
 John Rice - Building Committee Chair
 Abe Gustavson - Director
 Ginny Flood - Director
 Burt Rhodes - Director
 Dr. Chris Wagner - Director
 Kathy Welch - Director
 Kathleen Herbert - Director
 Jon Brynga - Director
 Roberta Baublitz - Director
 Lisa Berg - Director
 Charlie Obert - Director
 William Steglitz - Director
 David Laabs - Director
 Paul Provost—Director
 Mark Savolis—Director
 Lisa Berg—Director, Newsletter

Ellen Larned Memorial Building

THS Museum

339 Thompson Road
 Thompson, CT 06277
 (Opened Sundays 9:00 am to noon)

Old Thompson Town Hall

1 Chase Road
 Thompson, CT 06277
 (Open by appointment)

Tourtellotte Memorial Room

Thompson Historical Society

PO Box 47
 Thompson, CT 06277



Preserving Thompson, Connecticut's History Since 1968