



LEAVITT LEAVES



November 2011 Newsletter of the National Association of Leavitt Families Volume 29 – 2

Remember to write to us!

Visit us on the web at Leavitts.org

Don't forget to renew!

2012 IN VERMONT: CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF REJUVENATION

The year 1982 was very critical to NALF, as without the efforts of Julie Berndt and others that year, we would not be celebrating our Association at all today.

Mary Croft and family have generously offered to host this reunion in East Barnard, Vermont. There are many historic and scenic sights nearby, so plan to spend some extra time in the area.

Vermont is home to more than one Leavitt line. We like to plan the reunion locations to allow for some local interest either in general history or specific Leavitt sites, but since the main purpose of the reunion is to socialize with “cousins” all lines are welcome, even those with no Vermont ancestry—the company we keep is more important than any specific venue. That said, we are still really looking forward to coming to scenic Vermont next summer!

(Continued on pages 4, 5 and 7.)



THE LEAVITT INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Institute was organized in 2005 by David and Chelom Leavitt, both graduates of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University. After living in Ukraine for one year with their children as volunteers for the American Bar Association, the Leavitt's were impressed by the Ukrainian people and the potential for democratic reforms to improve their lives in that country.

The Institute started with private donations from the Leavitt family and friends. In 2005, legal professionals traveled to Ukraine to teach in just one or two law schools. Now, six years later, TLI enjoys generous funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Endowment for Democracy, in-kind contributions from both the United States and Ukraine, and legal professionals from every region of the United States.

As part of its efforts, TLI involves some of the brightest international relations specialists and legal minds throughout the United States to teach democratic principles, rule of law, and ethics.

The BUILD Initiative



The REAL Initiative



Leavitt Institute teachers are experienced judges, prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, and legal counsels from the United States. They lecture on a variety of subjects and make a lasting impression on the minds of their students. TLI relies on the support of legal professionals willing to travel to Ukraine and share their knowledge with ambitious law students. Each professional's donation of time and resources is small, but the impact is being felt across Ukraine.

(Continued on pages 12 – 13.)

DUDLEY HOWARD LEAVITT SR. MAINE THOMAS LINE

We are saddened to hear of the passing of NALF member Dudley Howard Leavitt Sr. from his daughter, member Pamela Jean Leavitt.

Dudley leaves behind a large and loving family and a long record of public service in the Merchant Marines, Ironworker's Local 496, American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, several Shrine and Masonic chapters and the Elks Lodge.

Dudley Howard Leavitt Sr., 82, died suddenly at his home on Saturday, August 27, 2011. He was born on December 2, 1928 in Topsham, Maine, the son of Charles Watson Leavitt and Madeline Holbrook Leavitt. He was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Cora Leone Day Leavitt, two sons, Michael and Andrew, a daughter Barbara, a brother Robert, a sister Donna Mitchell and grandchildren William Wright and Kimberly Sawyer.

(Continued on page 6.)



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEAVITT FAMILIES, INC. is an organization formed with the objective of promoting acquaintance and good fellowship among the living descendants of the immigrant John Leavitt, who came to America in 1628 and settled in the section of the New England Colonies now known as Hingham, MA, and immigrant Thomas Leavitt, who came to America in 1636 and settled in the section now known as Hampton, NH, and to establish such memorials to their name and memory as may be most appropriate.

Regular dues are \$10 a year (Sustaining Membership \$15) and should be sent to Treasurer Dick Leavitt at the address below. Checks may be made out to NALF, Inc.

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Trustee	Genevieve Leavitt	5632 N Genematas Dr	Tucson, AZ 85704	GLeavitt@prodigy.net

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

- **N**ow is the time to start planning for Reunion 2012 in East Barnard, VT! Do you know anyone who is not yet a member that you might invite to attend? The NALF Board is on a mission to make our attendance very HIGH this year.
- **A**pologies again to all for the lateness of this issue! This past year has been an extremely challenging one for me—I thank all of you who have been supportive. This is a volunteer position, yet I do take it seriously and hope all is now back to normal.
- **L**ost and found Leavitt descendants and ancestors continues to be a theme, and we are also searching for more information on Leavitt Collectibles. [See pages 9 and 10]. We might add publishing your house history queries—is anyone interested?
- **F**ellowship is such a strong concept in many of my associations and it is a key word in our NALF Mission Statement. With these thoughts in mind I googled the word and came up with some interesting and varied results on the web. Did you know that there is a company out there that makes “Fellowship Software” to maximize membership outreach for churches? I found an actual Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, and I imagine that it is not the only one of that name out there. Many of you are familiar with the fictional fantasy “Fellowship of the Ring”. More common, but not quite in sync with the concept as I pondered it, are the scholarly fellowships and endowment funds....though the root of this definition is similar. The definition most meaningful for us Leavitt cousins, would be: “the companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms; a society of people sharing mutual interests, experiences and activities.”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Cousins,

Here we are, nearing the end of another year. These days, time seems to move a lot faster than the work on all my genealogy projects. New sources of material are always being added to the web (which is a good thing!), and it is tough at times to keep up with the new additions. However, one great (free) resource that I always enjoyed, Google Archives, has stopped its work on scanning old newspapers and posting them online. This is unfortunate, as they were in the middle of posting pages from the Biddeford, Maine newspapers, which may have included newsy tidbits about our (Thomas line) Leavitt kin in the nearby towns of Saco and Buxton. Their archive of 2000 newspapers is still currently online, and hopefully they will remain so.

While that operation may have ceased, the Library of Congress has begun its own newspaper database. The web site is free at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> They have over 4 million pages available for viewing, with papers from 30 plus states. As with any old newspaper archive, searching for particular words and/or names can sometimes be difficult, depending on how well the paper's condition was when it was digitally scanned. Besides having actual

newspapers to read online, this site also has a searchable directory of newspaper titles and their place of publication, and the repositories that hold them. This is a handy resource, in knowing whether the towns your ancestors lived in had a local newspaper, and if the dates of publication correspond with life events of your family members.

Another database recently announced will be helpful to those with Maine relatives and ancestors. The Folger Library at the University of Maine at Orono, in collaboration with the Maine State Library, has begun a project scanning town reports. While only newly begun (with 50 plus towns listed at this time), this will



be an excellent source to locate the towns and street addresses of those you are researching. Depending on how much the town actually reported in their yearly publication, you may find vital records, the wages someone earned when doing work for the town, or even how much the city paid someone to keep a pauper.

The site is worth checking out at <http://www.library.umaine.edu/townreport/>

Have a safe and happy holiday season,

Steve Dow

STEVE DOW, NALF PRESIDENT
NEHEMIAH-12, SAMUEL-12 AND THOMAS-13 LEAVITT BRANCHES

REMINDER: LEAVITT DNA PROJECT

We have completed the first phase, determining that John and Thomas were not related, but our work doesn't end there. There are many other Leavitt lines whose origins are not yet known, and we still seek volunteers to help with this. The test is easy, painless and we will help you.

* Read more at <http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Leavitt/default.aspx>

VERMONT SITES FOR SHOPPING, MUSEUMS.....

We have no shortage of great scenic, historic, recreational and shopping destinations within 60 miles of the reunion location for 2012. Watch the web site for more details and for lodging and traveling information.

Quechee Gorge Village, just 22 miles away, home of the Vermont Toy Museum and Vermont Train Museum, has a cornucopia of stores to delight any serious shopper or browser. Do your Christmas shopping early at such wonderful stores as Dierdra Donnelly Jewelry Art, Allen Olmsted Furnishings, Danforth Pewter, The Marketplace Handcrafts and Gifts, Route 4



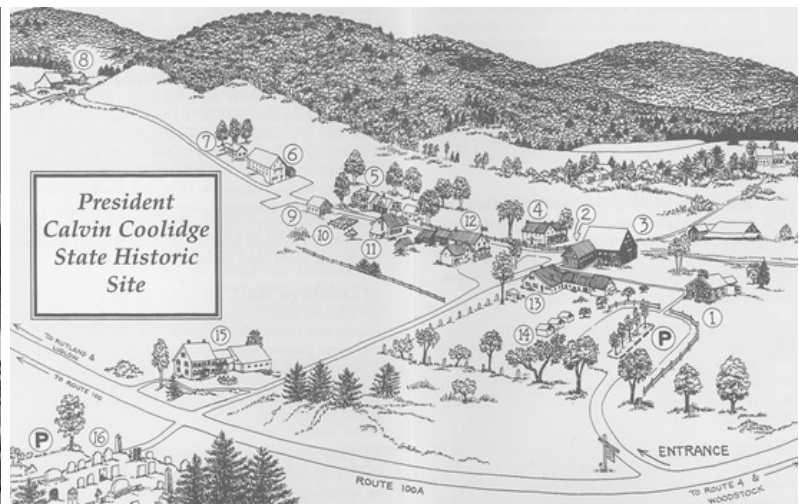
Glassblowing Studio, Thai Silk & Company, Vermont Antiques Mall and Whisper Hill Bath and Body. If it is great food and fine spirits that beckon, take your pick from Cabot Cheese (where you might also taste Putney Mountain Winery fine wines), Farmers Diner, Frozen Memories, Quechee Country Store or Vermont Spirits and Distilling Co.



This wonderful collection of more than 100,000 toys is the result of one man's dream and 30 years of dedication to share the preservation of our toy heritage and the importance that toys play in our lives. The decades melt away in the presence of displays from metal to wind-ups, TV toys, lunch boxes, cap guns, Star Wars, and Barbies. Enjoy two amazing interactive trail layouts, and more! Ride the miniature passenger train and Allan Herschell carousel. The Toy & Gift Shop, located within the museum, received, "THE BEST TOY SHOP" award from Yankee Magazine!



Another great destination is the **Plymouth Notch Historic District at President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site**. The Village of Plymouth Notch has changed little since the 30th US President grew up here in the late 1800's. In addition to touring the Coolidge Homestead, you can choose from several other homes, barns and stores. You can also visit the one room schoolhouse, post office, gardens, church and cemetery. If you enjoy touring historic country villages, this one will be sure to delight.



President Coolidge was the only US President born on the Fourth of July. He was also the only one to have his own father administer the oath of office. Calvin Coolidge was raised in this remote village, where he was sworn in soon after President Warren Harding died unexpectedly.

This site is open from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM from end of May through Mid-October. Admission is just \$7.50 for adults.

.....FUN, NATURE'S BOUNTY & MORE

The Appalachian Trail comes through the Calvin Coolidge State Forest and continues on northeasterly, passing just west of Woodstock and then crossing into New Hampshire and on to Hanover, providing a scenic section to hike.

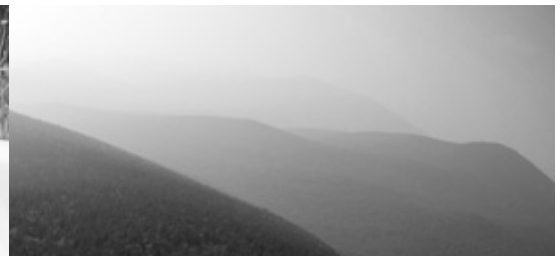
Silver Lake State Park, located right in the Town of Barnard, Vermont, couldn't be more convenient for reunion-goers who enjoy boating, fishing, hiking and camping. There is a campground, picnic area, playground, rest rooms with running water and hot showers, a beach, food concession, boat and canoe rentals.



Silver Lake was originally called Stebblings' Pond after Benjamin Stebblings who owned land at the outlet where the **Barnard General Store** now stands. The town of Barnard was chartered in 1761 from the New Hampshire Grants. Early homestead farms were replaced by sheep farms, and then dairy.

Today Barnard is known for the state park, the historic general store, and as a picturesque New England village.

Visit nearby **Pico Mountain Adventure Center** for all day fun rock climbing, alpine sliding, power jumping and miniature golfing. This is a great example showing how a ski resort turned their off season into an asset.



VERMONT HISTORY AND GENEALOGY RESOURCES

For those who are interested in history, this year the Civil War Sesquicentennial continues, and Vermont has some very complete resources for Civil War research. The web site at www.vermontcivilwar.org covers all of Vermont. Selecting “site map” in the menu options box on the upper right corner you will come to a list of all the sections available. Clicking “towns” brings you to an option to select Barnard. This will show you a list of soldiers that have been researched so far for the Township of Barnard in Windsor County, which includes East Barnard.

For genealogy resources nearby to our reunion location, please visit the following:

Barnard Town Clerk : PO. Box 274, Barnard VT 05031-0204 Phone 802-234-9211. Office open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Charles B. Danforth Public Library: PO. Box 204, Barnard VT 05031-0204. Phone 802-234-9408. Open Wednesday Evenings 7:00 to 8:30 PM and Saturday Morning 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Barnard Historical Society Museum: Phone 802-234-9183 is actually the phone number of Eleanor Tatro, genealogist and historian who is a charter member and has been instrumental in all activities of the Society. Open Saturday 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM and by appointment. This is a small museum with permanent exhibits of photographs, tools, costumes and books in an historically preserved one-room schoolhouse. This site was owned by Lois Horn, a Massachusetts schoolteacher who had her country home in Barnard. When she died she left the schoolhouse, original contents and all, to the Historical Society. The space formerly used for bathrooms has been converted into a growing genealogy library while the woodshed now serves as a photo gallery.

Probate District Hartford Probate Office, Woodstock Green, Woodstock VT. Mailing Address: Hartford Probate Court, P.O. Box 275, Woodstock, VT 05091. 1783 to present . Index 1783-1970. Open 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Requests for records must be made in writing. The current cost for copies is 25 cents a page. [\$1.00 minimum charge] The records may be looked at in person if desired.

Area Cemeteries with years in use:

Boyden (family)	1838 – 1841	Chamberlin (family)	1832 – 1842
East Barnard	1841 – present	Ellis – Ashley	1821 – 1912
Moore (family)	1838 – 1949	North Road Methodist	1810 – present
Nye	1807 – 1956	Perkins	1822 – 1894
Silver Lake	1915 – present	South Barnard	1797 – 1979
Village	1791 – present	Winwood	1973 – present

CALLING ALL VERMONT LEAVITT'S AND DESCENDANTS!

Since our 2012 reunion will be in Vermont we are collecting stories, photographs and genealogical data for all of our Vermont Leavitt's. If you are Leavitt-descended and live in Vermont, please let us know! If your ancestors lived in Vermont, please send in their stories. **Genealogist Roland Rhoades is collecting this information for an article to appear in the February *Leavitt Leaves*.** We will also be focusing on these stories at our reunion. We have already received some great Nehemiah stories, but we can use more, and we need stories from our other lines that settled in Vermont. Even if you don't have stories, please contact Roland and let him know you have Vermont ancestors—you may email him at leavitts.org@gmail.com. This would be a VERY big help!

Our reunions are not specifically devoted to the lines that were numerous in the area, and all lines are welcome....but we do like to take advantage of each reunion site to learn a little more about the Leavitt history of that area.

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Leavitt families.

My Lineage list relationship finder, alphabetical, of all our members, continues to grow, now over 250. The listings alphabetize your ancestors so you can find your closest cousins - check it out and advise me if you are missing. Updates periodically are posted on my website www.RolandRhoades.com at the Leavitts page where I also post Leavitt gravestones. Some members have sent in questions about identifying either artifacts or genealogies. Please check that Queries page carefully. Thanks. I send out email updates sometimes between newsletters **IF** I have your email address. The last one was Nov 26.

THOMAS, MOSES, & ISRAEL LEAVITT UPDATES: I have been going back and forth between these branches as members submit new family info, adding and updating families, and putting all my Maine Vital Records that I transcribed to good use, also using census and Massachusetts vital records. I did a lot of updating of surrounding families when I was updating our membership list and recording lineages in my chart. Send us your updates on any of the families anytime - I saw many dates and places missing. Updates and additions will help us to answer inquiries. See Queries page regarding Abijah Leavitt. Thanks also to my cousin Peggy LaForge for some old Leavitt photos that I'll scan for my website, and a newspaper article about Darlings and Leavitts in Harpswell Maine.

I created a webpage for Jean Harden's photos of Leavitt gravestones in Newport & Newburgh Maine, Thomas branch. I'm working on other towns as time permits. Correspondent Jason Gaudet in NB sent me loads of his Leavitt research in New Brunswick, including articles

about the new annual Leavitt Family Reunion in Back Bay NB with 160 people! It's a long trip there for us, but we will definitely have to try to coordinate efforts at least electronically.

In the last issue I mentioned my upcoming genealogy trips and conferences. In Bangor at the Maine Genealogical Society annual conference, I heard wonderful speakers including Mel Wolfgang talking about where to find records when you have already looked everywhere. It was an eye-opener learning about the old academic non-public journals that hold some real gems, and how to find them. Also business records, manuscripts, poor-house records, and old newspapers beyond what you can find in the usual places. I need another lifetime to actually research all the sources. Four days in Plymouth MA for part of the Mayflower Congress was tremendous. I saw most of the sights and



museums and got confirmation of one of my Royal lines, now going back 1500 years, which I've put on my website. On the way to Plymouth I stopped in Hingham and took more gravestone photos of Leavitts, Josiah and Israel lines; click on my Leavitt page. In November I attended the Maine State Mayflower Society meeting and saw NALF member Marsha Whittier. We sat together and talked genealogy

and discovered that not only are we cousins through the Hopkins line, but she and my wife are much closer cousins through Mayflower lines in Nova Scotia!

Want Picton Press Maine Genealogy books at a discount? Maine Genealogical Society is having an inventory reduction sale now thru April. Email me for details.

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

(Continued on pages 9 and 10.)

ROLAND RHOADES, NEHEMIAH AND ISRAEL DESCENDANT
NALF GENEALOGIST 207-892-0923
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LEAVITT LEAVES



February 2012 Newsletter of the National Association of Leavitt Families Volume 29 – 3

Please renew on time or early!!!

Visit us on the web at Leavitts.org

Register now for 2012 Reunion

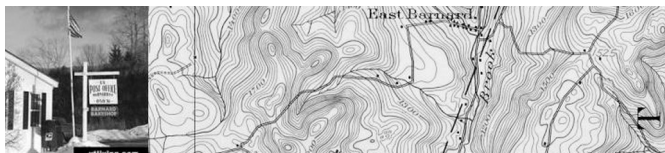
VERMONT LEAVITT'S AND THEIR BRANCHES

Compiled by Roland Rhoades, NALF Genealogist

Our 2012 Leavitt Reunion will be held June 23 in Barnard Vermont, in Windsor county. Barnard is located in the southern half of the state, about a third of the way up the state, and off Rt 89 from Manchester and Concord NH, and near Lebanon NH. Barnard borders Royalton and Pomfret. All three towns were incorporated in the 1760s.

People always ask, what branch is this Reunion? My answer is just "it's the Leavitt branch". We make every branch belong wherever we have a reunion. I searched our databases and came up with a number of Vermont Leavitt families. Here are some branches with the Leavitt name that settled in Vermont.

(Continued on page 9.)



MIRANDA LEAVITT INSPIRES HER FAMILY'S "LET'S MOVE" INITIATIVE

This article by Janine Mitchell appeared in the March 10th issue of Fosters Daily Democrat's on line newspaper.

PENACOOK — Every day brings a new step of courage for Brenda Leavitt and her family after her daughter, Miranda, died from diabetes in 2007.

Leavitt, of Fryeburg, Maine, was invited to the Penacook Community Center (PCC) Friday to hear the first lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, speak about her "Let's Move!" initiative after starting a fund in Miranda's name, and presenting to Congress and the Senate last year the importance of keeping children in our country healthy.

Like Leavitt, the first lady finds importance in healthy nutrition and incorporating physical activity into solving the problem of childhood obesity. Her visit was to see the changes under



way in New Hampshire, especially around the PCC, to ensure our nation's children are growing up healthy and strong.

The PCC itself joined "Let's Move!" and Mayor Jim Bouley has officially named Concord a "Let's Move!" city. The Granite State has plans of recruiting 10 more communities this year to join the initiative.

(Continued on page 12.)

EAST BARNARD, VERMONT: COME FOR REUNION, STAY FOR SIGHTSEEING

Or the reverse...or stay for shopping, fishing, hiking. This area seems to be a great vacation spot no matter what your interests. We really hope you all get a chance to visit at least one attraction.

The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock is the only national park to tell the story of conservation history and the evolving nature of land stewardship in America. The boyhood home of George Perkins Marsh, one of America's first conservationists, and later the home of Frederick Billings, the property was given to the American people by its most recent owners, Laurance S. and Mary F. Rockefeller. The park is the living evocation of conservationist thought and practice.

(Continued on page 4.)



OF INTEREST TO VERMONT VISITORS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MARSH BILLINGS ROCEFELLER NATIONAL PARK



It seeks to address conservation in a modern context, exploring the idea of place, and the ways in which humans can balance conservation stewardship with the diverse needs and opportunities of our twenty-first century world. View the exhibits in the Carriage Barn Visitors Center, tour the Mansion and Gardens or just relax with a quiet stroll through the woods.

For more detailed information visit <http://www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm>

Also check out the Billings Farm and Museum adjacent to the park. It is one of the finest dairy farms operating in America today and a museum of Vermont's rural heritage.

QUECHEE: VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

VINS' programs and services engage and instill in people of all backgrounds a desire to care for the wildlife and diverse natural habitats they encounter in their daily lives.

The Institute offers relevant environmental education programs for adults, families, and school children; partnering with leading conservation organizations to promote environmental science field research; and operate New England's premier avian wildlife rehabilitation clinic at the VINS Nature Center.



VINS has been a leader in environmental education and wildlife conservation and care since 1972, known nationally for innovative natural science curricula and education programs for learners of all ages.

On your visit you may view a raptor show, see wounded bird rehab in action, tour the aviary or hike the nature trails. There is also a trail to Quechee Gorge. Learn more and download a trail map on the VINS web site at <http://www.vinsweb.org/index.php/visit/exhibits-and-trails>

SOUTH ROYALTON/SHARON: JOSEPH SMITH BIRTHPLACE

Visit the birthplace of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the first latter-day prophet and President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The monument stands 50 feet tall and weighs approximately 100 tons. The 40-ton shaft of the obelisk is 38½ feet long; one for each year of Smith's life. The obelisk was quarried in Barre, Vermont, and is often cited as a "remarkable engineering feat" and "one of the largest polished shafts in the world".

A visitors' center and an LDS Church meetinghouse sit on the same property as the memorial. Admission to the visitor's center and tours of the memorial site are free.



TUNBRIDGE: JENNY BROOK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Annual event for bluegrass fans will take place this year June 20-24th. Camping, music workshops, children's classes, new talent showcase and a lineup of headline acts on the main stage make this a great family event. For more details and tickets see <http://www.jennybrookbluegrass.com/2012/>



WHAT I SAW AT THE CORN SHOW

By L. Dudley Leavitt, Jr about 1915

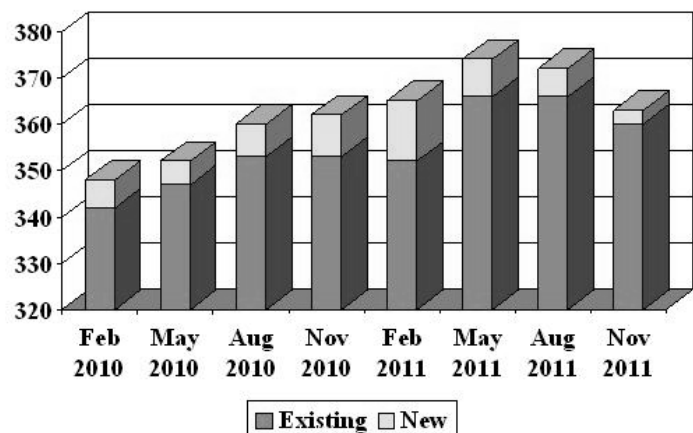
Submitted by Marjorie Leavitt Van Alstyne

On the 24th of November I arrived at Windsor about noon. I came to attend the Corn Show. Most of the corn exhibited was raised by boys. The show was held in Kennedy's Riding Rink. I took my ten best ears of corn with me. When I got to the rink a man gave me a ticket so that I could go in and out. Mr. Hurd had me take my corn up to him and he gave it a number. There were 6 or 8 long rows of tables covered with corn, some red, some yellow and some white. In the middle of the rink there was a large stage with seats on it. Over back of this stage there was a place for a man to make a speech. There was a chute for children to slide down on which was great fun. I saw some very pretty white dent corn which was raised in Virginia. There were many different articles which were going to be given for prizes. One of these was a little black and white pig. This pig was offered to the boy that could tell which of the three ears of corn on the contest table was the best.

I saw many different kinds of cakes, and johnny cakes which were made by women and girls to see which was the best. I and many other boys had a free dinner and supper. At night Mr. Hurd called all the contest boys up to him to give out names of different persons who would keep them over night. Mr. Hurd gave me a name but I had a place already. After that, about 8 o'clock at night there was a ventriloquist who played on the stage and he was very funny. The next day the most important thing was a corn husking contest. I was in this contest. Every boy in this contest had got to husk clean a large shock of corn. Of course, I did not win but did get 3rd prize in red ears and 3rd prize in a composition. That night I went home, I had a very nice time at the Corn Show.

		<h2 style="margin: 0;">WELCOME!</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">NEW MEMBERS SINCE</h3> <h3 style="margin: 0;">NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER</h3>			
GEOFFRY PHILLIPS McENANY	450 ELIOT STREET	MILTON, MA 02188	ISRAEL – 12		
LAUREN V MADDISON	PO Box 17118	IRVINE, CA 92623	MOSES – 12		

Our new membership numbers have slowed a bit the past few months; however, many current members have renewed recently as Life Members. This chart showing our membership distribution over the past two years demonstrates that we are still a flourishing society. And yet it would be nicer still to see a rise in new membership—perhaps one of your children or grandchildren might appreciate receiving our newsletter? It is a great way to foster love of family history and pass down tradition.



LEAVITT FAMILY IN THE BROAD BROOK VALLEY 1797-2012.....

The editor extends heartfelt thanks to Genealogist Roland Rhoades for "getting the ball rolling" and writing the article on pages 1, 9 and 13, and our reunion hostess Mary Croft for pulling together submissions for articles appearing on pages 5 – 7 and 13 – 14.

For the first few paragraphs of John Leavitt's Broad Brook Valley family history please see inset in Roland's article on page 9.

My niece, Mary Croft, asked me to write up a little history of Leavitt's in the East Barnard area.

...[see inset on pages 9 & 13]...

L. Dudley Leavitt (8) was born in 1838 and died in East Barnard in 1914. He married Ellen Davis of Royalton and she died one month after their marriage. She is buried in the North Royalton cemetery in the Davis lot. It is a large red granite stone and on one end it says Ellen Davis wife of L.D. Leavitt. After her death L.D. Leavitt entered the Civil War and served in Co. G. of the 16th Regiment, Vermont Infantry, and was in the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. He came home to serve the Town of Barnard as Justice of the Peace, Constable, Notary Public, and Lister. He lived for 46 years on the farm now owned by Jenepher Lingelbach. His second wife, Abigail Moore died October 8, 1910. They had 5 children, being Cora, Newman, a daughter who died at 6 months, Kate, and Luna. Of the 4 children that lived, 3 of them stayed and made their living here in East Barnard. Kate moved out of the valley to nearby South Royalton with her husband Eli Ashley.

Newman Leavitt (9) was born July 3, 1868 in East Barnard on the Webb Place. The Webb place is just up the road from East Barnard now owned by John and Lorna Mueller. He married Grace Jackman on November 27, 1890. He attended business college in Albany, NY. They moved 4 times in the next 10 years ending up in East Barnard on the place now owned by Sabra Fields. In 1910 they built the house on Eureka Farm, where their 5 children were brought up. Their 5 children being Gertrude, Dorothy, Edwin (Jack), Dudley and Gail.

Kate moved to So. Royalton where her husband Eli Ashley was a barber for many years.

Luna married Elwin Moore and they helped her father Dudley Leavitt on the farm which is now owned by Jenepher Lingelbach. Later years they owned and operated the East Barnard Store.

Cora lived in East Barnard and did school teaching. She married Edward Miller who ran the East Barnard Store many years before selling it to the Moores.

Galen Moore, son of Elwin and Luna Moore took over the farm of his parents when they bought the store. This is the farm of his Leavitt grandparents, his parents and then his. He sold the farm in about 1956. It had been in the Leavitt family since October of 1868.

Gertrude (10) moved to Chicago, married Harris Barry, and raised her family there. Her children consisted of Thomas, Philip, Elanor, and Lorraine. These children were of the (11) generation. Lorraine and Phil still live in the Chicago area and Tom lives in California. I do not know the whereabouts of Elanor, but do remember when their mother brought them to our farm for summer vacations.

Gail (10) married Earl Harrington as his second wife and they had two girls by that marriage, Natalie and Ramona. These girls were of the (11) generation. I never did get to know these girls, even though they lived only a few miles away.

Dorothy (10) married Walter Piper and lived 3 miles down the road from East Barnard. They farmed, logged and Walter raised lots of potatoes to sell. They raised 7 children, Dean, Virginia, Norman, Elaine, Beverly, Malcolm and Hilda. These were of the (11) generation.

Dean lived in New Jersey and Florida. He worked in the construction business and later retired to Florida. He served in the Marine Corps during World War 2.

.....By JOHN LEAVITT - 11TH GENERATION

Virginia also served in the Marine Corps during World War 2. She married and with her husband moved to the Concord, New Hampshire area where he was doing building construction.

Norman retired from the Military and now lives in California. He now owns the old family house on Broad Brook and comes back summers to spend time. But when Jack Frost arrives in the fall, he is out of here and back to California.

Elaine lives in Sharon and is a retired school teacher. She used to spend winters in Arizona with her husband Dick Tracy, but since he passed on she spends winters here near her children and grandchildren.

Beverly lives in a house she and her husband built on a piece of the old home farm land. She suffered a stroke and has been in a wheel chair for several years.

Malcolm lives in his house which is just across a field on land that was part of the old home farm. He was a farmer, maple sugar maker and did a lot of work laying field stone. He also served in the Army, and came home to help on the farm.

Hilda has her little cozy house also on land that used to be part of the home farm. She loves to dance as did the rest of her siblings.

Beverly's sons Dean and Steven and their families also have their own houses on a piece of the old home farm. Dean has a building washing business and Steve has retired from plumbing business. These people all live in the general area where the first Broad Brook Valley Leavitts settled.

Levi Dudley Leavitt (10) was born March 23, 1898 in East Barnard. He died March 29, 1993. He married Josephine Moore who was born October 9, 1903 in Pomfret and grew up in Sharon. They lived for 59 years on Eureka Farm. I quote "Our farm produced our living, milk, meat, eggs, fruit, wood, etc. and in the spring made maple syrup and sugar. This was sold in many states by mail order." In 1948 he won the state prize for the best all around sugar place. He served as lister for Pomfret for over 30 years, was a member of the local Grange since 1921, the Masons since 1922, life member of the American Legion, a representative for 12 years from his district in the Vermont Legislature, from 1959 to 1971. He sold insurance and real estate for over 40 years, and in 1982 was Justice of the Peace for the Town of Barnard. All his sons and sons-in laws have served in the armed forces of our country. He served in France during World War 1 in Company A, 102nd Machine Gun Battalion and came back to the home farm after spending a year and a half there in France. Dudley and Josephine had 7 children, Levi Dudley, (Bud), Marjorie, Marian, Edwin, Betty, John, and Jeannie. Betty lives in nearby Pomfret and Edwin lives in Epping, New Hampshire. The rest live in the East Barnard area and raised their families here. We were all born at home on Eureka Farm except for Bud, who was born in So. Royalton. Between us all we have raised 28 children and now some are great grandparents!!! One does not have to look very far before you see a relative in one way or another.

Bud Leavitt joined the Navy in World War 2 and sailed all over the world. After the war he came home to the farm and then bought his own farm here in East Barnard and married Polly Kent. He farmed, drove school bus and did painting and carpentry jobs. He did a lot of bowling and pitching of horseshoes. He has several trophies from playing horseshoes. They raised 3 children, Danny, Randy and Pam. These 3 children have children of their own and all are living in the East Barnard area.

Marjorie VanAlstyne moved across the valley with her husband on their farm. They have an active sawmill, sugaring operation and some black angus beef cattle. She is very active in community affairs. At one time she was a trustee of the NALF. They have raised 5 children all of which live a very short distance away. Mary Ellen, Greyling, Deborah, Clay and

(Continued on page 13.)

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT

THOMAS, MOSES, & ISRAEL LEAVITT UPDATES: I continue going back and forth between these branches as members submit new family info, adding and updating families, and putting all my Maine Vital Records that I transcribed to good use, also using census and Massachusetts vital records. The other branches are being updated by other members of our genealogy team - Steve, Val, and Genevieve. I'm a "flip-flopper" in a good way. I research these families "whichever way the wind blows". The Reunion prompted me to recheck some Vermont families which encouraged me to recheck correspondence from descendants and reach out to former 1990s member James Burt who just emailed me back with updates of his branch that moved to NC.

If you want me to concentrate on updating your branch, email me and I'll email back with what we have, and you can update that for me. Whenever I do get prompted to check a certain branch, I also check to see what I can add from the census records and all the new vital records that are now online for all the states. If you want to research yourself for free, be sure to take advantage of www.familysearch.org - an amazing number of records have been added the past couple years from around the world. If you use a family tree program, write in the "Notes" where the info came from, ie birth, marriage, death record on familysearch, etc. We use Legacy Family Tree, which can be downloaded from the internet for free; we use the paid version with extra features. We will be

featuring printouts of the known main Vermont branches at the Reunion. If you have family stories passed down, please share them at the Reunion, or at least email them to me. Thanks.

Obituaries are also prompts for me to update families. Sometimes the person and even the parents mentioned in the obits are not to be found anywhere in our books. So, then I search wherever I can, vital records online, census records, and go back until I tie into someone who IS in our books. I check back far enough to confirm that our book was correct in the first place, and then add all the new generations of Leavitt's to our books, adding dates, places, and sources. The more we can get computerized, the easier all future research is. An obituary also prompted research tying in a branch of Leavitts in Texas.

I also frequent genealogy discussions on Facebook, Rootsweb and others, and was recently put into contact with Alice Thorne, mentioned in our last issue as the host of that New Brunswick Leavitt reunion. I look forward to creating strong ties between us.

I will most likely be emailing last minute Reunion updates to everyone we have an email address for, but please don't wait for the last minute to register for our Reunion. Early registrations by May 1-15 help us SO much in the work of planning this whole thing. Thanks.

We hope to see everyone in LEAVITT COUNTRY in June. Plan to spend a few days here and see the sights. We'll also likely have an informal social get-together and suppa Friday evening.



ROLAND RHOADES, NEHEMIAH AND ISRAEL DESCENDANT
NALF GENEALOGIST 207-892-0923
LEAVITTS.ORG@GMAIL.COM

VERMONT LEAVITT'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the THOMAS Leavitt branch, Ephraim Leavitt and wife Augusta Hill moved from Madrid Maine to Plainfield VT in Washington county around 1860 and had a family. A couple other families also had brief stopovers in VT. Plainfield is located about 2/3 up the state, next to Montpelier.

MOSES has a number of branches who lived in Vermont. Of the locations mentioned below, Caledonia, Franklin, Orleans, and Lamoille counties are near the northern boundary with Quebec. Bradford is a few towns north of Royalton, on the NH border.

Dudley Leavitt b 1773 in Loudon NH, moved to Wheelock, Caledonia county in 1816, and had some children who raised families there and in Greensboro, Orleans county, and Morristown, Lamoille county.

Nathaniel Leavitt b 1764 in Exeter NH, moved to Pomfret VT in Windsor county about 1826, and some of his family moved on to IL.

Gideon Leavitt b 1751 in Hampton Falls NH, moved to Sheffield VT in Caledonia county for a short time where he died in 1805.

John Leavitt b 1832 in Compton QC, moved to St Johnsbury VT in Caledonia county and had children in the 1860s where at least some stayed into the 1900s, as well as at Swanton in Franklin county.

William Henry Harrison Leavitt was born 1824 in Sanbornton NH and moved to Bradford VT in Orange county in 1864 where he died in 1904; he made buttermolds - let us know if you ever hear of one available. His son Dr John Forrest Leavitt b 1853 raised his family in "Nehemiah territory" South Royalton VT in Windsor county. Most of this family moved to North Carolina where we have a number of his descendants as long-time members.

In the JOSIAH branch, Benjamin Leavitt, born 1785 in Suffield CT, moved to Poultney VT in Rutland county on the New York border, SW of Barnard, along with his father Asaph. They seem to have moved to New York and westward within one generation.

Our Reunion host Mary Croft asked her uncle to write-up a family history of their NEHEMIAH branch. NALF Life member John Leavitt (11) of South Royalton writes:

In 1797, just 215 years ago, Amos Leavitt, his brother Nehemiah and their widowed mother came into this Broad Brook Valley (Royalton-Barnard area). Amos was the son of Nehemiah and Judith Roberts Leavitt. He was a 6th generation Leavitt, and was born in Raymond, New Hampshire in 1777. He married Hannah Sleeper. All of us present day Broad Brook Valley Leavitt families are descendants of Amos and Hannah. Amos was killed by falling from the stringers of a bridge that crossed the White River. He was attempting to cross after dark when the bridge was down, and he drowned, Sept 23, 1828. I do not know where he is buried.

There were five Leavitt boys in the family of Amos and Hannah. They were Enos, Amos, Oramel, Moses and Merrill. Of all these boys, Amos is the only one who stayed and made his living in this valley. His 4 brothers walked to Smyrna, Maine and settled in that area [various Aroostook county towns, where Amos' brother Nehemiah and some of his children also moved]. I have copies of some of the letters they sent back to East Barnard from Maine. One letter written to their brother Amos is addressed, Mr Amos Leavitt East Barnard, Vt. and is dated May 4, 1843. This letter was written by Enos and besides other things written, he is trying to convince Amos to come down to Smyrna, Maine which would only cost about \$30.00 and take 5 days. He says to, "come down and see the folks and the country and if you don't like you can go back. You can get one hundred acres of land of the state for twenty five dollars, half cash and the seasons are better here being warm and pleasant [wow, that's salesmanship]. If you leave your stuff there and come here you would be better off in my opinion. I now close

(Continued on page 13)

REUNION 2012 IN EAST BARNARD, VERMONT – JUNE 23RD

PLACES TO STAY NEARBY

This area offers quite a variety of lodging in the nearby towns. Thanks to Mary Croft, our reunion hostess and coordinator this year, for contributing this list.

White River Junction

Holiday Inn Express, 121 Ballardvale Drive, White River Junction, VT (802) 299-2700

Comfort Inn , 8 Sykes Mountain Avenue, White River Junction,VT (802) 295-3051

Super 8, 442 North Hartland Rd, , White River Jct, VT 05001 (802) 295-7577

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 102 Ballardvale Drive, White River Jct,VT 05001 (802) 291-9911

Quechee

Quality Inn at Quechee, 5817 East Woodstock Road, White River Jct, VT 05001(802) 295-7600

Woodstock

Shire Motel, 46 Pleasant Street, Woodstock, VT 05091 (802) 457-2211

Braeside Motel, Rt 4, Woodstock, VT 05091 (802) 457-1366

Barnard

Silver Lake State Park for any who wish to camp visit:

<http://www.vtstateparks.com/html/silver.htm> for more information

THE REUNION VENUE

This year our main event will be held at the **East Barnard Community Hall** 5324 Broad Brook Rd, East Barnard VT

Driving Directions:

From the South: At White River Jct, VT take I-89 N to Exit 2; at end of ramp turn left and travel 0.2 mile, turn right onto VT Rte 14N for 0.3 mile and take the 1st left across bridge onto River Rd, travel 1.4 miles, turn left onto Broad Brook Rd across (Broad Brook Cemetery will be on your right), travel 0.6 mile take sharp right onto Harlow Rd. travel approx. 1 mile and keep to left to stay on Harlow Rd; at stop sign continue onto Broad Brook Rd for 3.1 mile to the village of East Barnard.

From the North: I-89 S to Exit 2 and follow the above directions.

If you are staying in the Woodstock area: Take VT Rte 12-N out of the village for approx. 1 mile take right onto Pomfret Rd for approx 4 ½ miles. Turn left onto Labounty Rd (from this point on you will be traveling on a dirt road) for 0.7 mile then turn left onto Webster Hill Rd for approx. 2 miles. At bottom of Webster Hill Rd, turn right onto Broad Brook Rd and travel approx 1 ½ miles to East Barnard village.

A **caution** from Mary Croft: Please do not completely rely on your GPS as it can take you on some roads you just don't want to be on.

Reunion Menu from Maybelle Dumont Caterer:

Breakfast: Coffee, Juice and Pastries

Luncheon:An arrangement of sandwich fixings accompanied by a variety of salads and completed by assorted cookies and desserts

THE REUNION PROGRAM

The Board is still working on the program details; watch the web site and *May Leavitt Leaves* for additional information to be announced as soon as the details are finalized. **The Friday Night Dutch Treat Social has been changed for this year to a pot luck supper. Do not worry too much if bringing a dish combined with traveling will not work out for you—just please let us know if you are not bringing a dish.**

Saturday's program, in addition to the business meeting, group photos, genealogy consultations, Leavitt Store and Silent Auction will include a presentation on East Barnard History and most likely a walking tour of the village.

REUNION REGISTRATION DUE MAY 24TH

Enclose registration fees and mail to Richard Leavitt at 50 Woodland Rd, Pownal, ME 04069

Name: _____ Email _____
Address: _____ Phone _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Name tags [Name, Line. Generation] for all in your party. [ex: John Jones Nehemiah-12]

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Please indicate interest below in sites and events that are not included in the reunion fee. Note that there is no pre-registration cost but we would like know what people would like to see as we are still thinking about including a tour or self-guided tour maps.

FRIDAY June 24th

- I/we plan to come before or stay after and stay at _____
- Friday Pot Luck Supper in East Barnard # attending: _____
I can cannot bring a dish

OTHER SIGHTS/EVENTS I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN

- East Barnard** Village Walking Tour
- Quechee** - Quechee Gorge, Simon Pearce Glass Blowing Mill and Pottery Shop, Vermont Institute of Natural Science Nature Center
- Woodstock** - Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Billings Farm & Museum, Historic downtown- shopping & dining
- Plymouth** - Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site
- South Royalton/Sharon** - Joseph Smith Birth Place Memorial
- Tunbridge** - Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival
- Norwich** - King Arthur Flour

MAIN REUNION EVENT at East Barnard Community Hall

Saturday June 23rd all day _____ Adults @ \$20.00 = _____
[Under 12] _____ Children @ \$15.00 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO VISIT THE LEAVITT STORE [PRE ORDER FOR EASY PICKUP—SEE MAY NEWSLETTER]
STORE IS OPEN AT THE REUNION AT 8:00 AM AND THROUGHOUT THE DAY
CAN YOU BRING SOMETHING FOR THE SILENT AUCTION?

ROLAND'S VERMONT LEAVITT'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

with a request to you not to delay writing, let us hear from mother, yours with love and good will---Enos Leavitt."

Amos (7) the Leavitt man remaining on Broad Brook was born in 1807. He married Susan Davis who was born in Barnard, Vermont on January 12, 1810. She died in 1878. They lived and farmed on what we now call the Sweanor Farm here in East Barnard. They had 4 children, Levi Dudley, Amos, Susan and Louisa. Amos and L. Dudley served in the Civil War and participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. Amos was wounded there in that battle. Amos kept a diary while in the Civil War. After the war he moved to Gaysville and farmed there. The other members of the family remained in and around East Barnard. Louisa married Ozro Ellis and they lived on what is now called Ellis Farm Road. That farm was in the Ellis family from the late 1700's till the mid 1940's when it was purchased by the Rotchilds. It has changed hands a few times in recent years. Louisa's daughter Inez, married Osborne Paige and they lived just across the valley on Walker Hill Road. Their daughter Margaret and her husband Gerald Gibbs lived there for several years after retirement. Now Margaret and Gerald have passed on and their children still come to the house for vacations. Susan Leavitt married Harley Howe and lived on the place where Fran and Pam Carbino now live. That place is just up the road away from this Community Hall. He was a boss carpenter and Susan made graduation dresses and did beautiful beadwork on a loom.

John writes much more [see page 7 for the beginning of that article.] Thank you John. There are also some inconclusive hints that my unlinked Joseph Leavitt b 1782 who settled in Montville, Lincoln, Aroostook, and Cambridge Maine was part of this family, a brother of the first Amos.

Descendants of Nehemiah & Judith also lived in (Vermont locations) Strafford in Orange Co next to Royalton, and Warren in Washington Co to the NW. Another NEHEMIAH line, John D Leavitt born 1767 in Raymond NH, moved to Washington in Orange county in 1795. His family also lived in Tunbridge and Newbury both in Orange county, all close to Royalton, and Danville, Caledonia county to the north. Another family lived in Barton and Craftsbury in Orleans county which is on the Canadian border.

SAMUEL and ISRAEL branches likely also had families with brief stays in Vermont, and all families had daughters who married, whose families moved to Vermont.

We hope to see everyone in LEAVITT COUNTRY in June. Bring your stories to share.

BROAD BROOK VALLEY BY JOHN LEAVITT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Marlene are the names of their children. Greyling and Clay are running the operation at the present time.

Marian Levasseur at one time delivered mail and worked as a visiting nurse. She likes to go around to Senior Centers telling stories of how things used to be years ago. Her granddaughter was Miss Vermont and will compete in the upcoming Miss America pageant. Her husband passed away a few years ago. They raised 4 children--Robert, Rebecca, Josephine, and Stuart.

Edwin Leavitt joined the Navy in time for the Korean War. After the Navy he tried farming but did not like it much so went to California with his wife Ginny. After a few years they were back and settled down in Leavitt country of New Hampshire. Edwin and Ginny had two girls, Rayne and Camillia. Both of his wives have passed on and he now lives in Epping, NH and does a lot of buying and selling and cannot pass up a yard sale.

(Continued on page 14.)

BROAD BROOK VALLEY LEAVITT'S CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Betty Stetson went to Utica, New York to work for an insurance company. She came home and married Leon Stetson. Here they sold automobile insurance and raised a family of 4 - Janice, Colleen, Julie, and Ronald. Ronald has moved to Arizona and has employment there.

John is still on Eureka Farm and has been for 73 out of his 76 years. The other 3 years were spent in the Army in the northern reaches of South Korea and one year at Fort McClellan, Alabama. He has a few beef cattle, does maple sugaring, and lots of field mowing for other people. Lives very close to the land. He married Carol and they raised 4 children, Cynthia, Bettina, Jayne and Timothy. Cynthia lives in California and the others live very close.

Jeannie graduated South Royalton High School. She married William Rikert and they farmed a few years. They raised 6 children, Marilyn, Sharlene, Michael, Linda, Steven and Teresa. Jeannie loves to bowl and has won some great trophies. She loves touring with her daughters and once floated down the Colorado River on a raft.

This document tells mainly of the descendants who have lived in or are now living in the East Barnard Broad Brook area. Sorry if I left anyone out.

The children and grandchildren of Clay and Karen VanAlstyne, and the children and grandchildren of Fran and Pam Carbino are the 13th and 14th generation of Leavitts in America who are living in the Broad Brook Valley at this time. Also children of Jeannie and Bill Rikert, Art and Tina Lewin, Danny and Jill Leavitt, Malcolm Piper, Norman Piper, Beverly and Ken Prior have children that still live here in the valley. There are many more who were brought up here in this East Barnard area but have now moved away, even though in some cases not too far away, but just far enough to be out of the Broad Brook Valley and East Barnard. Stuart Lévasseur and Greyling VanAlstyne do not live in the valley at this time, but they both have houses here that they rent out. Also they have good solid roots here.

And Judith Leavitt, widow of Nehemiah Leavitt came here to the valley in 1797, so she was the first generation of the family to have been in the Broad Brook Valley.

Just remember that at this time there have been 10 generations of Leavitt's who have lived in the Broad Brook Valley. The cemetery by the East Barnard Church is the final resting place for 20 Leavitt's. There are over 25 houses where descendants of the early Leavitt's have lived or are now living, 19 houses have descendants living in them today. There have been 15 Mrs Leavitt's to date in the Broad Brook Valley. Their names being Judith, Hannah, Susan, Emma, Abigail, Grace, Josephine, Polly, Carol, Jill, Heather, Virginia, Amber and Lynn. One Mrs. Leavitt I do not know the name of. She lived just above the East Barnard Church according to old maps. There are 3 Mrs. Leavitt's living in East Barnard today. Polly Leavitt the oldest Mrs. Leavitt has been here in East Barnard for 61 years. We the descendants of Amos and Susan Leavitt are very proud of our heritage and our history of 215 years in East Barnard and the Broad Brook Valley. And we are most grateful that Amos decided to stay here on his farm and did not go to Maine with the rest of his brothers. If he had, I wouldn't have been able to write this story of -----

LEAVITTS IN THE BROAD BROOK VALLEY 1797-2012

John M. Leavitt, East Barnard, VT ~ Written 14 January 2012



