

# Daisy Dopp 1 - Glimpses of the Past

In 1983 the Orleans County Historical Society published an anthology of the writings of Daisy Sherburne Dopp. Daisy was born on the family farm on Route 122 in Glover and spent most of her life there, only leaving the farm after losing her husband in 1969. Living alone in Glover Village, Daisy stayed active and wrote many articles chronicling her experiences living in the Northeast Kingdom for the local papers. Daisy died in Glover on January 9, 1981.

The old Sherburne-Dopp farm became the home of Peter and Elka Schumann and the Bread and Puppet theater in 1974. The Northeast Kingdom lost Elka Schumann on August 1, 2021, at the age of 85.

It was Elka who took on the task of preserving the writings of Daisy Dopp, gathering and editing her numerous stories, enlisting Peter's help drawing the illustrations and making them into an anthology for all who love the Northeast Kingdom to enjoy.

As a tribute to our friend Elka Schumann, the Old Stone House Museum and Historic Village would like to serialize Daisy's stories of rural life in the Northeast Kingdom to a new generation of readers.

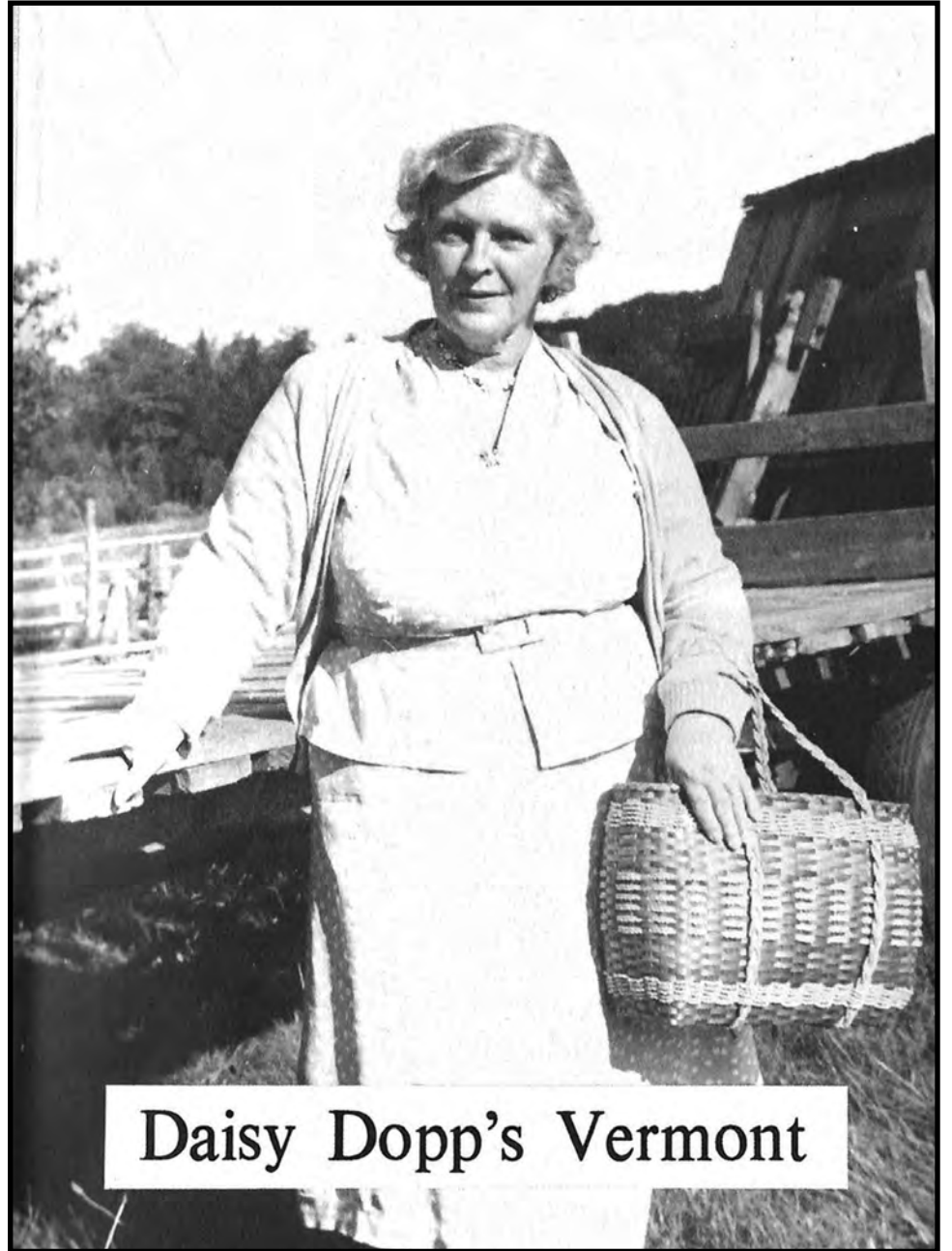
Unless otherwise noted, the stories here originally appeared in the *Newport Daily Express*.

## A PREFACE

by Elka Schumann

One of the most memorable citizens of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom was Daisy Dopp of Glover, who lived out most of her long life on a large family farm up on the Sheffield Heights Road (now Route 122). The official milestones of her life are simple: born Daisy Sherburne on July 28, 1899, graduated from Barton Academy in 1917, married in 1919. But besides the daily and never-ending round of chores that go with house work and dairy-farming, Daisy found the time and inspiration to record lovingly the details of her life and family, of her neighbors and neighborhood. Starting in the early fifties, she published scores of articles in the *Newport Daily Express* and in a few other periodicals.

The Sherburnes were an important family in this area and at one time owned many of the farms along the Sheffield Road. Great-grandfather John Sherburne bought the original homestead in 1846 and during the Civil War built the big barn. It is still standing, four stories high and over 100 feet long, and now the home of the Bread and Puppet Museum. When he grew too old to farm, John became the last tavern-keeper of the Glover Union House (now the Colonial Manor Nursing Home) which was a regular resting stop for the Boston-Montreal stagecoaches.



Daisy Dopp's Vermont

The farm passed from great-grandfather to son, to his son's son, and then, in 1923, to great-granddaughter Daisy and husband, Jim Dopp, of Sheffield. They continued and expanded the dairy-farming and maple-sugaring, eliminated the sheep, and added a small poultry business. Daisy

pitched hay and cared for the calves and chickens, and in her writing and conversation strongly hinted that she preferred riding the lead horse in a work team to washing up the dishes.

As a child she attended a one-room school a couple of miles from (Continued on page nine.)

## Happy Birthday

**to the following people!**

Timothy Annis, Newport Center.....	March 16
Roland Desmarais, Newport.....	March 16
JoAnne L. Miele, NH.....	March 16
Caitlyne DeGreenia, Coventry.....	March 17
Samantha Lefebvre.....	March 19
Josh Baker, Holland.....	March 19
Matt Gilman, Sheffield.....	March 19
William Baker.....	March 20
Sylvie Mathieu, Coventry.....	March 21
Jacqueline Boutin, Glover.....	March 21
Huey Flanders, Newport.....	March 21
Claude Lafleur, Newport Center.....	March 21
Claudette Thibault, S. Burlington....	March 21
Marc Quirion, Coventry.....	March 21
Caroline Aurora Todd, Canton, NY..	March 21
Evan Mathieu, Coventry.....	March 22
Chang Sukkaew, St. Johnsbury.....	March 22
Araceli Derbyshire, Barton.....	March 22
Christine Degre, Newport.....	March 22
Isaiah Braithwaite, West Glover.....	March 22
Morgan Greene, Newport.....	March 22
Heather Kissinger, East Burke.....	March 22
Brandon Houle.....	March 23
Diane Landry, Irasburg.....	March 23
Jaxon Manning, Fletcher.....	March 23
Tucker Baker.....	March 23
Ryan DeGreenia, Charleston.....	March 23
Gabriel Patenaude, Derby.....	March 24
John Auclair, East Charleston.....	March 25
Cedric Stevens.....	March 25
Laura Gonyaw, Glover.....	March 25
Mary Ingalls, East Albany.....	March 25

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Names are submitted by your family and friends, but if you'd like your name removed or your town changed, please let us know. Once you've submitted a birthday, no need to resubmit next year.

# Daisy Dopp had an amazing memory for detail

(Continued from page eight.)

home, and in the winter rode her grandfather's horse over the snowy fields. When it came time to go to high school, Daisy boarded by the week in Barton, and as a country girl had to put up with her share of teasing for being a "hayseed".

In her stories Daisy described roads now grown over, buildings which have crumbled back into their cellar holes, and long-gone friends and relatives. But she did more than simply document a rural corner of northern New England. She was fiercely proud of her family and their occupation of farming. Warm affection for her community and deep love for the countryside, its history and changing seasons, fill her writing. Her amazing memory for detail and her direct, conversational prose bring to life a host of colorful characters, furred and feathered, as well as human. She brimmed over with information and anecdotes about every aspect of this fast-disappearing way of life.

But not only the past attracted Daisy's attentions.

She had a lively curiosity for the new and untried, and recounted her first visit to the laundromat with as much relish as her first visit in the early 1900s to the Barton Fair. Her family was the second in Glover to get a car, an E-M-F, and so began Daisy's lifelong exploration of her beloved Northeast Kingdom. She always seemed ready to drop everything, pack a lunch, and go off "shunpiking" down the byways and backroads of Orleans and Caledonia counties. She inherited

more than a touch of great-grandmother Maria's Romany blood.

Together with an old chum, Daisy explored the Province of Quebec and even ventured across the Western Plains and south to the Capitol.

Enthusiastic reports followed these travels, but such excursions were few; the familiar and every-day provided most of the material for her writing. Occasionally the extra-ordinary events of everyday life spiced these narratives: a wedding, a surprise kitchen junket, a fire, an unexpected visit by the barn inspector.

Jim and Daisy had no children, but they liked young people and befriended a succession of farm lads who worked for them. They also adopted more than their share of strays— cats, dogs and birds, and some of Daisy's most delightful characters are from the animal kingdom.

Daisy was quick to see the humor in many a situation, too: her 16-pound cat stuck in the cat-hole, the town fathers having the welcome mat snatched out from under their feet by a surly householder, or her stout self coasting down the slippery chicken-coop stairs and landing on some astonished and indignant hens.


For nearly half a century the Dopps lived "a life full of hard work... and as long as we are passably well and content, I guess we would not have it otherwise: the peace and quiet of the countryside at evening... the safety of the familiar hills... the friendliness of farm neighbors and companionship in the old home."

In 1963 the Vermont State Grange awarded them the Century Farm plaque; in 1969 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. But sorrowful changes lay just ahead. Age and ill-health forced them "to part with their herd"; they sold the farm; and just before the year closed, Jim suffered a fatal heart attack. A huge auction the following summer dispersed most of the worldly goods created and accumulated by generations of this industrious family. Daisy moved into a small house in Glover Village, where she lived alone. She wrote many more reminiscences but never returned to her home, choosing to keep it unchanged in her memory.

My parents, John and Maria Scott, of Connecticut, bought the old Sherburne homestead, and I moved there with my husband, Peter, our five children, and the puppets and props of the Bread and Puppet Theater, in 1974. I was privileged to visit Daisy in the ensuing years, and she gave me much fascinating and valuable information about our new home. Though she was always cordial and treated me kindly, it was clear that leaving the farm had been a traumatic experience for her, and the separation from her birthplace remained a painful one. Her last years were spent in the Colonial Manor Nursing Home, and she died there quietly, on January 9, 1981, at the age of 81.

Glover, Vermont  
April 1983


We are going to plant seeds...



## Newspaper Fun!

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...for radishes, herbs and flowers.




Kids: color stuff in!

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There are many jobs to be done after a long winter. People in the city, town and country all do spring cleaning and chores based on their needs. **Read the clues to fill in the crossword with chores. How many of these jobs have you seen people doing? How many did you help to do?** (Hint: use a pencil to fill in the clues below first. This is tricky!)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ messy closets
2. \_\_\_\_\_ your warmer weather clothes that have been in storage
3. \_\_\_\_\_ seeds so you can watch things grow
4. \_\_\_\_\_ flowers to give the house some color
5. \_\_\_\_\_ sidewalks that have gathered sand and dirt
6. \_\_\_\_\_ fences that have been damaged during the winter
7. \_\_\_\_\_ out your house with a fresh crisp breeze
8. \_\_\_\_\_ storm windows with screens
9. \_\_\_\_\_ driveways so that we can move cars about easily
10. \_\_\_\_\_ the overgrown grass on the lawn
11. \_\_\_\_\_ weeds from the garden
12. \_\_\_\_\_ the furniture in your room for a new look
13. \_\_\_\_\_ the dust out of rugs
14. \_\_\_\_\_ soot from the chimney
15. \_\_\_\_\_ the overgrown bushes
16. wash and \_\_\_\_\_ the car
17. \_\_\_\_\_ clean the dirty carpet
18. \_\_\_\_\_ laundry to dry on a clothesline

### It's Time for... Spring Cleaning



Wow! Look what I'm finding under your bed!

It's that time of year when we can open the windows and freshen everything!

A good spring cleaning after winter is almost a pleasure to complete. Then, once our homes are in order, we are ready for sunny, warm summer.

Yikes!

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**Can You Clean Up These Messes?**

How many of these DUST KITTIES did I find under your bed? Look around the whole page. Put your answer in the biggest bubble.

Have you ever heard of "slang"? It is a way of talking that is a little different from the standard English in books. For example, if I say, "Boy, we really cleaned up at the garage sale," I am telling you that we made a lot of money, not that I put away all the things we had for sale.

**Can you match these slang expressions to their meanings?**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. clean sweep</li> <li>2. clean out</li> <li>3. clean hands</li> <li>4. come clean</li> <li>5. keep one's nose clean</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. to stay out of trouble</li> <li>B. to win everything</li> <li>C. innocent, has done nothing wrong</li> <li>D. to take everything, empty</li> <li>E. confess, tell the whole story</li> </ol>
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What things might you use to clean up? Can you find these items in the scrub brush and circle them?

vacuum cleaner

paper towels

trash barrel

hedge clippers

brush

pail

soap

wax

ladder

broom

water


rags

rake

mop


hose

sponges



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### Busting Dust!



Little, fluffy, grey balls of dust found under the couch or behind the door are called "dust bunnies" or "dust kittens." We are usually made up of skin cells, hair and tiny pieces of dirt. To people, we can be a nuisance. We sometimes block air filters, get into computers or just gather together under your furniture. We can make people sneeze! **Read each numbered word or phrase below. Next, choose the correct definition by circling the letter "A" or "B."**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. dust</li> <li>2. dust bunnies</li> <li>3. an item is "collecting dust"</li> <li>4. the flies "bit the dust"</li> <li>5. the lead runner left the others "in the dust"</li> <li>6. I'm going to "dust off" my hobby box</li> <li>7. when she works she "makes the dust fly"</li> </ol>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. tiny pieces of dirt, skin, hair</li> <li>A. bunnies that clean your house</li> <li>A. isn't being used anymore</li> <li>A. died</li> <li>A. was far ahead of the others</li> <li>A. put the box into the closet</li> <li>A. she works with lots of energy</li> </ol> </td> <td style="width: 50%;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. tiny flower seeds</li> <li>B. little clumps of fluffy, grey dust</li> <li>B. putting dust into a bag</li> <li>B. ate dust for their lunch</li> <li>B. knocked other runners into the dirt</li> <li>B. take it out of storage to use again</li> <li>B. the dust balls jump into little airplanes</li> </ol> </td> </tr> </table>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. tiny pieces of dirt, skin, hair</li> <li>A. bunnies that clean your house</li> <li>A. isn't being used anymore</li> <li>A. died</li> <li>A. was far ahead of the others</li> <li>A. put the box into the closet</li> <li>A. she works with lots of energy</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. tiny flower seeds</li> <li>B. little clumps of fluffy, grey dust</li> <li>B. putting dust into a bag</li> <li>B. ate dust for their lunch</li> <li>B. knocked other runners into the dirt</li> <li>B. take it out of storage to use again</li> <li>B. the dust balls jump into little airplanes</li> </ol>
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## CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				18						19		
20				21		22			23			
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52	53	54				55			56	57	58	59
60						61			62		63	
64						65					66	
67						68					69	

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### CLUES ACROSS

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type of footwear</li> <li>5. Studies a lot all at once</li> <li>10. Adventure story</li> <li>14. Hundred thousand</li> <li>15. Former U.S. Vice President</li> <li>16. Ruler</li> <li>17. Indian city</li> <li>18. Similar</li> <li>19. Ship as cargo</li> <li>20. Volcanic craters</li> <li>22. Boxing's "GOAT"</li> <li>23. Bullfighting maneuvers</li> <li>24. London soccer team</li> <li>27. Score perfectly</li> <li>30. No (Scottish)</li> <li>31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)</li> <li>32. Woman (French)</li> <li>35. Unwanted attic "decor"</li> <li>37. Peter Griffin's daughter</li> <li>38. Broad, shallow crater</li> <li>39. Large instruments</li> <li>40. Low bank or reef</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. ___ and Venzetti</li> <li>42. Oil group</li> <li>43. Father</li> <li>44. Aggressive men</li> <li>45. Pairs well with green</li> <li>46. Travelers need it</li> <li>47. Digital audiotape</li> <li>48. Midway between northeast and east</li> <li>49. Chemistry descriptor</li> <li>52. S. China seaport</li> <li>55. Sound unit</li> <li>56. Heavy cavalry sword</li> <li>60. Thick piece of something</li> <li>61. Spa town in Austria</li> <li>63. Boyfriend</li> <li>64. Norse personification of old age</li> <li>65. Type of box</li> <li>66. Tie together</li> <li>67. Fiber from the coconut</li> <li>68. Chicago mayor</li> <li>69. Old English letters</li> </ol>
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### CLUES DOWN

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Type of sauce</li> <li>2. Pattern of notes</li> <li>3. Plant with long seedpods</li> <li>4. Map out</li> <li>5. Numbers cruncher</li> <li>6. Make a mental connection</li> <li>7. Italian tenor</li> <li>8. N. America's highest mountain peak</li> <li>9. Witness</li> <li>10. Arabic given name</li> <li>11. Music awards</li> <li>12. "The Immoralist" author</li> <li>13. Area units</li> <li>21. Units of loudness</li> <li>23. Political action committee</li> <li>25. Bar bill</li> <li>26. Witch</li> <li>27. A theatrical performer</li> <li>28. 2-door car</li> <li>29. ___ and flowed</li> <li>32. Papier-___, art medium</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33. City in Georgia</li> <li>34. Irregular</li> <li>36. College sports conference</li> <li>37. Angry</li> <li>38. Partner to cheese</li> <li>40. S. American mammal</li> <li>41. Self-immolation by fire rituals</li> <li>43. Split pulses</li> <li>44. Disfigure</li> <li>46. Cow noise</li> <li>47. Erase</li> <li>49. Chadic language</li> <li>50. Reward for doing well</li> <li>51. Paid TV</li> <li>52. Millisecond</li> <li>53. Other</li> <li>54. Colombian city</li> <li>57. Necklace part</li> <li>58. Every one of two or more people</li> <li>59. Regrets</li> <li>61. They come after "A"</li> <li>62. Horse noise</li> </ol>
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See solution on page 30