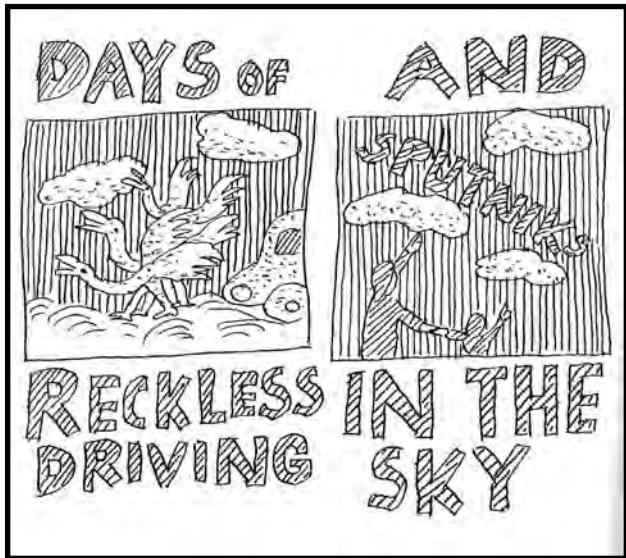


Glover farm life in the 1800s

by Daisy Dopp

Daisy Dopp lived most of her life on the Glover farm that is now home to the Bread and Puppet Theater. When her husband, Jim, died in 1970, Daisy Dopp moved to a home in the village, and spent some of her time writing articles recalling life on the farm. Most were published first in the Newport Daily Express. Elka Schumann befriended Daisy Dopp and, in cooperation with the Old Stone House Museum, collected and edited a collection of her columns. This is the sixth of a series of these columns, with illustrations by Peter Schumann and photographs provided by the Glover Historical Society, the Chronicle will publish from time to time.



Illustrations by Peter Schumann.

In these days of reckless driving on the highways and Sputniks in the sky, it is interesting to look back at things as they were before we got to traveling so fast. It is thought that my great-grandfather John Sherburne came to Glover about 1812. In 1846 he bought the farm where Jim and I spent our 50 years of married life.



With great-grandfather came his young wife, Maria, in whose veins flowed fiery gypsy blood. All the bad or unusual traits of our family were conveniently blamed to that Romany strain of my great-grandmother. They raised seven children to adulthood and for many years all farms from the Greensboro road to the Sheffield Heights crest were held by members of the family.

In those days our farm was a well-known stopping place for large herds of cattle that were driven to Boston by men on foot. The drovers brought news and gossip gathered along the trail. Big flocks of turkeys and geese were also taken through the state.

In Willard C. Leonard's *History of Glover* he mentions a drive made in 1870 by two brothers, Cromwell and Amos Bean. It is said that they drove 1,000 turkeys on the highway from their farm in Glover to Washington, Vermont, a distance of 50 miles.

Every fall John and Maria rode to Montpelier behind a four-horse team. The wagon was loaded with potatoes, maple sugar, butter, and other farm products. These were traded for a supply of flour, white sugar, tea, cloth, and other necessities which they could not make or buy here. Each year in a secret pocket of Maria's underskirt was a little cloth bag filled with small coins saved from her chicken and egg money for this special occasion.

Their recreation was very different from ours today. In the district schoolhouses on winter nights were held spelling bees, singing, and, sometimes, prayer meetings.

There were sure to be some corn huskings as well. The work completed, everyone took part in the barn dance which usually followed, with music by the community fiddler. When I was a child, I recall going to a husking bee at the Eliega Norton farm, where the Bedway's now live. This was a great era for surprise parties and kitchen junkets. Old-time dance music would ring out until the early morning hours.

The fiddler's strength was usually sustained by frequent nips at the little brown jug. Every little while some woman in the party would hurry to the bedroom and inspect the babies who were spread thickly over the bed. She wanted to be certain that all was well with the tiny tots who were sleeping peacefully while their parents danced the night away.

People took their voting seriously in those days. Sometimes it would be late at night before a town representative could be



Maria Sherburne. Photos courtesy of the Glover Historical Society

sure he was elected. There were no cars and no telephones. They just hitched up the little Morgan and away they dashed carrying the news to every farm that there had been another tie vote. Forks were dropped, pails set down and chores halted while off to town raced the voters, each determined his man should win. The taxpayer had every intention of electing someone who was interested in how his money was spent.

Near the middle of the century the Orleans Liberal Institute opened with a trifle less than 100 pupils. It was located along the stagecoach line from St. Johnsbury, Montpelier, and

(Continued on page thirteen.)



Sherburne homestead, Glover, Vermont, circa 1914.

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Northeast Kingdom Spay-Neuter Program: Provides a voucher for a spay/neuter procedure at a reduced fee for either a cat or a dog in Orleans or Essex counties, for use at participating local veterinarians. For more info call 802-334-7393.

Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP): Provides spay/neuter assistance to lower-income Vermonters. \$27.00 co-payment for each animal (dog or cat); procedures are performed by participating local veterinarians. More info at dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/vsnip or 1-844-448-7647 or email vsnip@vermontel.net.

VT-CANI: Is a stationary, reduced cost, high quality, high volume spay/neuter clinic located in Middlesex, Vermont. More info at <http://vt-can.org>. You can also email info@vt-can.org or call 802-223-0034.

Providing Ethical Treatment for Strays (P.E.T.S.) of the Kingdom: Focuses on animal cruelty investigation and other animal welfare issues. More info at petsofthekingdom.vwebly.com or 802-673-3791.

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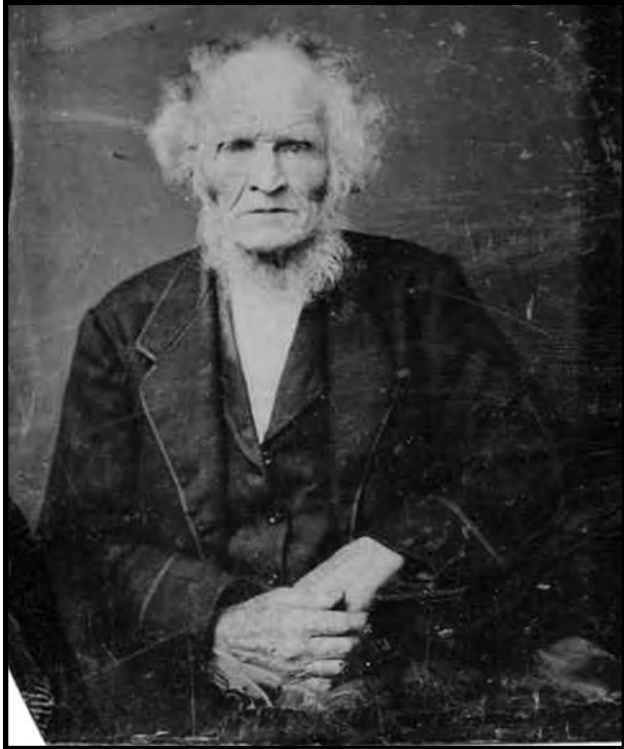
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Freedom of thought and opinion guaranteed



John Sherburne, Jr.

(Continued from page twelve.)

Stanstead. Nearly one-half of the students came from out of town. Interesting to note is the regulation, "Perfect freedom of thought, freedom of opinion is guaranteed to all who become members of the school." It was also designed to

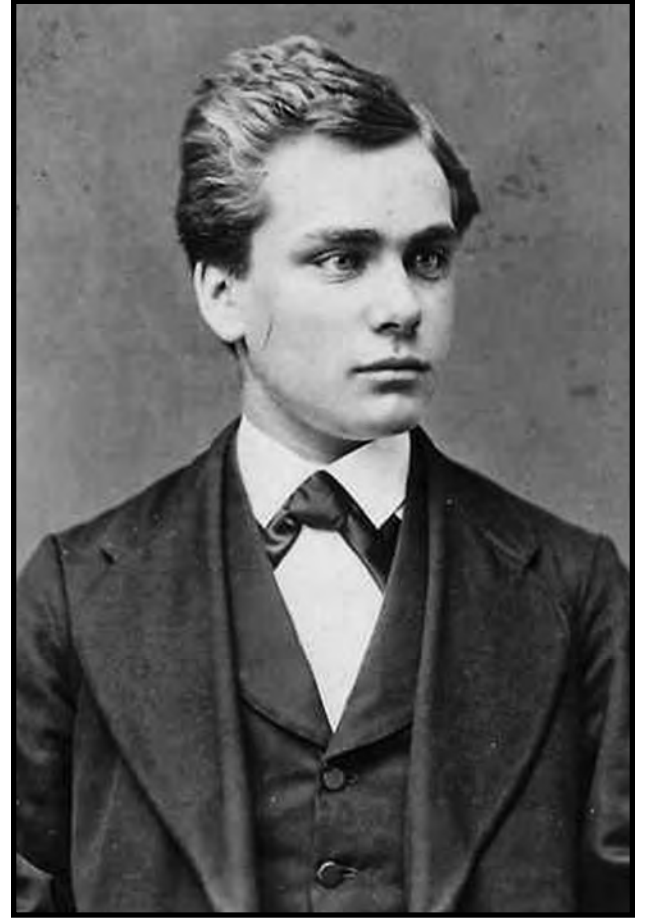
lead a student to form correct habits of thought, and habits of self-reliance. This academy became well known and was considered one of the best in New England. Many people who received their schooling here proved by their actions in later life that the ideals of this fine school had left their imprint upon their characters.

Many of the young farm people went there after finishing district school. My parents were among those who did. Professor Vittum was the principal. He was very youthful for the position but was an excellent instructor in mathematics, especially mental arithmetic.

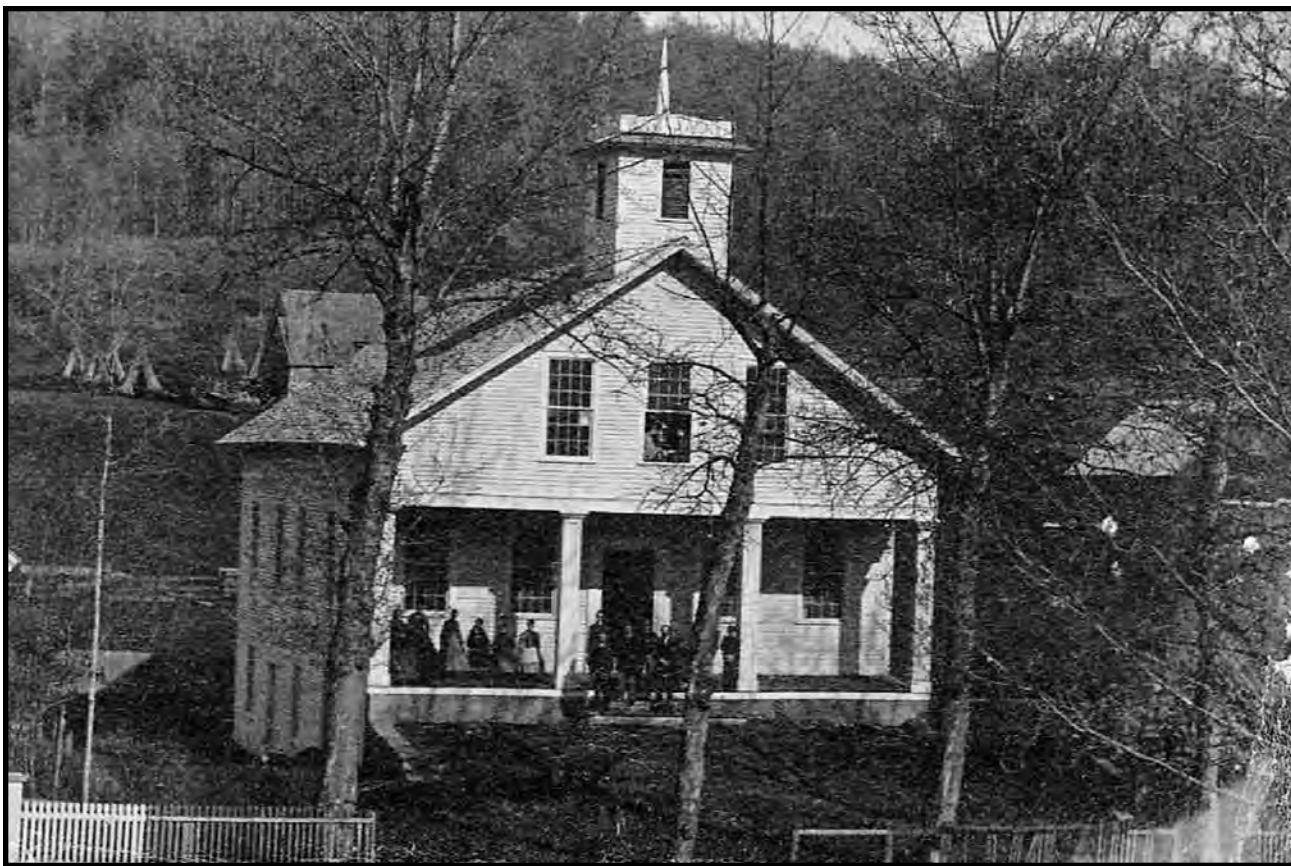
I remember that my mother sighed as she said he was a very handsome young man, but my father said he had never noticed.

Compared with these early settlers we have life so good it is almost frightening. We can go into our homes and close the door, turn on a switch and be entertained by the finest talent. We can hear news almost as soon as it happens anywhere in the world. If disaster strikes, social welfare will help, if it is bad enough. John and Maria had to depend on each other and the community for help, entertainment, and spiritual comfort. With all our conveniences and pleasures, I wonder if we haven't lost a priceless closeness with our families and neighbors that these old-timers had when they lived, worked, played, and prayed together.

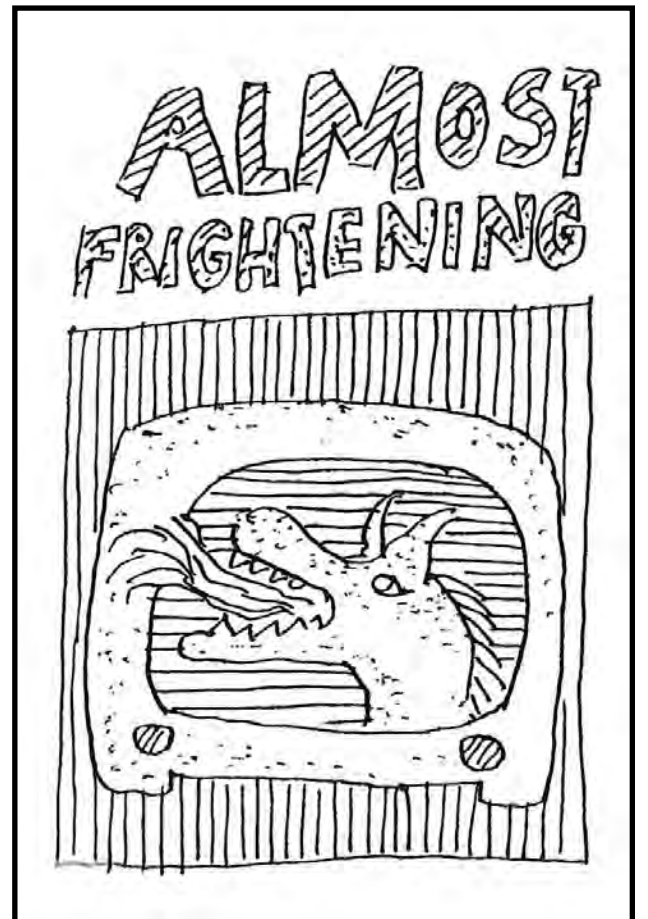
April 20, 1974



Professor Vittum.



Orleans Liberal Institute, Main St., Glover, Vermont, circa 1890.



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