

THE PEACHAM PATRIOT

PEACHAM HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Picture Perfect: The Most Photographed Town in Vermont

Peacham is often called “the most photographed town in Vermont.” Although we have no way of knowing if the claim is true, the particular beauty of this hill town set in a patchwork of fields and woods has undeniably attracted photographers from the earliest years of the medium’s existence. Peacham was first photographed by its own residents, several of them women, and PHA’s collection includes some family albums containing their images. The increased popularity of rural vacations (described by Kathleen Monroe in this issue) also led professional photographers, who typically worked for postcard manufacturers, to visit Peacham and make it known far and wide. These postcard images played an important role in shaping both the new economy of tourism and public opinion about what was picturesque in Vermont.

The postcard was invented in Germany in 1865 and quickly gained popularity among travelers as a means of sharing their journeys with family and friends back home. Many travelers sent a card from every point of a journey. By 1905, seven billion postcards were sent worldwide; in 1913, 968,000,000 were sent in the United States alone.

Picture Perfect, PHA’s 2024 Historical House exhibition, will display postcard images of Peacham made during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These fine postcards come from two sources.

One source, the Penobscot Maritime Museum, holds an outstanding collection of Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company (Eastern) negatives. Eastern made postcards of unusual visual



Peacham Village, 1920's. Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company postcard. Courtesy of Kevin Johnson, Penobscot Maritime Museum. Print taken from glass plate made for postcard production.

quality, and it published many images of Peacham. The Museum collection contains over 50 Peacham images, and we are currently deciding which to include in the exhibition. Because the Museum has the original negatives, it is possible to make prints much larger than the original postcards to facilitate viewing. Kevin Johnson, the Museum’s photography archivist and an expert on early postcards, has agreed to collaborate with PHA in producing the exhibition. Johnson personally rescued the Eastern negatives after a flood and shepherded them to the Museum.

The second source for the exhibition is PHA’s own archives, which hold many donated postcards. Some duplicate those in the Museum collection, but others come from different manufacturers and show different views. Following their donation, these images were typically filed in folders by subject (usually the building or geographical feature shown). This exhibition provides the opportunity to consider the cards as

a body of work intentionally crafted and marketed to show picturesque features of a typical Vermont village. They also give us the opportunity to examine the role postcards played in the social life of the time, and we will exhibit PHA’s postcards with the often-fascinating messages written on their flip sides.

The postcards also offer a window into how Peacham has changed. For example, the cards reveal major differences in the density, location, and types of trees in Peacham. Compared to today, the postcards show far more trees in village centers and fewer outside of villages. Avenues of towering elms, which succumbed decades ago to Dutch elm disease, frame several village views, while deforestation from sheep farming opened views across hills that are now impossible to see. Other postcards offer evidence of commercial activity, such as the South Peacham creamery, that has disappeared.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.



First, I want to thank all of you whose support made 2023 so successful. PHA could not function without you! I particularly want to thank Bruce and Margaret Maclean, who hosted a wonderful and well-attended Wine and Cheese Party at their beautiful home on Macks' Mountain Road, and the various volunteers who prepared last summer's *Rags to Riches* exhibit and made presentations at one of PHA's complementary programs.

2023 was a busy and productive year for PHA. *Rags to Riches* attracted more than 400 visitors, including two groups of school children. The related *Under*

the Tent events — "Spinning and Felting" with Marilyn Magnus and Kathy Galinat, "Tea and Textiles" with Susan Chandler, 19th Century Games— and other programs related to the exhibit were all interesting and successful. PHA was also featured on five episodes of Channels 22 and 44's "This Place in History." The five episodes focused on the Academy, the Congregational Church, the award-winning *Preserving Peacham's Past* anniversary volume, and the Snow Roller Museum. We finished the year with a Halloween Spooky Blacksmith Shop that attracted more than 70 trick or treaters. Ongoing projects include the second edition of *Historic Homes of Peacham*, due to be published next summer, and cataloging our collections more logically and accessibly with upgraded Past Perfect software. PHA also continues to be a resource for researchers. This past year, Susan Chandler fielded about 20 genealogical inquiries in addition to other requests for information.

Planning for next summer's exhibit, described elsewhere in this issue, and related programming is well underway. Please check our website, www.peachamhistorical.org, for updates.

PHA is always looking for volunteers and new members to assist with various projects. If you would like to volunteer, please drop a note to peachamhistorical@gmail.com.

Hoping to see you this summer!

STEVE GALINAT, PHA President

(above) Spooky Blacksmith Shop.

(right) Spinning and Felting with Marilyn Magnus and Kathy Galinat.



Historic Homes of Peacham: A New Edition in 2024

The second, revised edition of the PHA's *Historic Homes of Peacham* (2007), is scheduled for publication during the summer of 2024. Revising this popular book has proven to be a very rewarding task, full of surprises and new discoveries. For example, the antique buildings described in the text offer many lessons in moving parts. The frame structures were flexible enough to be relocated, and they often were. (The Congregational Church is the most stunning of these relocations).

Following the original plan of including all structures built before 1900, the editors have added 25 new entries for buildings overlooked in the first edition. Some of the newly added buildings have remarkable histories. As a preview for *Patriot* readers, we include, below, the new entry for the house currently occupied by Glen and Ruth Marceau. The Marceau home was originally occupied by the family of Dr. John Skeel, one of Peacham's three original settlers. The house is especially interesting because part of the structure seems to have been moved from an earlier Skeel home across the road. The house was also home to Ruth Skeel, a remarkable person who was shortchanged during her own era. Read on:

SKEEL HOMESTEAD (Also spelled Skeels, Skeele) Ca. 1790–1820

The oldest part of the existing farm complex is a simply styled cape with a few wood details such as the molded cornice and the returns, which fully pediment the gable end. The gable wall dormer in the wing has an unusual overhang in the peak which is supported by paired brackets.

Dr. John Skeel and his wife Phebe Webster Skeel were among the very first European settlers of Peacham. Their daughter, Ruth, born in 1778, was the first female child born in Peacham. It is an oft-told tale that whereas the arrival of the first male child was celebrated with a gift of 50 acres of land, for Ruth's birth "no official notice was taken of the occurrence." (Bogart's *Histories of*

Peacham) Ruth grew up to be one of the earliest teachers in the village. Before girls were admitted to the Academy in 1805, Ruth taught at the “Dames School” in Peacham Village.

The family lived on this site for three generations. It is believed the original Skeel farmstead was located across the road (remnants of a cellar hole remain) and that the oldest part of this house was relocated from the original farmstead to the current site, being the building closest to the road. Parts of one barn may also date from the 18th century. The building complex as a whole appears to date from the time John and Phebe’s son Asa Skeel and grandson John Hand Skeel lived there. Asa, born in 1791, lived his life in Peacham; John Hand, born 1834, was part of the generation which emigrated west. By the late 1860’s, the Skeel family deeded the property to Charles and Maria Herring, who in turn sold the property to Dougal Stewart. Dougal and his wife Jane Orr Stewart had five children; the oldest son, Robert Charles Stewart, inherited the house. This family were the last 19th century owners. The property remains an active farm.

JOHANNA BRANSON & JUTTA SCOTT



Skeel Homestead in the 19th century.
Photo courtesy of Ruth Marceau.



Skeel (Marceau) Homestead today.
Photo courtesy of Jock Gill.



New to PHA’s Collection: Photographs of the Hunt Farm Above Ewell Mill Road

This past summer, PHA received five large photographs from Ed and Charlotte Schneider. The photographs were found wedged between large slabs of lumber in the loft of the Schneider’s barn near Ewell Pond. The photographs were damaged by a long period of unprotected storage, but they are notable as newly discovered scenes of 19th century Peacham. We are sharing two of the five photographs here.

After careful analysis, PHA determined that the photographs likely depict the Hunt farm circa 1885-1890. The farm was located high on a hill overlooking both a sawmill and a sash and door shop then situated on Ewell Mill Road. A constructed pond is now located adjacent to this spot where the Bailey Hazen Road meets Ewell Mill Road. However, during the 19th century, this area was in its natural state, with a rough pond surrounded by a large marshy area. One of the photographs allows us to glimpse the wetlands as they were at that time.

The “Hunt Farmhouse” photograph, (above), shows a group composed, we believe, of Lester Marshall Hunt, his wife Mary Della Dana Hunt, their children, and others in front of the Hunt farmhouse. Lester Hunt was born in 1853 to the Charles M. Hunt family of Danville. In 1879, he married Mary Della Dana, born in 1862 in Peacham.

The date when the Hunt farm was established is unknown. This photograph, which looks southeast, is the first in PHA’s collection to show the large lumber sheds (below the house on the left) and pond with floating logs (on the right) which sat at the top of Ewell Mill Road and were used by the sawmill.

The second photograph (below), facing northwest, depicts the farmhouse and a barn. The land has been roughly cleared, and we can see several outbuildings around the farmhouse. We believe the man in the horse-drawn carriage is Lester Hunt.

If you would like to see all five photographs in the series, please visit our Archive and Research Center when we open for the season in May.

PHA is always interested in receiving photographs of Peacham. We appreciate the donation of these photographs by the Schneiders.

SUSAN CHANDLER



We're Going to Camp: The Early History of Vacation Camping

The word “vacation” comes from the Latin *vacare*, meaning “to be empty, free, have leisure.” In English, vacation’s first known use appears in Chaucer’s 14th-century *Canterbury Tales*, where the Wife of Bath tells her fellow travelers that the subject of her tale would “reden on [read]” a “book of wikked wyves” whenever “he had leyser [leisure] and vacacioun [vacation] from other worldly occupacioun.” Except for school children and the wealthy, Americans typically did not enjoy leisurely vacations until after the Civil War. Travel was arduous, and both money and leisure were scarce.

Early Americans did make time to travel to religious “camp” meetings. Although the origins of the camp meeting are obscure, these events were a prominent feature of early 19th-century spiritual experience. During the Second Great Awakening, an evangelical movement promoted by Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and other preachers, families often traveled for days to attend such an event. Some camp meetings attracted thousands of participants and lasted up to two weeks. Participants were expected to bring a tent and feed for their horses. During the meeting, they attended virtually non-stop sermons and hymns. Camp meetings also offered community and diversion. Women brought sheets from home that they cooperatively fastened together in proper

lengths, demonstrating their sewing skills to each other and the crowd. The men cut and fashioned poles for A-frame shelters accommodating 15 to 50 people. Once erected, these structures contained sheet-partitioned rooms: a kitchen, a dining and activities room, and, at night, men’s and women’s sleeping areas. Men and women divided the housekeeping tasks, and a minister oversaw each tent. Each family brought a generous amount of food to prepare and share.

One of Vermont’s earliest religious revival meetings was held in Peacham in 1831. The Peacham Congregational Church, pastored by Rev. Leonard Worcester, sponsored the event. Although participants did not erect tents, from July 12–15 as many as two hundred congregants met in the Church, Academy, and open air to heal what Worcester described as a “spirit of disunion, and alienation, and hardness, and coldness, and unbelief.” Rev. Worcester wrote:

It was thought by many that a more unsuitable time for the meeting could hardly have been selected, as our farmers were just entering in earnest upon their haying... [T]hough the weather was never more favorable for making hay than during the whole time of the meeting, our farmers, generally, threw aside their scythes and rakes and flocked to the house of God.¹

Hazen Merrill (1796-1868) attended the event and wrote about it in a letter to his brother Samuel: “This church and people have for a long time ... made

divisions among us which in a few months have vanished into thin air,” Hazen wrote.

Most of the town has had protracted meetings continuing four or five days conducted something after the manner of Camp meetings which have been the commencement of powerful revivals of religion. We had a meeting of this discription [sic] the 2nd week in July, which seemed to produce wonders. So general is the work that there is hardly a person among us who does (not) feel anxious to share in its benefits—our old minister sees a day which he dared not to hope for.²

Peacham’s meeting for spiritual restoration was not repeated. But camp meetings took place throughout Vermont. Camp meeting sites emerged in Northfield, White River Junction, Morrisville, St. Albans, Lyndonville, St. Johnsbury, Burlington, and Milton. The meetings typically lasted one week and were held annually, usually on a local farmer’s donated acreage and often on or near a body of water. Families from as far as 30-40 miles away participated.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, camp meetings became more organized. Church associations purchased land, often called a “grove,” for summertime religious camping. On these sites, they constructed permanent meeting spaces, an auditorium, and cottages for the comfort and convenience of the participants. In some places, “the cottages were evenly placed on twenty-foot wide streets that intersected with each other at right angles,”³ creating a neighborhood feel. Boarding houses and tent rentals were made available for those who did not wish to construct their own tents or live in one of the kitchenless cottages.

Over time, a tug-of-war developed between camp-meeting purists and those who enjoyed these gatherings as an opportunity for secular social and recreational activities, albeit with a modicum of religious fervor. Some campgrounds started to offer more secular lecture subjects and activities. Morrisville, for example, offered “interesting meetings for children, laymen, and Women’s Foreign Mission during



Winslow Homer, *The Tent* (Camp Meeting Sketches, 1858).



Winslow Homer, **Cooking** (Camp Meeting Sketches, 1858).

the day [and the] . . . young people of Morrisville, with their accustomed zeal, furnished a very convenient tent for social meetings.⁷ 4

After the Civil War, religious camp meetings faced new competition from secular recreational facilities. By the 1860s, new railroad lines, improved roads, and increased prosperity made long-distance travel viable, while the rapid growth of crowded, dirty cities made country life increasingly appealing. Doctors urged a stay in the pure air of the country as a path to physical health, and hotels, inns, boarding houses, and camping facilities sprung up in rural areas, including Vermont, to meet the growing demand. By the last decades of the 19th century, vacationing families had many options. Even those who chose camping could do so in relative luxury, traveling by rail to campsites offering fully furnished tents and a range of activities, such as tramping (going for long-distance walks in rough country and setting up a tent), fishing, hunting, sightseeing by boat, and taking a guided tour through the wilderness. Many religious campgrounds evolved into middle-class resorts with privately owned cottages during this period. (“Cottage” was the preferred term for these summer domiciles from the 1880s into the 1940s.) In the next issue of the *Patriot*, I will explore the emergence of resort developments in the Peacham area.

KATHLEEN MONROE

1. *Vermont Watchman and State Journal*, Montpelier, Vt., August 23, 1831.

2. Bushnell, Mark. “Religious Revival Took Hold of Vermont in the Early 1800s.” *vtidigger*, February 20, 2022.

3. Id.

4. *Vermont Christian Messenger*, Montpelier, Vt., September 7, 1876.

Westward They Went: The Story of the Migration of Peacham’s Civil War Veterans

During the Civil War, which raged from 1861 to 1865, about 170 Peacham men served in the Union Army. The post-war years brought both challenges and opportunities for the 122 veterans who survived the war and came home. Some veterans resumed their former lives, but about 30 migrated to the West either soon after their return or in the years that followed.¹ The migrants’ story is a tale of resilience, opportunity, and adventure. This article describes the experiences of several Peacham veterans who went west.

Why Migrate?

Several factors drove the westward migration of veterans:

Economic calculations often suggested migration. Peacham’s economy was in decline. Many veterans had also been separated from their families for three or more years, and their former jobs and roles had been assumed by others. By contrast, the frontier West offered free land and a range of economic opportunities. The Homestead Act of 1862 provided 160 acres of free federal land to anyone willing to develop it. Mining, ranching, and railroad construction were also booming in the western territories, creating alternative paths to prosperity.

The perceived risks of migration were diminished by the fact that many Peachamites had already moved west. These previous migrants sent letters home describing their successful farming and business ventures. Prior migrants could also provide a sense of community and help in getting established; several veterans thus moved to places where neighbors or family members had already settled.

Expanding railroad lines made travel and goods transportation much safer and faster; these lines also created new settlements and jobs. Railroad companies received federal land subsidies for building railroad lines and promoted the sale of land grants to settlers.

Migration west also offered adventure. During their time in the Union Army, veterans had typically gained survival skills and practice in living under difficult conditions. Some had developed a taste for movement and new experiences, and these men were eager for the thrills and opportunities of the untamed wilderness in the American West.

Finally, for some veterans, the traumas of war had made resettling difficult. Several veterans had suffered disabling injuries that inhibited the resumption of their former occupations, and others suffered from chronic disease. Still others succumbed to mental illness, and many had been changed—and often scarred—by their army experiences.

Paths to Prosperity

The majority of Peacham veterans prospered in their new lives. They did so through a wide range of strategies.

FARMING was the most common path to economic success: Before their enlistment, the majority of the young Peacham men worked as laborers on their family farm or as hired hands on another local farm. At least six veterans filed Homestead Act claims and continued farming after moving west.

One such homesteader was veteran Alexander Ferguson (1845–1900), who moved with his parents from Scotland to Peacham in the 1850s. Like virtually all of Peacham’s Civil War veterans, Alexander returned to Peacham after being discharged from the army in 1865. With his parents, wife, and daughter, he emigrated to Greeley, Weld County, Colorado in the 1870s; on December 15, 1879, he filed for a 160-acre land patent in Weld and farmed there until his death.

Hiram C. Varnum (1838–1901) worked on his grandparents’ Peacham farm before the war and returned to Peacham after his discharge. In the late 1870s, he and his wife moved to Cottonwood, Kansas. In 1880, Hiram filed for a land patent in Chase County, Kansas. He died in 1901 and is buried in Lacelle Cemetery in Clarke County, Iowa.

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Alvin Jones (1826–1917), the oldest emigrating veteran, also ventured west in search of better farming conditions. Alvin was married and owned a farm in the north part of Peacham when the Civil War began. A year after he was discharged in July 1864, he sold his farm and moved, with his wife and four children, to Osceola, Stark County, Illinois. He eventually settled on an 80-acre farm in Pleasant Township, Iowa.

Some veterans achieved real prosperity through farming. For example, Harvey R. Hand (1840–1923) arrived in Coloma Township, Whiteside County, Illinois in the spring of 1865, and his parents followed two years later. Harvey initially rented a farm and then bought 200 acres in Hume. As his Whiteside County biography in 1885 noted: “His aggregated acreage is now 400 acres, which is all under tillage. He has an annual average of 100 cattle, 20 horses and colts, and fattens a drove of hogs for market every year.” Harvey married in 1885 and remained in Hume until his death.

MERCHANDISING offered a different path to economic success. After his army discharge, Langdon Cummings (1845–1919) lived for several years with his parents in Barnet, working as a carpenter. Not until 1887 did Langdon and his family migrate west. Together with his brother, Langan operated a coal and ice business in Clinton, Iowa, and later expanded into the feed business. He was a successful merchant and stayed in Clinton until his death.

Veteran John C. Hendry also prospered as a merchant. Hendry enlisted at age seventeen. Around 1870, he moved to Hamilton, Ohio, where founded the Hamilton Supply Co. and operated the business for many years. He died in 1930 in Hamilton.

Lucius Morse (1840–86) enlisted in the Union Army on June 10, 1861, one of Peacham’s earliest enlistments. He was assigned to Company G of the Third Vermont Regiment, a favorite of Peacham’s soldiers. He was mustered out in 1864, returned to Peacham, and then left for Osceola, Illinois, in May 1866. Thereafter, Lucius moved to Neponset,

Illinois, where several Peacham families had already settled successfully. He operated a hardware and farm implements business. His brother, Frank A. Morse, also a Civil War veteran, moved to Neponset in 1874 and worked as a clerk in his brother’s business.

RAILROADS The booming railroad industry offered another path to prosperity. Newell Blanchard (1842–1917) was among the ten Peacham soldiers who became prisoners of war at the notorious Confederate facility in Andersonville, in Georgia in the summer of 1864. After he was paroled in November 1864 he returned to his regiment and mustered out in June 1865. But the imprisonment had taken a toll on his health, and he filed for a U.S. pension as an invalid in September 1866. The same year he started his westward journey. He first worked on a farm in Pleasant, Iowa, next to the farm of Peacham veteran Alvin Jones. As with many other migrant veterans, he moved on and became a railroad conductor in Creston, Iowa, where he remained until his death. His death certificate lists his occupation as locomotive engineer.

Veteran Alvin Harriman (1835–1905) also found employment as a railroad conductor in Cameron, Missouri. Before the war, Alvin lived with his wife and two children on his farm in the northwest part of Peacham. He returned to Peacham after the war, but sold his farm and stock in October 1867, and moved with his family to Cameron, Missouri, a thriving railroad hub. He became a railroad conductor and was also appointed Clinton County postmaster, a position he held from 1875–1879. Alvin remained in Cameron until his death.

Railroads not only provided employment but created towns that were magnets for settlers. The construction of a new line by the Northern Pacific Railroad in Brainerd, Minnesota drew forty-two-year-old veteran Nathaniel L. Heath to this railroad town in 1874. Nathan worked as a carpenter in Brainerd and died there in 1883.

MINING provided yet another path to prosperity. Francis E. Sargeant (1841–1927) became secretary of the Anaconda Mining Co. in Butte, Montana.

Founded in 1881, Anaconda became the nation’s largest and most profitable mining company. Francis was also active in political affairs and served as a member of the constitutional convention when Montana was admitted to the Union. He returned to the East with his newfound wealth after 1900.

Some veterans tried many paths before achieving prosperity. For example, Charles Bickford (1841-1909) worked first in Chicago and Leavenworth, Kansas before an unsuccessful stint as a gold prospector in Montana Territory. Charles left Montana in 1868 and returned to Leavenworth where he clerked for the Missouri Valley R.R. Transfer Company. Around 1889, Charles established his own business in Troy, Kansas, and finally became prosperous.²

Some veterans succeeded in more than one venture. Two of these were cousins who migrated to Dakota territory during the Great Dakota Boom.



Asa Sargeant, usgenweb.org

Asa Sargeant (1844–1935), despite losing his sight in one eye during the war, achieved wealth in a variety of enterprises and served in several political offices. In 1868, Sargeant invested in land on the Red River, Minnesota, while still living in Peacham. Two years later, he became one of the first settlers in Traill County, Dakota Territory. At that time, the frontier settlement of Goose River (later renamed Caledonia) was a

Hudson Bay Company supply post. Asa initially worked on a Red River barge. In 1871, he became manager of the post and its docks, warehouses, and hotel. Business boomed from the steamship and stagecoach trade and from service to a stream of pioneers settling along the Goose and Red River. When the Hudson Bay Company closed its establishment, Asa bought the business with a partner. Thereafter, he served as the Goose River postmaster, secured a land grant of 160 acres, acquired several hundred additional acres of rich land, operated a hotel (The American House), opened a flour mill (the Caledonia Roller Flour Mills), and established a successful merchandising operation. Asa also played important roles in local and state government. When the territorial government for Traill County was established in 1875, Asa was elected Probate Judge. After the County Treasurer resigned, Asa took over the position in 1876. The same year, he was elected to the territorial legislature. In the fall of 1886, he was elected county register of deeds and served three terms.

Asa's cousin Chester M. Clark (1843–1885) also moved to Dakota Territory in 1870 with his two brothers. He secured a 160-acre homestead in the Caledonia Township, became the stage station keeper and, in 1875, was elected as the first County Sheriff, a post he held until 1879. After the railroad was built near Hillsboro, a neighboring settlement, Chester and his brothers moved there. The early 1880s were a boom period in Hillsboro, and Chester became a wealthy citizen. He died in May 1885 shortly after his forty-second birthday.

Some Succumbed to Adversity

Migration did not guarantee success. Farming prosperity was dependent on good weather. Thus, veteran George Blair (1835–99) was forced to abandon his previously successful Kansas farm. George, who migrated with his parents from Scotland to Peacham in the 1840s and won a Medal of Honor for his bravery during the capture of Fort Fisher (NC), went west and, in 1881, put in a homestead claim for 160 acres in Stafford, Kansas. For a decade, he farmed this homestead, but the drought and dust storms of the late 1880's forced

George to obtain a job as a servant. For the last four years of his life, he worked in a hotel in Enid, Oklahoma.³

Five veterans succumbed to illness or disability and ended their lives in a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.⁴ John Glass (ca. 1842–1885) enlisted in 1861 was discharged in November a year later for disability. He went west and drifted from Bismarck, Dakota Territory to Cloquet, Minnesota to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. John worked as a laborer and never married. He was admitted in March 1884 to the Milwaukee National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and died 10 months later of chronic diarrhea.

Alvin T. Stewart (1839–1915) enlisted from Peacham in August 1864 and served in Co. D, First Vermont Cavalry. He was taken prisoner at Columbia Furnace, North Carolina, in October 1864 and was paroled in February 1865. By 1900, he had emigrated to Wisconsin. Alvin worked as a servant in Nekime, Wisconsin, but by 1910 he was living in the Waukesha County Almshouse. Four years later, he was admitted with senile dementia to the Milwaukee National Home and died there.

Veteran Nathan Martin Hardy also died in the Milwaukee National Home. Nathan filed for a disability pension in Illinois in 1891. He was admitted to the Home in 1899, discharged in 1900, readmitted in November 1907, and died the following year.

Two other Peacham veterans, Charles Inman (1843–1906) and Moses C. Spencer (1845–1914), were admitted to the Sawtelle National Disabled Soldiers Home near Santa Monica, California, and both died there. Inman was among the first Peacham boys to enlist and was later promoted to corporal. He served throughout the war but was wounded five times. After the war, he worked as a carpenter both in Massachusetts and California after his relocation there in the late 1870s. Asa filed for a pension as an invalid in 1890. In 1897, he was admitted to the Sawtelle National Home. Veteran Moses C. Spence moved to North Pasadena, California, in 1892. He was admitted to the Sawtelle National Home at age 69 for senile dementia.

Conclusion

The westward journeys of Peacham's veterans were filled with personal sacrifice, dreams of a brighter future, and the spirit of adventure. Their migration is an integral part of Peacham's history and a testament to the resilience and courage of those who sought a new beginning in the West. The majority of veterans who emigrated built successful postwar lives, and several became prominent and wealthy citizens. Some did not fulfill their "American Dream" and ended their lives in poverty. Some, perhaps due to the physical and psychological toll of the war, died in National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Their stories are emblematic of the broader narrative of westward expansion and post-Civil War change in the United States.

JUTTA SCOTT

1. *A Vermont Hill Town in the Civil War: Peacham's Story*. Edited by Jutta R. Scott and Michelle Arnosky Sherburne. (Peacham: Peacham Historical Association, revised 2018). Additional sources included Census records, county histories from midwestern states, obituaries, and the "Vermont in the Civil War" website.

2. Lois Field White, "Charles B. Bickford, Fifteenth Reg., Co. F, Vt. Volunteers," *The Peacham Patriot* 24 (Summer 2010): 1-4.

3. Tom Ledoux, "The Story of Peacham Soldier George Blair," *The Peacham Patriot*, 25:2 (summer 2011): 2-4.

4. President Lincoln signed the legislation creating the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in March 1865. Initially, three branches were established, including the Wisconsin Home in Milwaukee. The Pacific Branch was established in 1884. That year, Congress changed the eligibility requirements for admission to the Home by allowing benefits not only to disabled veterans but also to destitute soldiers.

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P.O. Box 101
 Peacham, Vermont 05862

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South Peacham Creamery, 1920's. Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company postcard. Courtesy of Kevin Johnson, Penobscot Maritime Museum. Print taken from glass plate made for postcard production.

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PHA will collaborate with the Peacham Library on public programming related to the exhibition. Planned programs include a presentation by Kevin Johnson about Eastern's production process and distribution methods, a fascinating documentary film about Eastern photographers and their travels throughout New England, and a talk by Allen F. Davis, the author of *Postcards from Vermont: A Social History, 1905-1945* (2002). The library has planned a complementary exhibition of contemporary artists who have created their own

“picture perfect” images in diverse mediums. As always, we especially look forward to working with the Peacham Elementary School teachers and students; one preliminary thought is to invite students to take their cameras to postcard sites to view and photograph what is and is not visible today. The dates and times of *Picture Perfect* programs and activities will be available in the summer issue of the Patriot.

JOHANNA BRANSON