

consisted of scarlet coats with white and buff facings, white pants with black half-gaiters, white vests, black stockings, and citizens round hats with a brass piece in front. These companies did their full share in helping to enforce the Embargo Act of 1808. Sixty-six men from Bristol took part in the Battle of Plattsburg.

Records of the Grand Army of the Republic were burned in the 1924 Main Street fire, so their list of Civil War veterans was destroyed. At the end of this book, however, is a list of these veterans obtained from H. P. Smith's *History of Addison County* and from gravestones in Greenwood Cemetery.

Also at the end of this book are lists of the known Spanish-American War veterans, World War I veterans, World War II veterans, Korean Conflict veterans, and Vietnam Era veterans.

Information researched by Christine Levarn.

Boy Scouts

Information regarding Boy Scouts in Bristol prior to 1960 is very sketchy. About 1960, John Brown and Bill Grant provided leadership for a Cub Scout program for eight to eleven year olds and Scouting remained active for about five years with the help of Helen Brown, Marie Dion, Lelah Estey, Ruth Lathrop, Charlotte Nelson, and others. Following this period, there was a decline until Ronald Williamson became acting Cub Master in 1968. From 1972 to 1975, Michael Liberty led the Cub Scouts. 1976 was an inactive year and then in 1977 Warner Pierce took over. The next year Michael Liberty again led the Cub Scouts and was assisted by Brian Haney, Jim Hines, Patricia Liberty, Rachel Lossmen, Barbara Prime, and several others. Today Cub Scouting continues with Brian Haney as Cub Master. There are fifty registered Cub Scouts.

Boy Scouts for the older boys was reorganized by Merrill Masse in 1970. Presently Robert Blodgett is Scout Master for twelve registered Boy Scouts.

Over the years, the scouts have enjoyed marching in local parades, field

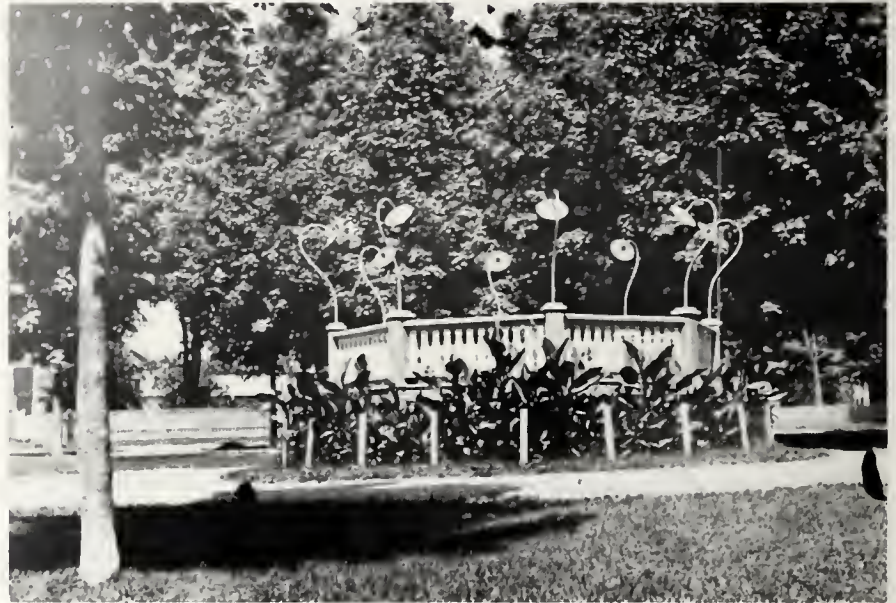
trips, camporees, and working on merit badges. They currently meet at The Federated Church.

Bristol Town Band

Bristol Village band concerts date to the 1870's and are still a popular attraction on the outdoor bandstand on the Village Park on Wednesday evenings during the summer. It is the only

town band in the State of Vermont to remain in existence for so many years. The band concert tradition began many years ago when people met to visit as well as hear the music by their neighbor musicians.

In 1884, the group was known as the Cornet Band. In time this split into two groups, one to be called the Citizens Band and the other, Bristol



Bristol Town Band

Early photo of the Bristol bandshell as it looked in the 1930's



*Bristol Bandstand —
located on the Park — 1979*

Cornet Band. Each put on a concert on the same night. One band played on the steps of the Bristol Inn and the other on the porch of the Hatch Block (known in 1979 as the Bristol Tavern). They took turns playing selections. This dual situation existed for several years, at which time, the Bristol Military Band was formed from both groups. This name was retained until 1969 when the present title of Bristol Town Band came into use.

The only illumination for early musicians was kerosene torches held by youngsters. These were replaced by electric lights. The first bandstand was built around 1913. In 1937, a modern bandstand with sounding board cover was erected.

Previous to 1900, the Bristol Band was directed by Mr. Allie Vittum; from 1900 to about 1905 by George Guinan; from 1905 to around 1927 Howard Hasseltine and Mr. Guinan shared the directorship; from 1928 until the late forties and early fifties by John L. Selden.

In the early fifties, the membership declined and members combined with the Vergennes Band giving two concerts each week — one in Vergennes and one in Bristol.

From 1951 to about 1954, Franklin "Bud" Comstock lead the Bristol concerts and David Aubin and William Andrews of Vergennes led the bands in Vergennes.

About 1955, the Vergennes Band disbanded and the members joined the Bristol Band. At about that time, Roy J. Clark was elected director and has continued to lead the Bristol Band up to the present time. Currently the band members number sixty and include musicians of all ages. The oldest active member of the band is Milton "Zip" Elmer of East Middlebury who has participated for forty-five years.

Each year townspeople appropriate a sum of money to support the band. Rehearsals begin in the spring and concerts are held from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Thirteen concerts are scheduled for the Park. The band also plays in neighboring communities.

In the World War I years, the band rehearsed over the present Ben Franklin Store. In 1925, they moved

their rehearsals to rooms over the E. N. Dike Hardware Store, later moving to the basement of Holley Hall.

Special mention should be made of Mr. Bert N. Hill who was active in the Bristol Band and served as manager for many years until his death in 1960. Mr. Hill was responsible for keeping the band active during the years that it was necessary to combine with the Vergennes Band and it was through his efforts that the Bristol Band was re-activated in the middle fifties.

Upon the death of Percy Currier, of Ferrisburg, a band member for many years, his family donated a sum of money and the Percy Currier Memorial Fund was established. Income from this fund is used to pay partial tuition for students attending a music camp or school. Other memorial contributions have been used for the same purpose.

Written by Roy J. Clark.

Bristol Chamber of Commerce

The local Chamber of Commerce has been active on and off for several years, dating back to at least the 1920's when the organization was trying to eliminate some of the eyesores in Bristol. The Chamber was active in 1939 when the Gaige-Moor Community House was placed under its supervision.

In 1971, the Chamber was rejuvenated again. The local merchants felt there should be a revitalization of the business center. However, interest in an organized group seemed to wane. Currently an informal gathering of the local businessmen takes place daily. Common interests and concerns are discussed. Through this informal exchange, communication goes on among the town's merchants.

Bristol Historical Society

On June 5, 1977, a small group met at the home of Dorothy and Winfred Trudo to discuss the formation of an historical society in Bristol. Those present were Howard and Anna Gladding, John and Elizabeth Hise, John and Barbara Kennedy, Leland and Nina Landon, and Winfred and

Dorothy Trudo. The proposal was readily approved by all present and plans were made for a public meeting.

Such a meeting was held on July 14, 1977, at Holley Hall. Mr. Weston A. Cate, Jr., Director of the Vermont Historical Society, spoke on the purpose of such societies and how to organize them.

Dorothy Purinton Trudo served as temporary chairman during the summer of 1977.

On August 4, 1977, the first formal meeting of the Bristol Historical Society was held and the following officers were elected: James Bouvier, President; Constance LaRose, Vice President; Howard Gladding, Treasurer; and Lillian Lambertson, Secretary.

Several projects were proposed for the Society. They were: publish the "Munsill Papers," a history of Bristol written by the Honorable Harvey C. Munsill in 1860; publish a pictorial history of Bristol; and help to publish the Third Edition of the *History of Bristol, Vermont*. Publication of the "Munsill Papers," formally titled, *The Early History of Bristol, Vermont* was completed in December 1979; publication of the Third Edition of the *History of Bristol, Vermont* was completed through the combined efforts of the Outlook Club of Bristol, Vermont and the Bristol Historical Society in 1981, and the pictorial history will be along soon.

When the Historical Society first met, it gathered in the Town Manager's office. Interest in the organization was great enough to fill that space to overflowing, so a larger area was sought. In the spring of 1978, after receiving approval from the Town, work began on the old jail, in the basement of Holley Hall, to convert it into the new Bristol Historical Society headquarters and a museum area. With many helping hands, especially from the Rotarians, the space began to shape up. In late summer, an active fund-raising effort was made on behalf of the building. Then at the Town Meeting in 1979, \$2,000 of Revenue Sharing Funds was obtained to finish the project. On July 7 and 8, 1979, the Bristol Historical Society opened its doors to the public. Much of the credit