



*Spring is Springing up everywhere!*  
(Almost)

The story about this English painting, C 1820, depicting a Hindu funeral, and other funeral customs later in this newsletter.

(Photo and related stories from Wikipedia)



Once again its time to get comfy with your favorite beverage, get in your favorite chair, perhaps near a warm sunny window, (*if it's not snowing again in Vermont*), and enjoy what we have for you in this issue. We will have some trivia, a report from our President Tom Giffin, reminder of the upcoming spring meeting, welcome our new members, thanks to those who made donations in memory of VOCA member Darwin Roy Hoadley, and a look at some burial practices.

**Be sure** to check *What's in the Vault* for the address of the new treasurer, Chris Book. All checks for donations, membership dues, etc need to be mailed to Chris Book. If you have items for the newsletter or questions or ideas for the newsletter, please forward them to the editor at: Harry Fisher, VOCA Editor, P O Box 3282, Nampa, Idaho 83653.

**911 Project:** Charlie Marchant continues working on this project, if you don't have any cemetery projects to work on this upcoming season, contact Charlie at 802-365-7937 or on the internet at [cemassoc@svcable.net](mailto:cemassoc@svcable.net).

**Spring meeting,** organized by Louise Lessard and to be held in Danville, Vermont on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Our speaker will be Keith Schaffer who is traveling up from Pennsylvania. More information can be found in *What's in the Vault*.

~~~~~

**Trivia:** One quarter of the bones in your body are in your feet

~~~~~

The passing of Darwin Roy Hoadley: Darwin was in his 94<sup>th</sup> year when he exited the stage of life on 2/2/2011 in Woodstock, Vermont. In his early years he farmed with his father in Springfield, Vermont. Among his many talents he worked at the Fellows Gear Shaper Company, also in Springfield. He was employed as an electrician for many years by Leonard's Gas & Electric in Woodstock, Vermont until he retired in 1978. Darwin was a very active member of VOCA since 5/7/1977. He had also worked for the South Methodist Burying Ground Association in Woodstock helping his father, and finally taking over as

sexton in 1943, he continued in this capacity until 2000. He was very meticulous about his work and was the person everyone in the area would speak with about various burials around Woodstock. He spent much of his time exploring the back roads and the hills seeking out the often little known or forgotten burial sites that lay deep in the woods.

Together with his hunting and fishing skills, he was very experienced in dowsing for water. He had the reputation as the person to see if you were in need of a good source of water.

In lieu of services, Darwin’s family asked that donations be given in his memory to the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. Burial will take place at the Riverside Cemetery in Woodstock at a later date.

~~~~~

**Trivia:** Several issues ago the newsletter had a story about a young woman named Robyn Miller who was featured in an article written by Lynn Monty of the Burlington Free Press. She has spent much of her time cleaning headstones. Do any of our readers in the Burlington area know how to contact Robyn?

~~~~~

A message from the office of the President  
Spring 2011

As I write my spring report, I find very little spring anywhere in Vermont. (Burlington had a record snowfall for February) The snow banks in my back yard are still as high as my six foot railing on my deck. It is difficult to think about cemetery projects when the ice fishermen still have their wooden shanties on Lake Champlain. However, hope springs eternal. I have seen that the maple sugar producers are slogging through the high snow despite the below freezing temperatures. There is still time to coordinate your cemetery project and I hope that you have many community-minded volunteers to help. I did receive two phone calls recently, regarding the possibility of an Eagle Scout restoring an old neglected burial ground for their final scout project. I am still waiting to hear the details. If

you are involved in the scouts, I can think of no better way to instill a sense of community accomplishment with these young adults than by adopting an abandoned cemetery and making it a priority for the troop. If you are interested in this idea and need to locate a cemetery to restore, contact your county representative and he/she will be able to direct you to burial grounds that would be appropriate in your area.

Long time VOCA member, Darwin R Hoadley passed away this past February in Woodstock, Vermont. His daughter and VOCA member, Marie Bean, requests that donations in memory of her father be sent to VOCA. We have received many donations and I wish to personally thank the family and friends of Mr. Hoadley for their generosity. All donations will be put in the restricted Leon Dean Fund.

The Aldrich cemetery controversy was heard by the Vermont Supreme Court in January. The case was once again well-documented statewide by the media. The court has not made a decision as this newsletter goes to press. If interested in the latest in this ongoing saga, you can find much coverage on the story by doing an on-line search with *Aldrich Cemetery/VTsupremeCourt* in your search engine.

With spring season arriving, the Vermont Department of Correction's (DOC) work crews will be busy around the state. Many of the crews spend much of the summer mowing Vermont's cemeteries. If you are interested in the availability of a DOC work crew, contact Field Office Director, Mike O'Mally at 802-786-5099.

Please continue to recruit new VOCA members. Our \$10.00 membership fee is very reasonable and with an unpaid volunteer board, all monies go to our mission of the restoration of Vermont's old burial grounds. If you have a group that would be interested in VOCA and would be interested in a presentation, let me know. I look forward to seeing many of you at VOCA's spring meeting in Danville, Vermont on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Coffee hour is around 9:00 am with the membership meeting scheduled for 10:00. Please contact VOCA County Representative Louise Lessard to make a reservation for lunch. The information on lunch and the meeting are in the following pages

of the newsletter. If you have agenda items for our spring meeting, please give me a call at 802-773-3253 or at tgifvt@msn.com

Tom Giffin  
VOCA President

~~~~~

**What's in the Vault? (6 Items)**

1st- Lets welcome our newest members, Susan Carpenter of Bethel Vermont, Kurjanowiz Sculpture Studio of Barre Vermont, Patrick & Sharon Evans of Bakersfield Vermont, Wanda Eubank of Andover Vermont, and the Calais Cemetery Commission, Calais Vermont.

2nd- Those who donated to VOCA in memory of Darwin Roy Hoadley are: Jennifer & Werner Bartau, Ester Hoadley, Marie Bean, Don & Karen Bean, Linda Wrightsman, Stephen & Mary Bloom, Donald & Marlene Adams, Steven Roecker, Audrey Ward, Leslie Welch, Therese Fullerton, Morgan S. Vail, Debby & Steve Roecker, Richard & Jane Leonard, Mary Johnstone, Van & Polly Bacon, Mr. & Mrs. William N. Peabody, Ruth Ekberg, Marguerite Johnson, Bob & Joan Williamsons, Frederick & Corinne Barr, Dr Hoadley, Jennifer & Michael Brown, Rebacca Talcott, R M Talcott, Mr. & Mrs. E L Fullerton, Ms Caroline Harrington, Eric & Edris Watson, Agnes Barr, Paul & Beverly Regan and Ralph Wright.

3rd- **Chris Book** of the Aldous Funeral Home located in Rutland, Vermont is the new treasurer. When the last newsletter was ready for print a replacement for treasurer had not been found. The reason for the change in treasurer is because *yours truly has changed hats from treasurer & editor to membership & editor* as a result of moving from Vermont to Idaho at the end of December 2010. All checks for dues or donations should be made out to VOCA and mailed to: Chris Book, VOCA Treasurer, 44 Main St, Rutland, Vermont 05701 (802-773-6252)

**Change of address or other membership changes**, along with any articles you would like to offer for the newsletter should be sent to: Harry Fisher, VOCA Membership/Editor, P O Box 3282, Nampa, Idaho 83653 ([merci@cableone.net](mailto:merci@cableone.net), 800-675-8815)

4th- **Spring Meeting** is near! Our speaker is Keith Schaffer of Birdsboro, PA. He will be presenting a program including a video story of the burial practices of the American Indian. The meeting date is May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The location is the Methodist Church in Danville, Vermont. The time: coffee will be available at 9:00 am, business meeting starts at 10:00 am. After the business meeting (around noon) a buffet style meal consisting of Chicken Divan, broccoli with hollandaise sauce, and glazed carrots.... Next, to finish off your pallet, you will be treated to an *extra delicious serving* of apple crisp served with ice cream!

Directions are as follows: Danville Vermont is located on route 2 about eight miles southwest of St Johnsbury, Vermont. When you enter the center of the village you will notice the village green and the meeting place, the Methodist Church, adjacent to the village green, (next to the yellow bed & breakfast), plenty of parking is available. After the noon meal you will be fascinated by what you will learn from our speaker, Keith Schaffer!

Contact person for questions and reservations is Louise Lessard at 802-525-3067. The tickets are \$12.00 per person by reservation only. You also may contact Louise by writing to her at P O Box 233, Danville, Vermont, 05828. Make your check payable to "Louise Lessard"

5<sup>th</sup> The fall VOCA meeting will be October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and will be held in the town of Addison, Vermont. Addison is located between Middlebury and Burlington at the junction of routes 17 & 22A. The meeting is being organized by VOCA 1<sup>st</sup> VP Diane Leary and will feature VOCA member Scott McLaughlin of Jericho, Vermont as our speaker. More details in the next newsletter.

6<sup>th</sup> **VOCA website access is:** [VOCA58.org](http://VOCA58.org), password is, noel  
~~~~~

From the photo on the front page: The painting depicting a deceased body being taken to a burning ground. A funeral procession moves through a ritual landscape dotted with trees and bushes. The body in a white shroud is carried by four men with their hair shaved but for the tuft at the back of their head. All wear tripundra marks on forehead and body. They are preceded by the chief mourner, clad in white, who carries in a pot the fire with which he will set the funeral pyre ablaze. Behind the stretcher carrying the body are a group of male mourners, one of them carrying a large pot. All of them are uniformly dressed in dhoti and angavastra. To the extreme left of the leaf is the funeral pyre and, near it, the attendant waits for the procession to arrive. A vertical stripe of pale blue, suggesting water concludes the painting to the left.

Funerals in Japan: Funerals and follow-up memorial services fall under the purview of Buddhist ritual, and usually include a wake, the cremation of the deceased, and inclusion within the family grave. Follow-up services are then performed by a Buddhist priest on specific anniversaries after death. According to estimates made in 2005, 99.82% of all deceased Japanese are cremated.

Internet visitation/funeral: A funeral home in North Syracuse, New York was the first to offer and broadcast a visitation and funeral “live” on the internet. It’s not new technology, just new application. Family members and friends separated by distance, weather or circumstances can now become part of the support network by being connected electronically to the ceremonies.

East Asian cultures: The wearing of white is symbolic of death. White or off white robes are traditionally worn to symbolize that someone has died. In Chinese culture, red is strictly forbidden as it is a symbolic color of happiness. Exceptions are sometimes made if the deceased reached a high age, between mid 80’s to age 100. In which case the funeral is considered a celebration, then wearing white with

some red is acceptable. A traditional Chinese gift to the attendees upon entering is a white (sometimes red) envelope, usually enclosing a small sum of money (in odd numbers, usually one dollar), a sweet, red thread, and a handkerchief, each with a symbolic meaning. According to Chinese custom the money or anything else given during the funeral should not be brought home. The sweet should be eaten the day of the funeral. The red thread is an exception; it is to be tied to the front doorknob of the quest's house to ward off bad luck. The repetition of three is common where people at the funeral may brush their hair three times or split three times before leaving the funeral to ward off bad luck. This custom is also found in other East Asian and Southeast Asian cultures.

**New Orleans Jazz Funeral:** A unique funeral tradition in the United States occurs in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tradition arose from a connection of African spiritual practices, French musical traditions, and African-American cultural influences. A typical jazz funeral begins with a march by the family, friends, and a jazz band, starting from the home, funeral home, or church, and proceeding to the cemetery. Throughout the march, the band plays very somber dirges. Once the final ceremony has taken place, the march proceeds from the cemetery to a gathering place, and the solemn music is replaced by loud, upbeat, raucous music and dancing where onlookers join in to celebrate the life of the deceased. This is the origin of the New Orleans dance known as the "second line" where celebrants do a dance-march, frequently while raising the hats and umbrellas brought along as protection from the intense New Orleans weather and waiving handkerchiefs above the head that are no longer being used to wipe away tears.

**African Funerals:** In some areas of Africa the custom of burying the dead in the floor of the dwelling-houses has been to some degree prevalent on the Gold Coast of Africa. The ceremony is purely animist, and apparently without any set ritual. The main exception is that the females on the family of the deceased and their friends may undergo mournful lacerations. In some instances they work their feelings up to an ostentatious, frenzy-like degree of sorrow. The



revelry may be heightened by the use of alcohol, of which drummers, flute players, bards, and singing men may partake. The funeral may last as long as a week. Another custom, a kind of memorial, frequently takes place seven years after the person's death. Some of the ethnic groups will wear red and black during funerals.

In Kenya funerals are an expensive undertaking. Keeping bodies in morgues to allow for fund raising is a common occurrence. Some families opt to bury their dead in the countryside homes instead of the urban cemeteries.

The primitive Greeks were buried in places prepared for that purpose in their own houses, but later they established burial grounds in the desert islands, and outside the walls of towns, by that means securing them from disturbance, and themselves from the liability of catching infection from those who had died from infectious disorders.

Bells are sometimes rung at funeral services. Ringing bells occurs in three basic ways, normal (peal) ringing, chiming, or tolling. Normal ringing of a bell or bells at a rate of about one ring per second or more, often in pairs reflecting the traditional "ding-dong" sound of a bell which rotated back and forth, ringing once in each direction. "Chiming" a bell refers to a single ring, used to mark the naming of a person when they are baptized, confirmed, or at other times. Many Lutheran churches chime the bells three times as the congregation speaks the Lord's Prayer, once at the beginning, once near the middle, and once at the "Amen". "Tolling" a bell refers to the slow ringing of a bell, perhaps once every four to ten seconds. It is this type of ringing that is most often associated with death, the slow pace broadcasting a feeling of sadness as opposed to the jubilation and liveliness of a quicker ringing bell.

~~~~~

**Trivia:** More people live in California than all of Canada. Norman Breakey of Toronto Canada invented the paint roller in 1940. It cost more money to buy a new car in the United States than it cost for Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the new world.



(Photo from Wikipedia)

Above we see the bell tower at Forest Home Cemetery in Fifiield , Wisconsin. The bell is tolled during funerals. Customs vary regarding when and for how long the bell tolls at a funeral. One custom observed in some liturgical churches is to toll the bell once for each year of the life of the deceased. Another way to toll the age of the deceased is by tolling the bell in a pattern. For example if the deceased was 75 years old, the bell is tolled seven times for seventy, and then after a pause it is tolled five more times to show the five.

~~~~~

**Trivia:** If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle, if one front leg in the air the person died later from the wounds, if all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

**2009-2010 Headstones**

Thomas Giffin, President, 61 East Washington St, Rutland VT, 05701 [tgift@msn.com](mailto:tgift@msn.com) .....802-773-3253  
 Diane Leary, 1st VP,..... 4670 Greenbush Rd, Charlotte, VT, 05445..... 802-881-1951  
 Chris Book, Treasurer, 44 North Main St, Rutland, VT, 05701 ..... 802-773-6252  
 Vacant!!!!!!!!!!!!, Grants Administrator Assistant, .....This could be you!!!!!!!!!!!!.....Vacant!!!!!!!!!!!!  
 Arthur Hyde, 2nd VP&Grants Admin, 1991 Upper Plain, Bradford, Vt 05033 ..... 802-222-4088  
 Harry Fisher, Membership& Newsletter Ed, P O Box 3282, Nampa, Idaho, 83653..... .800-675-8815  
 Merci Fisher, Assistant Newsletter Ed., PO Box 3282, Nampa, Idaho, 83653.....800-675-8815  
 Justin Giffin, Asst Treas, 61 E Washington St, Rutland, VT [justingiff@hotmail.com](mailto:justingiff@hotmail.com)..... 802-779-1671  
 Charles E Marchant, Sec, P O Box 132, Townshend Vt, 05353 .....[cemassoc@svcable.net](mailto:cemassoc@svcable.net).....802-365-7937  
 Edmund Wilcox, Exe Board, 4996 Georgia Shore Rd., St Albans Vt, 05478 .....802-524-3318

**WEB MASTER**

**Darryl Harris** ..... [webmaster@voca58.org](mailto:webmaster@voca58.org)  
**VOCA Website** ..... [www.voca58.org](http://www.voca58.org)

**FOOTSTONES**

2012 **Wesly Mowry, P O Box 297, Hartland, VT, 05048** .....802-436-3383  
 2011 **Richard Howrigan, P O Box 16, Fairfield Vt, 05455** .....802-827-6513  
 2010 **Robert Hooper, 44 Charity St, Burlington Vt, 05401** [hooper9999@aol.com](mailto:hooper9999@aol.com) .....802-862-0708  
 2010 **Vacant** .....Are you the one we are looking for?.....  
 2010 **Ruth Barton, P O Box 309, Putney, Vt, 05301** .....802-254-1128  
 2011 **Chris Book, 44 N Main, Rutland, VT, 05701** .....802-773-6252

Vermont Old Cemetery Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1958 to “encourage the restoration and preservation of neglected and abandoned cemeteries in the State of Vermont”. Meetings are held twice yearly on the 1st Saturday in May and October. The VOCA newsletter is published by the editor four times a year to coincide with the seasons. The IRS granted VOCA tax exempt status 3/21/1969 (Ref BUR EO59-26)

**VOCA Books For Sale**

**The 3rd edition of “Burial Grounds of Vermont”, lay-flat binding \$35. Addendum to 1st & 2nd editions \$4.00, “Stones&Bones”, a teacher’s resource packet \$24.00. These prices include shipping costs; we are not required to collect Vt sales tax. Send check made out to “VOCA” and a return address label, if possible, to “ Charles E Marchant, VOCA Secretary, P O Box 132, Townshend, Vermont, 05353”**

**VOCA County Representatives**

\*\*\*\*\* These are people who will come help you with your VOCA grant application \*\*\*\*\*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Addison- Betty R Bell 802-453-3947</b>        | <b>Grand Isle- vacant</b>                     |
| <b>Bennington – Jean Kosche – 802-447-2241</b>   | <b>Lamoille- Deanna French 802-888-4537</b>   |
| <b>Orange- Arthur Hyde 802-222-4088</b>          | <b>Orleans- Wanda Webster 802-525-3550</b>    |
| <b>Caledonia – Louise Lessard – 802-684-3404</b> | <b>Rutland- Cliff Giffin 802-773-3743</b>     |
| <b>Chittenden- Robert Hooper- 802-862-0708</b>   | <b>Washington- Vacant</b>                     |
| <b>Essex- Richard Colburn- 802-723-4833</b>      | <b>Windham- Charles Marchant 802-365-7937</b> |
| <b>Franklin- Edmund Wilcox- 802-524-3318</b>     |   |
| <b>Windsor- Ken Barrett- 802-875-2941</b>        |   |

Circle One

Renewal + member number / Change of address / New member

Name \_\_\_\_\_ member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are for calendar year: 1 year \$10.00, 5 years \$40.00 and lifetime is \$140.00

**\*\* A new member joining in Oct or Nov or Dec will have dues applied to the following year \*\***

**Make check payable to VOCA, mail to: Chris Book, VOCA Treasurer, 44 North Main Street, Rutland, Vermont 05701**

Vermont Old Cemetery Association  
Harry Fisher, Editor  
P O Box 3282  
Nampa, Idaho, 83653