

## **Don't pass up Tax Credits and Exemptions!**

Submitted by Randolph Selectmen

Towns in New Hampshire have been given the right by State Statute to grant credits and exemptions on real estate in their municipalities. Some are mandated by law and others are optional. They include veterans and disabled credits (a specified amount subtracted from the tax bill) and exemptions for elderly, blind, disabled, deaf, solar, wind and wood heating (an amount subtracted from the assessed value of the property.) Randolph is no exception to this. We offer credits for veterans and exemptions for the elderly, blind, wind, wood heating and solar systems.

Anyone may apply, but not all will qualify. The purpose of this article is to inform the taxpayers of available credits and exemptions. Every applicant needs to provide information requested by the Selectmen which will be reviewed to assure eligibility. If you qualify, we will assist you to take advantage of the benefit. The state requires that we review our credits and exemptions at least once every 5 years (some information may need annual review) and in that process, we will be contacting taxpayers with credits and exemptions to be sure their applications are proper and that they still qualify. If you think you might qualify **the deadline is April 15.**

### **Tax Credits go Right to the Bottom Line**

The veteran's credit is the most common. This is a \$100 credit right off your tax bill. To qualify you must be a resident and have lived in NH for at least one year. You must have been honorably discharged and have served at least 90 days in a qualifying war or armed conflict. You need to provide a Dept of Defense form as evidence of service, such as DD 214 or equivalent document.

Disabled veterans and surviving spouses of veterans are also eligible for credits. A surviving spouse shall be the spouse of any serviceperson killed or who has died while on active duty. Check with the selectmen's office for requirements.

### **Exemptions: Reduce tax on Less Valuation**

Elderly exemptions are available on a sliding scale based on age, income and assets. To qualify for the elderly exemption, you must be at least 65, own your home and be a resident of NH for 3 consecutive prior years. Your income can be no more than \$13,400 for a single person or \$20,400 for a married couple, and your total assets (excluding your homestead) are limited to \$35,000. These are difficult limits to meet since the income limits include social security. A statement of income and assets should be renewed annually.

A disabled exemption has the same income and asset restrictions and you must have been a resident of NH for at least 5 years.

Blind exemptions require a certificate issued by the Blind Services Program, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Dept of Education. The law is very specific about the documentation required. Please check with the selectmen's office.

In the interest of promoting energy conservation, the town offers exemptions for wind, wood heating and solar systems. If you have recently installed a solar photo voltaic or solar hot water heating system, you probably qualify. Many of you may think simply using wood as your primary heat source qualifies you for the wood heat exemption. This is not true. RSA 72:70 defines a wood burning appliance designed to operate as a central heating system to heat the interior of a building. The appliance may burn wood or wood/combo and shall include a central appliance to distribute heat by a series of pipes, ducts or other similar system.

In the next few weeks, the selectmen will be reviewing current credits and exemptions and writing letters to update or request missing documentation. We do not want to deny credits and exemptions, but rather assist you to get these benefits if you qualify. If you have any questions or you feel you might qualify, please contact the selectmen's office

## Introduction to Town Meeting, March 12, 2013

by David L. Willcox, Town Moderator, Randolph, NH

On the last Tuesday in May of 1690 a man named Richard Edwards came before the Court of Assistants for the Connecticut Colony to ask the tribunal to grant him a divorce from his wife of twenty-two years, Elizabeth (Tuttle) Edwards.

Their marriage had had an inauspicious beginning when Elizabeth gave birth to an early baby. That was not considered particularly scandalous and, after the usual inquiry, a court recognized Edwards as the father. All would have been well except that he denied it, claiming another man was responsible and forcing his wife to surrender the child's care and upbringing to her parents. Two decades later he would drag out the early baby story to paint Elizabeth as a loose woman. But he did not follow that up with an allegation of adultery, as logic might suggest. Instead, he claimed that she had deserted him. Since she had not physically left, he came up with a novel definition of the term. She had deserted the marriage, he argued, by "*obstinately Refusing Conjugal Comunion with mee Her Husband.*"

After the rocky start, as Richard admitted in his petition, the couple had lived together "*in som measure of Comfort*" for "*About eight or nine years.*" Five children appeared at the requisite two year intervals. Richard prospered at his trade of copper, with his wife's active participation. He was also beginning to make a name for himself as a future leader in the Hartford community. This would not have been possible without a measure of domestic tranquility because reputations reflected the opinions of the neighborhood grapevine.

If his fellow townspeople were to view him as unable to run his household with a firm hand, it would seriously undermine his chances of gaining a position of community leadership. That, in addition to a desire for domestic comfort, explains Richard's desperation to end the marriage.

There are, of course, two sides to any divorce. Elizabeth's version is missing. Either she did not defend herself, or her testimony has been lost. That there was another side is suggested by the fact that the Court of Assistants, which had original jurisdiction of divorce cases, refused his petition three times over the next two years. The facts, as known to neighbors, did not support Richard's story.

A more likely explanation of the court's reluctance

may lie in the probable cause of Elizabeth's changed behavior.

Two days before the Edwards' ninth wedding anniversary, Elizabeth's younger brother, Benjamin, murdered their older sister, Sarah, with an axe.

Benjamin was living with Sarah and her husband. Nearly thirty years old and apparently frustrated with his inability make something of himself, he resented the fact that he had to live with his older sister and her successful husband. On the evening of November 17, 1676, in her husband's absence, Sarah rebuked Benjamin for something he said and he snapped, storming out the door to return with the fatal axe.

Convicted and sentenced to death, Benjamin was housed in the Hartford jail for seven months awaiting execution. As the only family member in Hartford, Elizabeth undoubtedly spent long hours with her brother. She endured the final day, listening to the execution sermon and watching Benjamin hang. She was a few years younger than Sarah and older than Benjamin. As youngsters, the three must have been very close. Her state of mind can only be guessed at: rage, grief, confusion and, perhaps, a crisis of faith producing despair at the prospect of bearing children doomed to a Godless future.

We have heard recently a good deal about Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, or PTSD, as a new name for a malady that has existed throughout history. Usually associated with war, it can strike anyone at any age. It is a reaction to a terrifying ordeal involving physical harm or the threat thereof. The harm can be to the person with the disorder or to a loved one or it can result from witnessing harm to another, even if the person affected is unknown.

Elizabeth Tuttle lost her two closest siblings as the result of a single horrible event. She watched one of them die. Elizabeth Tuttle may have been one of the earliest Americans to suffer from PTSD.

In the spring of 1691, Richard renewed his petition for divorce. This time he admitted "*that the woman Hath Been Distracted for many years...*"

That admission apparently resonated with prevailing local opinion. Although the Court of Assistants still refused his request, Edwards appealed to the General Assembly and in October, 1691, it ruled that

*"[We] doe see reason and doe release him the sayd Richard Edwards from his conjugal tye to sayd Elizabeth his late wife."*

Richard quickly remarried, started a new family and prospered. When he died in 1718 his son wrote a eulogy which skipped over the period of his father's first marriage, referring to it only as a time of "very Great and sore tryal." His account was widely accepted as truth and Elizabeth was literally written out of the family.

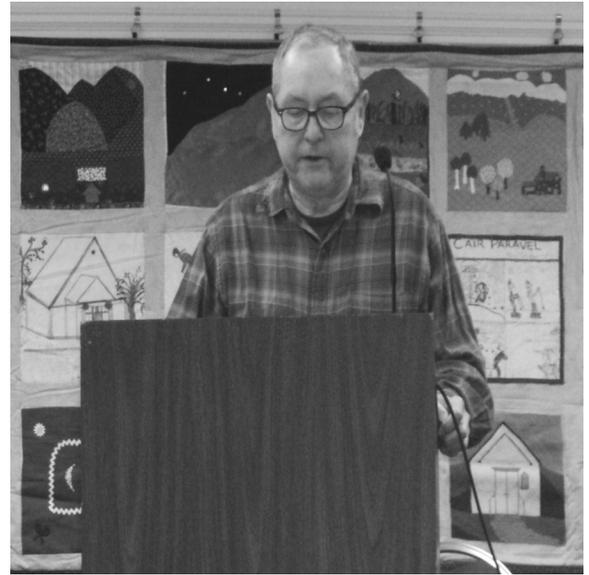
The entire tragic episode might have ended there, mercifully swallowed in the mists of history but for the fact that many of Richard and Elizabeth's descendants turned out to be distinguished citizens, starting with their grandson, Jonathan Edwards, a religious luminary.

When, therefore, the eugenics movement emerged in the 1920's preaching the need for selective breeding to improve the human race, the illustrious Edwards' family was chosen to illustrate its claim that "blood will tell."

But then genealogists discovered that the family also included some notable rogues and rascals. That awkwardness was circumvented when the story of the divorce surfaced. Elizabeth was dragged out of obscurity as "the crazy grandmother," responsible for polluting the blood line. The notoriety has stuck to her name.

Writing in the London Spectator, the British essayist, Joseph Addison, once quipped; *"We are always doing something for Posterity, but I would fain see Posterity do something for us."*

If Elizabeth Tuttle could speak to Joseph Addison, I suspect that she might say to him: *"Be careful what you wish for."*



Moderator David Wilcox, March, 2013  
Photo: D. Aube

### Randolph Election Results March , 2013

*Submitted by Anne Kenison, Town Clerk*

Selectman	Ted Wier
Treasurer	Angela Brown
Trustee of Trust Funds	Michael Sewick
Cemetery Trustee	Karen Eitel
Board of Adjustment	James Hunt
Auditor	Wendy Walsh
Library Trustee	Sandra Wier
Planning Board	Arlene Eisenberg
Tax Collector	Anne Kenison

\*All Land-Use Ordinance Amendments warrants passed as written.

### Randolph School District Election Results

Randolph Board Member	Bill Demers
Randolph at Large Member	Bob Ross
Moderator	Bruce Lary

## From the Archives: Life at the Ravine House, 1899

by Judy Hudson



Florence Peek (r) and Theodora Beckwith on the porch of the Ravine House.

Florence Peek, at age 19, traveled from Chicago with her 79-year-old grandfather, pathmaker William H. Peek, and stayed at the Ravine House from early August through mid-September, 1899. A few of her letters home to her family are preserved in the family's records, which were made available to the RMC by Ginny Folsom Umiker. An ex-

tensive photo album is also part of Ginny's collection, and the photos here are drawn from that source.

Florence's letters give a tantalizing glimpse of what life was like for an unmarried girl who visited Randolph more than a century ago. She made a good friend, Theodora Beckwith, and the two girls had a variety of adventures. But the two girls were expected to have male companionship should they wish to walk farther than Mossy Glen.

Hotelier Laban Watson had just created a golf course in the field across from the Ravine House that provided a new source of entertainment for his guests, and most evenings there were home-grown entertainments provided by the guests on the improvised stage in the dining room.

Florence later married Alfred Abbot, and they shared a cottage with Florence's younger sister Hazel. The house, located above the cemetery, was built by John Boothman and expanded and winterized in the late 1970s by Hazel's adopted daughter, Peeko Folsom. The Peek sisters spent their summers in Randolph for many years; Florence died in the late 1960s, and Hazel in 1976.

### Excerpts from Florence Peek's letters home

Aug. 6. 1899

....I'm afraid this place will make me very lazy, for I do just what I feel like doing and nothing else. Everything is perfectly lovely and this is a perfect day. I am sitting in a hammock in the woods behind the house and I can't hear a sound except the wind blowing the leaves on the trees and a bird now and then. I have just come back from a walk to "Mossy Glen," the very loveliest place I ever saw. It is part of a brook with little water falls and eddies and mossy rocks and boulders along the sides, and wild looking trees over hanging it now and then. It was so delightfully cool and breezy, I felt as if I could have staid there forever.

... I am having a perfectly fine time. There are several young folks here, or rather a few young folks (7 or 8) and several older people who act like young folks, so it is all the same. We have lots of fun in the evening playing games. We generally have something ready for every evening.

... The golf links are almost ready now and I am going to play. I borrowed somebody else's clubs the other day and took my 1st lesson and it was lots of fun.

August 15

Yesterday Grandpa and I went to Berlin by train to sketch. We did a lovely view of the Percy Peaks and Peaked Hills in watercolor. We went on the 10 o'clock train, took our luncheon, and didn't get back until five because we took a walk along the Pinkham road to sketch some trees.

It is a perfect day, a splendid one for a long walk, but there is no expedition on foot that I know of. I would like to do a little more climbing than I do.

... Friday morning Grandpa and I went up to the ledge, and we played golf in the afternoon. We are going to play golf as soon as I finish this letter.

Aug. 18, 1899

... I am pretty tired this morning because I didn't get to bed until twelve o'clock. They had the entertainment at the town hall. A very funny play called the "Cool Collegian" was given first. Then came a Virginia reel to which everybody was invited and then was a dance that we had to pay extra for. .25 for play, .25 for dance. Theodora and I went to both.

I never went to such a funny dance. There were all sorts of people there, the swell people from the other hotels waltzing gracefully around and the country folks bouncing around among them and bumping into them at the rate of fifteen times a minute. They had a very good house full, and we all had a fine time. Theodora and I both wore our white dresses but I think they were a little bit too dressy. It is the first time I have worn it.

Mr. Cook is going to take Theodora and me to the "Ice Gulch" next week. Mr. Gourgas, Miss Osgood and I went up to the "Perch" a perfectly lovely camp a few days ago. We had a fine walk. It is about six miles there via the new Randolph path. We expect to go up there and spend the night some time. I am in a great hurry too. Mrs. Beckwith is thinking of getting up a party to go up Washington, spend the night there and then come home over the peaks the next day. Wouldn't that be great?

Sept. 10, 1899

... I, with a party of seven others climbed to the summit of Mount Crescent yesterday, which is right behind the house. It is not a very high mountain so we didn't get tired and we didn't have to hurry to get home on time so that it was a very enjoyable trip. The woods were perfectly lovely and there were ferns as thick as they could grow on top. I wish that I could manage to take some home to you.

There are a great many stories about bears, floating around here. They are known to be in the woods as people have seen their trails and in past years the bears themselves have been seen. I don't think there is any danger though, on the paths. Porcupines are also rather common on the mountains. So are deer and lynxes but I haven't had the good fortune to see anything but a dead porcupine and a deer track.

Photos courtesy of  
Ginny Folsom Umiker



Florence Peek, as the Prince in *The Good Fairy*, probably performed in 1913 at the celebration held by the Eldredge Bloods.



A play, or perhaps a charade, at the Ravine House.

## Randolph Remembers

### Thomas S. Sappington, Sr., MD

Thomas Stone Sappington Sr., MD, 96 of Randolph, NH passed away on Friday evening Feb. 1, 2013 at his home. He was born in Washington, D.C. on July 19, 1916 the son of Ernest F. and Myrtle H. (Stone) Sappington and practiced in the Washington, D.C. area for many years. During the Korean War Dr. Sappington went to Korea to inspect MASH units. He taught at George Washington Medical School and also had a private practice in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. He was the first doctor to administer penicillin in this country as an intravenous shot at Yale University, where he did his graduate work. A documentary was done on this and a plaque was placed at the Smithsonian Institute recording it. He was raised in the Episcopal Faith and had attended All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase, MD. Dr. Sappington retired to Randolph, NH in 1984 and then became a member of the Gorham Rotary Club (now the Berlin-Gorham Rotary Club). He served for several years in the 1980's on the Governor's Council for Aging, as well as for Meals on Wheels in Berlin. He had attended and supported the Gorham Congregational Church, UCC for many years.

Members of the family include his two sons John F. Sappington and his wife Mary Karr of St. Louis, Missouri and Tim Sappington and his wife Martha Brock Sappington of Randolph, NH; a granddaughter Anne Karr Sappington of St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Sappington was predeceased by his wife Gretchen (Geiser) Sappington on Dec. 17, 1996.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 7, 2013 at the Gorham Congregational Church, UCC, Gorham, NH. Interment will be in the spring in the Randolph Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gorham Congregational Church.

*Printed with permission of Bryant Funeral Home*

### Dan Stuart Tucker

RANDOLPH — Dan Stuart Tucker, the only child of Henry L. and Margaret (Ney) Tucker, was born on Feb. 23, 1930, in Augusta, Ga. He died very peacefully on March 8, 2013, at The Morrison nursing home in Whitefield.

Dan grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated in 1945 as a ninth-grade student at the Hawken School in Lyndhurst, in 1948 from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and in 1952 cum laude from Harvard College as a Holloway Plan student who upon graduation was commissioned a LTJG in the U. S. Navy, Civil Engineer Corps. After three years on active duty, Dan earned an M.B.A. in 1957 as a finance major at the Harvard Business School. Dan later earned an Ed.M. at Boston University in 1993 and greatly enjoyed teaching English as a Second Language part-time at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, Mass.

After a business career in New York City and Boston, Dan retired in 1994 and moved from Wellesley, Mass., to Randolph.

Dan loved the North Country and its people, as well as the fields, view of the mountains, and ever-changing Moose River in Randolph Valley, plus all the McMillan-Cutter family cousins who come in the summers.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Edith McMillan Tucker, and three daughters: Susan McMillan Tucker and his son-in-law Leslie Charles Moye, both of Somerville, Mass.; Sarah Sheafe Tucker and his son-in-law Donald Edward Murphy Jr., both of Bethel, Me.; and Margaret Stuart Tucker of Stow, Mass., and a granddaughter, Lauren Endicott Moye of Andover, Mass. Their son Andrew died in an accident on May 26, 1995, in Alaska.

In recent years, Tucker served on the board of the Weeks State Park Association in Lancaster and on the Randolph Planning Board. A memorial service will be held this summer at a date to be determined. Those who would like to can make a donation to the **Andrew Stuart Tucker Trail Easement Fund of the Randolph Mountain Club**, P.O. Box 279, Gorham, NH 03581.

*Written by Edith Tucker*



## Elizabeth "Betty" Hitchcock Harris Gregory Lauppe



Elizabeth "Betty" Hitchcock Harris Gregory Lauppe, 94, passed away on January 9, 2013 at Harvest Hill in Lebanon, NH. She was the youngest child of William and Sara (Wilford) Hitchcock, born on March 24, 1918 in Branford, CT.

She attended Pine Manor Junior College. She lived in Aldie, Virginia; Branford, Connecticut; and Norwich, Vermont and was a part-time resident of Randolph, New Hampshire. She moved from to Harvest Hill in 2010. Elizabeth was the last of her generation (siblings and cousins) to survive. She was predeceased by her husbands: Floyd (Sandy) Harris, H. Theodore Gregory, and Carl Lauppe.

Her survivors include son Ted Gregory and wife, Kate; daughter Ann G Batrow; son Sandy Harris and wife, Beth Krusi; daughter Diana Clark and husband, Jim; and son Mark Gregory and wife, Patricia; her grandchildren Adriana Gregory, David Batrow, Amy Ziething, Nicole Clark, Ian Clark, Elizabeth C Brackett, Martin Gregory and Michael Gregory, and 6 great-grandchildren. Later in life "Aunt Betty" considered herself to be a mother figure to her many nieces and nephews, a role she thoroughly enjoyed.

In her younger years, her passion was centered on horses. Starting in her mid-life she focused on writing and published nine books/pamphlets, mostly about her family. The most important part of her life was her immediate and extended family.

A Celebration of her Life was held January 21, at the Norwich Congregational Church. A graveside service will be held at a later date in Branford, CT.

Memorial donations may be made to **The Randolph Foundation**, P.O. Box 283, Gorham, NH 03581; or the **Norwich Public Library**, 368 Main St, Norwich, VT 05055.

A special thank you to the staff at the Hughes Center at Harvest Hill for the love and care they gave to Betty.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Rand-Wilson Funeral Home of Hanover, NH.

## Rodney A. Hayes

Rodney Hayes, a quiet and well respected man of 64 years, went to sleep in the Lord, Feb. 18, 2013.

Although he will be sadly missed, his life was one to be celebrated. While Debbie, his loving wife of 32 years, and his "canine kids" (or beloved dogs) formed his immediate family, he left behind a myriad of much loved family and friends.

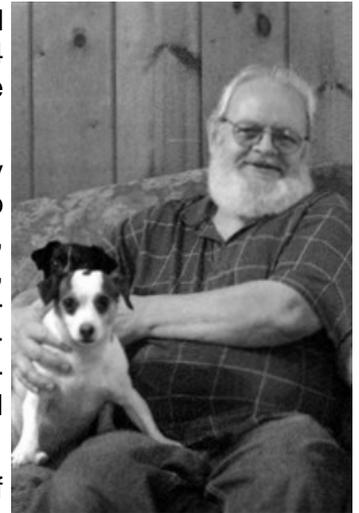
The small community of Shelburne, NH has lost a dear friend, a man with an unassuming manner, an undeniable wit and charm that was on display to all who are thankful to have known him. Rodney was a dedicated and active member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church as well.

Rodney was secretary to the selectmen of the Town of Randolph and assistant librarian at the Randolph Town Library for approximately six years.

A "Celebration of Rodney's Life" took place on Saturday, March 2 at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Berlin.

Donations to the family or to Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association (CMTA) may be made to: Debbie Hayes, 1172 State Rt. 2, Shelburne, NH 03581.

*Provided by Debbie Hayes*



D. Aube photo

### The Feeding of the Birds and the Bears

New Hampshire Fish and Game reminds us to finish bird feeding activities by April 1 each year and not begin feeding the birds again prior to December 1 or the onset of prolonged winter weather (the birds will do just fine says NHFG).

“Remember to change the behavior of bears, we must first change our own. Don't wait until you have a problem to do something about it. It is our responsibility if we choose to live in bear country, to learn how to live with bears. “ says Kevin Sanders, nationally known naturalist, guide and author of several books and articles relating to bear behavior.



**First Bear of the Season**  
Photo by Karen Eitel

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