

The Talcott Family Connection

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Talcott Tree update

The Talcott family attending the Talcott Family Reunion in Hartford, CT on June 14, 2011 planted a red oak tree in Bushnell Park. The tree was donated by Nancy Talcott Mackerrow of Spokane, WA in memory of her daughter, Susie Stephens. Trees have been planted around the world in memory of Susie. To learn more about the Susie Forest project, go to <http://wabikes.org/2013/04/16/the-susie-forest/>.

Nancy Talcott Mackerrow is second from the right holding the shovel at the tree planting ceremony. To aid in locating the tree in Bushnell Park, note the Band shell in the



background. The tree is the only red oak tree in the line of trees facing the open field down the hill from the State Capital Building and a short walk westward from the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. If you should visit Hartford, see if you can find the Talcott tree.

The photo at the right was taken on June 17, 2016 and shows how healthy the tree is and has grown in height and diameter. **T**



Talcott Brothers Woolen Mill restoration

Another project brought to the attention of the Talcott family at the 2011 Hartford Talcott Family Reunion was restoration of the Talcott Brothers Woolen Mill in Talcottville, CT. John Talcott III was responsible in engaging Laura Knott-Twine as the guest speaker at the evening banquet on June 14. John is a descendant of one of the brothers who owned the mill and lives in the family homestead in Talcottville.

Laura Knott-Twine, now retired, was the Executive Director of the Hartford Preservation Alliance, Inc. Her presentation included an assortment of old mills that were restored and given new life. Many times the buildings were turned into affordable apartments or multi-use complexes, which was the idea proposed for the Talcott Brothers Mill.

The photo below taken by Richard Talcott in June



2009 shows the deteriorated condition of the mill; unfortunately, it continued to rapidly deteriorate. John Talcott reported that some of the roof had collapsed and was in very deplorable condition before restoration commenced.

The Old Talcott Mill, as it is now called, is the centerpiece of the Talcottville Historic District, which is a well-preserved manufacturing village listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A fire had destroyed an earlier cotton spinning factory on the site. The Talcott Brothers purchased the land and in 1870 (circa) built a wool textile mill on the site.

"The mill produced a woven cloth called 'satinets,' which is a pearl cotton with a sheen. From 1875 to 1906, the mill produced 'union cashmeres,' a fine woolen cloth used for both men's suits and women's fashions. Later, it pro-

duced other fine woollens and cloths until the company closed in the 1940s.”¹

The restored building retains much of the original structure, including the water tower and bell tower. The bell tower was taken down and moved to a shop where it was completely taken apart. Each part was made to the exact specifications of the original structure, reassembled and then replaced to become an integral part of the restored mill building. The August 27, 2017 photo² below shows the mill in its restored state ready for occupants.



Chris Dehnel/Vernon Patch

The Old Talcott Mill offers eighty-three residential units, including a mix of different sized studio, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments with rents ranging from \$886-\$1122 a month with heat and hot water. Floor plans are spacious and include kitchens with full appliances, on-site laundry facilities, fitness room, central air, community room and an Historic Mill Exhibition area. Being a mix-use project, there also is limited use commercial space available.

A Workforce Development Housing Community, the apartments are offered to individuals and families having an annual household income at and not exceeding 60% of the HUD AMI for Tolland County; however, income limit restrictions apply. The project was financed through the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), which receives state grant funds from the Department of Housing (DOH) with State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. **T**

¹ <http://www.courant.com/community/vernon/hc-rr-vernon-talcott-mill-0706-20170706-story.html>; Steve Smith, January 16, 2018.

² <https://patch.com/connecticut/vernon/talcott-mill-transformation-nearly-complete-vernon>; Chris Dehnel

Second Romance Novel by Carmen

Carmen Crowley announced that her second book, *A Sporting Affair Lisa's Story*, is now published on Amazon and available on Kindle and in paperback!

“Carol and I had a lot of fun writing this book. I hope you will enjoy golfing with Lisa and joining her on a wilderness camping trip! Carol writes about a funny golfing game and takes you on a Wyoming wilderness camping trip where you encounter a bear, snow and an icy, cold mountain stream. Carol actually experienced the bear and

snow on her wilderness camping trip that she had taken!”

An article about her first book, *A Christmas Holiday Affair: Abby's Story*, appeared in the previous *The Talcott Family Connection*.

In this book, Lisa Andrews, an attractive high school teacher, is swept off her feet when she meets Warren Dalton again. She remembers him as being a male chauvinist. There is no way she can be attracted to him!

While Lisa's sister, Abbey and her husband are in Hawaii, Lisa cares for Abbey's mischievous dog. While out walking the dog, Lisa encounters Warren Dalton, CEO of a sporting goods company and best man at Abbey's wedding. At the wedding, Lisa overheard him say condescending comments about women athletes. Lisa makes it her mission to prove him wrong. The animosity for each other makes for exciting and dangerous adventures.

The easiest way to view the book is to go to Amazon, type Carmen Crowley in the search box, and then click on the magnifying glass. Her books will be displayed there.

If you read the books, Carmen would appreciate leaving a review on Amazon. Amazon recommends and promotes books to readers with reviews that have 3½ stars average or more. **T**

Original Board of Directors & Officers

From the formation of The Talcott Family Association, Inc. the individuals who served as the Board of Directors



and Officers are (l-r): Dexter Talcott, Treasurer; Anne Talcott Fornari, Secretary; Thomas C. Talcott, Vice-President; and Gahrad L. Harvey, President. **T**

The Talcott Family Connection is published by The Talcott Family Association, Inc. It is published on hard copy the first quarter of the year and mailed by USPS to all the Talcott family on the mailing list. Other times throughout the year, it is sent via email to all Talcott family on the Talcott email list. It is edited by Gahrad L. Harvey at 34 Harvey RD, Shickshinny, PA 18655 — talcott@hughes.net. Talcott family stories, historical information and articles of interest may be submitted to the editor. Inclusion in future issues is subject to available space.

