

VERMONT ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS



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“Our Little Society for the Good Cause”: The Weathersfield Centre Soldier’s Aid Society

The women who belonged to the Weathersfield Centre Soldier’s Aid Society displayed their own kind of courage by setting aside time dedicated to making the critically needed items—items that represented the solicitude and patriotism of the makers.

By PATTI L. HOUGHTON

A small town in Windsor County, Weathersfield, Vermont, is located between Windsor and Springfield, with Mt. Ascutney rising to the northwest and the Connecticut River flowing along its eastern border. In 1860, just before the outbreak of the Civil War, fewer than 1,800 people lived in Weathersfield, a decline in population from the town’s most prosperous period, the 1820s. Most of Weathersfield’s men were farmers, and most of its women were house-

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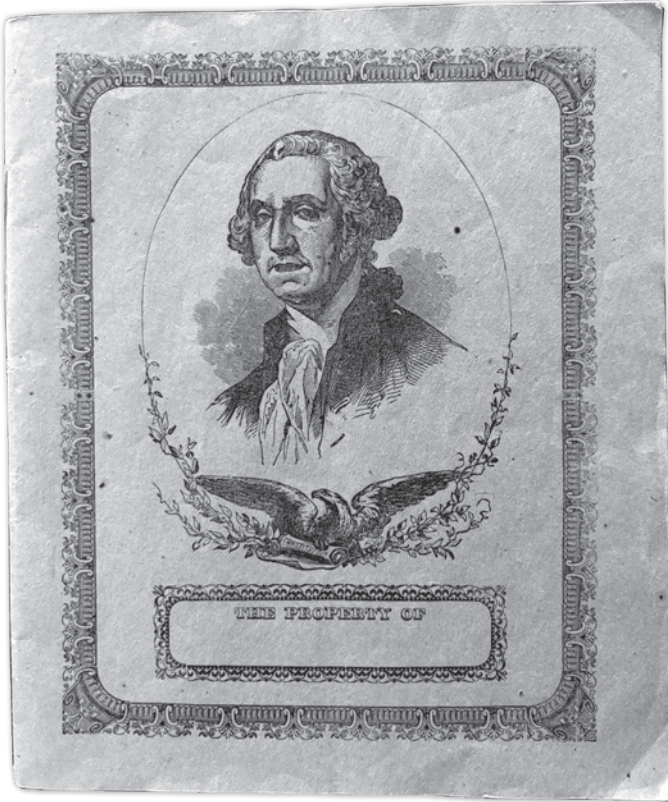
wives. Then as now, Weathersfield had three principal villages: Ascutneyville, Perkinsville, and Weathersfield Bow, home to US Consul William Jarvis, famous for introducing Merino sheep to Vermont and the Northeast in 1811. There was no village in Weathersfield Center, the geographic center of the town; only a few farms and the District 6 schoolhouse dotted the hillsides around the First Congregational Church, which also served as the town hall. In 1863 a group of women from this area organized the Weathersfield Centre Soldier's [sic] Aid Society, one of "thousands of soldiers' aid societies, which served as community-based sites for assisting the war effort."¹ The meeting minutes, lists, and letters generated by the society reveal much about its members, who were "all engaged in the good work,"² and about the important but little known contributions made by women during the Civil War.

During the Civil War women sent items from home to their brothers, sons, and husbands who were engaged in active service or sidelined by illness or injury. Members of sewing circles sent items to the regiments in which men from their hometowns had enlisted. Many women, however, sought a more formal way to participate in the war effort, and they recognized a deficiency they could address. In his book *Battle Cry of Freedom* James M. McPherson explains that a "group of northern physicians and women formed the United States Sanitary Commission to supplement the inadequate and outdated facilities of the Army Medical Bureau,"³ which was unprepared to meet the unprecedented need caused by carnage on a national scale.

This powerful organization, the largest voluntary association yet formed in a country noted for such enterprises, grew from a fusion of local soldiers' aid societies that had sprung up within days of the firing on Sumpter. Women took the lead in forming these associations, drawing upon their sense of commitment and previous experience in societies advocating the abolition of slavery, women's rights, temperance, education, and the like.⁴

The soldiers' aid societies gave women the opportunity to use "their household skills to produce uniforms, hospital garments, bedding, and foodstuffs"⁵ that they sent to the United States Sanitary Commission; the USSC then distributed the donated goods among the military hospitals serving the United States Army.⁶

The Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society may serve as a typical example. Local historian John L. Hurd speculated that the members of an informal sewing club associated with the First Congregational Church may have felt compelled to become more organized when the Civil War broke out.⁷ The society kept its meeting minutes in a small notebook with George Washington depicted on the front of the paper wrapper.⁸ The first entry is the society's constitution, which plainly states its mission of "fur-



Cover of the notebook containing the minutes of the Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society. Weathersfield Historical Society, manuscript collection 53.

nishing Hospital supplies for sick and wounded Vermont soldiers." The constitution is followed by the bylaws, which state the responsibilities of the officers, the length of their terms, and the necessity of keeping accurate records. The bylaws also state that "any lady may become a member by signing this Constitution and working for the interest of the society." Therefore, membership was not limited to Weathersfield Center residents or church congregants.

The society held its first meeting on January 24, 1863. Mrs. Elizabeth Nichols was elected as the first president, and Mrs. Huldah Putnam, Mrs. Lucia Danforth, and Mrs. Maria Kimball were elected as the first "directresses." Although the society already had \$6.37, which had been collected by a townwide subscription in 1862, plus \$10.02 "received from several gentlemen . . . to aid us" in its treasury, the first task was to raise

1863 ?

We the undersigned, having formed ourselves into a society for the purpose of furnishing Hospital supplies for sick and wounded Vermont Soldiers, do adopt the following Constitution and By-laws.

Constitution

Art. 1st This Society shall be called the Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society.

Art. 2nd The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, three Directresses, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be chosen once in three months.

Art. 3rd It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society. In case of absence the Vice President shall officiate. It shall be the duty of the Directresses to arrange and superintend all business of the society not herein after provided for. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all doings of the society and shall record all reports of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and have charge of all funds of the

Constitution and bylaws of the Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society, no date [1863?]. Weathersfield Historical Society.

enough money to purchase the cloth needed to make "hospital garments and bedding." The members decided to host a "Festival" at the town hall on February 3, 1863. For an admission price of ten cents, guests could feast on oysters and crackers, sample the desserts from the confectionary table, drink tea and coffee, purchase items from the fancy table, and try their luck with the grab bag. Local dignitaries delivered remarks, and the Springfield Glee Club sang. Secretary Abbie P. Dart recorded that "All seemed to have a nice time and the evening passed away pleasantly, and at its close was found that the Society had realized the sum of \$86.22." When the society held its next meeting on February 18, the members made arrangements to buy cloth with the proceeds.

Armed with the newly purchased cloth, the members held meetings on

February 21, 25, and 28, because “it is thought best to fill a box and send it off as soon as it can be done conveniently.” March meetings were sparsely attended “on account of sickness, bad going, &c.,” but on April 15 the members filled a barrel with “Hospital supplies” and prepared it for shipment. “The ladies thought best to send [the supplies] to Dr. Phelps of Brattleboro.” They may have chosen the military hospital located at Camp Holbrook, later known as Smith General Hospital,¹⁰ because they had formed their society with the intention of helping Vermont soldiers, or because they were familiar with its commander, Dr. Edward Phelps, who had practiced medicine in nearby Windsor before the war. On June 3 Secretary Abbie Dartt noted that the “Society has just received a letter saying the contribution we sent to Brattleboro has been received by the Sanitary Commission, Boston.” The minutes do not record the decision, but from this date onward the society seems to have made its donations directly to the Boston branch of the USSC.

In her book *Patriotic Toil* Jeanie Attie explains why soldiers’ aid societies were difficult to maintain:

[S]oldiers’ aid societies were fragile entities sustained with considerable difficulty. The process of organizing neighbors, canvassing for money, buying raw materials, sewing clothing, canning food, packing boxes, and shipping them to the assigned depot required sustained time and energy, which were rarely in steady supply.¹¹

The Weathersfield Society, however, continued to meet, irregularly but often, at members’ homes, the District 6 schoolhouse, or the town hall. The secretary did not record the names of those present, but usually between four and eight women attended each meeting; fourteen attended the meeting on December 17, 1863, and eighteen, the highest number, attended the meeting on March 24, 1864. Election of new officers occurred every three months. Between January 1863 and July 1864, the members raised \$118.00 and sent six barrels to the USSC. The surviving records may not be complete, but contributions included the following:

- 61 shirts
- 43 drawers
- 60 pairs of stockings
- 46 handkerchiefs
- 39 pillows
- 40 pillowcases
- 43 sheets
- 1 blanket
- 16 quilts and comforters
- 168 towels
- 3 arm slings
- 238 rolls of bandages

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The society also sent soap, rolls of lint, dried apples and blackberries, one pair of slippers, and three feather fans, as well as books and magazines.

Howard Coffin notes that “the home folks—particularly the women, with thousands of the most fit men constantly gone away from the time of Bull Run to Appomattox—were often busier than the men in uniform.”¹² Attie adds that the “rigors of their domestic labors” placed constraints on women who wanted to volunteer. “Time and again female correspondents cited household chores, childcare responsibilities, and family illnesses as the chief reasons for neglecting requests for their charity.”¹³ As busy farmwomen, the members of Weathersfield’s society must have had these obligations and many more. Secretary Abbie Dartt noted that sickness limited the number of members present at the March 11, 1863, meeting, and on January 14, 1864, Secretary Lucia Danforth wrote that “as there was so much sickness in the neighborhood it was thought best not to meet the next week.”

Bad weather, however, was more often the cause of poor attendance. Eight women managed to attend the December 17, 1863, meeting despite “quite a snowstorm,” but only four made it to the March 31, 1864, meeting when “a stormy day” kept everyone else at home. Hot weather may have been a greater deterrent. “Day very warm but few ladies present but their energy being great considerable progress was made,” wrote Secretary Mary Atwood on June 23, 1864.

In fact, many women often took work home with them. Secretary Lucia Danforth wrote that after sewing shirts and socks at the December 3, 1863, meeting, “each one also took home work, thereby showing the interest felt in the cause.” On March 3, 1864, she wrote that “interest in our little society for the good cause does not seem to diminish, but rather to increase,” adding that several new members had joined. Whatever challenges stood in their way, the women persisted, “being desirous” to help “our suffering soldiers.”

Who were these dedicated and diligent women? The 1860 census provides some information about them and their families just before the outbreak of the war. Most lived on farms around the Center, and many were related to one another by ties of blood or marriage.¹⁴

The society’s first president, Elizabeth Nichols, was married to Thomas Nichols, a farmer. Their household included their four children, one farm laborer, and one domestic servant. Younger sister of Thomas, Lucia Danforth and her husband William were living with her father Seth Nichols and his second wife, Alfelda. Seth was listed as a farmer, Alfelda and Lucia as housewives, and William as a farm laborer. Lucia

was one of the society's first directors and also served terms as secretary and treasurer.

Like Lucia, Abbie Dartt was living with relatives, her aunt and uncle Melinda and Nathaniel Warren and their son Aaron, in 1860. She and her husband Justus Dartt, who was listed as a farm laborer, had been married less than a year. Abbie's brother, Granville Knight, listed as a physician, rounded out the household. Abbie served several terms as secretary of the society, and her aunt was a member.

Fidelia A. Dartt lived with her husband, Erastus Nathaniel Dartt, and Sarah Maria Kimball, also a member of the Dartt family, lived with her husband Seymour Kimball and their two children. Huldah Putnam and her husband Frederick Eugene Putnam included his mother and two farm laborers in their household. All three women were married to farmers. Huldah and Sarah Maria served as two of the society's first directors, and Fidelia as its first treasurer. They continued as active members when their terms of office were over.

In a paper written for the 2011 Dublin Seminar for New England Folk Life, Juanita Leisch Jensen states that most members of soldiers' aid societies were women from the middle and upper classes—women “who had the time and resources to volunteer.”¹⁵ Her assertion may be true of women living in urban areas, but if Weathersfield's society is typical, members living in rural Vermont did not have more leisure time or material assets than their neighbors.

All of the women were listed as “housewives” in the 1860 census. Only Mrs. Nichols could afford to keep a domestic servant. Lucia Danforth, still living at home as a married woman of thirty-two, probably assisted her stepmother Alfelda Nichols in taking care of chores in the house and on the farm.¹⁶ The recently married Abbie Dartt, who was only twenty, no doubt assisted her aunt Melinda Warren.

According to the 1860 census the Nathaniel Warren and Thomas Nichols households were among the more comfortable in the Center. Nathaniel's real estate was valued at \$5,000 and his personal estate at \$1,600; Thomas's real estate was valued at \$8,500 and his personal estate at \$5,200. Seymour Kimball was the least prosperous; his real estate was valued at \$1,300 and his personal estate at \$720. None of these men could be accounted as members of the upper class.¹⁷

Was it a feeling of personal involvement that caused these women to persevere in their volunteer efforts—a desire to help men whom they knew or loved? Many of the members were married or related to men who were soldiers.

Abbie Dartt's husband Justus answered the call, enlisting as a second lieutenant in the Nineth Vermont Infantry in Perkinsville on May 27,

1862. He was captured at Winchester, Virginia, on September 3, 1862, paroled on September 15, and then resigned on November 13, “on account of “Chronic Diarrhea from which he has been suffering the last two (2) months.”¹⁸ After the war Lt. Dartt enjoyed a distinguished career in Vermont politics.¹⁹ His cousin George Dartt, who had also enlisted in the Ninth, was not so fortunate. George died of “Chronic Diarrhea” at the Chesapeake General Hospital near Fort Monroe, Virginia, in 1863.²⁰ An inventory of his effects states that they were to be sent to his father, Nathaniel Nelson Dartt; his mother Ruth may be the “R. A. Dartt” included in the list of the Soldier’s Aid Society’s members.

The Dartt cousins were recruited by and served under a Weathersfield man, Charles Jarvis, son of Consul Jarvis. Captain Jarvis was forty-one when he decided to enter the army and raise a company for the Ninth Vermont; he was promoted to major in May 1863, and was fatally wounded on December 1 of that year while on expedition near Newport Barracks, North Carolina. His body was escorted home to Weathersfield by an honor guard from the Ninth, and “the [Weathersfield] Bow Church was packed”²¹ for his funeral service.

Lucia Danforth’s husband William enlisted in the Sixteenth Vermont Infantry in September 1862; he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and was promoted to captain during the course of his service. The Sixteenth was one of the nine-months regiments recruited in response to President Lincoln’s call for 300,000 militia, which he had made on August 4, 1862. Joining other Vermont troops in Washington, the Sixteenth formed part of the Second Vermont Brigade and participated in heavy fighting during the Battle of Gettysburg.

William Danforth was thirty-nine when he enlisted. Writing to his sister on November 24, 1862, Weathersfielder Joseph Spafford, who was also serving in the Sixteenth, said, “I cant bear Danforth, and George [possibly Joseph’s brother] thinks the same that I do of him. He is a regular old granny, thinks nobody knows quite so much as he does, &c.”²² It is not clear whether Joseph was referring to Captain Danforth’s age or his personality! Joseph, who had grown up in the Upper Falls neighborhood of Weathersfield, first served in the Fourth Vermont Infantry but was discharged because of poor health in May 1862. He re-enlisted in the Sixteenth in September of the same year and was then mustered out in August of the following year. Although he survived the war, Joseph died of “disease contracted in the army”²³ in 1866.

With so many men away, “the burden of everyday life, of keeping up with farm chores, fell to the people left behind, younger brothers and grandfathers, but most particularly on mothers, wives, and sisters.”²⁴ Nevertheless, the mothers, wives, and sisters of Weathersfield continued

the work of their mission. The society held at least forty meetings between the time of its inception in January 1863 and the last meeting recorded in the notebook, July 28, 1864. The minutes for that meeting note that "time passes very pleasantly and we hope profitably." The women must have been glad of each other's company while they sewed, knitted, and packed barrels with the products of their handiwork. During their meetings they may have shared the news from letters written by their husbands, sons, and brothers serving in Vermont regiments or consoled one another when the news was bad.

One source of consolation must have been the knowledge that the things they made were vitally needed and much appreciated. Every time the society sent a barrel to the USSC, a representative sent a thankful receipt. Writing to Mrs. Danforth on July 22, 1863, M. S. Buck of the executive committee made this statement:

You will have seen by the papers that during the fortnight following the battle of Gettysburg the demands on us were very great. We sent daily for more than a week, a car-load of stores, amounting to eight or ten tons. We were also obliged to forward a large quantity of clothing, which we had accumulated for the use of the Southern hospitals; these boxes must now be replaced, and the articles sent by your society will help towards this object.²⁵

The writer went on to say that although more sheets, towels, and drawers were needed, there was also "a strong appeal for blackberry jam, syrup, and cordial." Reading this letter, the women must have realized the importance of their work. The crucial supplies they and members of other societies sent to the USSC were distributed where they were most needed. New clean clothes and bedding did much to improve the hygiene of the patients and the sanitation of the overcrowded hospitals, thereby slowing the spread of infection and disease.

The last letter the Weathersfield society received from the Sanitary Commission underscores the importance of women's work. Although the letter is not dated, it seems to have been written as the long war was drawing to a close. Mary G. Loring, secretary of the executive committee, wrote that for "three years many of us have been at work, with the purpose of relieving, so far as might be, the necessary hardships of the loyal Army." In describing the heartfelt gratitude of the soldiers and the medical people who cared for them, Mrs. Loring paid eloquent homage to women's contributions:

A woman's courage now is as precious as a man's: it is the spring from which the Army gets much of its patience and endurance; and thus in our woman's way, we help to fight these battles so marvelous for their courage, so fearful in their misery.²⁶

The women who belonged to the Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society displayed their own kind of courage by setting aside time dedicated to making the critically needed items—items that represented the solicitude and patriotism of the makers.

At the 1867 town meeting, the people of Weathersfield voted to erect a monument in honor of local soldiers who had served in the Civil War. Despite its straitened financial circumstances following the war years, the town appropriated \$1,000.00 for the monument and mandated that it must be completed by the Fourth of July of that year. "Weathersfield people believed that by sending 136 men to war, they had achieved the highest percentage of men of any town in the North,"²⁷ and they were determined to show their pride in this achievement. The marble monument and surrounding grove of maple trees stand in front of the First Congregational Church of Weathersfield Center. As the inscription states, the monument honors Weathersfield's brave sons who "volunteered to serve their country in the late war of the great rebellion," but Weathersfield's daughters also answered the call to serve, although their names are not engraved on the monument. Published accounts, regimental rosters, and government records make it easy to identify the men who fought bravely in battle; their digitized letters preserve their experiences. It is difficult, however, to recognize the women who labored at home. The records of the Weathersfield Soldier's Aid Society give names to a group of these women and remind us that women everywhere were in engaged in similar missions. The contributions they made to the United States Sanitary Commission evince the value of women's work in a time of great national crisis.

APPENDIX A

Papers of the Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society Manuscript Collection 53

Collection consists of the meeting minutes of the Soldier's Aid Society, as well as letters of acknowledgment from representatives of the New-England Women's Auxiliary Association branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. Most of the minutes are recorded in a notebook with paper wrappers.

According to historian John L. Hurd, the Soldier's Aid Society was not limited to members of the First Congregational Church of Weathersfield, although it may have grown out of the Weathersfield Centre Sewing Society, a fundraising organization association with the church.²⁸ The constitution states that "any lady may become a member" of the Soldier's Aid Society.

Members made such needed items as nightshirts, socks, and bedding. These items were sent to the Boston branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. Occasionally the Society was also able to send monies, some of which were directed to the United States Christian Commission.

- United States Sanitary Commission. New-England Women's Auxiliary Association
- United States Christian Commission
- Atwood, Mary A. (née Chamberlain), 1833-1866
- Danforth, Lucia Ann (née Nichols) 1828-1906
- Dartt, Abbie Patten (née Knight), 1840-1915
- Nichols, Elizabeth Harrington (née Williams), 1820-1913.
- Weathersfield Centre Soldier's Aid Society (Weathersfield, VT)

Folder List

1. Meeting minutes
 - Notebook with constitution, by-laws, and list of members. Also includes names of newly elected officers. Lists of donations are included in final pages.
 - Draft of minutes for June 9, 16, and 23, 186? [year uncertain] meetings on separate sheet.
2. Loose pages
 - List of items sent by the society since January 1863, accompanied by printed sheet with directions for hospital supplies from the United States Sanitary Commission.
 - Longer list of items sent by the society, including books.
3. Letters of acknowledgement from the United States Sanitary Commission; most letters addressed to Mrs. Danforth.
 - June 2, 1863
 - July 22, 1863
 - Jan. 16, 1864
 - Feb. 13, 1864
 - May 30, 1864
 - Undated letter, stating that three years have passed since the commission began its work.
4. Letter of acknowledgment from the United States Christian Commission, addressed to Mrs. Mary A. C. Atwood, for gift of \$58.59.

APPENDIX B

Names of members:

Mrs. Mary A. C. Atwood	Miss Louise M. Marcy
Mrs. Ann Brown	Mrs. M. Marcy
Mrs. A. Cady	Miss Mary J. Marcy
Miss Libbie M. Cady	Mrs. Elizabeth H. Nichols
Miss Sarah C. Cady	Miss Sarah K. Nichols
Mrs. A. N? Chamberlin	Miss Lucy J. Perkins
Mrs. Lucia A. Danforth	Miss Susan F. Porter
Miss Ann E. Dartt	Miss Helen Pratt
Mrs. Annie P. Dartt	Mrs. H. M. Putnam
Mrs. Fidelia C. Dartt	Miss Marrietta E. Rice
Mrs. R. A. Dartt	Miss Lucy Smith
Miss Eliza C. Fuller	Miss Mary S. Smith
Mrs. Sarah J. Goldsmith	Mrs. Abbie Taylor
Mrs. Sarah S. Hadley	Miss Marrilla Taylor
Miss Sophia Hadley	Mrs. Caroline A. Tolles
Mrs. Jennie Hill	Miss Sarah G. Tolles
Mrs. Ellen H. Jackman	Mrs. Melinda Warren
Mrs. Maria Kimball	

NOTES

¹ Jeanie Attie, *Patriotic Toil: Northern Women and the American Civil War*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013), 3.

² Weathersfield Historical Society MS Collection 53. This collection is the source for all quotations for which no citations are given.

³ James M. McPherson. *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1988), 323.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 479.

⁵ Attie, *Patriotic Toil*, 3.

⁶ Albert Hiram Tyrrell of Springfield, VT, provides an example. He served in the NH Fourteenth Volunteer Infantry. Recovering in the US Army Hospital in Philadelphia from a wound to his knee that he had received at the Third Battle of Winchester, he wrote to his brother Emerson that he could not walk without a crutch. "As I have only one crutch and that is to [sic] short I do not try to move about much. I am going to send out by one of the boys tomorrow and see if I cannot get a pair of crutches of the Sanitary Commission." Albert Tyrrell letter to E. L. Tyrrell, 9 October 1864. WHS MS Coll. 73, manuscript.

⁷ John L. Hurd, *Weathersfield Century Two* (Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing, 1975), 9.

⁸ A paper wrapper is the paper cover of a small inexpensive book, notebook, or pamphlet; the wrapper is usually heavier in weight than the interior pages. A dust jacket protects a book bound in cloth on boards; its use did not become common until the first quarter of the twentieth century. For more information, see the Glossary of Book Terms on the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America website: <https://www.abaa.org/glossary/entry/wrappers> or *ABC for Book Collectors* by John Carter (New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2002).

⁹ Weathersfield Bow also had a Soldiers' Aid Society, but its records have not survived.

¹⁰ Nancy E. Boone and Michael Sherman, "Designed to Cure: Civil War Hospitals in Vermont," *Vermont History* 69 (Winter/Spring 2001): 174.

¹¹ Attie, *Patriotic Toil*, 99.

¹² Howard Coffin, *Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War* (Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 1995), 280.

¹³ Attie, *Patriotic Duty*, 103.

¹⁴ Census information retrieved via Ancestry.com. Family information found in the Weathersfield Historical Society's genealogical records.

¹⁵ Juanita Leisch Jensen, "'Armed with Needles': New England Women in the Civil War," *The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife Annual Proceedings* (2011): 42.

¹⁶ It is interesting to note that the 1870 census finds Lucia and William living in Red Wing, Minnesota, where he was working as a civil engineer. This census doesn't include values, but Lucia, now the mother of two, was able to employ a domestic servant.

¹⁷ By contrast, William Jarvis, the former consul to Lisbon known for introducing merino sheep to New England, was Weathersfield's wealthiest resident. Although he was listed as a farmer in the 1850 census (he died in 1859), he owned real estate valued at \$35,000.

¹⁸ Civil War Service Records: Justus Dartt, accessed July 15, 2021, <https://www.fold3.com/image/311412947>.

¹⁹ Hurd, *Weathersfield Century Two*, 59. He should not be confused with Justus Dartt of Goshen, Addison County, VT.

²⁰ Civil War Service Records: George Dartt, accessed July 15, 2021, <https://www.fold3.com/image/311412891>.

²¹ Hurd, *Weathersfield Century Two*, 15.

²² Joseph Spafford, Letter to Mary Jane Spafford, 6 January 1862. Vermonters in the Civil War Collection, University of Vermont Libraries, manuscript. <https://cdi.uvm.edu/manuscript/uvmedi-94916>. Spafford's letters, which can be found in UVM's digitized collection of Civil War materials, provide lively reading.

²³ Ancestry.com: Joseph Spafford, accessed July 16, 2021, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117315360/joseph-spafford>

²⁴ Coffin, *Full Duty*, 281.

²⁵ WHS MS Coll. 53.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 53.

²⁷ Howard Coffin. *Something Abides: Discovering the Civil War in Today's Vermont* (Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 2013), 488.

²⁸ See Mss. 45 for the Weathersfield Centre Sewing Society.