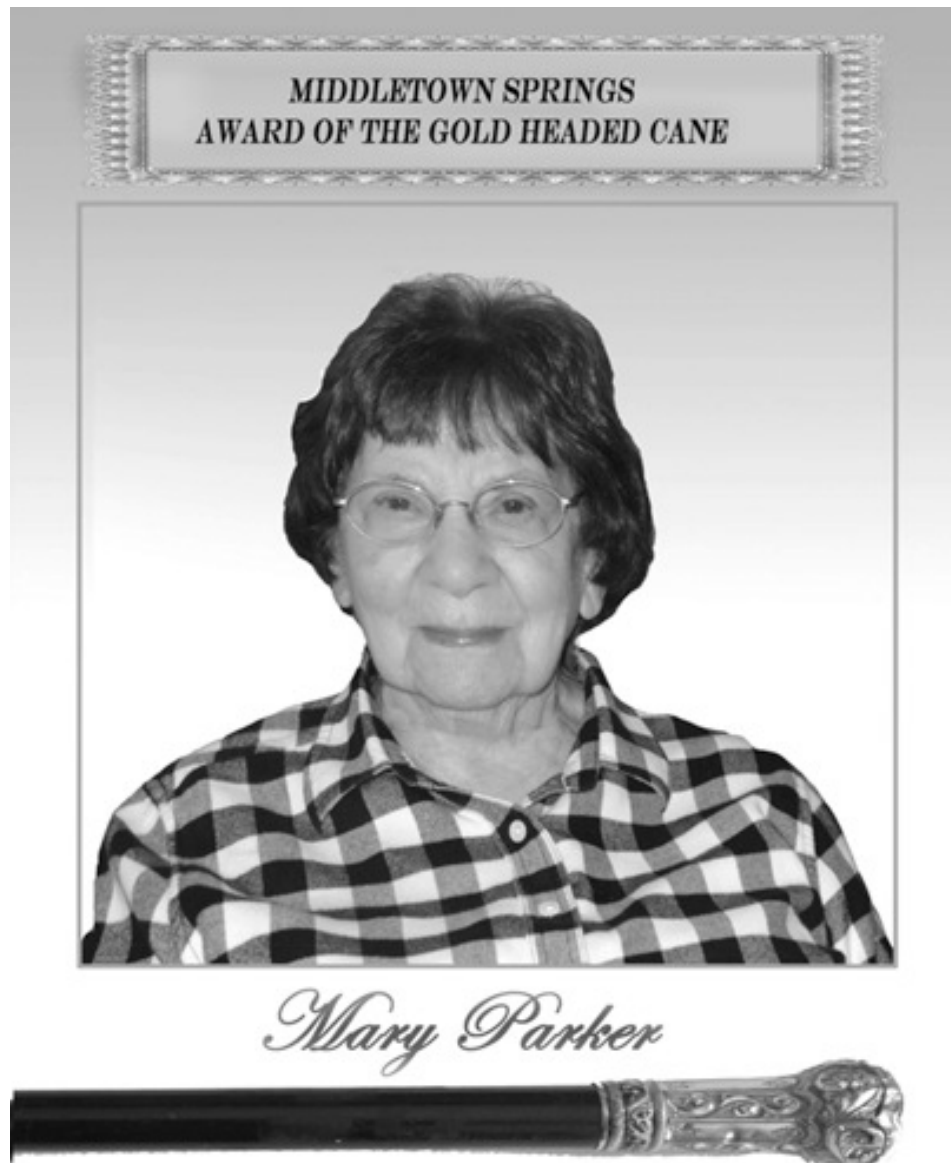


# The Town of Middletown Springs VERMONT



**Annual Report  
of the Town Officers  
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020**

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS  
AWARD OF THE GOLD HEADED CANE



## Wilma Washburn

Award of the Gold Headed Cane

Wilma Washburn was born on September 11, 1924, at Gifford Hospital in Randolph, Vt. This is somewhat of a rarity, as back in those days most births occurred at home, but, according to Wilma, "Mother had trouble so Father took her to the Hospital." She is the oldest of two sisters, and her earliest memory is: " I think my first memory is when Grandmother told me I had a little sister."

Wilma grew up in Granville (Vt), attending Randolph Union High School and then Johnson State College, later graduating from the University of Vermont. She was a teacher for many years. One of her memorable impressions of her younger years still speaks volumes today: "There was a teacher in Johnson College that was special. She came here from out of state and found this place different than what she was used to. But she was real good about it and she taught us lots of things we didn't know."

Wilma eventually settled in Bethel after getting married later in life. Her favorite memory, in fact, is: "Getting married; everybody was so surprised 'cause I'd been an old maid for so long. We were both in our thirties when we got married."

Wilma has no children or grandchildren, and is the aunt of Tony Lamberton. She resides on North Street here in town with Tony and Anissa.

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## ON THE COVER

Mary G. Parker

April 11, 1922 - June 26, 2020

Mary G. Parker passed away June 26, 2020.

Mary was born in East Dorset on April 11, 1922, the daughter of Octave and Marguerite (Woods) Gaudette. Mary graduated from Wallingford High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Castleton Normal School (now Castleton University) and a master's degree from the University of Vermont.

Mary enjoyed teaching for 47 years. Her career began in 1941, when she spent two years at a one room schoolhouse in Danby teaching all eight grades. From 1943 through 1955, she taught fifth and sixth grades and, eventually, high school students at Middletown Springs High School. From 1955 until her retirement in 1989, she taught grades seven through twelve in Poultney where her subjects were math, world history and civics. In 1937, Lester Parker, her husband, took over the family farm on East Street purchased in 1884 by Lester's father, Fred Parker. Lester and Mary were married July 11, 1941 and, together, they successfully presided over Sunny Syde Farm. There, they raised two daughters, Jacqueline and Martha.

Mary was a member of Eastern Star, Grange, Fortnightly, Roundabout, Ladies Art Club as well as the Choir and Bell Choir at the Community Church. Following her retirement, she served as a town lister and substituted at the town library.

Mary loved music. When she was a girl, she sang on the radio with her sister, Donaldda. Through the years, her music filled the house as she played the piano and sang harmony with the family. There were fun times of jitterbugging and doing the polka in the kitchen.

In early May 2020, Mary was awarded the Gold Headed Cane as "The oldest person of Middletown Springs, In Trust". She was very pleased with this honor even though there was no ceremony due to the Covid-19 virus quarantine restrictions.

If you shut your eyes and listen carefully, the music still echoes through the old farmhouse.

## **To Keep Up With What's Happening In Town All Year Long**

- Join **Front Porch Forum** (<http://frontporchforum.com>), the online list serve for Middletown Springs
- Subscribe to the **middleTOWN NEWSletter** published on or close to the first of the month. For a digital subscription write to [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com) to have your email address added OR send \$6 (12 First Class stamps) to the Library to have a hard copy sent to you each month for a year.
- Check the **Town's website** for information and links to resources. The website is being updated regularly. If there is something you are looking for and can't find there, let us know by emailing [middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com). Visit the site at <http://middletownsprings.vt.gov>

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## **REMINDER**

### **THE WELLS SPRINGS BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMATIONAL MEETING AS FOLLOWS:**

**DATE & TIME: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 AT 7:00 PM**

**VIRTUALLY AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

[meet.google.com/rhj-pzyq-mup](https://meet.google.com/rhj-pzyq-mup)

**OR BY TELEPHONE BY CALLING:**

**(US)+1 413-398-0250 (PIN: 478 471 336#)**

THE BOARD WILL PRESENT THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

**Please join us in support of your schools!**

The Wells Springs Annual Report is available at the following locations:

Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union  
Middletown Springs Elementary School  
Middletown Springs Town Clerk's Office  
Wells Village School  
Wells Town Clerk's Office  
online at: [GRCSU.org](http://GRCSU.org)

**Town of Middletown Springs**  
PO Box 1232  
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

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05757  
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**Address Service Requested**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**Wednesday, February 24: Wells Springs Board of School Directors  
Annual Meeting - 7:00 p.m.** Virtually or by phone

**Monday, March 1: Pre-Town Meeting**  
Please reference this Town Report

**Monday, March 1: Deadline to vote by Early or Absentee Ballot**  
Town Office open until 5 p.m.

**Monday, March 1: Deadline to Register to Vote**  
Town Office open until 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 2: Town Meeting Vote!**  
Polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Historical Society (4 Park Ave.)