



The Barnard Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2020

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A VERMONT WRITER

BY MARGARET EDWARDS

This column is an offering of The Danforth Library in Barnard and a chance to introduce a Vermont writer who deserves wider renown.

Karl Wood

1930 – 2020



Karl Wood was born, brought up, and ever after a resident of the same town. He entitled his memoir, published in 2009, *Made in South Woodstock, Vermont*. He loved double and triple meanings. Having been conceived and delivered, he had therefore been made in that town; and that town was also the place where the book itself had been made, or written. And perhaps a third meaning derives from our saying that someone “has it made,” meaning that person lacks for nothing and is enviably satisfied and fulfilled. Very true of Karl Wood.

Karl wrote down only some of the tales he’d spent his life telling aloud, material that his family and friends begged him to preserve. And he put on paper only the best parts of the enormously well-documented family history that he knew. He did not think of himself as a writer, even though he became an author. Everyone who knew him knew him as a gifted raconteur. Storytelling one-to-one, or in a small social setting, came naturally to him; and his “stories” were never tall tales or fibs

but absolutely true. He would take what his fellow Vermonters had experienced right along with him and give it a distinct form with details unique to his keen observation. Then he would put a spin or a twist on the whole that would charm and amuse his audience. He could make anyone laugh. He told many hilarious stories, yet none of them were barbed and none were created at anyone else’s expense.

Where did he find his stories? Karl led the quiet life of an exemplary man of his times. He graduated from school in good standing. He joined the Army in his 20s and was stationed in South Korea. He married young, stayed put in his native town, and, aided by his devoted wife, raised a family of three daughters. He worked as a bindery superintendent at a West Woodstock publishing concern. In the local volunteer fire department, he served for sixty years, many of them as its chief. And he was essential to the operation of his local historical society and his church that was just up the road. He served faithfully and well on the burial ground board. Not much adventure, you’d think. And where was the humor?

Here below are several excerpts from his memoir:

When I was still quite young, I was enrolled in a Sunday school, which was held in the Academy building. Sunday school was conducted by a nice lady with firm beliefs and total faith. It was reported to my parents that I had been asking impertinent and disruptive questions. (What held up Jacob’s Ladder? Did his coat have so many colors because he was a painter?) My parents took an unpopular stance: since I had asked my questions politely and out of pure curiosity, they did not hold me responsible for the lady’s inability to find answers to what I had asked. I was excused from further Sunday school. For as long as I can remember, I have been curious about what happened and how it could have happened and why it did happen. At an early age I came to realize that neither “they say” nor what I saw on a printed page was necessarily true or completely accurate. This attitude has haunted me throughout my lifetime, so I have learned to keep my thoughts to myself. [page 50]*

My grandfather, Alonzo Wood, told of a [sled] ride that he took during the 1880s. He had been assigned to the rear seat. The person seated in front of him was a rather large housewife. Sitting on traverse sleds involved wrapping one’s legs around the hips of the next rider forward, and resting one’s feet on the edge of the seat below that person’s knees. One could either grasp the edge of the seat, or wrap one’s arms around the next rider’s waist. The lady in front of my grandfather chose to take a firm grip on Alonzo’s ankles. The ride started well, and everything was fine until the traverse went over a water bar. The jolt caused all of the passengers to shift one seat to the rear in a manner that left Alonzo sitting on the road. The lady retained her first grip on my grandfather’s ankles until the end of the ride, which was about a half mile

Cont. next page - Wood

Wood - Cont. front page

farther down the hill. Alonzo was, shall we say, em-bare-
-assed. [pp. 70-71]*

Gramp did not have absolute control over his old team of horses. Instead of looking at a watch to keep track of time, he relied on Grandma to call him to lunch. She had a tin horn and would step out on the porch and give a blast in the direction he was working. The horses recognized a lunch break when they heard one. If actively being driven at the time, they were under control, but woe to those who had left them standing unattended. We could possibly jump on the wagon as the team headed for the barn, but if we were at all slow and missed connections, we'd find them waiting at the stable when we finished walking home. It took awhile for me to realize that these were not runaway horses. It took me even longer to realize that Gramp was accepting his punishment for inattention. Gramp retired the horses when they got to be thirty years old. He and my father and I journeyed over to Maine in 1939 and bought a tractor. It was delivered in the spring of 1940. Gramp died before he ever got to drive it. Two years later, I was driving it for my uncle Arthur. I had better luck with it than with the horses. [page 64]*

Construction of "The First Ski Tow" on Gilbert's Hill brought a great deal of publicity to Woodstock. Since Clinton Gilbert was my uncle, this venture and its problems were frequent topics of conversation at my parents' house. Since I was only four years old at the time the ski tow opened, several years had to pass before I got to try it. Occasionally my mother would be asked by my aunt Persis to help with the snack bar and coffee shop that had been built at the base of the slope. When other arrangements could not be made, I would go with my mother, watch the skiers, and stay out from underfoot. I and my cousin Norman, about my age, could usually find other things to do. As we grew a little older, we learned that skiers often buried cans of beverage in the snow next to their parked automobiles. Following this discovery, we continued our education and found that cold beer tasted much better than did beer that had been left too long and had frozen. [page 71]*

Another one of Dad's stories...was the tale of Mr. Fletcher and his pigpen... Along with other assorted livestock, Fletcher raised a few pigs. His pigs were confined by a sturdy fence made by spiking planks to the inside of wooden posts. A space was left between each plank to provide ventilation and to save on lumber, the distance between planks being calculated to confine fairly small pigs.

One morning, Mr. Fletcher set about replacing a worn plank. First he assembled his equipment. The new plank and large nails were laid handy before he used his hammer to remove the defective portion of the pen to reach the inside surface of the upright post. As he was pound-

ing the last spike into place, a curious pig nudged his arm, causing him to miss the intended nail, but not the one on his finger. In reaction to pain and anger, he threw his hammer at the pig. It was then he discovered the awful fact that his head was still inside the pen and there was no longer enough space between the fence rails for him to back out. His hammer remained well out of reach where he had thrown it.

Mr. Fletcher spend a long morning with the now fascinated pigs while he pondered his error and waited for Mrs. Fletcher to wonder what made him so late for dinner. There is a distinct possibility that Fletcher was in a vile state of disposition when she found him. In any case, she found herself unable to release him and had to contact a neighbor to help her. By then Mr. Fletcher and his pigpen were well on their way to legendary status. [pp. 83-84]*

Karl Wood, if you met him, seemed shy. But a close observer could tell he was not. A shy person is one who worries about the impression he or she is making on others. Karl, in the best way, was reticent. He had a quiet presence. He was a keen observer. He seemed to know instinctively what could never be taught and, for that reason, he radiated wisdom—it was that old time wisdom, lit with laconic humor, for which Vermonters are world famous.

* Quoted from *Made in South Woodstock, Vermont: Tales from the Village That Raised Me* by Karl Wilfore Wood (self-published at Anything Printed of Taftsville, Vermont, 2009). This memoir is available at the Norman Williams Public Library of Woodstock, Vermont; at the Danforth Library of Barnard, Vermont; and at the historical societies of South Woodstock and of Woodstock. Copies are sometimes available for purchase at the Yankee Book Shop in Woodstock.

Submitted by Judy Maynes

LISTER NOTES

On July 23 the Listers office filed the Abstract of the Grand List, sent 64 Change of Value Notices and 167 Notices of Change in Current Use Value. Warnings for the August 11, 2020 Listers Grievance were posted at the Town Hall the Barnard General Store, the post Office and the East Barnard Community Bulletin Board.

During the two weeks prior to the Listers Grievance the Listers received 8 grievances, in addition to on grievance filed in June. The landowners of one parcel requested a face to face Grievance on August 11 All others were heard by phone and email. One property was inspected prior to the end of the Grievance decision period. Grievance Decisions were mailed to 8 property owners on August 17 and one was mailed out in August 19.

On August 19, 2020 the Lister filed the formal 2020 Grand List and informed the Selectman of the total taxable assessed value of the town of Barnard.

NEWS FROM HELPING HANDS

We are still having wonderful summer weather, but as the nights get cooler, we know that fall is right around the corner. There is so much uncertainty now, but the coming of cooler weather is a given. We used to hold a Firewood Fest to help people with firewood. We no longer hold the fest, but we still are available to help with your heating needs. If you think that you might need some help, please let us know now, rather than in October, when it is challenging for us to find wood.

Congress has gone on break, but hopefully when they return, they will work on a new stimulus package. Will it cover as many things as the last two? As of August 1st, all the subsidies ended. We are all hoping that some of them will be reinstated. Barnard Helping Hands wants to remind you that we are still here, ready and able to help members of our community. We have funds to help you if you are in a challenging situation created by the pandemic. These funds can be used to assist you with expenses such as food, rent, mortgage payments, basic household needs and child care.

We have already distributed over \$3000 in Shaw's or BGS gift cards, and purchased 3 CSA memberships, to help families put food on their tables. Please let us know if you could use a food gift card. We have also helped with car insurance and car payments, propane and electric bills, mortgage payments, rent and wood for the winter.

There are many elders in our community who may be housebound. If you have time, give them a call to chat and see if they need anything. Or drop by for a socially distanced visit. If you think they might appreciate more help, ask them if you could contact us, and then please let us know.

We would like to thank the many people who have already generously sent us a donation. And if you would like to help us continue assisting people in our community, we would welcome your donation. You can send a check to Helping Hands, PO Box 888, Barnard, VT 05031. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you.

Our local food shelves are serving a record numbers of individuals and families. Many thanks to all of you who add food to our collection box at the BGS. Please help us keep it filled to overflowing. There are many in our community who depend on both the Woodstock and Bethel Food Shelves to supplement their food needs. Here is a list of items that are always needed: pasta and pasta sauce, hot and cold cereal, canned tuna, canned soups and stews, canned and packaged meals, peanut butter, jam and jelly, coffee and tea, mayo and ketchup and personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste and toilet paper. Thank you for supporting the food shelves!

We know that many of you may never have needed help before, but we are living in an unusual time and we would like to provide some peace of mind to our neighbors, who are struggling. Please email or call one of us if

you need some help. If the job is too big for us to handle, we can hopefully refer you to other available resources.

Linda Beaumariage – 234-5624 letvt@mac.com

Louie Ahlen – 457-2621 lahlen8920@aol.com,

Mary Blanton – 234-5541 marywbvt@gmail.com,

Patty Hasson – 457-3886, pattyh58@gmail.com

Leah Crowley, leahgocrowley@gmail.com

Becky Brettell, 457-3436, rebbrettell@gmail.com

CHANGE IN AD DISPLAY POLICY

Because the Bulletin has evolved to being an online internet publication, I have decided that there is no longer a need for paid advertisement, and therefore this issue of the Bulletin has been laid out without the normal ads.

In an effort to maintain the policy of keeping Barnard Residents informed of products and services that are supplied by other residents or businesses in the town, I am starting a policy of placing one inch by three and a half inch ads in a new Local Services section of the Bulletin.

To be included in the Local Services section, a PDF or a text block, no taller than an inch and no wider than three and a half inches can be submitted to the Bulletin for placement. The one inch ads will be prioritized by the date submitted. Available space will dictate how many ads will be placed. In placing these ads the most recent submissions will be placed first.

As in the past a full page poster ad submitted as an image or PDF will be included in the Bulletin. It should fit into a 7.5" by 10" frame. Oversized submissions will be reduced to fit into this 7.5" by 10" frame. These full page ads are published in one issue and should be in the nature of a Public Service or Public Event notice.

This will be a free service and if the submitted ad is not compliant in size it will not be placed. The editor reserves the right to reject any advertisement that is deemed not to be in the public interest and/or is not relevant to the residents of Barnard. The one inch ads will continue to run until the resident that submitted it requests that it no longer be displayed. Those that request the placement of the one inch ads must be residents of Barnard or in the case of a business the owner of the business must be a resident of Barnard.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE EAST BARNARD CHURCH

August 23, 2020, 11:00AM. East Barnard Church, at the corner of Broad Brook and Allen Hill Roads

Please wear a mask. We will decide, weather depending, on meeting inside the church or outside at a safe distance from one another.

**BARNARD PRIMARY
ELECTION RESULTS
AUGUST 11, 2020**

DEMOCRATIC PARTYFOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS

RALPH "CARCAJOU" CORBO, Wallingford - 9
 PETER WELCH, Norwich - 210
 (Write-in) - 1
 (Blank) - 6

FOR GOVERNOR

RALPH "CARCAJOU" CORBO, Wallingford - 1
 REBECCA HOLCOMBE, Norwich - 62
 PATRICK WINBURN, Bennington - 6
 DAVID ZUCKERMAN, Hinesburg - 118
 (Write-in) - 18
 (Blank) - 21

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TIM ASHE Burlington - 51
 MOLLY GRAY, Burlington - 122
 DEBBIE INGRAM, Williston - 14
 BRENDA SIEGEL, Newfane - 16
 (Write-in) - 0
 (Blank) - 23

FOR STATE TREASURER

BETH PEARCE, Barre City - 183
 (Write-in) - 0
 (Blank) - 43

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

JIM CONDOS, Montpelier - 189
 (Write-in) - 1
 (Blank) - 36

FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

DOUG HOFFER, Burlington - 98
 LINDA JOY SULLIVAN, Dorset - 86
 (Write-in) - 0
 (Blank) - 42

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

T. J. DONOVAN South, Burlington - 185
 (Write-in) - 2
 (Blank) - 39

FOR STATE SENATOR

ALISON H. CLARKSON, Woodstock - 186
 RICHARD J. "DICK" MCCORMACKi, Bethel - 154
 ALICE W. NITKA, Ludlow - 152
 (Write-in) - 4
 (Blank) - 182

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

HAVAH ARMSTRONG WALTHER, Hartford - 30
 HEATHER SURPRENANT, Barnard - 177
 (Write-in) - 0
 (Blank) - 19

FOR HIGH BAILIFF

MICHAEL MANLEY, Hartford - 49
 ROBERT SAND, Woodstock - 140
 (Write-in) - 1
 (Blank) - 36

REPUBLICAN PARTYFOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS

MIRIAM BERRY, Essex - 4
 JIMMY RODRIGUEZ, Montpelier - 5
 JUSTIN TUTHILL, Pomfret - 51
 ANYA TYNIO, Charleston - 3
 (Write-in) - 2
 (BLANK) - 22

FOR GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS CAVETT, Milton - 0
 JOHN KLAR, Brookfield - 11
 BERNARD PETERS, Irasburg - 2
 EMILY PEYTON, Putney - 1
 PHIL SCOTT, Berlin - 73
 (Write-in) - 0
 (BLANK) - 0

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DANA COLSON JR, Sharon - 7
 MEG HANSEN, Manchester - 8
 JIM HOGUE, Calais - 2
 SCOTT MILNE, Pomfret - 55
 DWAYNE TUCKER, Barre Town - 0
 (Write-in) - 0
 (BLANK) - 15

FOR STATE TREASURER

CAROLYN WHITNEY BRANAGAN, Georgia - 54
(Write-in) - 2
(BLANK) - 31

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

H. BROOKE PAIGE, Washington - 54
(Write-in) - 1
(BLANK) - 32

FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

(Write-in) - 3
(BLANK) - 84

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

H. BROOKE PAIGE, Washington - 32
EMILY PEYTON, Putney - 27
(Write-in) - 1
(BLANK) - 27

FOR STATE SENATOR

JACK WILLIAMS, Weathersfield - 40
MICHAEL JASINSKI SR, Springfield - 42
(Write-in) - 2
(BLANK) - 177

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MARK DONKA, Hartford - 64
(Write-in) - 0
(BLANK) - 23

FOR HIGH BAILIFF

(Write-in) - 4
(BLANK) - 83

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 4
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

FOR STATE TREASURER

CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 4
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 4
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

FOR AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 4
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 4
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

FOR STATE SENATOR

(Write-in) - 5
(Blank) - 7

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

(Write-in) - 3
(Blank) - 1

FOR HIGH BAILIFF

(Write-in) - 3
(Blank) - 1

PROGRESSIVE PARTY

FOR REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS

CHRIS BRIMMER, Ryegate - 1
CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 3
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

FOR GOVERNOR

CRIS ERICSON, Chester - 3
BOOTS WARDINSKI, Newbury - 1
(Write-in) - 0
(Blank) - 0

LOCAL CRYPTOGRAM

A cryptogram is a code in which one letter is substituted for another. For example, the word "Church" could be written BWMSBW. The letter B would be the letter C and would be throughout the entire message. In this message J = O. The solution is found by trial and error.

"S FQTPF SC CVFTQD AJQ FKD PFGVD
WVLP JA GDVTR VCE TFSWSFR.
PMQSCB PKVWW MWVCF VCE VTFTIC
BVQCDQ FJ FKD DCEP JA FSID."

- QJGDQF GQJLCSCB

The CRYPTOGRAM answer is on the last page.

The hours and locations noted in this calendar may have been effected by COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK BEFORE YOU ACT

THE PLANNING COMMISSION meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm at the Town offices.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR zoning@barnardvt.us, 234-9211. By appointment only, no standing hours during due to the COVID-19 restrictions. After hours cell 603-762-5280.

BEES MEETINGS are held at 6:30pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the library at the school.

DANFORTH LIBRARY: Tues.: Noon - 2 p.m.; Wed. 3 - 5 p.m.; and Sat. 10 a.m. - Noon. The Trustees meet the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. in the Library.

ECFIBER Governing Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in 012 Oakes Hall, Vermont Law School. More information at <https://www.ecfiber.net/>

BARNARD CONSERVATION COMMISSION meets the second Monday of the month, 7:00pm, Town Hall.

SELECTBOARD ASSISTANT selectboard@barnardvt.us, 234-9211 ext. 2. In person by appointment only, no standing hours during due to the COVID-19 restrictions. After hours cell 603-762-5280.

SELECTBOARD meets the first and third Wednesday of the month at the Town offices at 7:00pm.

SELECTBOARD ASSISTANT, Rob Ramrath, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280, selectboard@barnardvt.us. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR, Rob Ramrath, 234-2911 x 2, Cell 603-762-5280, zoning@barnardvt.us. By phone at any time, in person by appointment.

TOWN CLERK office hours are Monday & Tuesday, 8:00am-3:30pm. Public access is restricted. Call 234-9211 for an appointment.

THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Barnard Town Hall as necessary.

THE BARNARD ACADEMY SCHOOL BOARD meets at 6:00pm at the school on the third Monday of each month.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY Programs to be announced. Questions? email: historicalbarnard1761@gmail.com

BARNARD LISTERS listeners@barnardvt.us, 234-9576. Office hours, except holidays: Wednesday 9:00am - 11:00am; by appointment; or anytime a Lister is in the office.

THE BARNARD BULLETIN, is printed each month on the 20th, and is on the web at barnardbulletin.news. PO Box 161, Barnard VT 05031-0161, 802-457-1792.

THE BARNARD ENERGY COMMITTEE meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm at the Town Hall

YOGA CLASSES offered at Danforth Library, Mondays 9:00am - 10:30am with Amanda Anderson. Classes are by donation; for more information contact Amanda@innerliftyoga.com. Yoga Classes are also offered on Thursdays from 9-10:30 with Beth Umba. Contact Beth at: bethumba@gmail.com.

BARNARD LISTSERV: to subscribe please send an email to: barnard-subscribe@lists.vitalcommunities.org.

BARNARD GENERAL STORE, 7am - 7pm, 8am - 7pm Sundays. <https://www.facebook.com/barnardgeneralstore>

RECYCLING HOURS: Saturdays, 8:00am to 4:00pm,

CRYPTOGRAM ANSWER

"I trust in Nature for the stable laws of beauty and utility. Spring shall plant and Autumn garner to the ends of time."

BARNARTS PRESENTS AFRO-FUNK FEST & FUNDRAISER

AN EVENING WITH SABOUYOUA
FABLE FARM ORCHARD IN BARNARD, VERMONT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020

6-9pm Music and Dinner. 4-5:30pm Discussion group: Expanding multi-cultural programming in area schools

TICKETS Sliding Scale Tickets begin at \$15, to cover music and overhead costs. Select \$15, then "add donation" at check-out to donate more. Cash and check donations will be accepted at the event. \$50 and \$100 tickets are also available. Food and labor are locally donated.

THE FUNDRAISER This fundraiser will support multi-cultural artist visits to local schools (outdoors or on-line) and the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte, VT, which is currently unrolling a "Window to a Multi-cultural World" Curriculum for use in Vermont schools.

THE MUSIC Sabouyouma a West African Afro-fusion funk band will headline the event. Led by Ousmane Camara, a singer, balafon player and griot from Guinea.

THE DINNER A dinner will be provided by Feast and Field Farmers featuring a delicious locally raised spread of braised beef, polenta, and salads, community pie for dessert.

DISCUSSION GROUP From 4:00-5:30 everyone is invited to participate in a discision about what can we do to support schools and students right now in this unique time of hybrid learning to address the challenging topic of racial inequality and to combat racism. To register for this discussion visit the Music on the Farm page of Barnarts.org. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled.

BarnArts Center for the Arts info@barnarts.org
PO Box 41 802-234-1645 (voice mail)
Barnard, VT 05031 www.barnarts.org