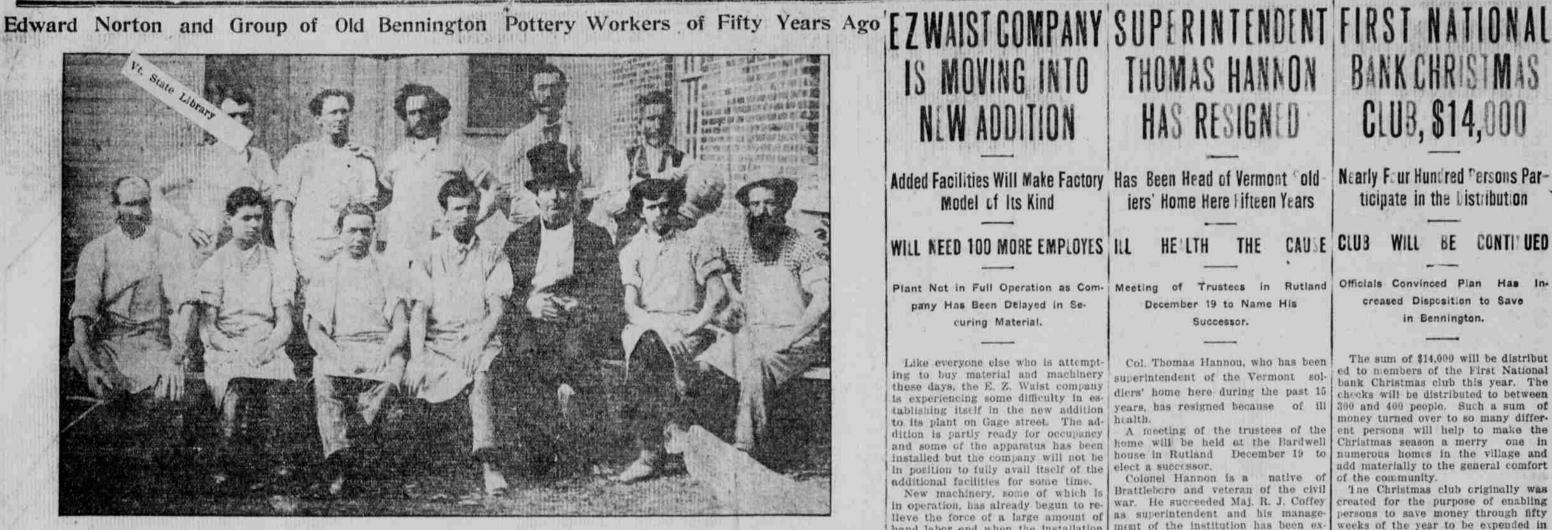
THE BENNINGTON EVENING BANNER

FOURTEENTH YEAR-NO 3963

BENNINGTON, VT. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1916.

PRICE ONE CENT

A Two-Ring Wedding Is Like a Three Ring Circus---So Much Going On at the Same Time That One Is Likely To Miss Some Points



Top Row, Left to Right Frederick Godfrey, John H. Norton, Charles C. Kimball, J. A. N. Williams, William Bates.

Lower Row, Left to Right Jacob Metz, Edward H Moore, William Smith, Frank A. Greenslet, Edward Norton, Gilbert F. Burt, Jerome Johnson. Five of the 12 men, Frederick Godfrey, John H. Norton, Charles C. Kimball, Frank A. Greenslet and Gilbert F. Burt, are now living in Bennington The whereabouts of two, Jacob Metz and William Smith, are unknown. Five, J. A. N. Williams, Williams Bates, Edward H. Moore, Edward Norton and Jerome Johnson, have passed away.

BENNINGTON POTTERY

A Famous Industry Here For Many

At a recent meeting of the local D. A. R. an interesting paper on pot-The article was prepared by Mrs. C. scribed herself as just as bashful as brought John Harrison from England Mr. Fenton surrounded by 8 Rocking-H. Emmons, daughter of the late Ed- a child could possibly be and William to do their first modelling.

Walter A. Dyer, author of "Early American Craftsmen." says: "Paolation, ceases, in my opinion to be a virtue; but when it leads men and night Delia." women to the revival and preservation of worthy traditions and instituconstructive price for good." With this thought in mind we search for the early history of the Bennington pottery which was established by Captain John Norton, who was an officer in the 18th Connecticut regiment, served in New York in 1776 and was said to have been present at the execution of Maj. Andre in 1780,

In 1793 John Norton with his wife and children left their home in Sharon, Litchfield county, Connecticut, and drove up through Berkshire county into Bennington. (A portion of the harness used on the trip is in our possession.) He purchased land in the south part of the town, comprising what are now the Moses Wilson, the W. S. Hinman and the Chas. he built the house standing north of by Charles Tudor and which was known for many years as "The old Norton Homestead." His oldest son, Luman, built the Hinman house and was associated with his father in the pottery business.

They manufactured an earthen ware covered with a salt glaze, which was very similar to stoneware but much lighter in weight and made jars. jugs, milk pans, baking dishes, platters, bean pots and the ordinary household utensils. There are severexistence and many others may tucked away in store rooms and attics. Mrs. L. S. Norton has a jar which was formerly the property of Miss Julia Bingham's grandmother and which Miss Bingham said, that her grandmother told her to always preserve as it was one of the first pieces made at the old Norton pottery on the farm. The Ostrander family in Hoosick have a similar piece on the bottom of which is written, "This belonged to grandfather Ostrander and was made in the old Norton pottery." Mrs. W. B. Walker has an ink well and several pieces which were dug out of the ground in later years when men were plowing. In appearance they might as the saying is, in connection with these young men "antedate all dates." B. T. Henry kindly loaned me a receipted bill dated June 20th, 1815. It reads William Henry Esq., bought of John Norton & Son 12 dozen milk pans 9 shillings per dozen, \$18.00. Then three sizes of platters are mentioned.

signed John Norton & Son. Many years ago a cousin of my father's told me the happlest recol-A team of horses harnessed to plied the power for grinding the clay.

coming to \$20.00 and

joys of the Merry-Go-Round long be- care to, but offered no objections to daughter, Mrs. Fenton, could be near fore the pleasures were over and the and in the north wing of the Norton fearsome it was very reassuring to and Henry Hall started the manufac- York in 1853. It is composed of four walk home with her. (William Bates porcelain and took its name from the the second section the Flint enamel, was E. L. Bates' father) She de- resemblance to Parian marble. They above this a life sized Parian bust of

Holland, Mrs. W. B. Walker has sev- pottery. eral pieces of ware made at this time this property which is now occupied yellow letters on the side read :- The hound handled pitcher is his tery." It required four horses to him Decius Clark. draw them and that they be perfectly John Leo and Enoch Barber were

Connecticut." In 1839 Judge Norton took his sonin-law, Mr. Fenton, into business it being about as cheap to import in would doubtless open their eyes could lections of her childhood were the with him. Mr. Fenton had previous this way as to bring from New Jersey, they know the value now placed on days spent playing about the old pot- ly learned the pottery trade at a red | The largest piece of ware in exist their wares. a long pole, and driven in a circle sup- Judge Norton's son Julius came into feet high, which stands on the piazza States pottery is said to be that made On rare occasions the children of the 1846 Mr. Fenton wished to go into the Henry Fillmore's homes. This house Morgan Memorial Museum, Hartford. family were allowed to ride on this manufacture of a more decorative was built by Judge Norton in 1838 Dr. Edwin At Lee Barber of the Penpole As she explained: "All the line of ware. Judge Norton did not and made a double house so that his asylvanian Museum of Fine Arts also

tion with meeting him were told.

There were many anecdotes also told

One returned from a long cold drive

in the fall and as he came into the of-

fice some asked: "What made his

nose so red." He walked up to the

glass, looked it over and said:

fore the day," and if it grew dark be- the younger men making the venture him. road to her home looked long and pottery, Mr. Fenton, Julius Norton played at the Crystal Palace in New be told that William Bates would ture of Parian ware. It is a hard kinds of ware. The base is the lava,

same size and style of architecture. North street was a covered bridge workmen came from England and built for the accommodation of this

England and the ware was sold at John Coughelaw, Stephen Ples, Jos titles as, "Departed Spirits," drivers. In suitable weather these One man made stone china bowls on cataract flowing over the side

a gilt decoration. They must also have made some "B. Fenton, Bennington."

"Doubtless it comes from eating so many red roosters. They have been the main diet served since leaving earthen ware pottery in Dorset, ance is the monumental piece, ten the firm about the same time. In between Mrs. W. B. Walker and by Albert H. Pittkin curator of the

Bates, a boy of 14 or 15 as consider. At the end of a year Mr. Hall with mounted by a parlan figure of a womsister, Miss Helena Norton. With a ably more so and although they made drew from the firm and Julius Norton an. This piece was Mr. Fenton's idea few changes and some additions to the trip together many times, they returned with his father and Edward and modelled by Greatbach. Horace make it more complete, the article is never spoke a word from the time Norton. Then Mr. Fenton with A. P. Greeley in the N. Y. Tribune under they started till they reached the Lyman went across the river and an article called: "Art and Industry Loomis gate. (The large white built a pottery on the site of the pres- at the Chrystal Palace" gave a long Craftsmen," says: "Pawhen it leads to war and deswhen it leads to war and deswhen it not be a

Carftsmen," says: "Pawhen she would say. "Good night Norton advancing a certain sum for
William," and he would reply. "Good the project. It was known as the U. this monumental piece are grouped S. pottery. Their property extended table and scale standards, corinthian John Norton died in 1828. In 1831 across what is now School street to capitals, figures, vases, urns, tollet his son, Luman, (or Judge Norton as the point a little east of the North sets and a great variety of other tions and to the study of history and he was known) moved to this village street bridge, where the river and lit- specimens of porcelain plain and intions and to the study of mistory and industrial arts, it becomes a positive and built a pottery on the site of the tig brook come together. I am told laid. He also mentions telegraph inconstructive price for cond." With present building, it was about the first bridge across the river on sulators in white flint and says: "This material is one of the heat The business was conducted on a and that there are less than six peo- electric non conductors, that can be much larger scale and they manu- ple in the village today who recall found and has been employed on the factured stone ware vellow ware and seeing it. What is now School street telegraphs in the vicinity of Bos-Rockingham, which is a vellow ware and the land to the point were piled ton." Under the Flint enamel he spattered before firing with a brown high with slabs and it required what speaks of pitchers, carelle sticks, tea clay, which gives the mottled ap- was described as a small army of men, pots, picture frames, door plates, door pearance. It was first made in Eng- to draw these slabs down from the and curtains knobs, escutcheons, etc. land at the Swinton pottery on the es- mountains and work them into suit. He describes the Parian ware as retate of Charles Marquis of Rocking- able lengths for firing the six kilns, markably fine. Silliman and Goodham, which gave the name. Skilled The first bridge on pottery street was | rich's, New York Exhibition of 1853 published by George P. Putnam also describes this ware. The first at-Workmen came from the Trenton, truction of U. S. pottery ware is its which in color and design are as N. J., and Norwalk, Ct., potteries and quaintness. The pieces were more handsome as anything made later in from abroad. Two artists came from carefully modelled than most of the the United States pottery. All this abroad to decorate the ware and draw products of other potteries of the was before the days of railroads and the designs. They were Theophile period. The glaze was more uniform, Tudor farms and built his pottery op- travelling salesmen. The ware was Fry from Belgium or France and brilliant and evenly applied, and had posite the spot where the Hinman packed into large wagons built for the David Greatbach, who belonged to a rich velvety sheen. Walter A. Dyer house now stands. Five years later purpose. They had high sides and the celebrated English family of says, "It requires a certain sort of were painted dark green and in large Greatbachs all of whom were artists. genius to design such fierce lions, such motherly cows, such "Bennington Stone Wart" and in best known design. A Mr. Farrar tobies," Today in the Rockingham much smaller letters "Norton Pot was their superintendent and under ware pitchers, mantle ornaments and flasks are most sought after. The ornaments include lions, dogs, cows, matched was a subject of much pride, mould makers, Enoch and Thomas deer and toby jugs, Many flasks are in These wagons went through New Moore, William and Charles Leek, the form of books and bore such general stores. To drive these teams eph Lauton and Captain Enoch Wood | ished Spirits" and others. Popular and sell this ware was considered all worked there, also Lyman Clarke, among the figures was a lion with the best position for young men that Dr. S. R. Wilcox, Mr. G. B. Sibley, Mr. | fore paw resting on a ball and a the times offered. It required con- Charles Sanford. The ware manufact poodle carrying a basket in his siderable versatility to be able to turod was Rockingham ware also a mouth. Among the pitchers the most handle four horses over all sorts of flint enameled ware, for which Mr. valuable are Greatbachs hound al pieces of this ware known to be in roads, sell the ware, and get home Fenton took out a patent. It is simi- handled. The parian ware was more safely with the money. Very little lar to Rockingham but harder and costly and was always modelled with business being done through banks, more brilliant in appearance and was greater care. The pitchers and vases Among the early drivers were Ed- made in three colors, black mottled had raised white figures on a blue, ward Norton; Henry Hall, who was with yellow, olive and yellow and gray or white back ground. There Gov. Hall's son; George Rockwood, brown and yellow, with red, blue and were a few poodles made in the who was later the head of the Rock- green mixed. They also made white parian ware also cows, white tobys, wood Knitting Co.; and E. L. Nichols, granife ware, Parian ware, and a and hound handled pitchers. A femwhom most of us remember; Charles little soft paste porcelain, and a ware ous piece was the large Niagara Falls Cole Sr., was also one of the later known as scrodeled or lava ware, pitcher, the pattern representing a young men wore silk hats as was a flat wheel by the process known as rocks below. A collection of Benappropriate at that time. It was durithrowing. The wheel was worked by nington ware was shown at the Pan ing this same time that Jim Fisk, as a foot lathe and a woman tread the American Exposition in 1901. Since he was familiarly called, was driving lathe. Several women were also then it has steadily gained in poputhrough New England selling his employed to decorate the ware as larity. It is now nearly as rare and goods. Interesting stories in connect there was some porcelain made with valuable as Lowestoft. In Boston, in March 1914, a pair of flint enameled poodles brought \$340. That, of fire brick as Mrs. E. L. Sibley says course, was exceptional. At an aucthat in tearing down an ash house at | tion the price depends on the zeal of her home, which was formerly the the purchasers. The following prices property of A. P. Lyman, they found are quoted by dealers \$50 to \$100 for it was lined with a fire brick marked a good lion, \$25 to \$50 for dogs, cows and deer, \$75 to \$150 for white dogs. A variety of clays were used in the Hound handled pitchers \$35 to \$50. manufacture of the ware, some com- other pitchers \$25 to \$35. Candle ing from New Jersey, some from sticks \$10 to \$15 a pair. The finer South Carolina and a large amount as Parlan pieces bringing even higher ballast in ships coming from abroad, prices. Members of the old firm

The largest collection of United

THOMAS HANNON BANK CHRISTMAS IS MOVING INTO HAS RESIGNED NEW ADDITION

Added Facilities Will Make Factory Has Been Head of Vermont old-Model of Its Kind

WILL NEED 100 MORE EMPLOYES ILL

Plant Not in Full Operation as Company Has Been Delayed in Securing Material.

Like everyone else who is attempting to buy material and machinery these days, the E. Z. Waist company is experiencing some difficulty in establishing itself in the new addition to its plant on Gage street. The addition is partly ready for occupancy and some of the apparatus has been installed but the company will not be in position to fully avail itself of the additional facilities for some time. New machinery, some of which Is in operation, has already begun to relieve the force of a large amount of hand labor and when the installation is completed the company will be in a position to put through a much larger amount on work in shorter time. In the past the company has been hampered by the lack of space and facilities in the washroom but this department, which has been moved into the addition and is partly in operation, is already affording relief.

The addition was built with a view to the comfort and convenience of the employes. The rooms are high, 14 and 15 feet between floors, and the windows are as numerous and as large as it was possible to put them in. All interior finish is white, adding materially to the lighting and it is the in tention of the superintendent. Hiram Hall that they shall be kept as clean

as it is possible to keep a factory. At the present time the company is employing 150 people with 50 more in the branch foctory at Cambridge. Even with this force it has been unable to fill its orders. During the coming year it is expected that the output will be doubled. To carry out its program the company will require an additional force of at least a hundred. About half this number work. During the present week an increase of wages amounting to 10 percent in all departments went into

has a large collection. Included in this are several pieces loaned by S. B. Sibley at the time of the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876. There is a collection at the Metropolitan Museum and many fine collections in private homes, the largest of which is that of Mrs. W. B. Walker's which numbers 175 pieces and of which Bennington is justly proud.

Between 1850 and 1860 the pottery industries were said to be the largest undoubtedly included the men work side workers.

The U. S. pottery went out of existance in 1860. The potters going to Trenton, N. J., Ohio, Illinois and a difficult one to master requiring four few to Kaoline, South Carolina. In years of close application. The whole 1870 the old building was torn down process is most interesting from the to make way for the present graded grinding of the clay in the pit, the school building. Many of the old mixing in the right proportions, the molds and patterns were stored in throwing and pounding of the piece of the Norton pottery and the men were clay till it is the right texture and allowed to use them from time to size for the wheel; the skillful shaptime, which accounts for many ing of the lump of clay on the wheel pottery, but lacking the fine lustre

and coloring. Norton pottery took fire from an over heated kiln and was burned to the ground. The moulds and patterns were a loss which could never be replaced and prevented the possibility of ever returning to the manufacture of the old line of ware. The office furniture was also destroyed including an old desk and high backed rockton and his father, A loss by the heads of the firm who realized to the full the force of the saving: "It is a heart warming and heart softening thing to associate day

generation." The characteristic feature of the remained with the company, 250 years is the combined number of years that living, C. C. Kimball, John Norton, Frederick Godfrey and Frank Green-Frank Norton, brother of Edward and Frederick Hancock were also practi- the last time. cal potters with the firm, going in about 1858 to Worcester, Mass., death, was negotiating with potters where they started a pottery which | making a different line of ware with had a good output for many years. the prospect of manufacturing again. After Mr. Hancock's retirement from At this time the firm were doing a

iers' Home Here Fifteen Years

Meeting of Trustees in Rutland

Col. Thomas Hannon, who has been superintendent of the Vermont soldiers' home here during the past 15 checks will be distributed to between years, has resigned because of ill 300 and 400 people. Such a sum of

house in Rutland December 19 to numerous homes in the village and elect a successor. Colonel Hannon is a native of

Brattleboro and veteran of the civil war. He succeeded Maj. R. J. Coffey as superintendent and his management of the institution has been exceptionally-acceptable to the trustees In his work Col. Hannon has been ably assisted by Mrs. Hannon as ma-

During their residence in Benning ton, Col. and Mrs. Hannon have made a large number of close friends. In case the superintendent's resignation results in their removal from the village the announcement of that facwill be received with regret. It is possible that they may return to their former home, Brattleboro, to reside.

facture of emery wheels. As the business grew a stock company was formed which is now doing a very ex tensive business under the firm name of the "Norton Emery Wheel Co." Gilbert Burt, still living was anoth

er of the potters and Edward H Moore, who afterwards became a travelling salesman, spending his en tire life in the employ of the company. William Bates was also with the firm nearly all his life. Patrick Hogan was custodian of the wood yard for more than thirty-five years and never failed to have a spruce will be placed on machines which will gum stick saved up for the children be added and the remainder will be of the family even when ten years had elansed sinc Moses and Elizah Greenslet, called

affectionately "Uncle Moses" and "Uncle Lije" by every one in the pottery, John and Michael Hogan, who ground the clay and doubteless many others would be named if only some member of the old firm were here to call them off. After the fire in 1873 the Norton company made nothing but stoneware. Some of the large urns and flower pots are considered decorative and Mr. Oatman recommends that they be preserved. At the time of the Philadelphia Centennial the company made large Club and allow 3 per cent interest to quantities of miniature brown jugs with the dates 1776-1876 stamped on them. These were the special work in town employing 300 men, but this of John Norton and the firm wished to send him to Philadelphia at this ing in wood yards and barns as well time to turn the jugs on a wheel in as the turners, moulders and all in the exhibition, but "Johnnie," as he was called, being a modest man re fused the honor.

The potter's trade is an exceedingly pieces in the familiar form of U. S. till a jar or jug grows as if by magic under the hand of the expert potter. Then came the free hand decoration On a wild winter night in 1873 the in cobalt blue drawn on the ware before firing, which also took skill and in the hands of some men showed real artistic merit. The process of firing, setting and drawing the kiln all required great care and was entrusted to no novice. The salt glaze was produced by throwing salt on the ware in the kiln rhortly before the kiln was drawn or opened. This van ing chair brought from the old orized and penetrated every crack pottery on the farm, and all and crevice. The ware remained in ways associated with Judge Nor- the kiln about forty-eight hours. For the brown glaze used on inside of often spoken of and much mourned jars and for flower pots a special clay was brought from Albany.

The clay for the ware came from Long Island and New Jersey and was mixed in the proportion of two to one by day, with the belongings of a past producing a very hard and non porous ware said to be the best on the mar ket. When potteries began to spring Norton pottery was the time the men up in the middle west located near their clay beds, it was found more and more difficult to compete with six men made stone ware. Four are them; for although their clay produced an inferior quality of ware, it answered for household purposes and character. slet. The two who have died are could be sold more cheaply. So the James Williams and Jerome Johnson. | manufacture was gradually discontinued and the old kilns were fired for

E. L. Norton, at the time of his the firm Mr. Norton began the manu- good business in the wholesaling of country."

CLUB, \$14,000

Nearly Four Hundred Persons Participate in the Distribution

creased Disposition to Save in Bennington.

ed to members of the First National bank Christmas club this year. The money turned over to so many differ-A meeting of the trustees of the ent persons will help to make the home will be held at the Bardwell Christmas season a merry one in add materially to the general comfort of the community.

Ine Christmas club originally was created for the purpose of enabling persons to save money through fifty weeks of the year to be expended in the purchase of gifts during the last few days. While this significance has by no means been lost the idea has expanded into an easy and attractive plan of saving money. With the First National bank all classes of people have used the plan. Husbands and wives to surprise members family with Christmas Club checks, boys and girls too, like to save money in this way and at the same time they are getting the "bank habit," an acquaintance which may stand them in good stead later on in life, mill girls and working people too, use the plan to accumulate money. Many of them come in at the noon hour and in such numbers that it is the busiest time of all the day in this department. The bank is glad indeed to number them among its patrons. Some use the plan to accumulate a fund for some special purpose and they find this method of putting aside a small sum regularly for fifty weeks a good way to do it. Many others, some of whom have had bank accounts for years, use the plan for some reason

or other, it appeals to them. And with all, thrift and regularity, two admiral traits, are cultivated. The trend is to stability. In true hrift one not only learns how to save money but how to use it wisely, how to spend it to the best advantage. The club helps in this respect-for after putting aside for the period of fifty weeks, one is pretty sure to use care in his or her expenditures of that money. We believe that some of the boys and girls in Bennington will be wearing warmer caps and coats, shoes and rubbers this winter be-

cause of the Christmas Clubs. The bank people believe in the idea and want to encourage it and so will this month open a 1917 Christmas all club members who keep up their weekly payments. Under the uniform weekly payment plan offered by this bank;

\$2.00 each week pays 1.00 each week pays 50.75 25.37 50 each week pays 12.69 .25 each week pays

WEATHER FORECAST

For eastern New York and western Vermont partly cloudy tonight probably local snows. Friday fair, continued cold.

SOUTH SHAFTSBURY

There will be a meeting of Cresant Rebekah lodge Friday evening, Dec.

Edward and David Howard are pending the week in New York on business.

Miss Mary Hasting is home from her school in Castine, Me., for the holidays.

glass and china. The pottery business was in the Norton family from 1793 to 1894 and during that time six Norton men were members of the firm, John, Luman, Julius, Edward, Luman P., and Edward L. Norton. The business card Issued on their one

hundredth anniversary read "We start now on our second century and would ask for a continuance of your favors for the next one hun-

dred years Edward Norton & Co." The history of the two Bennington potteries is confused by most of those who have talked or written on the subject. The Norton pottery stands for length of years and an output of a substantial and largely utilitarian

The United States pottery was in existence but a few years but in that time produced much of artistic merit and many pieces of great beauty. Very curiously, however, they have been little appreciated by many Bennington people proving anew the truth of the old saving "A prophet is not without honor save in his own