

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Mail: PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791

email: harwhistsoc@gmail.com

OFFICERS:

President: Eleanor Woike
Vice Pres.: Nancy Schnyer
Secretary: Loda Sheehan
Treasurer: Harry Schuh

DIRECTORS:

Luella Bartes
James Curtis
Carol Kearns
Candace Jones-Pacholski
Elaine Sederquist

CURATORS:

Beverly Mosher
Bonnie Andrews

BUILDINGS:

Dennis Andrews

IMMEDIATE PAST PRES:

Richard Pacholski



*Theodore A. Hungerford
Memorial Library
Harwinton, Connecticut*

2014 ANNUAL DUES

Historical Society dues are payable now for 2014. To continue your membership or to join, please send \$15 per person to the Harwinton Historical Society, Attn: Treasurer, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791.

March 2 and March 16

Harwinton Historical Society Presents Civil War Series

Friends of the Harwinton Historical Society are invited to a four-part series on the Civil War. Topics will include the "truth" about slavery and abolitionism, major events prior to the war, and three turning points of the war.

Discussions will be held on Connecticut's involvement in the war as well as the typical daily life of the soldiers. Dr. Karl Valois, professor at the University of Connecticut, will return to lead the program.

The series will take place on Sunday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 16th at the Harwinton library. Each day will be a two-hour session beginning at 2 PM and ending at 4 PM with a short break at the half-way point.

There is no charge, however, donations are accepted.

Update on Friday, May 9 bus trip

Those who have signed up to join the Friday, May 9th bus trip to Boston to walk the Freedom Trail are asked to send a check made out to the Harwinton Historical Society. The cost is \$35 per person. Mail to Candy Jones-Pacholski, 100 Bull Road, Harwinton, CT 06791 by March 15th.

Participants must be at the Harwinton Town Hall/Library parking lot by 6:15 a.m. the day of the trip. The bus will leave promptly at 6:30 a.m.

Note: This is a change from a previously announced departure time. The bus will make one stop at a rest area on the way to Boston and one on the return trip.

Upcoming Programs & Events

March 2 – Sunday – 2-4 p.m. Part 1 and 2 of a series on the Civil War at the Harwinton Library

March 16 – Sunday – 2-4 p.m. Part 3 and 4 of a series on the Civil War at the Harwinton Library

April 15 –Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. - Board of Directors meeting – Skinner House, Bentley Drive

April 28 – Monday – 6:30 p.m. – General Membership Meeting - Harwinton Senior Center on Weingart Road.

May 9 – Friday – All day bus trip to Boston to walk the Freedom Trail. Please park at the rear of the town hall or library parking lot and arrive by 6:15 a.m. for check in. The bus will leave promptly at 6:30 a.m. Advance reservation required. Call 860-485-9343 with questions.

August – Annual ice cream social. Date and time to be announced.

September – Antiques Appraisal Day. Date, time and location to be announced.

Oct. 4 and 5 – Annual Harwinton Fair

HAPPENINGS NEARBY:

Warner Theatre Event Open until March 9, 2014: “The Way We Worked,”

This Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit is free and open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays 1-7 pm and Saturdays and Sundays 1-5 pm. in the Warner’s Nancy Marine Studio Theatre Lobby. The exhibit documents 130 years (1857-1987) of changing work life in America.

Curator’s Corner

Three Harwinton history books are available from the curators:

“This ‘n That” by Raymond G. Bentley \$15.00

“Vignettes” by Lloyd Shanley Jr. \$20.00

“More Memories” published by the Harwinton Historical Society \$22.00

All three books are available from the curators and may be shipped for an additional \$4.00 for postage and handling. To obtain a copy, please contact either Bev Mosher at 860-485-0610 or Bonnie Andrews, 860-482-7978. The books are also available for sale at the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall.

- Curators Bev Mosher and Bonnie Andrews

Connecticut History Program

The Harwinton Historical Society recently wrapped up a series of programs on the topic of Connecticut history.

A total of about 60 people attended the sessions, which were held on two Sundays in February at the Harwinton Library. Discussions were led by UConn History Professor Dr. Karl Valois and covered the founding of Connecticut to the present day.

A BIT OF TRIVIA:

What is unique about Harwinton?

Find the Answer in the April Newsletter

February Trivia Question:

Harwinton has 5 public cemeteries and 3 private burial grounds. Can you name them?

Answer: Center Cemetery, North Cemetery, South Cemetery, East Cemetery, West Cemetery, Scoville Burying Ground, Hayden Burying Ground and the Hayden Tomb

PLEASE NOTE: If you are receiving this newsletter via the US Postal Service, but you have an email address that you are willing to share, it would save the historical society financially if you would forward that email address to harwhistsoc@gmail.com so you could be put on the email distribution list.

PERSONAL NOTES: Bruce Mosher is a resident of Brandywine Senior Living in Litchfield and would appreciate a visit from you. The best time to visit is in the morning or early afternoon.

If you know of members who are homebound or reside at a facility, brighten their day with a phone call or brief visit.

Welcome New Members ...

The Harwinton Historical Society is pleased to welcome 28 new or returning members since January 2013. They are:

Franci Tartaglino of A Healing Trail Wellness Center * Dennis Baerny * Elizabeth Bortolon * Olivia Bortolon * Liz Brayboy * Martin Brayboy, * Lisa Butler * Michael Butler * Gary Cicognani * Dorothy Ciechoski * Raymond Ciechoski * Anne Conboy * John Conboy * Susan Agema Barber Drummond * Beatrice Garner * Anne Kendall * Cindy Orefice * Michael Orefice * Bill Ross * Gretchen Ross * David Ryan * Susan Ryan * Sam Saverine * Alice Szczesniak * Claudia Thurston * Dan Thurston * Robin Ruwet Turpin * Fenton Williams.

Olivia Borotolon of Canton, who is the pre-teen granddaughter of HHS member Mary English and daughter of new member Elizabeth Bortolon, has the distinction of being our youngest member.

Harwinton House

The Harwinton House Committee - a town-appointed group of nine volunteers - continues to meet twice a month to clear a path toward reconstruction of the historic structure known as “Harwinton House.”

The house has an interesting story to tell – one that begins soon after the Revolutionary War and includes political intrigue, several changes in ownership, a move to New Canaan and back to Harwinton, the threat of total demolition and, finally, a remaining hope that the house will be successfully reconstructed in its home town for future generations to enjoy.



**Harwinton House
Rendering by Amaya Architects**

More details about the background of “Harwinton House” can be found at www.harwintonhistory.com. Town Historian Roger Plaskett maintains this web site and is also chairman of the Harwinton House Committee. Minutes of the Harwinton House Committee are also available on the Harwinton web site at www.harwinton.us.

The Harwinton history web site points out: “The biggest obstacle for the resurrection of Harwinton House is funding. The dismantling, documentation and transportation are all covered with a STEAP grant that is in place now. The grant would also cover some of the site preparation including foundation, septic and a well. Raising the house is a totally different situation as little funding exists right now. Our historical society has a little bit of available funds but, we are probably looking at 300 – 350K needed to complete the resurrection. There are matching grants available that we can apply for but even at best case, we need to raise very significant funding and might be as high as 150k if we are lucky enough to be awarded matching grants.”

The Historical Society has donated more than \$25,000 to the project with the hope that it will become a museum as well as the society’s headquarters.

Tax deductible donations can be made directly to the town by mailing a check to:
Town of Harwinton
Harwinton House Restoration
P.O. Box 66
Harwinton, CT 06791

Or to the Harwinton Historical Society, Inc. with instructions that it is for the Harwinton House Rebuild Project. Mail to:

Harwinton Historical Society
P.O. Box 84
Harwinton, CT 06791