

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

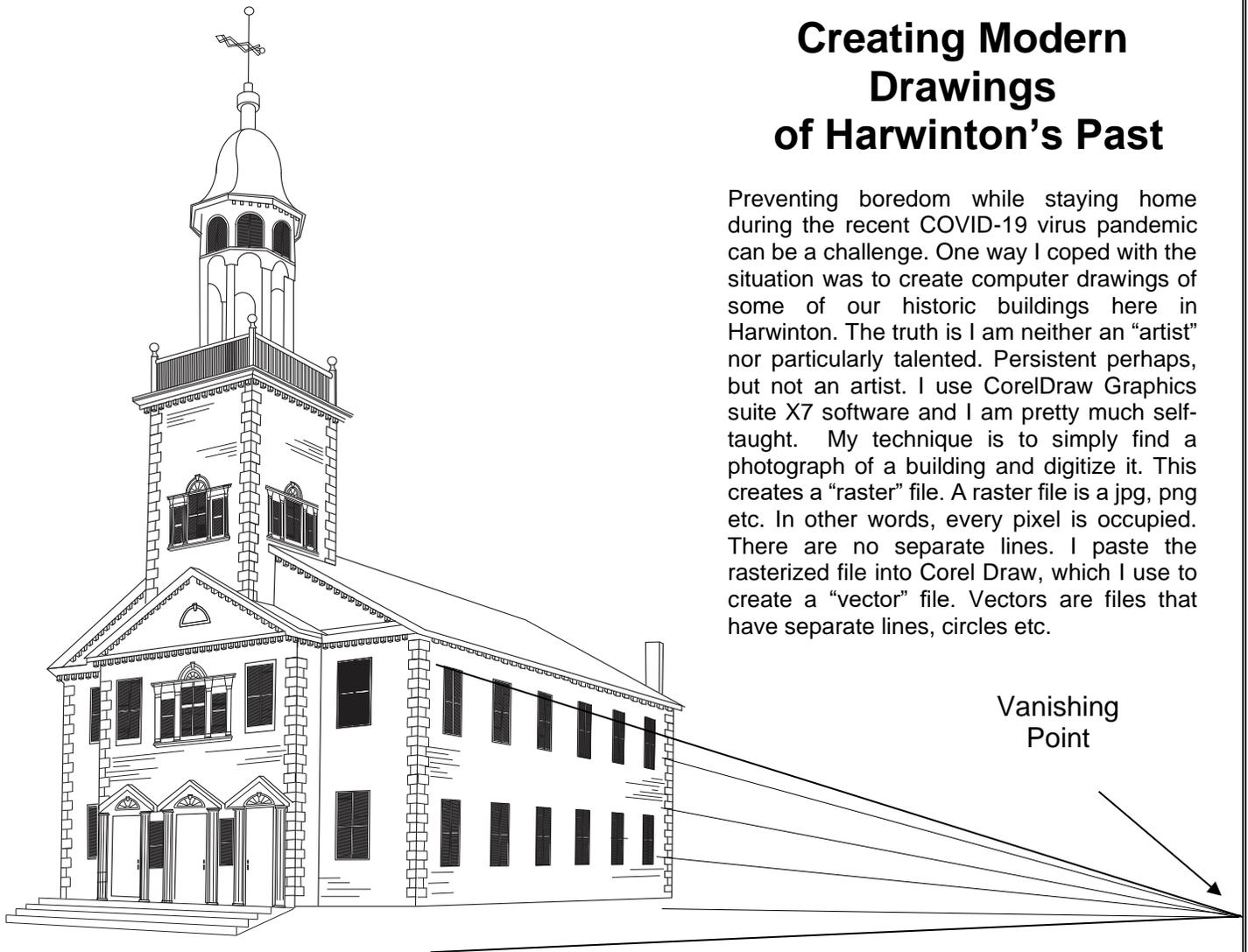
JUNE 2020

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Creating Modern Drawings of Harwinton's Past

Preventing boredom while staying home during the recent COVID-19 virus pandemic can be a challenge. One way I coped with the situation was to create computer drawings of some of our historic buildings here in Harwinton. The truth is I am neither an "artist" nor particularly talented. Persistent perhaps, but not an artist. I use CorelDraw Graphics suite X7 software and I am pretty much self-taught. My technique is to simply find a photograph of a building and digitize it. This creates a "raster" file. A raster file is a jpg, png etc. In other words, every pixel is occupied. There are no separate lines. I paste the rasterized file into Corel Draw, which I use to create a "vector" file. Vectors are files that have separate lines, circles etc.



The next step is to set up "vanishing points". Some people call them "Anchor Points". In the church above, I would draw an extended line along the bottom of the church photo to probably 3 times the length of the church. Then I do the same along the edge of the same wall. Where the two lines eventually intersect, that is a "vanishing point". Then I do the same in the other direction along the front of the church. This establishes the proper perspective. After that it is simply a matter of tracing the photograph by creating lines, arc and circles. There is a tremendous amount of "trimming" required. The outline of each window, for example, is made up of four intersecting lines. Then each line is trimmed at the intersections creating a skewed rectangular shape. The same applies to all curved surfaces. Everything starts with a circle or an oval and is trimmed at various intersections. Once the drawing is complete, all vanishing point lines and any other guides lines are deleted along with the original photograph. The end results are very detailed, much more than is shown here. This drawing of the 1808 church took about 25 hours to create.

By Rog Plaskett, Town Historian

OFFICERS – 2020-2021

President: Bonnie Andrews
Vice President: Nancy Lyons
Secretary: Elaine Sederquist
Treasurer: Harry Schuh

DIRECTORS

Term Ends 2020
Michael Orefice
Everett Lyons

Term Ends 2021
Carol Kearns
David Ryan

Term Ends 2022
Bruce Burnett
Martha Lecko

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Vacancy

CURATOR

Bonnie Andrews
with assistance from
Mary English, Corinne Curtis, and
Susan McClen

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Dennis Andrews

OTHERS

(non-board positions)

HISTORIAN
Roger Plaskett

AUDITOR

Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL

Patrick Wall

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No Cemetery Walk in 2020

This is the time of the year when work begins on scripts, characters, and general organization for the October tour at South Cemetery.

With the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic regarding what the "social norm" will be in October, Town Historian and organizer of the cemetery tours Roger Plaskett has announced he will forego planning a tour for this year. "I'm thinking that people may be reluctant to board a bus, stand in tight groups etc. I just hate to have us put in months of effort only to have a very poor turnout," Plaskett said.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past and enjoy the year off. Roger said he will be in touch for 2021.

Fun Facts About the Naugatuck River

- The Naugatuck River that runs through Harwinton was originally named the Waterbury River.
- The Naugatuck is the only major river in the state contained entirely within the borders of Connecticut.
- The Naugatuck River is 40 miles long.
- The name "Naugatuck" is from an Algonquian term meaning "lone tree by the fishing place."
- People used to be able to tell the day of the week by the color of the Naugatuck River due to industrial waste pollution. This was corrected by the Clean Water Act of 1972.

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic

Help Future Generations Understand

We can all name events in history that changed the world in significant ways (for example, the American Revolution, Civil War, World War I, World War II, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the 1918 flu pandemic, the polio epidemics and so many other events). Don't we often wonder what it was like for people who lived through those times?

Future generations (including our relatives and residents of Harwinton) will wonder what it was really like for us during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the Harwinton Historical Society is inviting Harwinton residents to record the current experience. Would you share your personal reactions and thoughts so we can preserve them for future generations?

Types of information we are looking for include:

- Reflections. . . How has your life changed because of the pandemic? What are your challenges? What are you experiencing? How do you pass the time? What do you miss? What do you not miss? What is a pleasant change?
- Photographs of Harwinton scenes, places and people taken during the pandemic.
- Photographs of artwork created during this time.
- Narrative of an act of kindness that you experienced or witnessed during the pandemic.

Please share your thoughts/feelings – perhaps in the form of a letter, diary, journal, notes, poetry, short story, photograph, artwork, or video. Due to storage issues, we will not be able to accept objects/artifacts. Documenting how you or others around you are dealing with this “new normal” may be therapeutic for you now and helpful for others in the future. This may also be a good writing or drawing exercise for students/children who need an outlet for their feelings.

Send your views and personal reactions to: HHS 2020, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791 or to harwhistsoc@gmail.com. Please be sure all entries are specific to Harwinton, original, and follow copyright rules. Please include your name, address, and contact email/telephone number. Submissions will become the property of the Harwinton Historical Society. As such, we may publish all or part of the submissions, but will not be obligated to permanently retain documents although we will do our very best to preserve all entries for the future benefit of those interested in the town's history.

Looking forward to hearing from you! Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts and feelings.

By Bonnie Andrews, President, Harwinton Historical Society



Sign on Our Lady of Hope church lawn

UPDATES on PROGRAMS

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we adjust our program presentation schedule to keep everyone safe. We miss seeing you! Looking forward to experiencing presentations from speakers we have missed during the pandemic when we can once again gather.

Meanwhile, please take care!

*Harwinton Historical Society Program Committee
Bruce Burnett, Elaine Sederquist, Marti Lecko*

**** PLEASE NOTE: June 7 program postponed to December 6 ****

Creating Connecticut- State Historian Walt Woodward presenting his newly published book, ***Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State***, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic to **Sunday, December 6, 2020 @ 2** - Location To Be Determined

Looking Backward -The Future Seen from the Past - Hamish Lutris: Sunday, **September 20, 2020 @ 2** - Harwinton Town Hall

They Called Her Reckless - A True Story of War, Love and One Extraordinary Horse (Korean War) - Author Janet Barrett: Sunday, **October 18, 2020 @2** - Harwinton Town Hall

First Ladies: High Tea & High Notions - Champions of Social Causes: Mariann Millard (Presented a different well-received “First Ladies” program previously.) - Sunday, **November 15, 2020 @2** - Harwinton Town Hall

FLAG DAY JUNE 14TH

On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress took a break from writing the Articles of Confederation and passed a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white,” and that “the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of that decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day.

In case you missed it in our May newsletter, you might want to watch this YouTube video: It is a beautiful 5-minute video, *I AM YOUR FLAG*, by a gentleman whose voice adults are likely to recognize from childhood!

<https://youtu.be/Akfd9xYMSs4>