

The Wintonbury Drummer



Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

August 2009

Next meeting: September 9, 2009 7:30 p.m.

Location: Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center, 330 Park Ave., Bloomfield, CT

Program: Seaman Burton L. Gabrielle, Hartford native,
Letters written home from the Spanish-American War

Presenter: Fannie R. Gabriel

President's Message:

Message from the President: Since the June Annual Meeting, much productive activity has taken place at the Office/Library. A 60 year accumulation has been brought from various locations to the Education Center; sorting has begun under the direction of dedicated professional Diana Barnard and the help of seven volunteers; a better arrangement of cabinets by a core of volunteers has taken place. Boxes of books donated over a period of years, (including those donated by a gentlemen from Simsbury) have been reviewed by Jean Perreault. The facility is beginning to look more "user friendly" and available for smaller meetings. The September program, note above, had been scrubbed in February of '07, due to inclement weather. Hope that you will be able to be present, and hear about the Society's future plans. As we proceed with our 60th year, the current members listed by year of joining the Society are enclosed (on an insert), as well as a list of those who have served, as Presidents, since its incorporation.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game World Series Time at the Society. Sunday September 27th 3:30 p.m., -new facility 1900's baseball photos—local names in photos-McCormick, Curtin and other ALL HARTFORD NATIVES. We are also pleased to include memorabilia on the baseball career of Hartford's premier baseball player—"School Boy" Johnnie Taylor. Husband of former WHS board member Estelle; and narrator of interesting tale to our members. Lest we think that fist t'cuffs are a new wrinkle in attendees at games- a 1901 headline says "Bats, ball, fists used as argument in game-may mean discipline some guardsmen" Exhibit Sunday September 27th 3:30 p.m., with Joseph McCormick (uncle in photos) to be our visiting celebrity. Open on 27th and October 4th-and other times by appointment.

Fannie R Gabriel, President

This and That

As you read Bloomfield's newspaper, trust you note articles by our Historian Fred Hesketh, Ralph Schmoll Dennis and Donna Hubbs. Recent issue of the Hog River Journal, has nice article and picture of WHS board member Spencer Shaw. Treasurer Charles Dechand picked up a certificate for the Society, recognizing purchase of an American flag, as seen in the center of town. WHS still receives requests for the Bicycle Tour brochure, which may be found on the rack at entrance to Town Hall. Which leads me to write of the self guided tour of Bloomfield-\$10.00 check made out to WHS and sent to P.O. Box 7454, will get this to you— Ralph and Louise Schmoll's son Ken, continues to make a mark in the theatrical world of NYC—in the spring he was awarded an OBIE for directing an off-Broadway play by Ann Marie Healy-called Telephone. His next venture will be under auspices of Lincoln Center in the Duke Lane Theater-What Once We Felt. Good Luck.

A member put their membership dues (cash) in my (fgr) Seabury box—there was no name—but again cash. Call 242-1016 to tell us who you are—then your dues will be right up to date.

WHS has lost two outstanding members—Past President Alice Sorant. I (fgr) had made an appointment to show the new site to a member that same day-thus as soon as the service was over, went over. Have no idea how or why—but the picture shown, literally surfaced. Our sympathy to Bob Mc Comb on Alice's passing.

EDUCATION CENTER - 1st Exhibit

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Committee Reports

Membership Committee:

New Members: Gail Bushnell, Jane Doble, Robert & Metaria Hubbard, Janis Milroy, Richard Ott & Mary Ann Vasquez

Jean Buscarello, Chairman

Newsletter: The deadlines for the newsletter, are for articles to be received by Fannie. For 2009, the last deadline is: Oct 21.

Fannie Gabriel & Janis Langston

Website Committee: If you are working on a project and would like to share it with the world, or if you would like to expand the material already available on the site, please contact Winnie Granger, Ralph Schmoll or me and we can make the information available as part of the resources of the Society on its website.

Janis Langston, Webmaster

FRIENDS OF Old Wintonbury Cemetery

Progress on the fence: The weather and the construction in the area has caused a delay but it is being worked on and a lot has been done. The rust on the fence is being removed and the painting should begin soon after the preliminary work is completed. Also, the bent area of the fence (around the huge tree next to the gate) is in the process of being straightened. It's wonderful to see the work being done and to anticipate what a huge difference it will make to enhance the beauty of our cemetery. We are very grateful to all who are involved in this process, especially Elvis and his crew. We will be having another cleanup of the stones soon. Watch for updates and information in your email.

Pat Robair

Our Publications

Wintonbury to Bloomfield (\$16.50), Images: Old Bloomfield (\$20., or to a member \$18.); History of the Bloomfield Catholic Church (\$15); Bloomfield & the Civil War; Not Lost ... Gone Before: A History of Latimer Hill Cemetery (CD); Barnard Genealogy (\$10.); Good Old Days (\$10.); Cook Book (\$7.); Over Tunxis Trails (\$5.); Bicentennial Activities (\$3); Note Paper (8 pk - \$3.); Filley House T shirts (\$12.); Brown Drums and Brown family (\$10.).

GEMS FROM OUR ARCHIVES

NASA may not have pictures of the 1969 landing on the Moon-but we still have items which have survived longer than that— From Ct. Heritage 9/15/1988 issue “Bloomfield can support 3 families” as the article proceeds, it notes that with the founding of Windsor, a number of men were sent to explore the tract- and returned to report that the land was good, sufficient to support three families goes on to say inhabitants are generally agriculturalists and remarkably free from litigation”

From 10/27/1989 article—Nell Breining, a WHS member for 22 years, came to an auction held by the American Legion and spotted the Old Farm School clock, just as it was being put up for bid. She bid for the clock, against a man who also wanted it. Finally he gave up. Mrs. Breining had rescued the clock—and then donated it to the school-where one can still see it today.

Some inquiries which have come to us recently—A house sitter at the Long estate, called to inquire about the background—using the description when the Estate was on our House Tour, was able to provide information. You can bet I opened my eyes, when an inquiry came in about Orson Wells.

New Acquisitions

From Al and Barbara Ash, a beautiful book-In Memoriam to Samuel Colt and Caldwell Hart Colt. Service Ascension Day May 10,1923 at the Church of Good Shepard. Rev. George Linsley officiated (just so happens he was brother of minister who baptized me at Torrington Episcopal Church (frg).To continue the Linsley story, Annual report of CT Historical Society 1970 noted that Mrs. Helen Livingstone Linsley passed on 10/30/69.

From Nancy Hayes Ellis—Scrapbook-just filled with Bloomfield memorabilia; postcards of Bloomfield’s Bicentennial Parade(1935), Berkshire Museum in Art and Culture(1700-1810), Election Laws 1906, General Assembly 1897, 1947, Hartford City Directory 1818-with 1640 map.

Donated Books for Sale

The items noted, have been deemed by the Collections Committee, as being unsuited to our collection. If interested in any, please send note of your interest to P.O. Box 7454, Bloomfield, CT 06002—and you will be contacted Re price. Scrap book of Edgar Guest verses; Waterbury Democrat-April 1893 Souvenir edition (poor condition-but still readable); Scribners Magazine April 1897(poor condition-but still readable)- articles on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Richard Harding David and William Dean Howells; Complete Nutmeg State Songster (good condition); Genesco Home Coming 1915 Centennial History 1836-1936; Views of Wakefield, England (from Blue Hills Library);Visitors Guide to Philadelphia 1876; Red River in Southwestern History by Carl Newton Tyson; Canal Days in America by Harry S. Drago; New Library of Poetry and Song (illustrated) by William C. Bryant (excellent condition-leather bound; Pioneer Women-Kansas Frontier by Joanna Shatton; Court Records of Sussex County, N.J.; History of Torrington, Ct., Orcott (poor condition). Maps: Ct-1949,1950,1959 Florida-Thrifty Tours 12/22/57; Marine Studios; Miami Beach 1956; Catskill Game Farms (1 adult \$1.00,child \$0.30); Italy-Eating the Italian Way A-Z (this looks really interesting-if only the restaurants are still there- includes recipes); 2 Ct. Ribicoff as Governor-campsites \$1.00

Leaving A Legacy

The Wintonbury Historical Society is a charitable and non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historical sites of Bloomfield, and the memory of the ones who created them.

The Society is in dire need of funds or gifts in order to continue the restorations, and preservations in progress. We are therefore, soliciting the commitment of citizens who value the history of Bloomfield now and in the years ahead.

Listed are a few ways to leave a legacy:

1. Set aside a gift in your will to the Society
2. Name the Society as beneficiary of an insurance policy.
3. Remember your loved ones with a gift in their honor.
4. Name the Society as a beneficiary of your IRA or 401K.

There are several other means, just talk with your financial advisor.

Financial Development Committee

Calendar of Events

2009

- Sept 9 WHS Regular Meeting
Sept 27 Baseball Exhibit Open House 3:30 p.m. Education Center
Oct 4 Baseball Exhibit Open House 3:30 p.m. Education Center
Oct TBD Fall Clean-up Day at Old Wintonbury Cemetery
Nov 4 WHS Regular Meeting

2010

- Feb 3 WHS Regular Meeting
Apr 7 WHS Regular Meeting
TBD Grand Opening Celebration for the Education Center
TBD Tag/Bake Sale Old Farm School grounds (rain date TBD)
Jun 2 WHS Annual Meeting with election of Officers and 60th Birthday Party

Visit the expanded WHS website at: www.bloomfieldcthistory.org

*Submit articles for The Wintonbury Drummer,
the Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society of Bloomfield, to:
Editor: Fannie Gabriel, President, 400 Seabury Drive, #5158, Bloomfield, CT 06002.
Layout Editor: Janis Langston, 166 Duncaster Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002*

Wintonbury Historical Society
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