

# The Wintonbury Drummer



## ***Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society***

***Bloomfield, Connecticut***

***May 2003***

***Next meeting:*** June 4, 2003 6:00 p.m. POT LUCK SUPPER

***Location:*** Sacred Heart Church, Community Room, Wintonbury St., Bloomfield, CT

***Program:*** ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Reports from Officers & Committees and Election of Officers

### ***President's Message:***

Tuesday May 6th, it was heartening to hear Fred Hesketh's *Bloomfield Then and Now*, presented to a full house, at the Prosser Library. I hope our Society will have the opportunity to have this presentation as a program for one of our meetings.

We have already had three inquiries directed to the Society from the web site. One researcher for the CT Historical Commission asked details on Martin Luther King, Jr's time working in the tobacco fields while a student at Morehouse. Can anyone shed light on this?? A second inquiry from the Curator of the Torrington Historical Society was about a Dr. Erasmus Hudson (b. Torrington CT 1806) who lived in Wintonbury while he was a physician/surgeon at the Connecticut State Emigrant Hospital, which was located in Wintonbury in the late 1820's and early 1830's. Any idea who Dr. Hudson was, and any info on this hospital??? A third person from Wisconsin asked how Bloomfield got its name—at least that one I can answer.

Don Moore has a list of names for a LaMothe family, who lived in the Filley House 1951-57. Can anyone help with information on this family??

One of our members, Ken Caswell, has given us two early postcards of the Masonic Temple. They originally belonged to Nell Breining, and found their way to her granddaughter, Gail Tinto. The Merrows have given us a lovely school desk—which is now in the Old Farm School.

You may have noticed the ribbons around the center of town. The Society is represented in a thank you to all Bloomfield residents serving in the military.

Hope to see you at the June 4th meeting—Bea Shea and Mae DiFabio are in charge, so will provide the right background for a fine night, plus the fact we are all great cooks (please bring a recipe of your choice for the pot luck supper).

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

### Hear ye, hear ye...Calling all genealogists...

A train of thought was started as a result of our fine program, April 2nd, by Carol Panke, on the Bloomfield Cooper family and the Mountain Meadow Massacre in Utah 1857. Carol could have done further research, if as she put it - I had a genealogical "pass". This reminded me that some years ago, in Bloomfield there was a group of avid genealogists, called the *Wintonbury Tracers*. The last Presidents were Libby Merrow and Laurel Swan, both members of the WHS. When they disbanded, the *Tracers* turned their treasury over to our Society. Therefore, as a gesture to provide any interested person(s) with an opportunity to restart this group WHS is willing to help get the *Tracers* up and running again. If you are interested in helping reactivate the *Tracers* please contact me. All previous members will be invited to become active again. Membership in a genealogical organization is required for access to some of the local genealogical libraries. Thus, reactivating the *Tracers* would offer those interested in researching their lineage access to these libraries and to others with similar interest and knowledge to facilitate genealogical research.

Fannie Gabriel

### Docents for Old Farms School

Well it's that time again! It's time to pull out your calendar and let us know which Sunday you would like to be a docent. At this point every Sunday is available so now is the time to select your weekend. If you are sitting and saying to yourself - well, I have never been a docent, don't fret! a training packet is waiting for you! I will gladly arrange a Saturday morning training class for all interested. The school will be opened from May 25th through mid October every Sunday from 1-4. Please consider being a docent for its only a few hours of your time. If interested, please call Mary Murray at 860-242-0323.

### Volunteers Needed for the Southwest District School

The wood on the door and window sills needs immediate attention. It is our hope that volunteers can put on a protective coat, then caulk and paint to improve the appearance and save from any further deterioration. This should be a Saturday project in June so its completed before the weather gets too hot! Please contact Virginia Hallisey at 243-1065 or Bruce Hale at 242-5701, if you can give us a hand.

Mary Murray

### Oral Histories

The oral histories which had been taken in the past were given to Mary Murray to transcribe. This needed to be done before the tapes disintegrated from age. - We now have these as part of our collection and for use as programs in the future. Mary did a tremendous job. Thank you!

### Committee Reports

**Newsletter Report:** The deadlines for the newsletter, are for material to be received by Fannie the weekend before each of the regularly scheduled Board Meetings. For the remainder of 2003 that would be by

**Aug 23/24** (Bd Meeting Aug 27), and

**Oct 18/19** (Bd Meeting Oct 22)

Fannie Gabriel & Janis Langston

**Program Committee:** Programs this year: 2002 — September Judge Jerry Wagner on the History of the Bloomfield Fire Department; November Tales from the Bartlett Towers; 2003 February Dr. William Jones III on John Mason and the Pequot Uprising; April Bloomfield's Cooper family and the Mountain Meadow Massacre, Utah 1857.

Eileen Phelps, Chairman

**Website Committee:** The original website done by Marc Sitkin and his committee had been up for almost two years. Thanks to Marc for our first website. In February 2003 the redesigned website was published for the first time. Since then it has been expanded to approximately 50 pages of information about the Society, the Town of Bloomfield and the interesting projects carried out by our organization. We have already had three requests (see President's Message) for information because the Society was found on the web. There are links to our site from the websites of the Connecticut State Library and the University of Connecticut.

There is lots of space available to expand the website content, so please submit information. 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 me and we can make the information available as part of the resources of the Society on its website.

Janis Langston, Webmaster

## The Anthony Kearns Concert

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Anthony Kearns concert has been changed to September 28th. The show will still be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Theater on the campus of the University of Hartford. Tickets will be on sale August 18th through the Lincoln Theater's box office or on-line at [www.hartford.edu](http://www.hartford.edu). I recommend going directly to the box office in order to save additional charges.

It's our hope that each of you will take this opportunity to see this up and coming tenor. Anthony Kearns' program covers the gamut from Viennese, full arias, show tunes including Mario Lanza pieces to, of course, Irish tunes. Anthony's Irish pieces are sung in the Sean Nos style. Sean Nos is the old traditional way to sing a piece and hearing it in that style is magical!

This show is a tremendous undertaking. Volunteers will be needed in order to make this show successful and any help would be extremely appreciated! If interested, please call Mary Murray at 242-0323.

Mary Murray, Event Chairman

## Tag Sale Report

May 10th at the Old Farm School, our annual tag sale realized a total of \$978.95. This breaks down to \$114.00 bake sale; \$300.00 15 vendors; and \$539.95 tag sale (that day) and \$25.00 more has come in, adding to the pot.

Hats off to all the volunteers that day—Financial Development Committee members Ralph and Louis Schmoll; Winnie Granger, Charlie Regini, Bernedene Owens; Mae DiFabio, Jeanne Hunciker, Mary Murray, and chair of the bake section, Carrie Allison. In charge of serving the public at the tag tables – Jean Buscarello, Pat Walker, Estelle Taylor, Betty Doherty, Janis Langston, Dot Nordstrom, Alice Hendrickson, Jan Thatcher. A big thank you to Jerry and Carolyn Jones, who served as “keepers of the cash.” Also, to Bruce Hale Jr and Sr, Joe Caldeira and to Alfred Allison who brought and took back the tables and chairs we borrowed from the Blue Hills Fire House. Thanks to them for the loan of same to us. Our SWDS contractor Jack Kelly came over from Stafford, to drop in and see our Society in action. To all who baked – the goodies were great! Thanks.



More photos  
are on the  
Tag Sale-  
2003 page of  
the website.



*Address Service Requested*

**Wintonbury Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 7454**  
**Bloomfield, CT 06002**

## 2003 Calendar of Events

- May 25 Old Farm School Opens for the season 1-4 p.m.
- May 26 **Memorial Day Parade** - Please join us and walk with the Historical Society group
- June 1-30 **The Society** will display their publications in the Prosser Library
- Jun 4 **WHS Annual Meeting** - 6:00 p.m. Sacret Heart Church Community Room, Wintonbury St
- Jun 7 **Southwest District School** Open for viewing 11 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Jul 5 **Southwest District School** Open for viewing 11 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Aug 2 **Southwest District School** Open for viewing 11 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Sept 6 **Southwest District School** Open for viewing 11 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Sept 10 **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Sept 28 **Anthony Kearns Concert** (one of the Irish Tenors) Univ. of Hartford-Lincoln Theatre 2 p.m.
- Oct 4 **Southwest District School** Open for viewing 11 a.m. -12 p.m.
- Oct 4 **Drum Festival**
- Nov 5 **Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center

Visit the expanded WHS website at: [www.bloomfieldcthistory.org](http://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 Artist: Janis Langston, 166 Duncaster Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002*