

# The Wintonbury Drummer



## *Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society*

*Bloomfield, Connecticut*

*May 2005*

**Next meeting:** June 1, 2005 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sacred Heart Church - Father Picher Community Room  
Wintonbury Ave, Bloomfield, CT

**Program:** History of Bloomfield, Question & Answer Game

**Speaker:** Sorry to report that Don Gorham had a back operation, thus unable to be with us. Under the direction of Bob McComb, members will be asked to provide to him (of course before the 1st) questions and answers pertaining to Bloomfield History. Attendants will see how much they know about Bloomfield's history. Please give Bob a call-and provide him with a question and the answer.

### *President's Message:*

This is an eventful time for the Society... thanks to the Search Committee. On May 5th, the Search Committee recommended to the Board the selection of Baily and Johnson as architects for the Filley/Pinney/LaSalette rehabilitation project. Society members were invited to attend a presentation of the plans the architects have developed. The next step is a contract with the architects; and then a meeting with Town Officials and DECD representatives to finalize putting the project out to bid.

**Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper** (under able direction of Mae DiFabio and Bea Shea); reports from officers and committee chairman; election of officers. Members should come to view the plans for the Filley/Pinney/LaSalette rehabilitation project as drawn up by architects Baily and Johnson.

It has been decided that the Society would not be represented in this year's Memorial Day Parade.

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

## Our Publications

Wintonbury to Bloomfield (\$16.50), Images: Old Bloomfield (\$20., or to a member \$18.); History of the Bloomfield Catholic Church (\$15); 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.).

To order these items send a check in the above amount plus \$3. for S & H to:  
Wintonbury Historical Society, P.O. Box 7454, Bloomfield, CT 06002

## This and That

Since so many newsletters were received in poor or unreadable condition in April, this issue will be sent in envelopes.

As a result of contributions to the Flea Market, some items have been retained for Society needs. From Alice Sorant kitchen utensils to use in hands on exhibit. From Julie Neaverson a foot scraper for the door step at the Filley/Pinney/LaSalette House. From Bob and Penny Whelan screen and projector for Society needs. To Bob Stiles our thanks for keeping his eye on the OFS bathroom-turning off the water before winter and now back on. To Al Taylor for being selected as Chamber Member of the Year. To Pat Walker for having one of her paintings on exhibit at the Cathedral Artists and Friends.

It is a pleasure to announce that Charlie Dechand, our Treasurer has been selected as the Civitan recipient for his volunteer work to the Town of Bloomfield. Charlie we will be sorry not to see you on the 1st, but we all wish you well. Out best to Judy.

Fannie R. Gabriel, President

## Information Request

### Frances McGurk Preston

Does anyone have information on Frances McGurk Preston who was a teacher at the Southwest District School circa 1878-85?

Do you have information on this person????  
Please contact Fannie.

## Committee Reports

**Acquisition Committee:** A formal acquisition policy is being developed. If you would like to help with this committee's work contact the chairman.

Judge Jerry Wagner, Chairman

**Education Committee:** Those interested in the Old Wintonbury Burying Ground please call.

Libbie Merrow, Chairman

**Financial Development Committee:** See the Tag/Bake Sale report elsewhere in the newsletter

Carrie Allison and Winnie Granger Co-Chairman

**Membership Committee:** No new members

Jean Buscarello, Chairman

**Newsletter:** The deadlines for the newsletter, are for material to be received by Fannie the weekend before each of the regularly scheduled Board Meetings. For remainder of 2005 the deadlines are:

**Aug 28th** (Bd Meeting Aug 31st)

**Oct 16th** (Bd Meeting Oct 19th)

Fannie Gabriel & Janis Langston

**Website Committee:** Because of the website WHS continues to receive research requests with regard to historical places and people of Bloomfield. WHS has also received donations of historical items pertinent to Bloomfield because the donor found us via the website.

So, 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

# Connecticut Gravestone Network

(Part 1)

On April 23 Angela Hauptman attended the Annual Symposium, held in Middlefield Community Center.

The day began with Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and Mary Hooper of Middlefield Historical Society giving a brief overview of the early history of the town and of its Old Burying Ground established in 1738. In the 17th and 18th Centuries grave markers were almost always in pairs, headstone facing west and footstone facing east—with the inscription faced away from the grave. It was customary to be buried with one's feet pointing to the east, so that when Gabriel blew his horn on the Day of Judgement, the dead would rise facing east, as it was believed that the righteous would be judged in the morning of the last day. Sandstone hollows from the inside out. If you find an early Boston slate marker in Connecticut, it was imported, as they were not made in this state. The first shop to make cast metal (white bronze) markers was located in Bridgeport.

*(more of this report in succeeding issues)*

## **Tag and Bake Sale Report from the Financial Development Committee:**

The Flea Market/Bake Sale/rented spaces realized a total of \$1,066.45 on May 1st. Due to rain, it was necessary to cancel the sale on Saturday, in fact Sunday, started out not too great a day, but the afternoon brought sun.

Our sincere thanks to all who donated items-and to our fantastic bakers who provided the great baked offerings. Almost \$200.00 was realized from the bakery.

## **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

### 2005

- May 30**      **Memorial Day Parade** (WHS will not be participating)
- Jun 1**        **WHS Annual Pot Luck Supper with Business Meeting** 6:00 p.m.  
- How well do you know Bloomfield's History??? Come play the Question & Answer game.
- Sept 14**     **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Nov 2**        **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center

### 2006

- Feb 1**        **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Apr 5**        **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center
- Jun 7**        **WHS Annual Pot Luck Supper with Business Meeting** 6:00 p.m.
- Sept 13**     **WHS Regular Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Marilyn Michaelson Sr. Center

Visit the 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 Editor: Janis Langston, 166 Duncaster Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002*

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