

# The Wintonbury Drummer



## *Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society*

*Bloomfield, Connecticut*

*May 2009*

**Next meeting:** June 3, 2009 6:00 p.m. 60th Anniversary Celebration

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

**Program:** Bloomfield Memorabilia, known & unknown for viewing & identification  
Potluck Supper, Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

### *President's Message:*

## **Come celebrate our 60th year**

Dr. Eugene Bestor and Jack Hoover, in 1949, organized the Wintonbury Historical Society. This provided the second part of the bequest provided by Mr. Prosser, wherein funds would be used to start a historical society and a public library. As we celebrate our 60 years, we must recall that the societies artifacts and written memories have been stored in many locations. With the Library/Office now a reality-your Collections Committee and Historian (which includes the books) are developing plans wherein members who have offered to help sort, will be called upon. This officer (frg) is grateful for all the volunteer help, particularly the House (formerly Building) committee for getting the Office/Library in shape. To all who contributed to the successful tag, etc sale May 2nd, my sincere thanks. We sure lucked out on the weather-despite the raindrops at 5:30 a.m. Members will note that the envelope contains dues notice as well as the newsletter. Please recall that at the annual meeting, few notices were picked up, thus it appeared to make sense to include both NOW. We are aware that many are Life Members-however, if any wish to make a donation to the Capitol Development Fund, it will help with any expenses for the Office/Library.

See you on June 3rd at the Senior Center, all attending the annual meeting last year liked the location.

Fannie R Gabriel, President

## This and That

As a result of the special election in February, Attorney David Baram (society member) became Bloomfield's Representative. He asked for an item which he might be able to display on the wall in his Hartford Office. He had the 1865 Bloomfield map framed, and now is in his office. Fred Hesketh, our Historian, presented his talk to the Duncaster Residents on the Trolley coming to Bloomfield 100 years ago. As a result he was given a \$150.00 honorarium—which he presented to the Capitol Development Fund—thank you Fred. Trust all have had a chance to see the great article that Ralph Schmoll had in the first issue of the new local paper The Journal, about summer homes built in Bloomfield, by residents of Hartford. New member Gail C. Bushnell, turned over an interesting item on the Grant Hill Plan—will bring it to display on the 3rd.

We were sorry to read of the passing of Frances Stout. The Society sends its condolences to Michel and Laurel Swan, on the recent passing of his Mother in New York State.

## EDUCATION CENTER

We are moving in!!! Thank you to all who have provided storage space for our collections at many locations until the WHS had a home. Volunteers are moving our books, photos and other items to the new building. Under the oversight of our collections committee the items are being sorted, categorized and prepared to be made available for use in the Education Center.



## Committee Reports

### Membership Committee:

New Members: none

Jean Buscarello, Chairman

**Newsletter:** The deadlines for the newsletter, are for material to be received by Fannie. For 2009, the deadlines are: Aug 19 and Oct 21.

Fannie Gabriel & Janis Langston

**Website Committee:** The website has received a new look and new material is being added. 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.

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

## TAG & BAKE SALE REPORT

May 2nd Tag-Bake Sale and Flea Market: Kudos to Judy Dechand, chair of the event. There were 37 members who helped-by donating items; setting up and breaking down; donating baked goods and when Toni Stiles comes with her 3 huge tins of cookies-you know the bake table will be the center of attention. Toni really hawks her wares. She has agreed to do something for us to celebrate our 60th birthday.

Now for the interesting news — Tag Sale \$1,290.45; Bake Sale \$61.00, Vendors \$300.00 for a total of **\$1,631.45.**

## 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.).

## Spring Clean-Up Day at the Old Wintonbury Cemetery May 30th (Rain date June 6th) 9:30 a.m.

The Friends of Old Wintonbury Cemetery will be holding their spring clean-up day at the Old Wintonbury Cemetery Saturday May 30th. Focus for this clean-up day will be cleaning of the gravestones.

Anyone interested in helping them with this project, please call Pat Robair at 243-8135 or email her at probair333@aol.com, so she can fill you in on what to bring on Saturday.

Photos from the fall clean-up day.



### New Acquisitions & Donated Books for Sale

Malcolm Stevens from Simsbury has donated his collection of 150 books to our Society. Recently, Jean Perrault went through the 150 volumes, and set them into various categories. Mr. Stevens was willing for us to dispose of those that did not fit into our Library. Here is a list of the books available for purchase, please advise via our website-[www.bloomfieldcthistory.org](http://www.bloomfieldcthistory.org) by sending an email to the webmaster. We will then get in touch with you and let you know the price. The books vary in size. **The Oregon Trail** by Parkman; **Tales of the Northwest** by William J. Snelling; **Jamestown 1544-1699** by Carl Bridenbaugh; **The Red River (N. Mexico Mining Story)** by Twining; **The Red River Trails (St. Paul & Selkirk Settlements) 1820-1870** by Rhoda Gilman, etc.; **Red River in Southwestern History** by Carl N. Tyson; **Northwest Miramichi (Menzies, Sinclair, Curtis, Mullins families)** by Doreen M. Arbuckle; **On the Border with Crook** by John Bourke; **The Prairie Traveler** by Capt. Marcy; **Minute Book of Sussex County N.J.** by Brad and Carol Stark; **Making of the Crafting Community** by James Hunter.

### New Publications

From Fred Hesketh:

**Bloomfield and the Civil War**

From Lucy Woodford Wirsul:

**Not Lost...Gone Before: A History of Latimer Hill Cemetery**

### 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

- May 30 Spring Clean-up Day at Old Wintonbury Cemetery (Rain Date June 6)  
Jun 3 WHS Annual Meeting with election of Officers and 60th Birthday Party  
Sept 9 WHS Regular Meeting  
Nov 4 WHS Regular Meeting

### 2010

- Feb 3 WHS Regular Meeting  
Apr 7 WHS Regular Meeting  
TBD Grand Opening Celebration for the Education Center  
May 1 Tag/Bake Sale Old Farm School grounds (rain date May 9)

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

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