



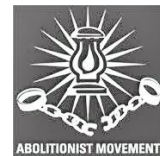
Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

February, 2018

ABOLITIONISM IN THE FAMILY

Thursday, February 1, 6:00 at Prosser



The great-grandson of abolitionist **Rev. John Rankin** will be at Prosser Public Library to open a dialogue about race. The program will begin at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 1, the beginning of Black History Month.

Don Rankin, through his own family's past, presents a program that leads to discussion of today's race relations. The program chronicles the development of slavery in America and the story of those who championed the abolishment of slavery, from the Rev. John Rankin to Harriet Beecher Stowe.

This is not just a history lesson, but an opportunity for a conversation on race. Sponsored by the library and the **Wintonbury Historical Society**. Please register by calling 860-243-9721 or go to www.prosserlibrary.info

Dr. Donald Rankin trained as a surgeon in the Air Force during the Vietnam war. He has served as an assistant clinical professor of surgery at Yale University and was chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Park City hospital in Bridgeport. Now retired, he has researched his family history and found a significant ancestor.



Don Rankin

Photo courtesy of Prosser Library

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: **Page 2:** One Hundred Years Ago. **Page 3:** Jerome Brothers, Part 1: Cousin Jennie Jerome. **Pages 4-6:** Catalog of Congregations #14, New Testament Tabernacle. **Page 6:** President's Job Description. **Page 6:** Calendar for 2018. **Page 7:** Drummer 2017 Index. **Page 7:** History Is Essential #3. **Page 7:** In Memoriam. **Page 8:** Honor Roll of Donors to Year-end Appeal. **Page 8:** List of WHS presidents.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN BLOOMFIELD

January 24, 1918

The local war savings committee is pushing the sale of thrift stamps in the schools of the town under the direction of Principal P. H. Dow of the high school. War savings committees have been organized in each school and a large number of stamps bought by the pupils. A canvass of the entire town will be made by the pupils of the upper grades and the high school. The homes in the town have been divided into forty-five groups and a pupil assigned to each group, who will take orders for stamps and deliver them.

February 23, 1918

The patriotic meeting in town hall Friday evening was well attended. Frederic C. Bidwell, president, and the Liberty Chorus under the leadership of Mrs. L. W. Dean rendered patriotic songs. A male chorus sang "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground." Rev. Willis A. Hadley spoke on "The Soul of Abraham Lincoln." Brigadier William Andrews of the Salvation Army told of his two boys who are doing Salvation Army work in France.

February 28, 1918

Bloomfield's 15 per cent of drafted men left yesterday for Camp Devens. The new soldiers are: Leon E. Perry and William Reiner. The following have enlisted from this town during the week: William Maxwell and Sergeant Alfred Arndt of the Headquarters Company, 102d Regiment.

Since the rescinding of the heatless Tuesday order for public buildings, the regular meeting of Tunxis Grange will be held next Tuesday evening at the town hall instead of tomorrow evening..

All items excerpted from The Hartford Courant. From researchitct.org, Hartford Courant – Historical (1764-1922) (provided by proQuest). The state library sponsors researchitct.org, which is free to those with public library cards.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS does not appear in this issue due to time constraints and the need to get this issue in the mail on time.

we  **volunteers!**

The Wintonbury Drummer

is published five times a year by
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OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Caruso's Auto and Body, 36 Tunxis Avenue

Geissler's Supermarket, 40 Tunxis Avenue

(And there's room for more!)

JEROME BROTHERS, Part 1: Cousin Jennie Jerome

Note: Michael Borders, well-known local artist, was asked to do a painting of the Jerome brothers for the new Heritage Flats apartment complex on Jerome Avenue. When he turned to the Historical Society for information, Janis Langston responded by researching the Jerome family, after whom the avenue in Bloomfield is named. She uncovered a large amount of information, some of which is summarized in this article.

What did Winston Churchill, England's World War II Prime Minister, have to do with Bloomfield, Connecticut? Some research into Bloomfield history has brought some surprising facts to light. Let's take a look at the Jerome brothers.

Sometime before 1850, brothers Amasa Hodges Jerome (1809-1864) and Timothy Gillette Jerome (1820-1897) moved to Bloomfield. They grew up in New Hartford, Connecticut, where their father, Amasa (1775-1832), was pastor of the First Congregational Church. The 1850 Federal Census shows the brothers living on an 85-acre farm in Bloomfield.

In 1852, Amasa (the son), now well-established as a farmer, married Rebecah Chaffee Phelps Filley (1821-1872), the widow of Jonathan Filley of Bloomfield. In 1853 he was elected to the House of Representatives from Bloomfield.

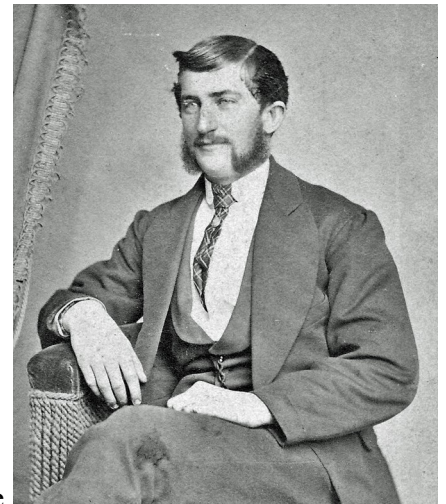
Timothy, some eleven years younger than Amasa, married Mary Elizabeth Wells of Hartford in 1858. He was a deacon of the First Congregational Church for some twenty-six years, starting in 1854, a year after his membership was transferred to Bloomfield from New Hartford (serving alongside William A. Gillette for part of that time).

Amasa and Timothy had an uncle, Aaron Jerome (1764-1802), their father's brother. Aaron moved to New York State, where his son Isaac and grandson Leonard were born. Leonard had a daughter, Jeanette (1854-1921).

Jennie Jerome, as she was called, was the eldest of three daughters born in a mansion on Henry Street, Brooklyn New York, to prosperous financier Leonard Jerome and Clara Hall, a socially inclined mother. Leonard Jerome was known as "The King of Wall Street" and was a patron of the arts who founded the American Academy of Music and then, as an avid sportsman, the American Jockey Club. Jeanette attended the best New York finishing schools. On a trip to Paris with her mother, her beauty and elegant manner caught the attention of Lord Randolph Churchill, son of the Duke of Marlborough. They were married at the British Embassy in Paris in 1874, and she became "Lady Randolph Churchill." The marriage produced two sons; and the elder, Winston, became the prime minister of Great Britain.

Jennie was influential in uppermost British social circles, which greatly helped her son in the early stages of his career. She was an author and patriot. She was widowed at age 41 and later had numerous admirers, including King Edward VII. She did have two more husbands, lived to be 67, and was buried in the Churchill plot at St. Martin's Churchyard, Oxfordshire. More recently, Jennie was portrayed in the television series "Jennie" by Lee Remick and then by Anne Bancroft in the film "Young Winston." Three biographies of Jennie were published from 1969 to 1974. Jennie was the first cousin, twice removed, of Bloomfield's Amasa and Timothy Jerome.

Pronunciation note: The name "Amasa" is unfamiliar to many. Accent the first syllable and let the others fall into place: AM-uh-suh. It is from 2 Samuel 17-20.



Timothy Jerome



CATALOG OF CONGREGATIONS, #14 of a series

NEW TESTAMENT TABERNACLE, 495 Park Avenue

LOCAL CONGREGATION CELEBRATES THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The New Testament Tabernacle has been located at 495 Park Avenue in Bloomfield since 1999. It was founded eleven years previously when, in January 1988, Winifred Nunes felt a calling to start a new ministerial work of her own.

Evangelist Nunes was at that time active in the Christ Church of Deliverance in Hartford, pastored by the late Bishop Andrew Clancy, Sr. She served in that church as choir director, teacher, Sunday School Director, Missionary President, and Associate Minister. She visited the sick and shut-in and helped Pastor Clancy in any way that she could. But she felt that there was something more she should be doing. After discussing with her pastor what she felt the Lord was calling her to do, she made a decision to go forward. She started holding Bible study meetings in her home. Before long, she and her husband, Elder Jonathan Nunes, were able to rent a place near their home in which to hold church meetings. Nunes' former pastor supported her with a financial gift and the donation of song books, Bibles, tables, and chairs. New Testament Tabernacle opened its doors on July 10, 1988 at 1841 Broad Street. In the fall of 1988 the church was dedicated and installed as part of the Connecticut District Council, the local affiliate of Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (Indianapolis).



The new church held services every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday with both adults and children attending. After much neighborhood canvassing and the distribution of flyers and tracts in nearby projects, by the end of 1993 the congregation had grown large enough to relocate to larger quarters at 1300 Broad Street (formerly a Friendly's Restaurant) in Hartford. A few years later Trinity College wanted this building and offered to buy it for twice what the Tabernacle had paid. The church had thirty days to find a place to move to, or the offer would be reduced.

At that time Pastor Nunes subscribed to the Saturday and Sunday editions of *The Hartford Courant*. One week, however, Friday's edition was delivered by mistake. In reviewing its real estate listings, Nunes saw the words, "Church for sale in Bloomfield, five acres of land, seats 100." She soon contacted the sales agent and arranged to meet at the building on

May 30, 1999. Nunes, her husband, and several church members viewed the property and immediately felt that this was to be a home for New Testament Tabernacle. Their offer was accepted, and they were able to pay cash for the property! Because the building was already vacant, they were able to move in right away.



Several years after obtaining the Park Avenue building, the church began to explore the possibilities of broad-

casting church services on BATV, Bloomfield Access Television. The BATV management refused to air the services, saying that Bloomfield had never had a religious program on its local station. For two years, Mark Swagerty of the church was denied admission to attend a BATV production class. Finally, he wrote a letter of complaint to the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC), which looked into the situation. In



March 2004, the DPUC ordered BATV to broadcast the church services or else face sanctions, including the withdrawal of its franchise agreement. As a result, in the fall of 2004, the Tabernacle began airing hour-long services and Bible study services on BATV. The broadcast ran for about five years and

opened the way for other religious broadcasts in Bloomfield.

New Testament Tabernacle has Tuesday night Bible studies, Thursday night prayer meetings, Sunday School at ten, and Sunday worship at 11:30 AM. Its yearly anniversary service in July is a four-day event to which other churches are invited. It is a congrega-

The Pentecostal Context

Typically, Protestant congregations are parts of nationwide denominations. Bloomfield's New Testament Tabernacle is part of Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. The interesting part of this is the history. The Pentecostal Assemblies of The World, Inc. (PAW, 1.5 million adherents) is the oldest Oneness Pentecostal organization in existence, and was founded in 1906, formally organized in 1912 as adherents of Trinitarian beliefs, and in 1916 re-organized as a Oneness Pentecostal organization. The PAW was originally headquartered at Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California, moved to Portland, Oregon, and later moved to Indianapolis, Indiana where it remains today. The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World is the second largest of all Oneness Pentecostal organizations in the United States. (See the April 2017 *Wintonbury Drummer*, page 5, for more on Pentecostalism.)

The differences among various denominations, Pentecostal and otherwise, need not concern us here. Suffice it to say that within Pentecostalism there are many varieties. Assemblies of God (67 million adherents), Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee, 6 million), International Church of the Four-square Gospel (9 million): these are three of a great many groups, large and small. (For comparison, the United Church of Christ has 1.2 million adherents.) Oneness Pentecostalism, mentioned above, is a subset of the whole and itself contains numerous denominational bodies such as the PAW. Its name derives from its reinterpretation of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.

Although apparently American in origin, Pentecostalism is today found in all the regions of the world, and is still growing. It is the largest non-Catholic Christian presence in Latin America. It has grown enormously throughout Africa, often giving rise to African Independent or Indigenous churches. In Asia, Pentecostalism is strong in places like the Philippines, Korea, India, and among the majority of house churches in China. The largest Pentecostal congregations in the world are found in Seoul (South Korea) and Surabaya (Indonesia).

Sources:

--Wikipedia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostalism>

--https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations_by_number_of_members

--World Council of Churches at <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/church-families/pentecostal-churches>

tion of Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, the second largest Oneness Pentecostal group in the United States.

Pastor Nunes is still ministering at age 92! She is the mother of a son, a daughter, and three foster daughters. She has four granddaughters, one grandson, and is great-grandmother to six. She recently received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Atlantic Coast Bible College and Seminary (Florida). She cites Psalm 71:17-18, "O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have showed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come."



District Elder Winifred Nunes

From <https://www.facebook.com/New-Testament-Tabernacle-327695183914597/>

>Thanks to Patricia Strong of New Testament Tabernacle for submitting the material in this article. Photos by R. Pierce, November 2017

PARK AVENUE CHRISTIAN CHURCH built the meetinghouse at 495 Park Avenue and occupied it from 1971 to 1999. Researching this church has not been successful. Thanks to Mike Kosilla and Karen Brinkman of Town Hall, Roberta LaMonaca of Prosser Library, and Louise Schmoll of WHS, all of whom tried. A Wikipedia article on "Christian churches and churches of Christ" may point to the denominational affiliations of the church. *Courant* obituaries in 1994-1995 mention pastors William Lyons and Richard Bourne officiating. Would anyone having any information about the Park Avenue Christian Church please contact the Society.

PRESIDENT'S JOB DESCRIPTION. What does the president of the Wintonbury Historical Society do? As we look toward elections in June, we may want to consider the following.

- >Chair meetings of the Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting of the Society. Greet people at public programs and make announcements.
- >Build an agenda for Board of Directors meetings. Ask for agenda items about a month beforehand. Send out the agenda a week prior to the meeting to Directors and to the Town Clerk.
- >Pick up mail at the post office box. Once a week is sufficient most of the time.
- >Check the answering machine at the History Center. Return calls or ask someone else to.
- >Check WHS email daily. Reply to inquiries or refer them to an appropriate person.
- >Attend committee meetings as appropriate. Keep track of what committees are doing (or not doing). See that certain events, such as OFS visits, are staffed. Thank volunteers for their work.
- >Be present at events, and be a docent in the summer.
- >Represent the Society in town. As far as possible, know key town and school personnel.
- >Write thank you letters as needed.

2018 WHS Calendar (adopted November 2017):

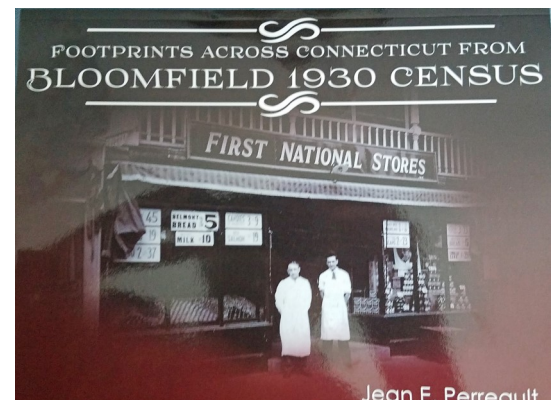
Public programs (all Wednesdays except Thurs., Feb. 1):

February 1, April 4, June 6, September 5, November 7

Board of Directors meetings (all Wednesdays):

January 17, March 14, May 16, August 15, October 17

Flea Market: Saturday, April 28 (rain date, May 5)



The cover of Jean Perreault's new book (see article in November Drummer)

INDEX TO THE DRUMMER FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017

Name	Month	Page
Amherst College Gospel Choir	February	1
Apostolic Fellowship Church	April	4-6
Austin, Wilborne	June	5
Aziz, Sammy	February	5
Bertholdi, Dale	April	1
Bloomfield High 100th Anniversary	September	3
Bloomfield High School	June	8
Bloomfield United Methodist Church	November	4-7
Bus Tours	June	6
Celebrate Bloomfield	June	6
Census 1930	November	3
Christ the King Catholic Church	April	6
Digitization Day	November	8
Donors honor roll	February	6
Filley Park program	September	1
Financial report, FY 2016-2017	September	8
Flea Market and Bake Sale	April	8
Geddis, Michael	April	4-6
Genealogy and Mormons	September	5
GHI House	April	1
Greene, Esau A.	November	5-6
High School history	June	8
History is essential #1	April	3
History is essential #2	September	8
In Memoriam	June	6
Latter Day Saints Church	September	4-7
Mormon Church	September	4-7
Leff, David	June	1
Lighthouse for Humanity	February	3-5
Marchetti, Ron	April	1
Methodist Church	November	4-7
Muslim Community Center	February	3-5
Parsons, Karen	November	1
Penwood Park	June	1
Perreault, Jean	April	2
Perreault, Jean: new book	November	3
Podskoch, Marty	April	2
President's letter	November	8
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	June	4-5
Street Names (first names)	June	7
Street Names (surnames)	April	7
Street Names (surnames, follow-up)	June	3
Toney, Nancy	November	8
Veterans' digitization	November	7
Walker, Charles	February	7
White, Austin	September	8

Seven Ways History is Essential, #3

VITAL PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK » History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities. No place really becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal traditions, civic commemorations. No place is a community until it has awareness of its history. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences.

—issued by the History Relevance Campaign, a group of history professionals who met from 2013 to 2015 to formulate these principals. Participants included the American Association for State and Local History.

IN MEMORIAM

Harriet (Barnard) Burnham, 89, died November 13, 2017, in Bar Harbor, Maine. The daughter of Raymond and Martha (Miller) Barnard, she grew up on Wintonbury Farm in Bloomfield. She married Dwight Burnham in 1952, and they were active in the Wintonbury Historical Society and the First Congregational Church. She was predeceased by two siblings, Cynthia and Harrison Barnard and is survived by her sister, Dorothy Cyr of Noank.

2017 Annual Year-end Appeal: Honor Roll of Donors

Baram, David & Paula
 Barnard, Douglas & Diana
 Beeching, Barbara J.
 Bernstein, Sara & Joseph Shortall
 Biella, Doris Harger
 Blumenfeld, Louis & Jacqueline Isaacson
 Clarke, Ronald & Martha
 Cobb, Frances A.
 Cushman, Solomon F.
 Dahlgren-Dechand, Judith
 Goodwin, Charles & Barbara
 Gough, Kevin & Paula Jones
 Grisevich, George
 Hager, David & Lois
 Harrison, Lucia
 Hughes, Richard & Beverly
 Johnston, Marilyn & Ray
 Jones, Jeremy & Carolyn
 Katz, Tobie E.
 Kelliher, Marion C.
 Kugelman, Alice
 Lawson, Alfred B.
 LeFebvre, Al & Norma
 Marchetti, Ron & Ruthanne
 Merrow, George & Libbie
 Mitchell, Andrew & Joanne
 Perreault, Jean & Stephen
 Peterson, Michelle & Knute
 Pierce, Richard & Jean
 Schmoll, Ralph & Louise
 Schulman, Sydney T.
 Smith, Robert & Sharon
 Sullivan, Patrick J.
 Tinto, Gail
 Weissenburger, William & Lois
 Wright, Claudia

36 donors (20% of the membership) gave \$3,133 by December 31. This means a lot. Thanks to all who contributed! If any name was left out by mistake, we apologize and hope you'll correct us.

WHS PRESIDENTS

Since we could not find a list of past presidents of the Society, Jean Pierce did some research at the Gabriel History Center in the minutes of Board and Membership meetings and came up with a list of names. Not all the minutes are very clear, and some are missing altogether. The list, therefore, is somewhat tentative and needs confirmation. Perhaps some of our readers can supply further information.

Nowadays, the president is elected in June of even years for a two-year term, but that was not always the case, as the list below shows. The following people are mentioned in the archived minutes as being president in a given year, but rarely is it recorded that someone was elected at a certain meeting. However, Jack Hoover, the first president, was elected on March 2, 1949. If the by-laws were followed, each of the succeeding presidents would have been elected in June of the year given.

If you have more information, write to the Society at P.O. Box 7454, call 860-242-7639, or email wintonburyhistory@gmail.com.

1949: Jack O. Hoover
 1955: Eugene L. Bestor
 1957: Harold F. Bidwell
 1958: Charles O. Bierkan
 1959: Mrs. Robert P. Merritt
 1963: Mrs. Howard Porter
 1965: Mrs. H. Ward Pinney (Marge)
 1968: Dwight Burnham
 1972: Richard W. Bartlett
 1978: Jeanne Hunciker
 1982: Alice Sorant
 1984: Charles Walker (no minutes exist for 1985 and 1987-1990)
 1991: Martin Bush
 1992: Lee Comar
 1996: Jerry Wagner
 1998: Fannie R. Gabriel
 2010: Richard N. Pierce