



The Wintonbury Drummer

Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

April, 2018

Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood

Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 6:30 PM at Prosser

With a stage and film career that spanned six decades, Katharine Hepburn is an American icon. Born and raised in Connecticut (part of that time on Bloomfield Avenue!), Hepburn had a career in stage, film and television that reflected the changing role of women in broader society. The story of her life-long ties to Connecticut offers a complete picture of how Hepburn became the woman and the star she was.

Taylor McClure, a museum educator at the Connecticut Historical Society, will present a program on Katharine Hepburn at Prosser Library on April 4 at 6:30. McClure teaches educational programs for school and adult groups both at the museum and on location. She is a former high school social studies teacher, with a B.A. in History and a Master's in Teaching from the University of Washington.



Photo

Supplied

By

CT Historical Society

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Board of Directors Highlights: January

The Board met on Wednesday, January 24 (a meeting postponed because of snow) with fourteen people present. The president announced, first, plans for a new member directory, with at least enough copies for Board members, depending on cost and means of reproduction. Second, he reviewed the OFS visit of 115 Metacomet third graders last October, with thanks to Janet and Don Baker who demonstrated period clothing. Thirdly, he reported on the Year-end Appeal. Updated figures are \$3,158 (27% of the WHS budget) given by 36 donors (20% of the membership).

Ruthanne Marchetti shared her concern for the preservation of antique homes in town. She and Aaron Romano will write up a plan of action to present to the Board.

The president invited everyone to think about possible goals for the Society to achieve in 2018. The three most feasible were (1) digitizing old copies of the Bloomfield Journal, (2) improving the WHS website so as to allow online transactions, and (3) hold a series of "first Friday" social events at the Old Farm School with music and refreshments. Plans for these need to be developed.

The treasurer's report for December 29, 2017 showed receipts of \$5,034 and expenditures of \$3,371 since July 1. Our investments have appreciated in value over the past quarter. A budget for fiscal 2017-2018 (printed on page 8) was presented and approved. An unforeseen expense occurred in January when the Old Farm School ran out of fuel oil, resulting in a service call and filling the 500-gallon tank. There was no damage to the plumbing.

Our need for additional volunteers continues. The Collections Committee needs a chair, and we need people to clean our buildings. Bill Weissenburger will do cleaning for a month and make up a schedule for others to sign up for one month each.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Spring and summer bring many opportunities to donate your time and talent. Just call or email or say yes when someone calls you.

we  volunteers!

The Wintonbury Drummer

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151-153 School Street, P.O. Box 7454

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Tel. 860-243-1531

Email: wintonburyhistory@gmail.comWeb: www.bloomfieldcthistory.org**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 2: Cousin Chauncey 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. Part 1, on Cousin Jennie Jerome, appeared in the February 2018 issue.

Brothers Amasa Hodges Jerome (1809-1864) and Timothy Gillette Jerome (1820-1897) moved to Bloomfield prior to 1850. They had grown up as the sons of a New Hartford pastor, but in Bloomfield they operated an 85-acre farm. Amasa died in 1864 at age 55, but Timothy, the younger brother, lived to be 77 and died in 1897.

Their great-grandfather had been born in England in 1688, but crossed the Atlantic and married a Massachusetts girl. One of the sons of that union was the ancestor of Amasa and Timothy, and another son was the ancestor of Chauncey Jerome, born in 1793. Chauncey is, thus, an elder second cousin, once removed, of the Bloomfield brothers.

Chauncey's father was a blacksmith in Canaan, Connecticut; and he died when Chauncey was only eleven. "The day of his death was a sad one for me, for I knew that I should lose my happy home, and be obliged to leave it to seek work for my support," he wrote. He left home to work on a farm, and burst into tears when he was alone in the fields because he missed his father and family.

About three years later, he was apprenticed to a Torrington carpenter, but he got into trouble by walking to Plymouth, twenty miles away, to see his mother. At about age nineteen, he served in the War of 1812. Upon return home, he married, had a child and went to work for Eli Terry in Plymouth, doing the job he'd dreamed of: making clocks. Terry was the first person to make clocks by machine. He used a water-powered circular saw in his shop, something never seen before in the town.



Chauncey Jerome

wikipedia photo



Chauncey Jerome clock

2018 photo

In 1822, Jerome set up his own business in Bristol. Clocks had previously been made with wooden parts, but Jerome figured out how to stamp out metal parts from sheet brass. An eight-day clock with a brass movement rather than wood put the company on the map. In 1845, after a fire in Bristol, Jerome moved his company to New Haven. It produced 444,000 clocks a year and was New Haven's largest employer. Jerome's future should have been secure; but in 1855 he bought out a failed Bridgeport clock company controlled by P.T. Barnum, which wiped him out financially, leaving the Jerome Manufacturing Co. bankrupt. Jerome never recovered from the loss. By his own admission, he was a better inventor than businessman.

He made, and lost, a fortune selling his clocks and was perhaps the most influential and creative person associated with the American clock business during the mid-19th century. In addition, he served as a legislator in 1834, a Presidential elector in 1852 and mayor of New Haven from 1854 to 1855. Always humble, of his own life he wrote: "The ticking of a clock is music to me, and although many of my experiences as a business man have been trying and bitter, I have satisfaction of knowing that I have lived the life of an honest man, and have been of some use to my fellow men."

Sources:

"Chauncey Jerome," from Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chauncey_Jerome

"Chauncey Jerome, the Connecticut Man Who Loved to Make Clocks," from The New England Historical Society. <http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/rise-fall-chauncey-jerome-connecticut-clockmaker/>



HOPE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

1052 Blue Hills Avenue

The Hope Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) Church began as a mission in August 1980. Meetings led by evangelist Raymond Saunders were held in the Better Living Crusade Tent on a lot at the corner of Barbour and Charlotte Streets in Hartford. Initial enthusiasm ran high, and by the end of the crusade, 180 people had been baptized or rebaptized. By the end of September; however, many had left or returned to their own churches. About 25 remaining individuals formed the core of the new congregation. With help from the Faith Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Hartford, this core group persevered, and on September 16, 1983, they were organized into a church with William Vincent as pastor. The organization ceremony took place at the Martin Luther King Elementary School auditorium on Ridgefield Street. The new congregation started meeting at the Bethel A.M.E. Church that was previously located on North Main Street in Hartford.



Photo from church's FaceBook page

The following charter members remain in the church: Willie Dowdell, Jr., Delroy Shirley, Ed and Monica Downer, Kim Harriott, Jackie Debeatham Freeman (relocated), Betty Fisher, Frieda Richards, Berniece Johnson, Lillian Cross (convalescent), Jonathan Small, Joshua Small, and Donald Blake (relocated). Charter members now deceased are Noel Small, George Morgan, Janet Debeatham, William Walters, Alice Prebish, Edward Marcano, Virgilio Cross, and Vera Blake.



2017 photo by R. Pierce

Within ten years, the church needed more space and appointed a building committee. It was composed of dedicated members who shared their talents and sacrificed their time and resources. This Committee, under the direction of Pastor Horatius Gittens, identified some land for purchase in Bloomfield. In 1992, they spearheaded the building of a permanent home for the Hope SDA Church. Additionally, various members who had experience in construction and architecture contributed their services in order to decrease the cost of the building. Children also helped in the construction by placing bricks on the walls. It was certainly a family affair!

The church was given permission to occupy its new building at 1052 Blue Hills Avenue in September 1993. *continued on next page >>*

Current pastor Dr. Stephen L. Williams, Sr., has been with the church since December 2016. Dr. Williams attended prominent Adventist schools: Northern Caribbean University (Jamaica), Oakwood University (Alabama), and Andrews University (Michigan). (Andrews University is the Flagship University of the Seventh-day Adventist school system, the world's second largest Christian school system. Andrews University is the largest evangelical Christian college or university in the state of Michigan, in terms of undergraduate and graduate enrollment; it consists of eight schools or colleges, offering 130 undergraduate majors and 70 graduate majors.)



Stephen L. Williams, Sr.
FaceBook photo

Since its beginning in 1980, Hope Church has implemented many effective ministries, such as Sabbath School, Women's and Men's Ministries, Adventurer and Pathfinder Ministries (a scouting program for boys and girls ages pre-K through college and beyond), Senior Ministry, Personal Ministries, Community (Food Share) Ministries, Drama and Children's Ministries, Vacation Bible School Ministries, Adventist Youth Ministries, and more. Sabbath School meets every Saturday morning at 9:30, followed by worship at 11:00.



Since 1993, the Hope Church family has participated in the Bloomfield Memorial Day Parade. The "scout troops" march, rain or shine, as long as the town holds the parade! The scout programs include the Star Sapphires Adventurer Ministry and Hope Conquerors Pathfinder Ministry.

Photo supplied by church

The Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church is part of the Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, which is a segment of the Atlantic Union Conference, and is a constituent of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. All of these regional organizations belong to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, based in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Hope Church is a vibrant Bloomfield congregation, working to facilitate healthier individuals and families and, as a result, a better community.

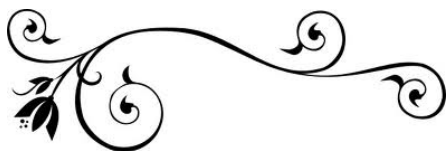
Thanks to Kim Harriot and others at Hope SDA Church, who so kindly and capably supplied this material.

Sources:

www.facebook.com/HOPESDACT

<https://www2.oakwood.edu/welcome-oakwood-university>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrews_University



Dr. Williams in the pulpit.
Photo supplied by the church.

PASTORS OF HOPE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Evangelist Raymond Saunders – Founder of Hope Church as a Mission; August 1980 – October 1980.

Charles Seawright – Assigned to Hope Mission as a leader; October 1980 – December 1980.

Elder Edward Marcano – Led Hope until Hope a pastor assigned; December 1980 – April 1981.

Pastor William Vincent – Hope's first pastor; April 1981 – June 1984.

September 16, 1983; Hope organized into a church.

Pastor Allen C. Martin – Hope's second pastor.

Pastor Horatius Gittens – Hope's third pastor.

Pastor Richard Calhoun Sr. – Hope's fourth pastor.

Dr. Maxwell Ferguson, Pastor – Hope's fifth pastor.

Pastor Bernard Penn – Hope's sixth pastor.

Pastor Alphod Sinclair – Hope's seventh pastor.

Dr. Stephen Williams, Pastor – Hope's eighth pastor.



Adventism

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the largest of several Adventist groups which arose during the 1840s in upstate New York, a phase of the Second Great Awakening (about 1790 to 1860). The name of the denomination indicates its two main distinctive characteristics: Sabbath observance on the seventh day (i.e., Saturday) and an expectation that the end of the world is drawing near. Other distinguishing characteristics include adherence to the teachings of Ellen G. White (who is regarded as a prophet), and various dietary observances rooted in Jewish law. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the world's fastest-growing organizations, primarily due to increases in Third World membership. It now operates in 215 out of 228 countries recognized by the United Nations.

The world church is governed by a General Conference, with smaller regions administered by divisions, union conferences, and local conferences. It currently has a worldwide baptized membership of about 20 million people, and 25 million adherents. It is ethnically and culturally diverse; and as of May 2007, it was the twelfth-largest religious body in the world and the sixth-largest highly international religious body. The church operates over 7,500 schools including over 100 post-secondary institutions, numerous hospitals, and publishing houses worldwide, as well as a humanitarian aid organization known as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Sources:

<http://hopect.adventistchurch.org/#about>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seventh-day_Adventist_Church

<https://www.adventist.org/en/>

www.religionfacts.com

Wintonbury Historical Society Upcoming Events

April 4: Program at Prosser (see page 1)

April 28: Flea Market and Bake Sale (see page 7)

May 20: WHS buildings open 1-4 (and every Sunday through October 14)

June 3: Celebrate Bloomfield, History Day (probably with bus tours)

June 6: WHS Potluck supper, annual meeting, and program featuring Walter Woodward and the Band of Steady Habits (history plus music)

June 9: Connecticut Open House Day (OFS and GHC open 11 am to 3 pm)



Flea Market in 2017, Janis Langston photo

FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE PLANNED FOR APRIL 28

On the Grounds of the Old Farm School and Gabriel History Center on the corner of Park Avenue and School Street (Rte. 178)

Hours: 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Rain date: Saturday, May 5

The Society needs your help and support in order to make this event a success and it would be great to have you participating. The more people involved, the easier the tasks. Can you help with one or more of the following? Phone 860-243-1531 or email wintonburyhistory@gmail.com.

Advertising

Parking

Set-up

Clean-up

Marking spaces

Baking

Helping at the Bake Sale

Giving Tours of the School House

Presence in the History Center

If you are unable to help that day, please let us know if you wish to contribute to the effort with financial donation



Typical vendors, 2017. Janis Langston photo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS: March

The Board met on March 14 with eight people present. The treasurer's report for the period from July 1 through February 28 showed income of \$8,700 and expenses of \$6,322. The utilities expense of \$3,951 included filling the Old Farm School oil tank for \$1,512. The president reported that the Society has switched over to Comcast phone and internet for a savings of some \$500 over two years.

Suggested goals for 2018 were discussed, and three seem feasible: (1) Upgrading the website to allow for transactions, (2) digitizing old issues of the *Bloomfield Journal*, and (3) hold a series of monthly events on our history campus with music and refreshments. For this third goal, Aaron Romano will head up a committee to make specific plans and report back to the Board in May.

Dick Pierce distributed a new member directory. Only 25 copies were printed, so there are just a few available on request.

At June's annual meeting, we will be electing president, vice-president, treasurer, and four directors. Bill Weissenburger will gather a nominating committee to suggest names for Board approval in May.

Mara Whitman reviewed the WHS FaceBook page for us and said what a good job Dennis Hubbs is doing with it.

Wintonbury Historical Society
Annual Budget, 7/1/17—6/30/18

Income:

Dues	\$3,500
Fundraising	1,000
Donations	4,000
Memorials	500
Program Support.....	100
Publications.....	150
Investment Income	2,442
Bank Interest.....	8
Total Income.....	\$11,700

Expenses:

Utilities

Electricity	1,100
Telephone/Internet....	1,200
Water	250
Heating Oil	250
CT Natural Gas.....	1,100
Total Utilities	3,900
USPS Box	100
Memberships.....	100
Meetings/Speakers....	600
Printing	1,200
Postage.....	900
Townwide mailing .	2,500
Office/State Filing	300
Fundraising/Ads.....	250
House Committee ..	1,500
Collections	250
History Center.....	100
Total Expenses..	\$11,700

WHS PRESIDENTS LIST UPDATED

The story in the February *Drummer* (page 8) about the list of past Society presidents received the following reply, which fills in some gaps in the 1960s and also supplies the women's first names. (Meeting minutes of those years consistently refer to women using only their husbands' names.) Thanks to Louise Schmoll for the update.

1949-1955	Jack Hoover
1955-1957	Eugene Bestor
1957-1958	Harold Bidwell
1958-1959	Charles Bierken
1959-1960	Priscilla Merritt
1960-1961	Ora Gaylord
1961-1963	John Pierson
1963-1965	Elizabeth Porter
1965-1968	Marguerite Pinney
1968-1972	Dwight Burnham
1972-1978	Richard Bartlett
1978-1982	Jeanne Hunciker
1982-1984	Alice Sorant
1984-1990	Charles Walker
1990-1992	Martin Bush
1992-1996	Lee Comar
1996-1999	Jerry Wagner
1999-2010	Fannie Gabriel
2010-	Richard Pierce



Seven Ways History is Essential, #4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT » History is a catalyst for economic growth. People are drawn to communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity and character. Cultural heritage is a demonstrated economic asset and an essential component of any vibrant local economy, providing an infrastructure that attracts talent and enhances business development.

--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. Visit the site at www.historyrelevance.com.