



Newsletter of the Wintonbury Historical Society

Bloomfield, Connecticut

November 2018

## BLOOMFIELD'S PEOPLE IN 1930

PROSSER LIBRARY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 6:30 PM

Ninety years is certainly a long time for most of us to visualize. Just think, nine decades ago the economic nightmare of the Great Depression had just begun, and World War II was still far off in the future. Have you ever wondered what happened to friends and neighbors of yours from long ago? Well, for anyone who grew up in Bloomfield, that question has now been answered. In her new publication *Footprints Across Connecticut from the 1930 Bloomfield Census*, local genealogist Jean Perreault has documented the life histories of all 3,248 Bloomfield residents who were living here at that time. Most of these individuals are now deceased, but they left behind a trail of interesting facts regarding their lives, including their origins, their occupations and their progeny. For anyone wondering about a long lost relative or friend, this research book could prove to be a valuable source of information. The author will explain how to access the many genealogical sources which are made available to us all in today's digital age. She will also tell the story of how this project began. The Bloomfield book is the third in her *Footprints* series. She will have copies for sale.

This book has won the prize for Genealogical Resource Publication in The Connecticut Society of Genealogists 2018 Literary Award Contest. Jean will receive the certificate at their family history seminar on October 20th.



Jean Perreault  
Photo from her website, <https://sites.google.com/view/footprints-across-ct/home>

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS**

The Board met on September 12, 2018 with sixteen persons present. Bill Weissenburger, chairing his first meeting as president, welcomed new directors Paula Baram, Richard Hughes, and Mary Laiuppa.

The Board approved the treasurer's report for fiscal 2017-2018 (printed in the *Drummer's* September issue). It approved \$200 to pay for one-day insurance for the Art and Architecture Tour on October 21 and also a Memorandum of Understanding spelling out the WHS agreement with Ironwood Community Partners, co-sponsor of the Tour.

The question came up of enabling people to pay for the Tour through our website using PayPal or a similar resource. The consensus was that we should do this and our technology committee should proceed to make the necessary arrangements.

Reports on the June 6 (Walt Woodward and band) and September 5 (Dennis Sullivan) public programs showed them both to have good attendance and to have stimulated audience interest.

**OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS**

Carusos Auto and Body, 36 Tunxis Avenue  
 Sir Speedy Printing, 21 Old Windsor Road  
 Geissler's Supermarket, 40 Tunxis Avenue  
*(And there's room for more!)*

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# CATALOG OF CONGREGATIONS, #18 of a series

## CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREATER HARTFORD 160 WINTONBURY AVENUE

The Chinese Baptist Church is new to Bloomfield, but it has a history going back about forty years to a small group which began meeting weekly in the chapel of the First Baptist Church of West Hartford. With the move to Bloomfield, the congregation now has its own building for the first time.



In the early 1970s, a group of Chinese Christians in the Greater Hartford area was meeting regularly for Bible study and fellowship; and in May of 1977, they started a Sunday worship service using the Mandarin and Cantonese dialects, using the chapel of First Baptist Church of West Hartford, 90 North Main Street. Rev. and Mrs. Charles Kwok of the Calvary Baptist Church in New Haven came to West Hartford every Sunday to assist and to preach. At the time, there were about fifteen to twenty people participating every week.

The Church grew steadily; and, in 1981, it officially organized as “The Chinese Baptist Church of Greater Hartford” (CBCGH). In 1983, the church called its first full-time pastor, Mr. Paul Wong, who led the worship service and Bible study as well as providing pastoral care to the congregation. The Rev. Mr. Wong, ordained in 1988, stayed with the church until 1996. He was succeeded by the Rev. Isaac Chan, who served as senior pastor until 2005, when he resigned to become an overseas missionary (which he is still doing). Chan spoke several languages and was able to preach in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English.



By 1996, the church had grown to about one hundred people. In addition to the Sunday worship service, other activities such as Bible study, choir, women’s fellowship, monthly family meetings at members’ homes, prayer meeting, and luncheon, were all started. Youth Groups on Friday nights began under the leadership of Victor Liang and Barry Luke. The church also became an active participant in an annual summer retreat, joining other Chinese Christian churches in Southern New England. (continued on next page ►)



The church's English ministry formally started in 1992 when a group of high school students at CBCGH felt a calling to gather together to study the Bible. This study started with three people and grew to be what became known as the Youth Group. Over the years the weekly Bible study has served as a solid foundation on which to base other ministries, such as hosting the New England Chinese Christian Conference, praise nights, and other activities. In March of 1999, an English-speaking worship service was started. This worship service originated out of a growing need for the Youth Group to worship in a language that was most natural to them. The English worship service flourished under the guidance of Mr. Victor Liang, who was appointed as Assistant Pastor, and a core group of servants who worked alongside him to provide services such as praise and worship, ushering, Sunday School, etc. Since then, the group has grown tremendously and now hosts about 75 attendees every Sunday morning, ranging in age from middle school and college to young adults and families.

The Young Professionals group was started in 2001 as a growing number of college graduates began to appear on the scene in the Hartford area and needed a place for fellowship and teaching. In 2010 the Young Families group was formed as more couples began to have children.

In late 2002, CBCGH was happy to welcome its first English pastor, Rev. Timothy West. Beginning in 2005, the Cantonese congregation began its services. Between 2008 and 2013, Pastor Francis Yung ministered to the Cantonese congregation, and he was succeeded by Rev. Terry Fung in 2014. Pastor Hao Hsin Huang served the Mandarin congregation between 2011 and 2014. Pastor Kaiyuan Ger, who now ministers to the Mandarin congregation, joined the pastoral staff at the beginning of 2015.

The Chinese Baptist Church is an evangelical congregation which attracts people from throughout the area. It is a youth-filled church. There are over fifty children in grades K-6, about thirty middle and high school students, a large college-age group, and many young adults. The church also includes older adults who remember its beginnings. A number of these older people speak no English, and so CBCGH provides them a needed social experience.

The church believes in actively serving others. Its "Home Away from Home" group reaches out to international students at the University of Connecticut and the University of Hartford and currently includes from fifty to seventy young people from China who are here pursuing a degree. Moreover, the church has sent out its (continued on next page ►)



members into full-time Christian service and continues to provide them with support. Church people have also traveled to Mexico for short-term service projects. Locally, each summer twenty or more of its young people participate in The Hartford Project, a cooperative venture in the city (see sidebar).

It took years of planning, but in 2017 the church was able to buy its own building. Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield was closing, and the building was suitable for the Chinese ministry. The purchase was made, and CBCGH held its first services in Bloomfield on Christmas Eve, 2017, with dedication of the new church home on January 28, 2018.

—From <http://www.cbcbg.org/em/history/>. Accessed 10/3/2018. Edited. Thanks to Pastor Tim West for his help in expanding this article. All photos are from the church website.

## Leaving a Legacy

The Wintonbury Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dependent on the generosity of people who value history and Bloomfield history in particular. Its mission is to identify, collect, organize, preserve and make accessible historical information about the diverse people, places, institutions and events of Bloomfield, Connecticut.

A larger endowment would put the Society upon a firmer financial foundation. To this end the Society solicits contributions from individuals and businesses. You can make a difference by (1) setting aside a gift in your will to the Society, (2) naming the Society as beneficiary of an insurance policy, (3) remembering loved ones with gifts to the Society in their honor, and (4) naming the Society as beneficiary of an IRA or 401K.



## THE HARTFORD PROJECT

The Hartford Project is an urban immersion experience for teenagers in New England. Church youth groups are invited to come and live in Hartford for five days in the summer. During that week they serve the community, learn about poverty, experience racial reconciliation, and build relationships with young people from other churches.

Since its beginnings in 2004, good things have happened: bringing renewal to the brokenness of the city, encouraging Hartford churches, opening eyes to the needs of city residents, strengthening relationships among area Christians, and creating a passion among students and workers for working in cities. In 2011, 380 youth and workers from twenty different churches joined as groups of young people lived in and served the city together. With so much growth, in 2012 it was decided to run two separate weeks of The Hartford Project for the first time. In 2013, the Project announced its affiliation with Urban Alliance, which has allowed it to strengthen its relationships and expand its opportunities to partner with many of Alliance Network participants who share a common passion for the city of Hartford.

(The Urban Alliance, based in East Hartford, aims to help people in local communities address practical, emotional, relational, and spiritual needs. It provides support and leverages resources, relationships and research-informed best practices to help churches and parachurch organizations in its network to implement strategies so they may help more people in the community in deeper, more transformational ways. [www.urbanalliance.com] One of its affiliations is with Bloomfield's Foodshare.)

A recent list showed twenty-six churches participating in The Hartford Project, ranging from Coventry and Granby to Avon and West Hartford. Wintonbury Church in Bloomfield was one of the founding members in 2004, and Jacquelyn Perreault of Wintonbury is the Program Director. Chinese Baptist Church youth have participated for several years.

—from [www.thehartfordproject.org](http://www.thehartfordproject.org)



## OAKLAND TERRACE 1897: HOUSE LOTS FOR SALE!

At the turn of the century, trolleys were built throughout the Hartford area. One of those was on Blue Hills Avenue as far as Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery in 1897. That line put the Blue Hills neighborhood on the map and caused a building boom in the north end of Hartford and in today's Coventry Street/ Elizabeth Avenue neighborhood all the way up to the cemetery. People could now conveniently travel to and from Hartford for shopping and jobs. The fare was 5¢.

In 1897, not surprisingly, house lots were being offered for sale in Bloomfield. In May of that year, a businessman named Herbert M. Woodard bought from Edwin A. Newton some open land off Blue Hills Avenue in the southeast part of town and announced a new housing development called Oakland Terrace. On July 8, Woodard, having laid out plans for four streets and multiple house lots on the property, sold his first lot to Charles J. Malling. The Hartford Building and Loan Association gave Malling a mortgage loan.



32 Elizabeth Avenue

R. Pierce photo

Charles Malling had emigrated from Denmark, arriving at Ellis Island on January 1, 1888 at age 30.<sup>1</sup> Less than ten years later, he had established himself in the Hartford area and was ready to build a house. He bought lots #10 and #11 in Oakland Terrace. The house he built stands today at 32 Elizabeth Avenue.



When Malling bought his house lots, he was required to agree to the following restrictions: (1) that no house shall be built upon said premises costing less than one thousand dollars; (2) that the front of said house shall be placed and set back not less than ten feet from the line of said Elizabeth Avenue; (3) that no building shall be erected on said premises except a dwelling house, and said dwelling house when erected shall not be occupied or used for any other purpose; (4) that no building or part thereof shall be used for the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors; (5) that no building or part thereof shall be used for any mechanical or manufacturing purpose; (6) that no stable shall be so constructed and used as to be justly offensive to the occupants of the surrounding buildings.

From [https://mailamap.com/street\\_maps/13/](https://mailamap.com/street_maps/13/)

In the U. S. Census for 1930, a widowed Charles Malling, listed as head of household, is living with his daughter, Emma, age 39, and her husband Richard W. Manion, 42.<sup>2</sup> By October 1933, Malling had signed the house over to Emma. At that time, Emma and her husband had at least two children, Richard C., born 1908, and Eleanor M., born 1910.<sup>3</sup>

Our attention now shifts to Eleanor, who was more often called Mae, (continued on next page ►)

who lived in Bloomfield all her life, dying on March 22, 1993. The house at 32 Elizabeth was deeded over to Mae by her mother in December 1971. Mae served as a school nurse in the Bloomfield school system from 1934 to 1953 and later worked at A.I. Prince Technical School in Hartford, 1953 to 1969. She was a graduate of the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing and did graduate work at Yale, Trinity, and Simmons. She was a member of the Tunxis Grange No. 13 for more than 50 years; and, after retirement, did a lot of volunteer work. She had many friends and was well-known in Bloomfield.

In December 1992, Mae Manion sold the house at 32 Elizabeth Avenue to its current owner, Denise Robinson, who, as a youth, lived next door and knew "Auntie Mae." Denise and her family live in the first house built in the first residential development in Bloomfield.

--Written by Richard Pierce, with research help from Janis Langston

1. The U. S. Census for 1930 lists Malling's immigration year as 1874 and his estimated birth year as 1861. The 1888 date and the age of 30 [born 1858] are from Ellis Island.
2. Richard W. was the son of Richard J. Manion, born in May 1861, and his wife Catharine.
3. Mae Manion was survived by three nieces, presumably the daughters of her brother Richard: Beverly Barnard, Marilyn Tyrrell, and Judy O'Connor.



Sources:

- Information on trolley lines from Fred Hesketh.
- "Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001," database, Family Search
- U.S. Censuses 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940
- Ellis Island Foundation
- Bloomfield, Town of, Land Records
- [www.bloomfield.mapxpress.net/town/GIS](http://www.bloomfield.mapxpress.net/town/GIS)
- *The Hartford Courant* obituaries

These two old photos of 32 Elizabeth Avenue were supplied by Denise Robinson. The people on the porch are Eleanor and Charles Malling with their children, Emma and Charles.

## Notes from My Reading

We live in a temporal envelope. For most of us, the horizon extends forward maybe two generations and back just two or three. [. . .] It isn't until we more fully populate our family tree that it becomes clear how brief a human life is, and how small a part we play in a story line that expands out and contracts back and goes off in directions that no one can predict or control. [. . .] While there may be comfort in finding one's place in a big family tree of somewhat similar people, there is disorientation too. It can be dizzying to try to think about all of one's ancestors, not just because of their sheer number but also because of the realization that all those people once existed as fully as you do.

--Christine Kenneally, "The Past is Written on Your Face, but What Does It Really Say?" in *Psychology Today*, December 2014 (Vol. 47, No. 6), page 80.

(Please share with the *Drummer* some notes from *your* reading. Send quotes and notes with full source documentation to [wintonburyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:wintonburyhistory@gmail.com).)

## HONOR ROLL OF DOCENTS 2018

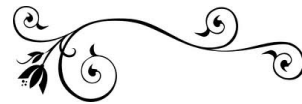
Thanks to those who served as docents on Sunday afternoons at the Old Farm School and the Fannie Gabriel History Center.

Barbara Beeching  
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 Doug and Diana Barnard  
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 Janis Langston  
 Jean Perreault  
 John Willoughby  
 Kevin Gough and Paula Jones  
 Marilyn Johnston  
 Nick Panke  
 Ralph and Louise Schmoll  
 Ron and Ruthanne Marchetti

## SEVEN WAYS HISTORY IS ESSENTIAL, #6

**LEADERSHIP** » History inspires local and global leaders. History provides leaders with inspiration and role models for meeting the complex challenges that face our communities, nation, and the world. It may be a parent, grandparent or distant ancestor, a local or national hero, or someone famous or someone little known. Their stories reveal how they met the challenges of their day, which can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time.

*--issued by the History Relevance Campaign, a group of history professionals who met from 2013 to 2015 to formulate these principles. Participants included the American Association for State and Local History. Visit the site at [www.historyrelevance.com](http://www.historyrelevance.com).*



## ART AND ARCHITECTURE TOUR SUCCESSFUL

Results of the Society's Art and Architecture Tour held on Sunday, October 21, were still coming in as the *Drummer* went to press. Ticket sales exceeded seventy-five, with about half of them coming in through the newly-established PayPal account on the WHS website.



A huge vote of appreciation is due Ironwood Community Partners for its cooperation in this venture and to the homeowners who so graciously opened their homes for the tour.

## IN MEMORIAM

George W. Merrow died at age 90 on October 5, 2018. A longtime active member of the Society, George was a Director at the time of his passing. He was a professional engineer and consistently served his community in a variety of roles. Condolences to his wife, Libbie, three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



On tour: Hoskins Tavern (Dennis Hubbs photo)