

# PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 98, Portland, Connecticut 06480

President: George V. Johnson Jr. Secretary: Regina Woltmann  
Vice President: Dorothy K. Robinson Treasurer: Charles J. Woltmann

Directors: Richard Gildersleeve, Janet Mitchell, Hazel Robinson

## AUTUMN NEWS AND NOTES

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1991 - Bill McBrien  
Program Chairman.

The Society will have two guest speakers for its opening fall program. A slide tour of Portland's historical and natural resources compiled by Portland Environmental Watch will be narrated by Joanne Luppi - an appropriate birthday reminder of Portland's special elements which need constant care - beauties which we often take for granted until they disappear.

Also, Ethel Grower Peltz, a doll collector and former resident, will share her expertise in a program called "Dolls and Other Collectibles". She will be glad to identify and comment on your doll treasures.

CENTRAL SCHOOL AS A MUSEUM (?) - George Johnson Jr., President

On August 14th, about 15 members of the Society toured Central School, through the courtesy of First Selectman, Wes Perini. The almost unanimous opinion of those of us there, was that the school represented a fantastic opportunity for the Society finally, to obtain a home. The building, although damaged by vandals and neglect, appeared to our untrained eyes to be in not too bad a condition, and many of us present started thinking of ways to put all that space to use. Nothing like putting the cart before the horse?

On September 11th, I met with the Board of Selectmen to tell them personally of the Society's interest in Central School, and to ask permission to take an engineer and an architect on a tour of the building. They approved. I also told them that if the engineer determines that the building is sound, and together with the architect, the Society finds that the building can be adapted to our needs, we would come back to the Selectmen to request that the building be quit claimed to the Society, with a condition in the deed that the building would revert to the Town in the event that the Historical Society no longer intended to use the building as a museum and meeting rooms.

Ever since the Hartford Courant publicized the Society's tour of the school, I have had much positive response. In each case, I point out that the best support is to join the society and work with us. If, as I hope, it appears that the Society can obtain and preserve Central School, it will take much time, money and effort. To be successful, we will need all our friends, neighbors and relatives to be involved.

PORTLAND HOUSE TOUR - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 - NOON TO 4:00 PM.- Richard Gildersleeve

The Historical Society is sponsoring, with Greater Middletown Preservation Trust, a tour of seven Portland houses on November 17. The Society needs about forty (40) volunteer docents to welcome the visitors and give information. No special training is necessary. Prepared data will be available to make each docent an instant expert. Shifts will be pleasant and easy - a 2-hour opportunity to chat with friends and visitors. To volunteer, call anyone on the committee - Rick Gildersleeve, Betsy Scott, Eleanor Crowther, Chris Sullivan.

YANKEES AND STRANGERS - THE NEW ENGLAND TOWN from 1636 to 1992.

A series of book discussions at Portland Library beginning Wednesday, September 25th, sponsored in part by the Historical Society, will explore the history of the New England town. Led by Molly Keller, of the Bridgeport Municipal Archive, the series will look at the New England town's beginnings, it's changes, and it's power to symbolize the American way of life. Books to be discussed are available in quantity at the Library - though it's not necessary to do the homework to enjoy the series.

ANNIVERSARY PARADE VIDEOTAPE - SEPTEMBER 7, 1991 - Bill Csere  
Videotapes will be available October 1, and can be ordered from George V. Johnson Jr., 73 Ames Hollow Road, Portland, or Cyrus Miller, 671 Glastonbury Road, Portland. The tape runs for over 2 hours,. The price is \$25 plus 1.50 sales tax. Cy Miller, who did the original taping for our archives, is a professional. A peek at his work confirms that we picked the right man for the job.

A 100th Anniversary Parade, September 1941 videotape, (translated from the original 35mm film), is now available at the Portland Library, courtesy of the Society. Check it out, and see the difference 50 years makes.

150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE - We salute the Historical Society members who patiently gave so much time researching, writing history, and preparing information for pamphlets and newspaper reporters. Especially: Pat and Bill Csere, Rick and Lynn Gildersleeve, Barbara Chapman, Regina Woltmann. A special thanks to Faith Robinson and Jim Hallas who put it all together.

RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS - Pat Csere

- Grace Kitzmiller - Photos including 1909 Central School class,  
1916 snapshots of Old Home Day
- Harold Krieger - Strong & Hale carpenter's apron  
Conklin medicine glasses  
Research on historic sites - Jewish Cemetery, Eastern  
Tinware, Cranberry bog
- Ed Payne - 1941 Photo of Portland Trust Co.
- Mrs. Wm. Klick - 75th Anniversary booklet - Portland Fire Department  
20 old photos of unknown Portland families  
100th Anniversary blue and white banner
- Elsie Hale - Large black tin tray, possibly from Eastern Tinware
- Wes Perini - 1841-1941 committee badge and commemorative coin
- Barbara Duffy - Child's sled made in Buck Carriage Factory  
Several antique dresses  
Oval framed picture of Mrs. James Buck II
- Vi Linderme - Two volumes of biographical descriptions - should be  
useful in genealogy studies
- June Goodrich - Two 1891 pictures of St. Johns Chapel (formerly corner  
of Cox Road and Strickland St., demolished in 1965)

THANKS TO: Walt & Vivian Dower, Regina Woltmann, Hazel Robinson, Dorothy K. Robinson, Clifford Kelsey, Pat & Bill Csere, and Edward & Eleanor Hale for keeping the museum room open extra hours during Anniversary Week.

CORNWALL HOUSE DECONSTRUCTION - George Johnson

During a recent tour of the house with the contractor who is in charge of its removal to Ferry Road in South Glastonbury, we were pleased to see the work being done meticulously. The owner has had an antique house expert study the framing -the best dating device -and the internal evidence suggests that the house was probably built between 1720 and 1740 rather than 1690. After the modern accretions have been removed, the owner will consider the feasibility of transporting the house by river barge to Glastonbury, rather than piecemeal by road.

CURRENT PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

MRS LAURA E ACKERMAN	RICHARD W ADAMI	HANNAH JO AGOGLIATI	DOROTHY J AHLBERG	MRS HENRY J ANDERSON
JOHN V ANDERSON	MR/MRS RAY ANDERSON	LOUISE M ANDERSON	MR/MRS ANDERS ANDERSON	MR/MRS ALLAN ANDERSON
MARJORIE ANDERSON	CAROL ARCARI	MRS PATRICIA ARESO	MR/MRS EDW L BAINES	MR/MRS RAY BARKER
THOMAS BARROWS	MR/MRS PAUL BARTALOTTA	EVELYN BARTOLOTTA	E. I. BELL	BONNIE BENGSTON
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HELEN CHALFANT	MR/MRS FRED CHAPMAN	LOIS S CHAPPELL	CONNIE CHOWANIBC	DUANE CHOWANIBC
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MR/MRS FRED B HILL	LUNA MEAD HOAR	JOHN B HOLLAND	E K & JOAN B HUGHES	MR/MRS REGINALD HUMMEL
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MR/MRS RICHARD KREMAN	HELEN M KELSEY	MR/MRS DONALD B KELSEY	CLIFFORD W KELSEY	MARIE KESER
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MR/MRS FRANCIS KOPET	MR/MRS HAROLD KRIEGER	ROSELIES KUTZ	MR/MRS TONY LaBELLA	JACKIE LaBELLA
DR JOSEPH P LANTOS	MR/MRS WILLIAM LARSON	MR/MRS HAROLD LARSON	MR/MRS JOHN LeSHANE	ELEANOR S LEWIS
VIOLA LINDERME	H HOLMES/M LOJESKI	DR/MRS AMERICO D LONGO	MR/MRS STEPHEN LUPPI	MARTHA LUTECKI
MR/MRS CHAS E MALONEY	DONALD R MARKHAM	MR/MRS VINCENT MARTEKA	WINFRED B MARTIN	MR/MRS BRUCE I MAY
EMMI I MAYR	MR/MRS JOSEPH McBRIEN	NANCY McBRIEN	MR/MRS WM J McBRIEN	ROBERT W McDOUGALL
MR/MRS JOHN McGOWAN	VIRGINIA McKEEN	MRS ANNA McMAHON	DOROTHY H McNULTY	MR/MRS B F MCKENSTUMM
JEFF MERK	ANN MIAZGA	STUART & JAN MITCHELL	MRS MARY MOLESKI	MR/MRS EDWARD MROCZKA
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MR/MRS DAN I STREBTER	MR/MRS M W STRICKLAND	WARREN L STRICKLAND	VANCE J STRONESKI	MR/MRS WM F SULLIVAN
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JANE B SWEBT	MR/MRS DONALD A TAYLOR	MRS MARY S TIERNEY	PEGGY TIERNEY	PATRICIA P TOLLIVER
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ROBERT E WINKLER	MR/MRS CHAS J WOLTMANN	REGINA WOLTMANN	MR/MRS JOHN H WOODS	ADRIAN YOUNG
MR/MRS JOHN ZAMPINI	NANCY CHILD ZIMMER			

NOYES SCHOOL OF RHYTHM CAMP - The camp opened on two old farms on Penfield Hill Road in 1919, and has functioned every summer since. Several Society members attended a delightful dance/dramatic performance, and tour of the two antique houses and Penfield Hill schoolhouse. The dance foundation members, many of whom are third-generation campers, would like to invite all Society members to a performance and tour next summer. We will be making a list of interested members next spring. It's a special part of Portland's history not to be missed. (The Noyes School of Rhythm has joined the Society as sponsors.)

THANKS FROM: St. Mary's Parish for our contribution to their rebuilding fund.

FROM OLD SAYINGS COLLECTION

Grandfather to the children at table, "Let the food quiet your mouth" - (translated from Swedish) - Marion Anderson

Portland description of busy housewife - "Flying around like fat in a hot skillet" - Dorothy Robinson

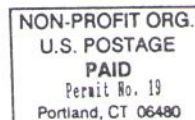
Yankee comment on pretentious people - "Queen Anne front with a Mary Ann back"

NEWSLETTER - Phyllis & Bill Frisbie - 09/18/91

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