

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1993



PO Box 98, Portland, Connecticut 06480

President: George V. Johnson Jr.
Vice President: Eleanor O. Crowther
Secretary: Barbara Chapman
Treasurer: Charles J. Woltmann

Directors: Richard Gildersleeve, Hazel Robinson, Robert McDougall

C O M E O N E - - - C O M E A L L !

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC - JULY 27, 6 P.M.

RAIN OR SHINE - FIREMEN'S GROUNDS, END OF INDIAN HILL AVENUE

Special Treat - A full-size antique WURLITZER CAROUSEL ORGAN, one of the few existing in the northeast, will play during the picnic. It is the large size organ, formerly used for circuses and fairs. Lawrence Hall, Middletown, will talk about and display items from his collection of old music-makers - music boxes, antique crank organs, and antique phonographs.

Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert for four or more - and your guests. Cold cuts, breads, beverages and utensils will be provided by the picnic committee. Question, call Pat Csere, Chairman, 342-2168.

RESIGNATION OF GEORGE V. JOHNSON, JR.

George Johnson, the Society's president during the past three years, in order to distance the Society from politics, will resign at the end of the month to begin his political campaign for the office of First Selectman. The Society has been fortunate in the contributions of all its presidents, each one working with the particular aspects of our historic mandates that interest them. George has concentrated on preservation of historic buildings - a much needed contribution. He has been instrumental in passing a Town Ordinance delaying demolition of historic buildings, has consistently lobbied the Selectmen for a resolution of Central School's fate, has pressed for official recognition of the Town's historic assets, and his efficient publicizing of the Society's goals in the press has contributed to interest in membership and the recognition of the Historical Society as a constructive force in Portland. Our thanks to George for the many hours he has given the Society.

NEW SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Eleanor Crowther, Vice-President, will assume the presidency until the November annual meeting. Eleanor is presently very active on Society business, creating an endowment campaign to be launched in the early fall. A permanent fund is needed to meet our larger responsibilities as we move toward a house museum where we will be able to display Portland's famous industrial and agricultural past. Many towns have a single house museum showing the life of one famous inhabitant, but few towns can exhibit their contribution to a world of houses, whether on Nobb Hill, San Francisco, New York or Newport. Brownstone is of course Portland's best known industrial product, but it is only one of the Town's contributions that the Society will be able to document in larger quarters. We are fortunate that our generous benefactress, Mrs. Ruth Callander, has given us advance notice of her gift, so that we have time to make constructive plans.

CIVIL WAR MONUMENT - The deterioration of the Civil War Monument at Bartlett and Main Streets has been brought to the attention of the Society. George Johnson has discovered that a State funding grant is available to study the monument's condition and make recommendations for its repair and maintenance. Matching grants for the actual restoration and preservation are also available. Application forms will be turned over to the Selectmen.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - (No meeting in August) - September 28

Everyday life in Connecticut - 1790 to 1830. Lisa Quintana, Curator, New Haven Colony Historical Society, will give an illustrated lecture drawn from prints and oil paintings, furniture and other decorative arts in the Colony museum, as well as scenes from many living history museums.

MUSEUM ROOM - Pat Csere

The museum is open Tuesday afternoons, 2 -4 pm and otherwise by appointment. If you have guests interested in Portland's past, call Pat at 342-2168 for a special showing.

EAST HAMPTON (CHATHAM) HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC - East Hampton, continuing a pleasant tradition, has invited Portland Society members to join them at their annual potluck picnic on September 14. The picnic will be held at their antique one-room schoolhouse on Bevin Blvd. If interested, tell George Johnson either at our Society picnic, or by phone, 342-1949.

NEWSLETTER - Phyllis Frisbie

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RAILROAD BRIDGE ON MIDDLE HADDAM ROAD

N E W S L E T T E R !