



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

SEPTEMBER 2000 NEWSLETTER

THE RETURN OF THE PORTLAND AGRICULTURAL FAIR

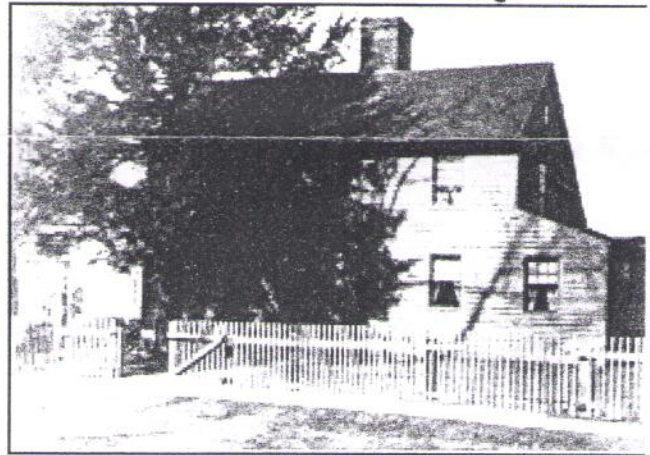
October 6, 7, 8 - Portland Fair Grounds, (Exchange Club Field), Route 17A

Visit the Historical Society booth at the fair! We will have a 10'x10' space in the Pole Barn, decorated with old pictures of the town. Maps and booklets about Portland's past will be at hand to answer questions. We will be collecting the more complex questions for after-the-fair response. If you're knowledgeable about some phase of Portland history and would be willing to respond to questioners by phone, please give us your name and number. The "fresh off the press" Historical Society 2001 Calendar will be on sale. Come and volunteer an hour or two and chat with new and old friends. Call Ruth Freeburg (342-3636) for details.

2001 Portland Historical Society Calendar

The calendar will feature photographs from the prolific historical research that Jessie Alsop (1875-1951) did for the Colonial Dames Old Houses of Connecticut project during the 1930's and 1940's. Fifteen photographs of Portland houses from the 1890's to the 1940's will be pictured. Ten of the houses are still standing, three have been demolished and two we can't identify. Perhaps you will know our mystery houses. The hours of research necessary to update Jessie Alsop's work has been done by Doris Sherrow. Walter Olsen did the photographic make-up, and Bob McDougall acted as publisher.

Portland Historical Society 2001



Miss Alsop's Portland

INTRODUCING MISS ALSOP'S PORTLAND

Miss Alsop? Who? For younger members, Doris Sherrow will introduce Miss Jessie Alsop (1875-1951) and her contributions to Portland historical research at our September 26th general meeting. Using slides of Miss Alsop's original photos prepared for a Colonial Dames old house survey in the 1930's, Doris will give us an understanding of the demands of the research that Jessie Alsop was required to do and talk about the other historical writing she did for town celebrations. If you own an old house, it may be of special interest to you that Doris will also remind us about other historic house surveys of Portland and where they may be found. For instance, do you remember that Phyllis Green's Bicentennial Studies class at the Junior High did research and photographed 45 old houses? Or that the WPA researched 61 houses? Also the 1980 Greater Middletown Preservation Trust book that Doris contributed to documented more Portland houses.

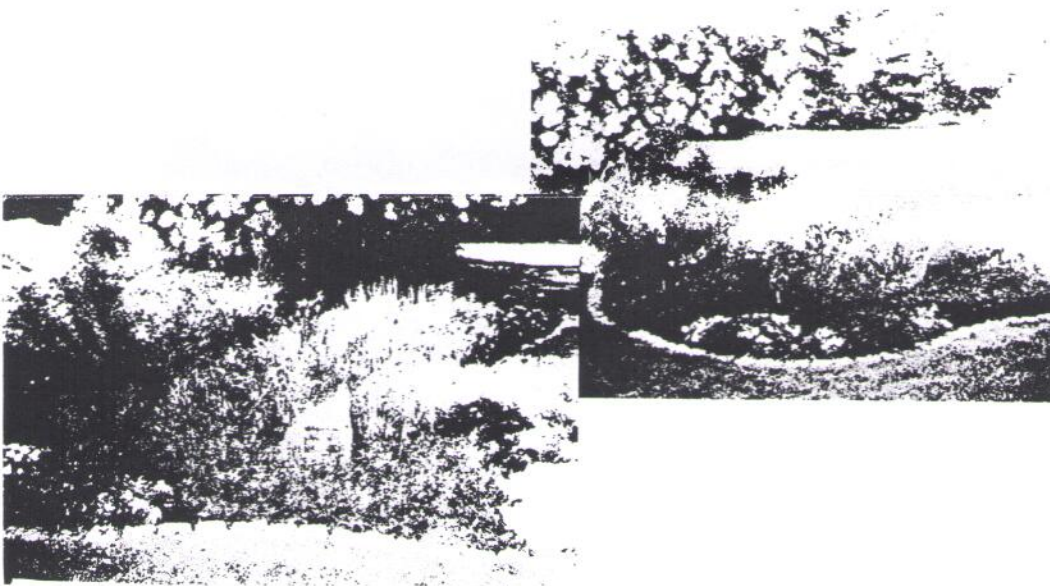
Remember, September 26, 7:30 PM at the library!

THE CALLANDER HOUSE MUSEUM

Our architect, Alain Munkittrick, has prepared the plans necessary to meet codes for the Town's Certificate of Occupancy. He has designed a ramp attached to the south side of the back porch. This will be the main entrance to the museum. A convenient paved path from the parking lot to the ramp will be provided. A handicapped accessible lavatory in the kitchen ell has also been designed. We expect to work on the ramp and entrance this fall and do the lavatory as finances permit.

Perennial Garden

Have you noticed a beautiful garden at the back of the house near the garage? It was designed and planted by members of the Portland Garden Club in honor of the late Betty Keser Scott. It has been a joy to watch it grow and change over the summer. Drive in and enjoy their work!



Nominating Committee

The Society's by-laws require the appointment of a Nominating Committee at the September meeting. It's a good job for a few members who have limited time to contribute. Usually the discussion required to fill vacancies can be done by phone from home. If you can volunteer a few hours time, call Bob McDougall, 342-3062 or Don Kelsey, 342-0632.

Portland
Historical
Society
2000



Why not join now?

Portland Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 98
Portland, CT 06480-0098

Bob McDougall's new pamphlet prepared for distribution at the fair contains:

*Town history
Society history
Society purpose
Meeting dates
Membership
information*

DEMOLITION REQUESTS

Sadly, we have been busy this summer agreeing to the demolition of historic town buildings. The Town's Demolition Ordinance allows the Society a limited time period to study all structures over 75 years old slated for demolition. Depending on age and architecture of the building, our role is to encourage adaptive reuse, restoration or use of its elements. Despite the hard work of Chris Sullivan and advisers, we have not been able to save an entire building.

The 1790 Hay houses on Cornwall Street had been remodeled too extensively to appeal to restorers and an arrangement could not be made to save the frames. They stood in the way of the sand bank operations.

A dilapidated garage at the corner of Grove and Rt 66 is not as old as it's 1890 house and lacks any architectural interest.

The 44 Riverside Drive 1860-1864 attractive stick-style house, (maybe the first in Portland) must give way to the expansion of the Yankee Boatyard. In this case, some of the attractive elements of this house are being reused by restoration contractors. A beam or two may be used in the reconstruction of the Harriet Beecher Stowe birthplace in Litchfield. Documentation and photographs of all of the buildings will be in our files.

A barn on Grove Street built by Alexander Benashski about 1905 is also slated for demolition. We understand it has a pegged frame which should appeal to restoration contractors or others. If you know someone who would be interested call Chris Sullivan at 342-4105.



TOUR OF CENTER CEMETERY

The October meeting will be a special Sunday afternoon walk in Center Cemetery. The visit will be led by Doris Sherrow, who will introduce some of Portland's famous and infamous residents. The program is set for October 22nd. Watch the paper for details.

PROGRAMS - Regina Woltmann, 342-3092

September. 26 - Introducing the 2001 Society Calendar. Research history of 15 antique Portland houses with slides presented by Doris Sherrow.

October 22 - 2 - 4 PM. Center Cemetery walk. Commentary by Doris Sherrow.

November 14 - 6 PM -Annual Meeting - Potluck supper. Check newspaper for details.

General meetings of the Society are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library at 7:30 P.M., unless otherwise indicated.

* * * * *

Portland Historical Society Officers for 1999-2000:

President: <i>Robert McDougall</i>	Directors:
Vice-President: <i>Donald Kelsey</i>	<i>Shirley Sullivan</i>
Secretary: <i>Ruth Freeburg</i>	<i>George Wilson</i>
Treasurer: <i>Charles Woltmann</i>	<i>Regina Woltmann</i>
Finance Officers: <i>Daniel Crowther, James Elder, Donald Goodrich</i>	

NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis & Bill Frisbie, 9/15/00*

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