



## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

# SPRING 2002 - NEWSLETTER

---

### **ALERT!**

## **SIXTH ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE DAY SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2002**

### **Here's how you can help:**

- **Donate discarded treasures for the Society's sale.**
- **Encourage family and friends to have a sale at home or at the Grange parking lot.**
- **Tell your out-of-town friends about it.**
- **Ask a local business to take a business card ad on our official Tag-Sale Map.**
- **Contribute to the May 11<sup>th</sup> bake sale at the Grange**
- **Join the committee and share in the fun!**

Ruth Freeburg, 342-3636; Eleanor Crowther 342-2907

*It really is our SIXTH TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE DAY thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with the organization and all the people who have had tag sales! We have set-up the Town Map advertising arrangement and volunteers will soon be calling on businesses for their ads which help to pay our printing costs. Volunteers will also be calling for donations to the bake sale.*

*A copy of the tag sale application form is included in this newsletter. We hope you will use it or pass it on to a neighbor. And please bring us your fine collectibles that need a new home. Note collection dates on the enclosed flyer. For comments or volunteering call Eleanor Crowther 342-2907.*

### **THANK YOU!**

*by Bob McDougall, President*

*In response to our ads in the last newsletter, two computers and a printer have been donated, all in working order, and greatly appreciated. We also had a volunteer to help with data entry. Because we do not have service contracts on our equipment, it is helpful to have replacements and spares available. If you have a Pentium PC, printer or scanner you no longer need, we can make good use of it.*

*We also could really use a reliable plain paper copier for the museum office. Please contact me to make arrangements. 342-3062, e-mail <PortlandHistSoc@Yahoo.Com>*

## **HISTORIC SITE - THE BIG PINES, MASHOMASIC STATE FOREST**

Chris Sullivan joined representatives of six environmental groups, organized by John LeShane, who are concerned with the future of the Big Pines plantation near the reservoir. It is a particularly fine stand of white pines which is approaching its 100th birthday, a usual cutting age but a young age for trees which can live to 400. The representatives met with David K. Leff, Deputy Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Protection who administers Ct. forests. On the Society's behalf we filed a letter representing the unique historic value of the trees. Preserving this local example of the size of the trees used in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Portland industries will provide more understanding of early settlers work for future generations. The forester in charge has committed to filing a plan with the Town

Conservation Commission for future mangement of the Big Pines, which will include a comment period before being finalized. We hope the plan includes some necessary clearing of dead wood but no harvesting for the foreseeable future.

\* \* \* \*

## **UNDERWRITING HISTORY PROGRAM AT THE LIBRARY**

The Society has agreed to donate \$200 to help fund a program called "Courage Under Fire" which deals with the lives of girls during and just after World War II. The Connecticut Humanities Council will provide the books and a discussion leader for this four-part program for pre-teen girls. We expect the program, which will be held in May, will help to foster a sense of history with relation to their own lives.

### **TOWN POOR FARM**

In response to a query from the Conklins of Sun City, AZ for information about the "Town Poor Farm", we have the following information written for the Portland Bicentennial Quilt by the late Dorothy Robinson, Society Charter Member and President. (The quilt was created by the Congregational Church women in 1976 and is presently owned by the D. S. Crowthers.)

*This farmhouse, (now 186 Jobs Pond Road), built around 1800, served as the Chatham Alms House or "Town Farm". It was the home of Hezekiah Goodrich Pelton and it originally contained six rooms. After it was purchased by the Town of Chatham for a "Town Farm", a total of 32 rooms were added. In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a new ell of 12 rooms was added and the old one pulled down. One room was used as a cell, for those inmates who misbehaved, complete with bars on window and door, and walls of solid oak plank.*

*It was used by both Chatham and Portland after the latter was set off as a separate town for awhile. It was not only a home for poor folks, but also old people, orphans and the mentally insane. The barn was used for square dances and the pastured acres for picnics by the townspeople.*

*In 1937 there was only one inmate and a caretaker left there - so there was no longer a need for this place; therefore, it was sold as a private dwelling.*



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Town-wide Tag Sale**  
**Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society, Inc.**  
*benefiting the Callander House Museum of Portland History*

# PLAN A TAG SALE

## Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

### 8:30am to 2:30pm

RAIN OR SHINE!

**BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:**

- The Historical Society will help to promote your Tag Sale.
- Your contributions will help fund Historical Society Projects.

The Portland Historical Society will provide:

- Tag sale hints
- Advertising
- House banner
- Location Map w/sale types

| Option | How it works:   | Sign up by April 15 <sup>th</sup>   | Sign up April 16 - 29 |
|--------|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1.     | Have a sale at your own home or neighborhood  | \$15.00   | \$20.00               |
| 2.     | Tailgate at Hemlock Grange parking area, jct. Rte. 17 & Sage Hollow Rd.   | \$15.00   | \$20.00               |
| 3.     | Donate Treasures to the Historical Society to sell at Hemlock Grange and Callander House.<br>(No clothing, text books or unwieldy items please) | Items may be donated to Society now through May 4 <sup>th</sup> . Saturdays, April 20, 27, & May 4, items may be dropped at Callander garage, 492 Main St. from 9-11 AM. Pick-up also available. Info. call 342-3636. |                       |

**BAKE SALE with coffee & hot dogs at Society Tag Sale, Hemlock Grange, 17 Sage Hollow Road on Tag Sale Day.**

✂ - - - - -  
**clip and send to: Portland Hist. Soc. Tag Sale, P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480**  
**Make checks payable to Portland Historical Society**

|                             |  |  |                |                  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Contact Information:</b> |  | <b>Options</b><br>(Please Check all that apply)                            | <b>before</b>  | <b>Apr. 16 -</b> |
| <b>Name:</b>                |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Home sale <input type="checkbox"/> Rain or Shine? | <b>Apr. 16</b> | <b>Apr. 29</b>   |
| <b>Sale Address:</b>        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tailgate at Grange                                | <b>\$15.00</b> | <b>\$20.00</b>   |
| <b>Phone:</b>               |  | <b>Show home sale type: toys/tools/misc/etc. _____</b>                     |                |                  |

**HELP WANTED!**

*Do you like to organize things?  
Do you have a couple hours a  
week to help catalog our inven-  
tory? The Museum Committee  
needs you! We have a couple  
volunteers who could use some  
help cataloging our collection.  
Please contact Bob McDougall  
for more information.  
342-3062 or  
PortlandHistSoc@Yahoo.Com*

**PROGRAMS - Regina Woltmann**

- April 23 - Tom Kronenberger, **Restoration Specialist**, will speak about his work on DeKoven House, Central School and Gillette Castle.
- May 28 - Bethia Robinson Washburn will talk about her **family research** and finding an elusive grave-site out in Oregon.
- June 25 - **Annual Potluck Picnic**. We will be serenaded by the **Sweet Adeline's** singing group.

*Meetings are held in the Mary Flood Room of Portland Library at 7:30 PM , unless otherwise specified. All are welcome.*

**NEWSLETTER - Phyllis & Bill Frisbie, 3/29/02**

**PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT. 06480*

**2002**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

*Robert McDougall*

**Vice-President**

*Donald Kelsey*

**Secretary**

*Ruth Freeburg*

**Treasurer**

*Charles Woltmann*

**Directors**

*Regina Woltmann*

*Shirley Sullivan*

*James McCabe*

**Finance Directors**

*James Elder*

*Pat Crowther*

*Donald Goodrich*

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**PERMIT No. 19**

**Portland, CT**

**06480**

**NEWSLETTER!**