



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - *Regina Woltmann*

Our last meeting, the Annual Potluck Picnic, was held the end of June at the Firemen's Grounds, and it seemed only appropriate that we be entertained by a group of firemen! The Connecticut Cellar Savers are a group of firemen from all over Connecticut who save old fire memorabilia, including fire trucks. They will be opening a Fire Museum on Main Street in Portland, just a short drive from the Ruth Callander Museum of Portland History.

Through the summer, many of our group have been busy, particularly our Exhibits Committee and docents who have held successful, well attended "Open Houses" on the first Sunday of each month. In addition, we've had several Museum openings by appointment during this period. Our display on Portland's military history has now been joined by a "back-to-school" exhibit featuring pictures of all the old Portland schools, many class pictures dating back to the early twentieth century, and a timeline depicting the development of the regional schools to the integrated school system. We hope you'll all have the opportunity to stop by and view this exhibit before it is replaced with our holiday exhibit featuring old dollhouses and trains.

Many of our visitors add items and information to our collection. Others have asked if we could be open more often - more than once per month - a request we would certainly be glad to accommodate if we had more volunteers to serve as docents. Please let us know if you would be willing to help out in this area!

Society Board member, Bob McDougall, has completed a pictorial history of Portland which has gone to press and should be available in time for holiday gift-giving. He is also putting the finishing touches to the 2005 Heritage Calendar which will debut at the Portland Fair.

Sue Anderson, of our Ways & Means Committee, continues her work on historic Portland magnets, which have been a big seller. Sue is also creating a coloring book of Portland's history. We've also been involved in other town events in a community outreach effort. Sue Anderson and I participated in the Trinity Church fair a few months ago and also at the Farmer's Market on the Town Green. We met a number of wonderful people and got lots of ideas for future programs, in addition to selling some of our products. If any of our members would like to get involved in this type of event, please contact either Sue or myself.

We will be participating in the Portland Fair in October, and will definitely need volunteers to "man our booth" on Friday evening, and all day Saturday and Sunday (Oct. 8, 9, 10). Please call me or email me at rtwoltmann@yahoo.com if you would be willing to help out.



Lastly, our annual election of officers and board members will be held in November. We are looking for a couple of members to serve on the Nominating Committee. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Regina Woltmann, President.

NOTES . . .

2005 Heritage Calendar - Bob McDougall and Doris Sherrow have created the 2005 calendar from pictures and information in the 1896 Souvenir Edition of the Middletown Tribune, which featured articles about important citizens, their homes and businesses. It celebrated the year that the first highway bridge opened between Middletown and Portland. Available at the Portland Fair and various locations in town.



Sites Committee - *Chris Sullivan*

Questions from Town Planner regarding Grower House (next to R.R. Station), Marlborough Street. Remodeler plans to install an Ice Cream Parlor and Building Inspector needed affirmation of building's age for possibility of building code exemptions.

House at 258 Airline Avenue corner of Bank St. - Town has taken for taxes - planning demolition and needs determination of historic importance.

Portland Fair Booth display - Enlarged copies of early Portland picture postal cards will be featured this year. A collection of school class pictures will be available for browsing plus Don Goodrich's famous "What Is It" Board.

BOOTH MINDERS ARE NEEDED!

Fund raising Subscriptions - *Sue Anderson*

The Historical Society continues to benefit from Yankee Magazine's Community Partners program. Every \$20 subscription or renewal earns \$8 for the Society. Subscription cards are available by calling Sue at 860-342-0433. Money earned from this special fundraising effort is dedicated to maintain the Ruth Callander House Museum for the collection, preservation and sharing of the history of Portland. A subscription makes an excellent holiday gift!

Postcard Magnets - We now have 40 magnets available in addition to the one of the Callander House Museum. Here's a list of them for those who wish to place an order: (\$2. Ea/ 3 for \$5./ set/20-\$30)

- 1 - *Bird's Eye View of Stone Quarry* - 1916
- 2 - *Cox Falls* - 1909
- 3 - *First Congregational Church* - 1907
- 4 - *Gildersleeve High School*
- 5 - *Harvesting Tobacco* - 1909
- 6 - *High School (later Central School)* - 1908
- 7 - *Hose Co. No. 2 Fire Department*
- 8 - *Main Street* - 1911
- 9 - *Rose Hill School*
- 10 - *St. Mary's Catholic Church* - 1920
- 11 - *St. Mary's Convent School*
- 12 - *Swedish Church* - 1905
- 13 - *Methodist Church* - 1911
- 14 - *The Middletown—Portland Bridge* - 1943
- 15 - *The Old Ferry*
- 16 - *The Quarries*
- 17 - *The Stone Quarry Loading a Vessel* - 1910
- 18 - *The Stone Quarry Showing Derricks* - 1913
- 19 - *Town Hall & Library* - 1912
- 20 - *Trinity Church* - 1913
- 21 - *Brownstone Quarry* - 1915
- 22 - *Brownstone Quarry Railroad* - c.1915
- 23 - *Highway & Railroad Bridges* - c.1900
- 24 - *Gildersleeve, Conn. "Siam Dock"*
- 25 - *Gildersleeve Shipyard* - c.1910
- 26 - *Great Hill Lake*
- 27 - *Portland High School* - c.1932
- 28 - *Valley View School* - c.1954
- 29 - *Main Street, Portland, Conn.*
- 30 - *Highway Draw Bridge, built 1896*
- 31 - *New U.S. Post Office* - c.1941
- 32 - *Noyes Junior Camp*
- 33 - *Portland Waterfront*
- 34 - *Quarrymen at Work* - c.1915
- 35 - *Soldier's Monument* - 1910
- 36 - *Town Hall & Buck Library* - c.1900
- 37 - *The Stone Quarry* - c.1915
- 38 - *Stone Quarry, East Side* - c.1915
- 39 - *Town Hall & Buck Library* - c.1941
- 40 - *U.S. Post Office* - c.1913

Actual magnet size:
2-5/8" x 1-11/16"



FROM MUSEUM SCHOOL EXHIBIT

1-28-1986 *Personal note about this program written by the late Dorothy Kelsey Robinson:*

We put on a program to buy a Victrola. The two state men, Mr. Young and our Superintendent, Mr. Connolly, were there to talk up free text books and electricity in the school. I remember C. Irving Hale gave us a \$5.00 donation. We got our Victrola!

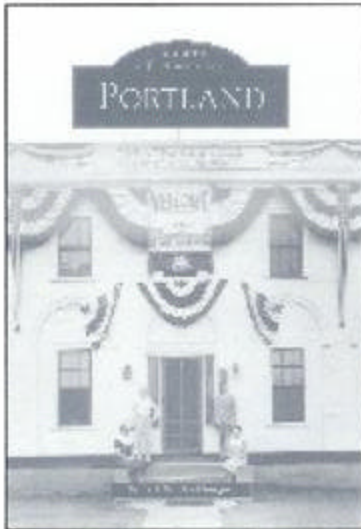
Special openings at the Museum

Oct. 7 - A.M. Third Grade Gildersleeve School

Oct. 9 -10AM - 12 Noon High School Class of 1944 Reunion

Nov. 7 -1:30 - 2 PM First Grade Boy Scout Troop

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	
WILL HOLD A MEETING IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
ROSE HILL DISTRICT	
Portland, at Hemlock Hall,	
WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1920	
JAMES F. CONNOLLY, Supervisor	MARION H. KEEFFE, Teacher
PROGRAM	
1. The Mayflower Compact	Tableau
2. Mountain March	Folk Dance
3. The Landing of the Pilgrims	Tableau
4. Recitation	Edwin Kelsey
5. Address—Free Text Books	A. L. Young
Agent, State Board of Education	
6. The Return of the Mayflower	Tableau
7. Highland Fling	Dorothy Kelsey
8. The Peace Treaty with the Indians	Tableau
9. See-Saw	Folk Dance
10. The Narragansett's Challenge	Tableau
11. Eskimo Song	
12. Priscilla and John Alden	Tableau
13. Loby-Loby	Folk Dance
14. The First Thanksgiving	Tableau
15. Address—Heat, Light and Ventilation	J. F. Connolly
Agent, State Board of Education	
16. Pilgrims Going to Church	Tableau
17. Pilgrims at Church	Tableau
18. Shoemaker's Dance	Folk Dance
19. The Return of Miles Standish	Tableau
20. Historical Sketch—"America"	
CHARACTERS	
Governor Carver	Alfred Gustafson
Capt. Miles Standish	Iver Olson
Elder Brewster	Edwin Kelsey
John Alden	Paul Ockliff
Priscilla Mullins	Dorothy Kelsey
Mrs. White	Evelyn Carlson
Massasoit	Harold Anderson
Squanto	Clark Kuskey
Samoset	Nelson Cornwall
Pilgrims Men—Albert Agugliati, Norman Ockliff, Frank Bajorek, Raymond Olson. Pilgrim Women—Ada Gustafson, Ethel Gustafson, Agnes Anderson, Columbine Castilli. Indian Braves—Mildred Ockliff, Ruth Wilcox, Pierna Agugliati, Margaret Connor, Charles Krammer, Durando Agugliati, Joseph Bajorek, George Castilli.	
Middlesex County Printery, Portland, Conn.	



New Book on Portland!

PORTLAND. Images of America by our own Bob McDougall will be released by Arcadia Publishing this fall. The 128 page book includes over 200 photographs of Portland. Subjects include: Parades and Celebrations; Floods and Hurricanes; Landmarks; Transportation; Individuals and Organizations, and of course, Shipyards and Quarries. It primarily features photographs from the collection of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History and also some photos from private collections. A highlight is a never before published sequence of 4 photos taken while the Brownstone Quarry was flooding in 1936. Construction photos of both highway bridges across the Connecticut River are shown. The book will be available this fall for \$20.00 from the Portland Historical Society, with proceeds to benefit our projects.

PROGRAMS: We have had a number of talented members and townspeople who provided informative programs highlighting Portland's history during the past year. We continue with Portland-themed programs this year. Scheduled are:

- September 28 -** **“Portland’s Tobacco Industry”**— Speaker will be Don Goodrich, Society and Finance Board Member, with an overview of his family’s experience.
- October 26 -** **“The Gildersleeve Family and the Shipbuilding Industry”**, presented by descendent, and former Society president and board member, Rick Gildersleeve.
- November 9 -** **Hemlock Grange - Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper** will commence at 6 PM. The program will be an overview of the Society’s business for the year.
- December 11 -** **Holiday Open-House at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History** featuring trains and doll houses - 10 AM to 4 PM

All programs are held at the Portland Library, Mary Flood Room, at 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated.

NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis & Bill Frisbie, 9-21-04*



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

NON-PROFIT ORG.

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SOCIETY OFFICERS
2004

*President - Regina Woltmann
Vice President - Eleanor Crowther
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Treasurer - James McCabe*

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*Robert McDougall
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Newsletter!