



## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O.Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

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# SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - *Martha Lutecki***

Welcome back to a busy fall season as we are ready to start up again this fall with many and varied activities scheduled.

**Brownstone Festival** - Museum Open House from 9 am - 3 pm in conjunction with the Brownstone Festival to be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007. If you haven't stopped by to view our military exhibit, I encourage you to do so. Our Exhibits Committee has done an outstanding job as always presenting various artifacts from our collection and blending them with loaned items from members of the community for an impressive display.

**Monthly Open Houses** - Our regular monthly Museum openings are scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, in addition to special openings on Sunday November 11 (Veteran's Day featuring the final showing of our Military Exhibit) and December 9<sup>th</sup>, (Annual Holiday Exhibit) followed by several other holiday openings shown in our "Calendar" section.

**Portland Fair (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)!!**  
We will have a booth at the Portland Agricultural Fair and show some early Portland pictures. Our just published Portland Cookbook will be available along with information about the Society. If you are able to volunteer to help man the booth this year, please call me at 860-342-3212.

**Cookbook Fundraiser** - A special thanks to Sue Anderson, Chairperson and her Cookbook Committee consisting of Darren Anderson, Bill, Phyllis and Claire Frisbie, Marie Keser, Linda Cunningham, Chris Sullivan, Martha Lutecki and Regina

Woltmann for working this summer to publish a cookbook, dedicated in memory of Pat Csere who began collecting recipes many years ago. This cookbook, entitled "Recipes and Reflections", offers over 200 recipes gathered over the past 25 years from members and friends in the community.

**Monthly Meetings** - Program meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, October 23, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Library. Our Annual Meeting/Potluck Supper will be held at the Grange on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

*Martha Lutecki, President*



*The little one in this picture is Heather McDougall, the Society's latest life member, thanks to a birthday gift from Linda Cunningham on July 5, 2007.*

# MISCELLANY. .

## HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY BROWNSTONE SCHOOL!!

In the Portland History Book 1841-1966, it states that in 1931 the Town Meeting voted for a new 6-year high school. The building was planned and built in less than a year on the "Cattle Lot" on Main Street (the land where the quarry oxen were corralled). The building opened to classes with John Secord as Principal on September 7, 1932!! The school's longevity is a tribute to our famous brownstone quarries and Portland's workers.



**WILCOX ISLAND** - Mr. George Bragden of Bloomfield stopped at the museum to advise us of a history mistake in a Hartford Courant item about Wilcox Island. The item's author claimed that when the dam blocking the river flow during the prehistoric glacial period that had created Lake Hitchcock burst, Wilcox Island was formed. Mr. Bragden said his father, who was a long time writer for the Hartford Times and a Connecticut River expert, said that Wilcox Island was formed by sailing ships which came up the river in ballast to pick up Brownstone. They had to dump their ballast\* some place in the general location of the quarries, before loading brownstone to take down to New York. Bragden is also a river-boater and has even found some round rocks in the island's dredged materials to prove his father's story.

\*He explained that empty sailing ships need to be weighted with heavy ballast, (usually round rocks) to sail up the river.

**HOLIDAY EXHIBIT PLANNING** - In addition to trains, doll houses, games and toys, does anyone have barn toys or Noah's Arks with or without occupants to loan for the exhibit? Please let us know - Phyllis, 342-0303.

To complement the toys, perhaps some individuals or groups would like to decorate small trees for the exhibit. If so, please call Chris Sullivan (342-4105).

**HOME MOVIE PROGRAM** - (These are very popular now-a-days). If you have film of some family occasion or town event, we would like to borrow it for a short period. Call Regina Woltmann, 342-3092.

**INVENTORY IMPROVEMENT** - During Bob McDougall's few free hours this summer, he has managed to rebuild RCH museum storage and add two second-hand flat-file cases captured from the Boston area for storing documents such as maps and blueprints. Thanks Bob! .

**MILITARY EXHIBIT** - The good response from Portland residents who loaned uniforms to us made it possible to create an interesting exhibit representing items from the 1750 French & Indian War to the present. The exhibit will remain in place through Veteran's Day, November 11. At the end of the day, (after 4 p.m.) we plan to disband it. If you are free at that time to collect your things, come and join us.

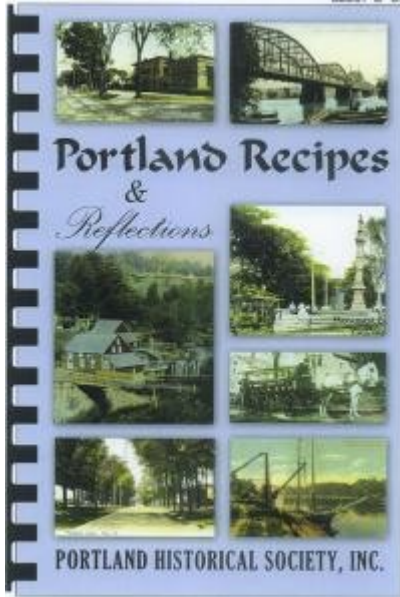


**HELP!** We are looking for old Portland fair or farm pictures to show at the Portland Fair October 12, 13, 14. We will copy them and return.

# THE SOCIETY'S LATEST VENTURE -

## *“Portland Recipes and Reflections”*

*A wonderful collection of recipe favorites compiled by 100 Society Members and Friends.* The book contains 200 recipes for appetizers, main dishes, desserts and specialties. It also features a brief history and photos of Portland, the Ruth Callander House Museum, and Betty Keser Scott Garden.



We have dedicated the book to the late **Pat Ellsworth Csere** who was an early member of the Society and a loyal supporter. Twenty years ago she conceived the idea of creating a Society cookbook, and the committee was honored to complete this book in her memory. Many contributors were inspired to submit recipes honoring their own relatives.

A small sampling of the recipes in the cookbook includes:

Margie Flanders’ **“Fourth Generation Dark Bread”**. This recipe was passed down to her from her mother, who learned it from her mother, a Portland resident, who learned it from her mother, Agnes Kellogg Sage, wife of John Hall Sage of Portland. The smell of the dark bread baking reminds Margie of her mother, and makes her feel in touch with early generations of Portland Sages.

Mildred Henry’s **“War Cake”** is a delicious spice cake. This item was popular during the war years because it does not call for expensive ingredients such as eggs, milk or butter.

Joanne Luppi’s **“Onion, Ham and Cheese Chowder (Alaskan Chowder)”** is sure to warm one up on a cold day! Joanne’s sister-in-law sent this tasty recipe to her from Alaska.

Recipes from several well known Connecticut persons are also in the book. Included are those of Governor M. Jodi Rell, Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, and Portland’s First Selectman, Susan Bransfield.

**Cookbooks are priced at \$8 each, and can be purchased at the Society Museum, Brownstone Festival, Portland Agricultural Fair, or by clipping and mailing the order form below. Our supply is limited so be sure to place your order early!**

All proceeds from this fundraising activity will benefit the programs and operation of the Society’s museum.

*Cookbook Committee: Sue Anderson, Chairperson; Darren Anderson, Linda Cunningham, Bill and Claire Frisbie, Marie Keser, Martha Lutecki, Chris Sullivan, Regina Woltmann.*

	Price	Qty.	Total
<i>Portland Recipes &amp; Reflections</i>	\$8.00		
Free Delivery in Portland, Out-of-town Shipping & Handling, ea.	\$3.00		
		Total payment enclosed	
Name: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____		Send to: Portland Historical Society, Inc. P. O. Box 98 Portland, CT 06480-0098	

## CALENDAR . . . .

**September 15 -** Brownstone Quarry Festival Day. *Open house at Museum featuring a brownstone/quarry exhibit along with our current military exhibit. Refreshments 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

**September 25 -** "Growing up in Portland" Program moderated by Rick Gildersleeve

**October 7 -** Museum Open 2-4 p.m., Military exhibit

**October 12, 13, 14 -** Portland Agricultural Fair - see newspaper for times

**October 23 -** "Doors of Connecticut" Program by Cindy Erickson

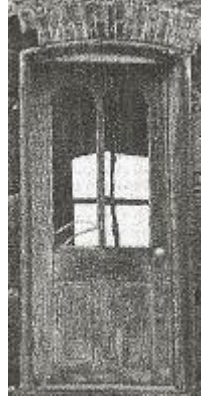
**November 4 -** Museum Open 2 - 4 p.m., Military exhibit

**November 11 -** Museum - final opening Military Exhibit. 2 - 4 p.m.

**November 13 -** Annual Meeting & Potluck Supper - Hemlock Grange at 6 p.m.

**December 9, 16, 23, 30** Museum Holiday Exhibit: TOYS, TRAINS, DOLL HOUSES, etc. - 2 - 4 p.m.

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



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NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis and Bill Frisbie, 09-14-07*

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## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**Newsletter!**