



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

WINTER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Ruth Callander House Museum, 492 Main St., Portland, CT., 06480, Tel: 860-342-5545
www.PortlandHistSoc.Org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - Martha Lutecki

As always, it was a busy fall season for The Portland Historical Society with involvement in several community activities and several well-attended monthly program meetings.

Brownstone Festival : We always enjoy participating in The Brownstone Quorum's Annual Brownstone Festival. Our booth on the Town Green selling items from the "Callander Cupboard" was very successful. Thanks to Sue and Darren Anderson, Jane Nash, Regina Woltmann and everyone else who helped out!

Exhibits: Sue Anderson has done an outstanding job researching all of Portland's farms and the families who owned them. More farm stories are being added as we go to press. If you've already visited the exhibit, please plan to stop by again during the holiday season to see what's new. We have all learned so much about farming history in Portland thanks to Sue's efforts. Thanks also to Bill, Phyllis and Claire Frisbie for their hard work on the exhibit as well.



Linda Cunningham and Luiza McDougall in the Society's Booth at the Portland Fair

Portland Fair: The "travel" Farm Exhibit was much at home at the agricultural fair this year!! Our booth not only raised awareness in the community of who we are and what we do, but we also sold more than \$500.00 worth of items from our "Callander Cup-

RENEW MEMBERSHIP NOW

What does your membership support?

- Historical programs and Museum exhibits (including 300 years of farms, 150 years of wedding dresses and over 200 years of military)
- Artifact preservation & collection requirements
- Ruth Callander House maintenance
- This Newsletter!

Please help to keep these Society activities going.

A handy renewal envelope is enclosed.

As always, thank you for being a part of
the Portland Historical Society.

board." The new 2009 calendar, created by Bob McDougall and Sue Anderson featuring Portland farm scenes, was very popular. Thanks to all who helped us with the Fair booth – Sue Anderson, Bob and Christel Johnson, Doris Sherrow-Heidenis, Regina Woltmann, Bob and Luiza McDougall, Linda Cunningham, Chris Sullivan, Ethel Peltz, Ruth Freeburg, Millie Post, Nancy Flood, Randy and Joan Guilmette and Gene Sullivan.

By-law Revisions: I would like to thank Bob McDougall, Claire Frisbie and Joan Guilmette for their comprehensive review and recommendations. The committee and I worked for many months to make necessary changes to the by-laws which were presented at our September program and voted upon at our October program. One of the changes is in the presentation of the slate of officers and board members. Instead of doing this at our November meeting, we will wait for the start of the new calendar year in January.

As my term as President of The Portland Historical Society officially ends in January 2009, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their dedication and enthusiasm over the past three years. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and with all of our wonderful and supportive members. Best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season!

Martha

NOTES . . .

Upcoming Society Fundraiser

In April 2009, the Society will present a **Spring Tea** featuring "Under Every Great Hat is a Great Woman", a **Vintage Hat Program** presented by Barbara Cubanski of Colchester. In addition to the tea and hat program that afternoon, we will hold a **Jewelry Sale** of items that have been donated to the Society and set aside from our annual town-wide tag sale event. The committee is looking for additional donations of jewelry (costume and authentic), and small boxes in which to display the jewelry. Proceeds from this event will benefit the programs of the Portland Historical Society and the operation of the Society's Museum. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event or make donations, please call Sue Anderson @ 342-0433.



The Tigers, Den 2 of the Portland Cub Scouts, and their families visited the Museum's Farm Exhibit in October.



Boiling over with joy?



Old Furnace out . . .



Pat Crowther, Chairman of the Ruth Callander House Committee, shows off his newest project at the Museum.



New Furnace in!

PORTLAND HISTORY . . .

Excerpt from Sylvester Gildersleeve Descendants by Willard Harvey Gildersleeve, 1952

“In 1798, Phillip Gildersleeve was master carpenter of the U.S. Ship, “Connecticut” built at Stevenson’s Wharf of 514 tons, mounting 24 guns and commanded by Capt. Moses Tryon. This [war] frigate was contracted for by Gen. Seth Overton [one of the early owners of the Ruth Callander House]. In Barber’s History of Connecticut, a short sketch of the town of Chatham had this account of the ship’s launching and its supervision by its naval architect, Philip Gildersleeve.

Middletown [Portland], June 7, 1799 **The Launch - More of the Wooden Walls of Columbia.**

Yesterday at 35 min. and four sec. past five p.m. the U.S. ship Connecticut was safely deposited on the bosom of the majestic stream and hence she derives her name. No words can convey an adequate idea of the beauty and brilliance of the scene. Nature, as inclined to do honor on the occasion, had furnished one of the most delightful days that the vernal season ever witnessed. While old Father Connecticut, eager to receive his beautiful offspring, had swollen his waters by the liquefaction of snows reserved for the occasion near his source in order to facilitate her passage to his waves; and extending his liquid arms welcomed her to his embrace. Flora decked in her richest attire smiled gleefully around and a brilliant concourse of spectators from this and neighboring towns whose countenances expressed the liveliest sensibility at thus witnessing the progress of our nautical armament destined to protect our commerce and hurl the thunders of Columbia on her shrinking foes, formed a most magnificent moving picture in addition to the brilliance of nature which shone around.

The preparation of the launch was exquisite and evincive of the consummate skill of the architect who superintended the operations of the day and whose orders were given with dignity and obeyed with punctilious nicety when the moment arrived at which the elegant fabric was to leave her earthly bed never more to return. The anxiety of the crowd was witnessed by solemn silence awful and profound.

The stroke was struck, the blocks were removed, when lo, with the grace and majesty of the divine Cleopatra or the wonderful Cygnus, she glided into the arms of her parent river and, as if reposing herself to sleep upon a bed of roses, sunk upon his breast. In a moment, the peal of federalism burst forth. The peans of the gazing thousands met the heavens and echo faintly expired on the distant hills.

While shad and salmon feel the patriot glow
And throng in numerous shoals the waterway
And sturdy sturgeon from the depth below,
Leap up her matchless beauty to survey.

A footnote says: This paragraph was taken from a Boston newspaper.”

This photo came to the Society recently from Tom Johnson of Bonsall, CA. Charles Graham Johnson and his wife, Emily, are shown on their farm at 321 Main Street. The Trinity Church Steeple can be seen in the background. This photo predates the building of Stonehaven at 325 Main Street in 1888.

Charles and his son Oscar Johnson (grandfather of Tom) were photographers who documented life in Portland and surrounding communities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



SOCIETY BUSINESS . . .

Financial Report below, from the November 11 meeting, given by James McCabe, treasurer, shows 2008 actuals, 2009 budget and a transitional budget for November-December 2008. (The Society has elected to change its fiscal year to Jan.-Dec.)

| | Category | Description | 2008 Actual | 2008 Budget | Difference | Nov-Dec Budget | 2009 Budget |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| Books | | Book | 62.00 | 500.00 | -438.00 | | 40.00 |
| | | Coloring Books Sales | 207.50 | 1,000.00 | -792.50 | | 150.00 |
| | | Cook Books | 1,230.00 | 0.00 | 1,230.00 | 20.00 | 200.00 |
| | | Farm Books | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3,000.00 |
| | | Image Books | 180.00 | 0.00 | 180.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | Ltrs-Harry | 260.00 | 0.00 | 260.00 | | 260.00 |
| | | St Clement's Book | 250.00 | 150.00 | 100.00 | | 100.00 |
| | | postage-book | -8.20 | -12.00 | 3.80 | | -3.80 |
| | | printing-Books | -739.10 | 0.00 | -739.10 | | -3,000.00 |
| | | TOTAL Books | 1,442.20 | 1,636.00 | -195.80 | 20.00 | 746.20 |
| Calander Sales | | Calander Sales | 1,654.00 | 2,000.00 | -346.00 | 100.00 | 2,000.00 |
| | | postage-Cal | -69.79 | -120.00 | 108.21 | | -60.00 |
| | | printing-cal | -1,350.00 | -1,700.00 | 350.00 | -1,500.00 | -1,500.00 |
| | | TOTAL Calander Sales | 234.21 | 180.00 | 112.21 | -1,400.00 | 440.00 |
| Callender House | | Interest Inc | 0.46 | 1.00 | -0.52 | | 1.00 |
| | | Memorials | 4,093.89 | 0.00 | 4,093.89 | | 2,100.00 |
| | | _Divinc | 8,107.71 | 6,200.00 | 1,907.71 | | 4,500.00 |
| | | _LT CapGnDst | 5,959.56 | 2,000.00 | 3,959.56 | | 2,000.00 |
| | | _ST CapGnDst | 287.09 | 312.00 | -24.91 | | 200.00 |
| | | House Maintaince | -469.94 | -5,000.00 | 4,530.06 | | -5,000.00 |
| | | Insurance | -2,851.00 | -2,880.00 | 29.00 | -2,400.00 | -2,880.00 |
| | | Landscaping | -675.00 | -900.00 | 225.00 | -200.00 | -900.00 |
| | | Misc-ch | 0.00 | -365.00 | 365.00 | | 0.00 |
| | | Repairs | -3,749.95 | -214.00 | -1,960.95 | | 0.00 |
| | | Security | -480.00 | -234.00 | -246.00 | | -480.00 |
| | | Utilities | | | | | |
| | | Gas & Electric | -861.75 | -652.00 | -209.75 | -72.00 | -800.00 |
| | | Heating Oil | -3,195.98 | -2,000.00 | -1,195.98 | -96.00 | -3,200.00 |
| | | Telephone | -228.95 | -200.00 | -28.95 | -50.00 | -200.00 |
| | Water | -502.34 | -700.00 | 197.66 | -197.00 | -700.00 | |
| | TOTAL Utilities | -4,789.02 | -3,552.00 | -1,237.02 | -415.00 | -4,900.00 | |
| | TOTAL Callender House | 5,233.82 | -4,632.00 | 11,440.82 | -3,015.00 | -5,359.00 | |
| General Operator | | Donation | 1,070.50 | 700.00 | 370.50 | 0.00 | 700.00 |
| | | Dues | 3,865.00 | 2,800.00 | 1,065.00 | 800.00 | 2,800.00 |
| | | Bank Charge | -53.80 | -50.00 | -3.80 | -50.00 | -50.00 |
| | | Dues and Subscriptions | -35.00 | -35.00 | 0.00 | | -35.00 |
| | | Licenses and Permits | -25.00 | -25.00 | 0.00 | -25.00 | -25.00 |
| | | Misc | 0.00 | -500.00 | 500.00 | | -500.00 |
| | | Misc-gen | -78.99 | 0.00 | -78.99 | | 0.00 |
| | | News Letters | -1,224.59 | -1,000.00 | -224.59 | | -2,500.00 |
| | | Portland Fair Booth | -50.00 | -120.00 | 70.00 | | -100.00 |
| | | Postage-Gen | -454.55 | -700.00 | 245.45 | | -700.00 |
| | | Printing-Gen | -663.00 | 0.00 | -663.00 | | 0.00 |
| | | Programs | -472.11 | -1,000.00 | 527.89 | | -1,000.00 |
| | | Rent | -200.00 | -50.00 | -150.00 | | -200.00 |
| | | TOTAL General Operati | 1,678.46 | 20.00 | 1,658.46 | 725.00 | -1,610.00 |
| Museum | | Misc-mus | -1,453.07 | -1,195.00 | -258.07 | | -2,500.00 |
| | | Museum | -118.31 | -244.00 | 125.69 | | |
| | | Postage-Mus | 0.00 | -10.00 | 10.00 | | |
| | | Printing-Mus | 0.00 | -500.00 | 500.00 | | |
| | | Supplies, Bus | 0.00 | -64.00 | 64.00 | | |
| | TOTAL Museum | -1,571.38 | -2,013.00 | 441.62 | 0.00 | -2,500.00 | |
| Products | | Products-Misc | 723.75 | 500.00 | 223.75 | | 275.00 |
| | | Yankee Mag | 0.00 | 32.00 | -32.00 | | 0.00 |
| | | materials | 0.00 | -150.00 | 150.00 | | 0.00 |
| | | Misc-prod | -392.50 | 0.00 | -392.50 | | -135.00 |
| | | postage-prod | 0.00 | -50.00 | 50.00 | | 0.00 |
| | TOTAL Products | 331.25 | 332.00 | -0.75 | 0.00 | 140.00 | |
| Tag sale | | Bake Sale | 565.10 | 300.00 | 265.10 | | 400.00 |
| | | Food Sale | 486.00 | 600.00 | -114.00 | | 500.00 |
| | | Tag Sale Ads | 675.00 | 775.00 | -100.00 | | 775.00 |
| | | Tag Sale Callander Hou | 1,245.85 | 1,500.00 | -254.15 | | 1,500.00 |
| | | Tag Sale Fee | 3,435.00 | 3,000.00 | 435.00 | | 3,000.00 |
| | | Tag Sale Grange | 199.53 | 200.00 | -0.47 | | 200.00 |
| | | Ads | -214.40 | 0.00 | -214.40 | | -250.00 |
| | | Food Expense | -260.00 | -280.00 | 20.00 | | -280.00 |
| | | Misc-Tag Sale | 0.00 | -48.00 | 48.00 | | 0.00 |
| | | Postage-TAG | -77.60 | -40.00 | -37.60 | | -80.00 |
| | | Printing-Tag sale | -400.00 | -300.00 | -100.00 | | -400.00 |
| | | Rent-Tag Sale | -50.00 | -50.00 | 0.00 | | 50.00 |
| | | TOTAL Tag sale | 5,604.48 | 5,657.00 | -52.52 | 0.00 | 5,415.00 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | | | 12,953.04 | 1,182.00 | 13,404.04 | -3,670.00 | -2,727.80 |

NEW TO THE "CUPBOARD" . . .



Sue Anderson has created Gift Baskets for the holidays, containing several of our most popular products along with a sampling of tasty and interesting treats. Baskets will be made to order; contact Sue at 860-342-0433.

MEMBERSHIP - Bill Frisbie, 860-342-0303

Recent 2009 memberships received from :

Individual

Chad Kinzel

Thomas Johnson

Paris Kollias

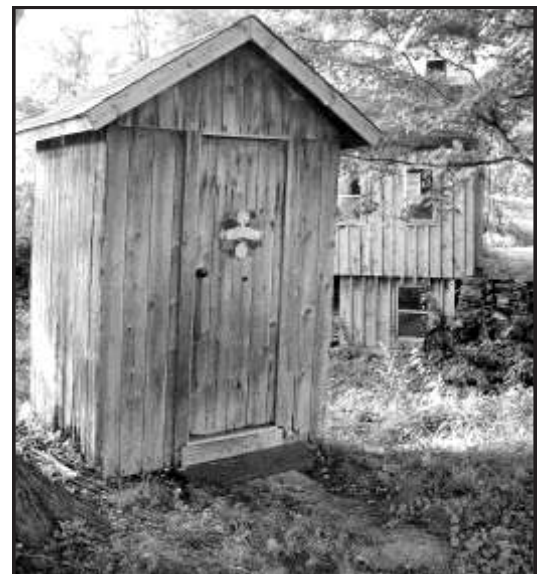
Family

Harriet Bransfield

Fiona & Jeff Fine

Susan & John Decina

Mr & Mrs Charles J. Larson



Ira Cornwall Farm's Facilities

HOLIDAY SALE! FROM THE CALLANDER HOUSE CUPBOARD



2009
PORTLAND
HERITAGE CALENDAR
**celebrating
Portland's Farms
past and present.**
Price: \$8/ea.



NEW!
**PORTLAND
SCENES
TILE & MUG**
Hand painted by
Connecticut Artist
Tile \$12; Mug \$9.50



**PORTLAND
RECIPES &
REFLECTIONS**
A wonderful
collection of
recipe favorites
of 100 Society
members &
friends. \$8.

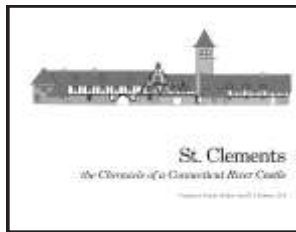


IMAGES OF PORTLAND
By Robert McDougall
128 pages of
history in photos
of Portland.
\$20



MAGNETS (approx. 1-3/4" x 2-5/8") of
40+ views of **PORTLAND POSTCARD
Scenes** (Portland/Middletown ferry
shown) \$2 ea., 3/\$5, set of 20/\$30.
Custom Orders & Designs for special
events, class reunions. Call to order.

ST. CLEMENTS
Chronicle of a
Connecticut River Castle.
by Prudence Taylor and
T.J. Palmer. \$15.



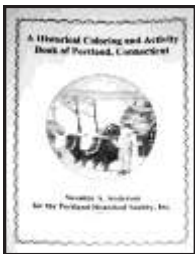
LETTERS TO HARRY
A vivid picture of life in the 1870's
by Prudence Taylor and T.J.
Palmer. Hardcover \$25.



**CALLANDER
HOUSE STONE-
WARE JAR 1997**
Celebrates the
Callander House
as Portland's
History Museum.
\$25.

NEW - NOTECARDS PORTLAND SCENES & FLORAL
PHOTOS by Sue Anderson. Beautiful local scenes, 40+
designs, perfect for any occasion. \$3/ea., 2/\$5, 5/\$10.

Decorative **LINEN
TEA TOWEL**
Portland Scenes in
maroon and white
\$5. (Towels have a
rod pocket for easy
hanging.)



COLORING & ACTIVITY BOOK
OF PORTLAND HISTORY
By Sue Anderson.
56 Pages. Great gift for
ages 3 to 9. \$3.50

AVAILABLE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
GIFTBASKETS WITH OUR
MOST POPULAR PRODUCTS.
Contact Sue Anderson 860-342-0433.

PORTLAND NOTEPADS
50 pgs - 5 Town Scenes, 2 pads/\$3.
John LeShane's **Video of Portland's
State Forest** \$3.

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

Make checks payable to:
Portland Historical Society

Name _____
Address _____
City, ST, ZIP _____
Phone _____

Phone order: Call Sue Anderson at (860) 342-0433
Will deliver locally at no extra charge.
Purchases are donations toward Society projects.

| QUANTITY | ITEM | COST | TOTAL |
|---|------|------|-------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Shipping: Please add \$2 for each \$12 of order | | | |
| Total cost of order | | | |

CALENDAR

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

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>December 7 December 14 December 21 December 28 January 4</p> | } | <p>“Christmas on the Farm” Museum Holiday Exhibit with our historic model trains 2-4 pm</p> |
|---|---|--|



*Gilbert Double G Alpaca Farm’s
Daisy, the 22 year old goat*

- January 6 - Board meeting - Ruth Callander Museum*
- January 27 - Annual Meeting with Election of Officers &
Mining in Connecticut program by local geologist Herb Duey*
- February 1 - Spring Exhibit Opens - Museum - 2-4 pm*
- February 3 - Board meeting - Ruth Callander Museum*
- February 24 - Program to be announced in paper*
- March 1 - Spring Exhibit - Museum open- 2-4 pm*
- March 3 - Board meeting - Ruth Callander Museum*

NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis, Bill and Claire Frisbie, 12-1-08*

Newsletter!

*James Elder
Pat Crowther
George Law*

FINANCE BOARD

*Eugene Sullivan
James Rau
Robert McDougall
Joan Guilmette
Claire Frisbie
Linda Cunningham*

DIRECTORS

*President - Martha Lutcki
Vice President - Susanne Anderson
Secretary - Ruth Freburg
Treasurer - James McCabe*

2008

SOCIETY OFFICERS

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 19
Portland, CT
06480

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

