



## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

### MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

Ruth Callander House Museum, 492 Main St., Portland, CT 06480; Tel: 860-342-5455  
[www.PortlandHistSoc.Org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.Org)

#### 17th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale

The Society's 17th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale will be May 11th. Now is the time to start looking at your collected items and consider a tag sale to create space, make money, or just pass things on to another.

This town-wide event, publicized widely, is the Society's largest fundraiser of the year, and can be a fundraiser for you, your family or your organization. Many organizations have invented creative methods of raising money with so many visiting shoppers in town. You can support the Portland Historical Society with a small \$20 or \$25 donation and we will create a large map with all the sale locations and types of items to be found at each location. Non-profit organizations raising money get special highlights on the map. If you need a location, consider a sale at the Hemlock Grange parking lot. If you just want to donate items, the Society and other organizations will be collecting for their tag sales. See page 3 for the Tag Sale sign-up form with all the details.

Volunteers are welcomed for this event. Please contact Ruth at 860-342-3636 or attend the Tag Sale planning meeting on March 12, 7:00 pm at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.



*2-over-3-bay house at 305 Old Marlborough Turnpike in Mary Rogers Williams drawing (page 4).*

#### Seeking a Small Rural House From 1903...

*by Doris Sherrow-Heidenis - punky1946@gmail.com*

Last month, the Society was contacted by Eve Kahn, an antiques columnist for the New York Times and a freelance writer specializing in architecture, design, and preservation. Ms. Kahn was researching a female Impressionist painter, Mary Rogers Williams (1857-1907). Mary Rogers Williams was a Hartford native who often visited her "Aunt Willie," Wilhelmina Niven Williams Pelton, who lived with husband Nelson Pelton on Maple Road in Portland. Wilhelmina Williams had married Nelson Pelton after his first wife died at age 24.

Ms. Kahn had seen Mary Rogers Williams' drawing (see page 4) of a 2-over-3-bay house -- a little cottage really -- and wondered if it might be in our town, since Mary spent time here in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was a gable-to-street structure, with two windows in the small upstairs, and two windows, plus a door on the left side of the façade, on the first floor. (A "bay" can be either a door or a window.)

The little house stood on a slight hill of some sort, with a road or driveway running through the lower left corner of the picture. Immediately I thought of the small house at 305 Old Marlborough Turnpike -- that house had very similar dimensions. But a drive up there told me that, when viewed from the street, it had THREE bays -- three windows -- in the upstairs, and three bays down, two windows and a door on the left side. So I was flummoxed for a time.

I did check the only other "2-over-3" item in Portland History & Architecture, but it was a small ridge-to-street house at 112 Cotton Hill Road -- not our gable-to-street item.

Then Chris Sullivan emailed her son Eric, who lives in upper New York state, and they found a view on Bingmaps.com which shows the BACK of 305 Old Marlborough Turnpike -- with only two upstairs windows, and two downstairs windows with an apparent doorway to the left!

*(Continued on page 2)*

## In Loving Memory

Norma Werdelin, a longtime member of the Society, recently passed away. Shortly before, she made a very generous donation to support our Ruth Callander House restorations. Thank you, Norma.

### Seeking a Small Rural House From 1903...

(Continued from page 1)

So likely Ms. Kahn's piece was drawn of 305 Old Marlborough Turnpike, but drawn from the rear of the building, where Mary Rogers Williams chose to sit! One wonders if she might have been intimidated by all the ca. 1900 traffic...

### Charles J. Arrigoni Bridge Turns 75 This August

Watch for our special exhibit and program this summer. The museum will feature bridge photos and memorabilia in an exhibit on Portland's river crossing. A special program and showing of the Arrigoni bridge construction film will be held in August.

## Thank you, Members and Donors

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**Membership questions,  
Claire Frisbie 860-335-8581  
PortlandCThistory@gmail.com**



**17th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale**  
**Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society**  
*Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History*

# PLAN A TAG SALE

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

**RAIN**  
**OR SHINE**

**BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:**

- ⇒ You profit from your sale.
- ⇒ The Historical Society will help to promote your Tag Sale.
- ⇒ Your contributions will help fund the Museum of Portland History.

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL PROVIDE:**

- ⇒ Location Maps with sale item types
- ⇒ Advertising
- ⇒ Tag Sale Hints
- ⇒ House Marker Sign

Option	How it works:	Rec'd by Society by April 13th	Rec'd by Society Apr. 14 - 27 <u>deadline</u>
1.	Have a sale at your own home or neighborhood <i>for your benefit</i> .	\$20.	\$25.
or 2.	Tailgate your tag sale at Hemlock Grange parking area, jct. Rte. 17 & Sage Hollow Rd	\$20.	\$25.
or 3.	Donate items to benefit the Historical Society tag sale at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. (No clothing, textbooks, TV's or unwieldy items, please.)	Items may be delivered to the Society Saturdays, April 20, 27, & May 4 at the Callander House garage, 492 Main St. from 9-11 AM. Pickup also available. Call 860-342-3636.	

**ALSO BAKE & TAG SALES with coffee, soda & hot dogs at Hemlock Grange, 17 Sage Hollow Road on Tag Sale Day.** *Questions? Contact 860-342-3636 or PortlandCThistory@gmail.com*



*Clip and mail to Portland Historical Society Tag Sale, P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480*  
*Make checks payable to: Portland Historical Society*

Contact Information: Name: _____	Options (Please check all that apply)	BY April 13	April 14 - 27
Sale Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Home sale	\$20.	\$25.
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tailgate at Grange	\$20.	\$25.
Email: _____	Item types (for map listing): _____		
Will you have Tag Sale if it rains? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> _____			
<b>Must be received by April 27 for listing on Map</b>			

# CALENDAR . . . .

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

**Mar 26 - "Creating a National Identity: Songs of the Irish-Americans"** - Rick Spencer, Dee and Rich Kelly; lecture and music explores a variety of popular American songs - 1840's through the early twentieth century - tracing emergence of Irish-American cultural identity. *Senior Center - 7:30 p.m.*

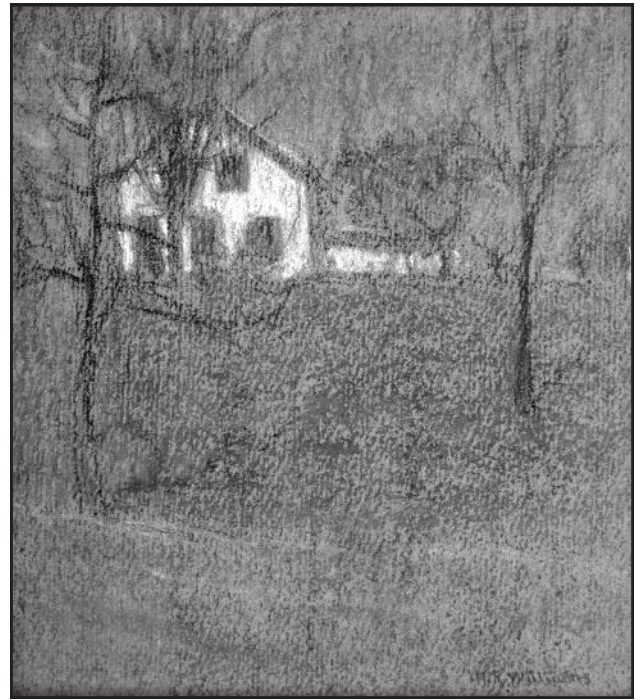
**Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2, and groups by appointment -**  
*Portland's People & History exhibits* - Museum open first Sunday, 2-4 pm, or call Claire 860-335-8581 for appt.

**Apr 23 - "Bob Steele, Connecticut broadcasting legend"** - Phil Steele on his father, who worked for WTIC as a radio announcer for 55 years and was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame.

**May 28 - "19th century Baseball in Connecticut"** - Bill Ryczek, discusses his book, "Baseball Pioneers and Baseball Founders," and major league baseball in Connecticut - including teams in Hartford, New Haven and Middletown.

**Jun 8 - Connecticut Open House Day**  
at Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

**Jun 25 - 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social and Van Beynum Awards,**  
plus musical entertainment. *Senior Center - 7 p.m.*



*Pastel drawing of 305 Old Marlborough Turnpike by Mary Rogers Williams (see article pg. 1)*

**NEWSLETTER** - *Claire Frisbie, 3-12-13, 860-335-8581*

## March 2013 Newsletter!

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**17TH ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE**  
**SIGN-UP ENCLOSED!**

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