



## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

# JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History  
492 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 Tel: 860-342-5455

[www.PortlandHistSoc.org](http://www.PortlandHistSoc.org) Email: [PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com](mailto:PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com)

Vol 41 No 2

## Pelton-Kelsey-Strickland Album Quilt

On June 14, 2014, the descendants of **Louisa Lydia Strickland Pelton** will present a friends album quilt to the Portland Historical Society during a reception and talk on the family history at 1 PM. This special presentation will take place during the Connecticut Open House Day at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History located at 492 Main St, Portland, CT, open from 11 AM to 3 PM. Favorite family desserts will be served for refreshments.

The **Pelton-Kelsey-Strickland Album Quilt** is a quilt top made in 1847 by **Louisa Lydia Strickland Pelton** who was a Portland resident throughout her life. The quilt top was

turned into a quilt by **Bethia Kelsey Robinson Washburn**, the great-great-granddaughter of Louisa. In making the quilt, Bethia used fabric woven by her great-grandmother, the daughter of Louisa, **Frances Maria Pelton**, which makes the quilt truly intergenerational. The top was signed by many family and friends in 1847 which is why it is called an "album quilt". (Continued on page 3)



## THIRD ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Come join us on Tuesday evening, June 24, 2014, at our annual Ice Cream Social to be held at the Portland Senior Center at 7 PM. Our program will feature "The Civil War Ballroom – Historical Music and Dance program." A unique musical presentation of 19<sup>th</sup> century music will be performed by **The Victorian Quadrille Orchestra** and will include Civil War era dancing – quadrilles, reels, waltz and polkas, performed by their **Small Planet Dance Troupe** in period costumes. (cont. on pg 3)



## 18th Town-Wide Tag Sale Wrap Up

The Tag Sale was a huge success again! Our largest fund raiser of the year, it raised about \$5000 for our Society projects including Ruth Callander House maintenance and history programs. 131 people held tag sales at their homes or at the Hemlock Grange parking lot. The Masons of Warren Lodge #51 did the heavy work of putting up our tents for the Society's sale.

In the photo at the left: Heather McDougall tracks the tag sale number poles as they are returned and organized by her father, Bob McDougall.

**Thanks to Everyone who  
volunteered and/or par-  
ticipated in the Tag  
Sales!**

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

We enjoyed another successful **Town-Wide Tag Sale** (our 18<sup>th</sup> year!!) thanks to the efforts of our Tag Sale Committee: Chairpersons: Deb Ellsworth and Chris Sullivan; Claire Frisbie for all her work recruiting sponsors and for creating the Town-wide Tag Sale Map; Eileen Marino, Shelli Nolan, Ruth Freeburg, Regina Woltmann, Martha Lutecki and Kathryn Paredez. Thanks to Janet Ellsworth, Alexia Belperron, and Carrie Frost who helped the committee on collection Saturdays; the Bake Sale team of Ruth Freeburg, Ruth Olson and Ruth McGowan; the Hot Dog crew – Deb Ellsworth, Sarah Perruccio, Mallory Perruccio and Eileen Marino; the Callander House crew of Chris Sullivan, John Peterson, Jim Elder and Susan Young; the Pole Crew of Susan Young, George Gilbert, John Peterson, Bill Olson, Tom Keser and the Masons from Warren Lodge 51; and the cleanup crew of Bob McDougall and his daughter Heather. Thanks to all our members who made phone calls for the bake sale or who baked delicious treats. We appreciate all the work done “behind the scenes” by our Treasurer, Jim McCabe; Hemlock Grange for allowing us to use the Grange Hall again this year; and everyone who held a Society sponsored Tag Sale. **We couldn't pull this off without contributions from so many people throughout Portland!!**

Our most recent program meeting, which was well attended, was a collaboration with Portland Library featuring author, Janet Barrett, discussing her book, “They Called Her Reckless” about a horse who served with the Marines in Korea.

We are excited about our upcoming Open House Day on Saturday, June 14. Come and join us for this family event and see our newest donation, the Pelton-Kelsey-Strickland Album Quilt. Refreshments will be served.

The next program meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm (note time change!) at the Portland Senior Center. It will be our Ice Cream Social with musical entertainment. We hope to see you there!

## Pelton-Kelsey-Strickland Album Quilt

(continued from page 1)

Louisa Lydia Strickland Pelton and her husband, Deacon Ralph Pelton, have many descendants and relatives including Strickland, Pelton, Kelsey, Hughes, McBrien, Robinson, Hale and Washburn families. Many relatives will be joining the Society for this reception and members of the public and friends are welcome to join this family party.

The museum will be open Saturday from 11 AM with a number of exhibits on display. The museum's present exhibit, 40 Years of Collecting Portland's History, commemorates the Portland Historical Society's 40th anniversary and features a variety of items from the Society's large collection. Included are a Portland baseball uniform donated by J. William Foley and a one-piece bathing suit circa 1920's donated by Mary Mintzer. The prize-winning model of the Arrigoni Bridge, constructed by Portland resident Joe Virgadula, is included in the River Crossings exhibit. In addition, Portland history exhibits show many items from quarrying, shipbuilding, tobacco farming, and Native American artifacts.

All are welcome to join the Society for this special opening of the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History at 492 Main St. Come and enjoy friends and refreshments!

### THIRD ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

(continued from page 1)

The Ice Cream Social evening will also feature the presentation of William Van Beynum Awards to the civic group **Brownstone Quorum** and to our long-time treasurer, **James McCabe**. Brownstone Quorum members are invited to join us for ice cream sundae and this tribute to their years of hard work preserving an important piece of Portland's history.



*Louise Hall, Grace Kelsey and Will Kelsey c. 1950*

### Pelton-Kelsey Quilt History - Bethia Washburn

*Editor: Bethia created a comprehensive hand-written book with memories and photos to accompany the quilt. She created 21 copies of this book so that each descendent family could have a copy! The following is an excerpt.*

One day I went down to see the Folks who lived in the "Lower Place" - Aunt Grace, Uncle Will and Louisa Hall. It was like going to a Living Museum, but being a teenager in the late 40's I didn't appreciate it.

Aunt Grace went upstairs and presently came down with a bag saying that this was something her Grandmother had made (Louisa Pelton) and she wanted me to have it!

I brought it home and found it to be a 100 year old quilt top. I had no idea what I had and put it in a small trunk with my other treasures. That trunk traveled with me to Michigan, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and back to Massachusetts, where in the early 1980's, I decided it was time to make it into a real quilt as I had the space and a quilting frame. I took it to several shows in Seattle and Connecticut and it was admired by all... Since it is an album quilt, Louisa had her friends and neighbors join in the effort and contribute squares with an autograph on each. Since I needed a fabric with which to bind the edges my Grandmother contributed a piece of linen ...most likely woven by Frances Maria Kelsey.

### CALLANDER HOUSE CUPBOARD

**Quarry Story** children's book by Karen Enright \$12.95  
**Portland Scenes Tile** .....\$12, **Mug** .....\$9.50  
**Portland Recipes and Reflections**.....\$8  
**Letters to Harry** by Pru Taylor and TJ Palmer.....\$25  
**Coloring & Activity Book of Portland History**...\$3.50  
**Images of Portland** by Bob McDougall.....\$20  
**St. Clements** by Pru Taylor and TJ Palmer.....\$15  
**Antique Photo Postcards** .....\$.75 each or 3/ \$1

**Antique Pictures Magnets** ... \$2 ea, 3/\$5, set 20/\$30  
**Portland Scenes Notepad**.. (50 pgs., 5 scenes) 2/\$3  
**Portland Scenes Tea Towel** .....\$5

**Please include \$2 shipping per \$10 of order**  
**Purchases fund Society projects**

*Call 860-342-1927 to order or mail to: Portland Historical Society, PO Box 98, Portland, CT 06480*

# CALENDAR . . .

**Jun 14 - Connecticut Open House Day - Museum Exhibits.**  
**Special quilt and family history presentation at 1 PM**  
*at Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History*  
 - open 11 AM to 3 PM Refreshments will be served.

**Jun 24 - 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social and Van Beynum Awards,**  
**“The Civil War Ballroom” – Historical Music and Dance**  
**Program.** A unique musical presentation of 19<sup>th</sup> century  
 music and dance performed by The Victorian Quadrille  
 Orchestra and Small Planet Dance including quadrilles, reels,  
 waltz and polkas, performed in period costumes.  
*Portland Senior Center - 7 PM*

**Jul 13 - Portland History & “40 Years of Collecting” exhibit**  
*Museum open 2 to 4 PM*

**Aug 3 - Portland History & “40 Years of Collecting” exhibit**  
*Museum open 2 to 4 PM*

**Sep 7 - Portland History & “40 Years of Collecting” exhibit**  
*Museum open 2 to 4 PM*

Museum open by appointment - call Claire 860-335-8581.



*Louisa Lydia Strickland Pelton (1811-1864),  
 the original maker of the Pelton-Kelsey-  
 Strickland Album Quilt.*

---

**NEWSLETTER** - *Claire Frisbie, 6-10-14, 860-335-8581*

---

## *June 2014 Newsletter!*

**FINANCE BOARD**  
 Pat Crowther  
 James Elder  
 George Law  
 Volunteers needed

**COLLECTORS BOARD**  
 Regina Wolmann  
 Christine Sullivan  
 Robert McDougall  
 Phyllis Frisbie

**TRUSTEES**  
 Deborah Ellsworth  
 Claire Frisbie  
 Ruth Freeburg

**DIRECTORS**  
 Treasurer - James McCabe  
 Corresponding Secretary - Shelli Nolan  
 Recording Secretary - vacant  
 2nd Vice President - John Peterson  
 1st Vice President - George Gilbert  
 President - Martha Luteci

**2013 SOCIETY OFFICERS**

*June 14th - CT Open House Day - Special Quilt!*  
*June 24th - Ice Cream Social - make a Sundae!*

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 MIDDLETOWN CT  
 PERMIT NO 575

**PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 PO Box 98, Portland, CT 06480  
 Address Service Requested

