



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

Winter 2017 NEWSLETTER

Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History
492 Main St., Portland, CT 06480 Tel: 860-342-5455
www.PortlandHistSoc.com Email: PortlandHistSoc@yahoo.com

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George M. Gilbert III

The Society kicked off 2018 with the Portland Historical Society Annual Meeting on January 21st at the Waverly Center. In recognition of the tireless work that went into the 175th Anniversary of the Town of Portland, a number of people's contributions were recognized with awards. The Society made presentations to Brendan Toller, David Kuzminski, & Kevin Armstrong for their countless hours of personal time creating a top-notch video that is still available at the Port-



David Kuzminski, Brendan Toller, Kevin Armstrong & Amanda Murphy with the plaques presented for their efforts in documenting the 175th Anniversary of Portland.

land Town Hall. The three were awarded plaques for the remarkable work that was done with the interviewing and documenting of Portland's historical highlights. Amanda Murphy received an award for her video and documentation of Portland's 175th Anniversary Parade along with other videos she has made. Jesse Petrini received an award for his drone video of Portland that can be viewed on UTUBE.

First Selectman Susan Bransfield recognized the many contributions to the town of the 175th Anniversary
(Continued on page 2)

22nd ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALES

Our 22nd year and still going strong! The Town-Wide Tag Sales Day is our biggest and most consistent fundraiser of the year. We are excited to bring this activity into the 21st century as we create the ability to register online this year. Everything else continues in tried and true tradition—the terrific big map that tells all the visiting and local tag sales where to find you and your great stuff, our poles and signs that identify your sale, our delicious bake and food sale which just gets tastier every year, and you may still register on paper if you prefer.

This town-wide event, publicized widely throughout the central CT area, can be a fundraiser for you, your family or your organization. Many organizations have invented creative strategies for raising money while so many shoppers are visiting town from all over the state.

You support the Portland Historical Society with a small \$20 or \$25 donation to secure an authorized tag sale location on the official map. 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 on Sage Hollow Road.

If you just want to donate items, the Society and other town organizations will be collecting for their tag sales. Volunteers from the Society will be receiving items in good condition at the Ruth Callander House garage, 492 Main Street, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturdays, April 21, 28 and May 5.

In this issue:

President's Letter - pg 1-2

Town-Wide Tag Sale - pg 1, 5

Current Members - pg 3

Hearth Cooking: Puddings - pg 4

Photo Detective - pg 6

Calendar - Upcoming Events - pg 6

Committee and of all who contributed to the 175th



George Gilbert, Society President, accepts the award presented to the Society for its efforts by First Selectman, Susan Bransfield.

Anniversary. She presented awards to Mary Dickerson and Janet Nocek as representatives of the Anniversary Committee. Selectman Bransfield also presented an award to the Society for our work creating the 175th Anniversary book, documenting the history of Portland, guiding the Bus Tours, and Lantern Tours, and for our efforts in preserving Portland's past.

During our Annual Meeting, Board of Director elections were held. While most of our volunteers continue in their positions, we happily welcome a new Director, Amy Knous. We also thank Eileen Marino for her dedicated service to the board. She is taking a hiatus from the board, but thankfully will continue her volunteer activities at our events.

Following the awards, our guest speaker was Portland resident, Mary Dickerson, who presented a program entitled, *"The Irish and the Portland Brownstone Quarries: 3 Stories."* Dickerson traced three of her ancestors' journeys from Europe to work in the Portland brownstone quarries in the 1800's. She shared family legends, ledgers, photographs and other items that have been passed down through her family.

The Society has been moving forward into the 21st century by purchasing two web-based programs.

The first is a collection database in which to store records of all the artifacts that we have in our collection. The program is through the *Connecticut League of History Organizations* and will allow us to have an organized approach for our inventory management and join other CT museums in a database. Once the momentous task of entering all the acquisitions to date is completed, members will have the ability to view Portland's historical artifacts on line. Claire Frisbie and Bob McDougall are spearheading this project. We may be asking for volunteers in the future to assist with input of data into the program database. The other program acquired is a membership management program called *Member Planet*. If everything goes as planned, this program will help us interact with our members more effectively. Julie Macksoud and Claire Frisbie are taking the lead on this program.



Last year, we held a number of successful educational and popular activities including our 21st Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales in May, our annual Educational History Tours for Portland's Third Graders in June, the Hubbard Farmstead Tour and Tea in September, our 6th Annual Festival of Wreaths in December, and our monthly museum openings at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. This year these included two new features – a traveling exhibit that went to the Riverfront Music Festival in June and the Portland Agricultural Fair in October; and two Hearth Cooking Demonstrations in March & November by Board of Directors member, Alexia Belperron. A BIG Thank You to all the volunteers and contributors who made these activities possible.

Our upcoming events and museum openings are listed in this newsletter. Please note, we are changing our official museum openings to a quarterly format to allow us to concentrate increased time on our collections and other activities. Openings will be coordinated with related special activities. This year's museum openings will occur in March, June, September and December. Watch these newsletters and the Rivereast News Bulletin for announce-

Current Members of the Portland Historical Society – Thank you for your support!
For further information, contact Claire & Julie at PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com or 860-335-8581

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HEARTH COOKING - PUDDINGS

By Alexia Belperron

The word means different things to different people in the 21st century, and it looks like that is true historically as well. The origin of the word itself is still somewhat of a mystery. What is clear is that sometime in the middle ages, puddings become more popular as someone discovered that you could cook a pudding in a cloth instead of natural casing. So, puddings, which could be made year-round, took the place of sausages, which could only be made a certain time of year, particularly the fall when fresh meat was available. Puddings were also popular because if you only had one pot, you could still boil a pudding without any other cooking vessel. The line between puddings and custards is blurred both today and historically, but puddings were certainly a mainstay in the English diet and thus were also popular here in the colonies.

Puddings range from special treats that only the rich could afford at certain times of the year, such as a Christmas plum pudding, to poor man's and soldiers fare. They were often boiled alongside meat, steamed above a cooking soup, or cooked out in the field in a pot of boiling water. Originally they were often meat-based, and many old recipes include suet. As sugar became more common in the 18th century, they moved into the dessert realm of a meal. Eventually puddings were cooked in their own vessels, and by the 20th century molds imparting intricate designs to the puddings were popular. However, as puddings moved away from boiling to baking, puddings in general waned in popularity. Once better leavenings had been discovered, and better kitchen technology evolved, baking became more reliable and efficient than boiling puddings which could take all day.

Hasty puddings, which represent a whole category and not one specific recipe, arose in response to the hassle of cooking one large pudding for 5-6hrs. They also do away with the necessity of the pudding cloth or bag. The receipt (recipe) provided is representative of many that include, bread crumbs, eggs, suet and raisins (currants). Another popular pudding for soldiers was simply a cored apple surrounded by a flour and water paste and boiled in a cloth. College puddings and quaking puddings were also common in the 18th century.

Come join us on March 11th as we explore the art of boiling puddings over the hearth.

18th Century Receipt for Hasty Pudding

(Courtesy www.townsend.us)

1 Cup of Bread crumbs
½ Cup of raisins (or currants)
lemon zest from ½ a lemon
1 cup of shredded beef suet

mix together to form a paste

beat 2 eggs + 2 egg yolks & ½ teaspoon of ground ginger
and mix with paste

form ~2 inch balls of dough and roll in flour
cook in boiling water for 15-20 minutes
Let cool to firm up and serve with a sweet butter sauce made of equal parts, melted butter, sugar, and sack (sherry)

MEMBERPLANET Member Software

By Julie Macksoud



The Portland Historical Society has kicked off the new year with a planned tech update for our members.

Partnering with MemberPlanet, a secure technology platform based in Torrance, CA, we will soon be able to offer members an interactive online directory, which can accept membership dues, send out event notices and text blasts, among other things.

MemberPlanet is an easy-to-use online tool created to offer groups of any size multiple services for communication, event planning and member management. It is home to more than 24,000 non-profit groups (such as the U.S. Air Force) and 7 million members.

You will soon receive an invitation (via email) to “connect” with MemberPlanet and check it out for yourself. You can add as little or as much as you like to your member profile – it’s up to you. Our aim is to become more efficient and more accessible to our valued members. We are genuinely excited about this new venture. Stay tuned!



22nd Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales

Sponsored by The Portland Historical Society
Benefiting the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History

PLAN A TAG SALE

RAIN
OR SHINE

Saturday, May 12th

RAIN
OR SHINE

8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Register online at www.PortlandHistSoc.org (starting March 30)
or use this form and mail - Questions? email: PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com

<u>BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:</u>		<u>THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL PROVIDE:</u>
⇒ 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		⇒ Location Maps with sale item types ⇒ Advertising ⇒ Tag Sale Hints ⇒ House Marker & Trail Number Sign
Pick	How it works:	Register by April 28 to be on Map
1	Have a sale at your own home or neighborhood <i>for your benefit.</i>	Historical Society Members \$20 Non-members \$25
2	Tailgate your tag sale at Hemlock Grange parking area, jct. Rte. 17 & Sage Hollow Rd	Historical Society Members \$20 Non-members \$25
3	Donate items to benefit the Historical Society tag sale at the Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History.	Items may be delivered to the Society Saturdays, April 21, 28, & May 5 at the Callander House garage, 492 Main St. from 9-11 AM. Pickup also available. Call 860-342-1927.

ALSO BAKE & TAG SALES and food & drinks at Hemlock Grange, 17 Sage Hollow Rd on Tag Sale Day. Questions? Contact 860-342-1927 or PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com



Register online at PortlandHistSoc.org with credit card OR Clip form and mail to:

Portland Historical Society Tag Sale, P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480 - checks to: Portland Historical Society

Contact Information Name:	Item types map listing - 40 characters or less	Member	Non-Member
Sale Address:	<input type="checkbox"/> Home sale	\$20	\$25
Phone:	<input type="checkbox"/> Tailgate at Grange (limit 2/sale)	\$20	\$25
Email:	Will you have Tag Sale if it rains?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Must be received by April 28 for listing on Map

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

Mar 11 - Hearth Cooking Demo: Pudding/Museum Open 1-4 pm

Apr 22 - Photo 101: Identifying Old Photos program - 2pm by Maureen Taylor, "the Photo Detective" at The Waverly Center

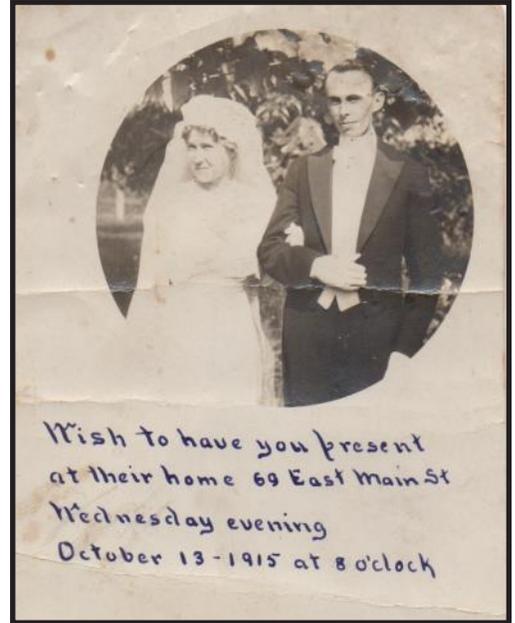
All of us have treasured family photographs. Some photos we know the event they record as well as the names of those individuals portrayed. But then there are those photos that we just aren't sure of — they are a mystery. Questions often arise about such a photo, including when and where was it taken as well as who are these people?

Maureen Taylor, dubbed the "Photo Detective," will share with us some easy steps for naming those unidentified pictures tucked away in shoeboxes. Maureen is an internationally recognized expert on historic photograph identification, photo preservation and family history research. Her pioneering work in historic photo research is unprecedented, evidenced by her success in solving photo mysteries. Her focus is on helping people rediscover their family history one picture at a time, and she is passionate about getting folks to dig deep into their family history to tell the story of their ancestors.

This program is free of charge and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program. Feel free to bring others with you — family and friends are invited for this informative program. Together we will learn some hints about how to solve the mysteries in our photos.

May 12 - 22nd Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

June 9 - CT Open House Day - Museum Open 11 am - 2 pm



A photo one of us will be trying to figure out with the Photo Detective!

NEWSLETTER -
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 PortlandCTHistory@gmail.com
 860-335-8581

March 2018 Newsletter!

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22nd Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales—May 12

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