



From The Harrison House

The Branford Historical Society Newsletter

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Support For Tree Removal

Many of our members responded to our request for help toward the expense of removing the large sugar maple in the front of the Harrison House damaged from Tropical Storm Irene. The tree will be removed soon. Thank you for your support.

Historic properties are particularly vulnerable during a wind storm because they often have older trees. The Giles Wilcox House in Middletown sustained heavy damage to the roof and second floor.

Our neighbors, the Shoreline Trolley Museum which is on the National Register of Historic Places sustained about \$5 million in damage from the flooding of their property with damage to trolley cars, buildings, track, and road beds. We are fortunate the Harrison House was not damaged.



A Very Special Open House

About seventy members and friends gathered for the Society's annual holiday party on Sunday, December fourth. Visitors enjoyed tasty creative sweets and classical guitar music played by Robert Wood of Clinton. Harrison House was magically decorated using greens and colorful berries. The event was organized by Jeanne McParland and Virginia Page, Co-Chairs. For many years Shelley's Garden Center has donated trees for this Holiday Open House. Andree Pierson won a beautiful tree in our raffle. Other guests won the center pieces designed by Roberta McCall, Janet Jackson and Eunice LaSala. Our thanks go to all who organized, decorated, baked, called, donated, and cleaned Harrison House for a very special Holiday Party.



History in the 21st Century

The Branford Historical Society has a website branfordhistory.org and an email address, branfordhistory@gmail.com. On the website are announcements and information about the Society. We hope to expand our website offerings during the upcoming year.

Happy New Year & thank you for your support.

Announcements

Enclosed are several flyers about upcoming programs. We look forward to seeing you.

Society Wish List

The Society needs a chairman and guides for the summer and for school groups. For the Museum, we need a chairman and help setting up new displays, as well as assistance with textiles. We are also looking for card table chairs and a canister style vacuum cleaner.

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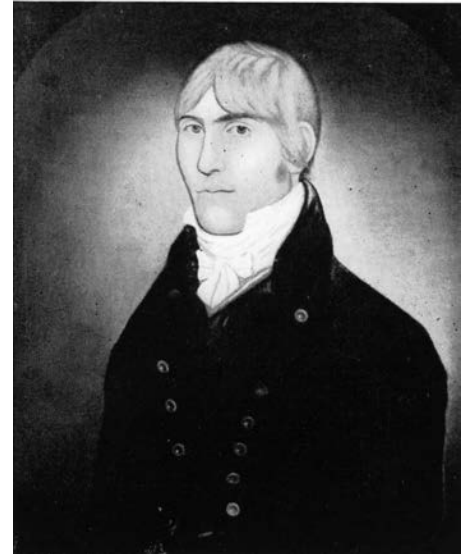
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From the Archives

Visitors to the Harrison House often ask who the man in the oil painting is hanging in the hall. Orin Dates Squire was born in Durham and came to Branford about 1805. He was a blacksmith and started a business making stoves and other metal ware. This business later was the site of the Branford Lock Works, one of the largest lock and knob manufacturers in the country. Squire was active in the community as postmaster, town selectman and treasurer, justice of the peace, judge of probate and town clerk. He was a charter member of the Masons in 1825. He was married to Annice Frisbie of Branford in 1806 and with her had fourteen children; all but one lived to adulthood. Their daughter Annice Eunice married Dr. H.V.C. Holcombe of Branford who was surgeon of the Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. She became ill while visiting her husband during the war and died in Virginia at the camp of the Fifteenth



Also on display is a family tree with silhouettes of Orrin and Annice Squire with a list of their children. Annice Squire died in 1841 and he married second Sarah Foote. Members of the Squire family are buried in Center Cemetery.

Harrison House Museum



Visitors to the Harrison House this summer enjoyed viewing some of our Civil War relics set up by Anton Wohlert. There are a number of archives relating to the conflict including an oil painting of Mason Rogers of the Fifteen Connecticut Volunteer Infantry who died of disease during the war. Branford's Grand Army of the Republic veteran's group was named for him.

Among other items on display was a bible found by Rodolphus Bartholomew of Branford after the Battle of Chancellorsville. Bartholomew was an ambulance driver for the Twenty-seventh Connecticut Volunteer Infantry which was made up of Branford, North Branford, and Wallingford men.