



*Branford Historical Society*  
*Post Office Box 504*  
*Branford, Connecticut 06405*

NEWSLETTER

January, 1985

FROM THE PRESIDENT

OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep all of you supportive members aware of the activities of the Society. Our By-laws state that we "identify, collect, receive and interpret" evidence of Branford history. We try to do just that. We would appreciate any help or suggestions concerning our program and the contents of any future newsletters. Remember new members, each of you is important. Even more important is keeping you present members active and current in your dues. Are any of you "overdue"?

Janet Gaines, President

EXHIBITS

An exhibit of 19th Century clothing was held in the Harrison House last summer. Judi Young of Yesterday's Threads was our guiding light. Most of the clothing belonged to the Society. However, Polly Sherk and others kindly loaned several outstanding dresses, hats and shoes.

PROGRAM FOR SPRING 1985

Do you remember that on our last program we wrote "to be announced"? This time we won't keep our program a secret. Enclosed is the new program schedule through July, 1985.

GLASS NEGATIVES

Through the generosity of Barbara Reimers and Macgregor Kilpatrick we have acquired a number of old family photographs. Although the scenes may not be Branford, they are of relatives of Branford Osborns and present interesting social history. Bobbie is an experienced photographer and does her own developing.

## YALE STUDENTS

On November 29th, under the guidance of Abbott Cummings, Charles F. Montgomery, Professor of American Decorative Arts, Yale University, eighteen students arrived at the Harrison House. With energy and enthusiasm, they swarmed over the house pouring over minute details of construction. Mr. Cummings is the former executive director of The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA). He is also the author of several books on antiquities.

## PUZZLERS

In 1644 the first settlers from Wethersfield arrived in Branford (Totoket). Onto what piece of land did they first set foot? For the answer, come to David Driessen's presentation on January 24th at the Community House.

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## FIRST HARVEST FESTIVAL

Highlighted by the presence of Sunny Macdonald, expert in the use of spinning wheels, the festival was a great success. It was held for the benefit of the Society and it drew many passing motorists as well as townspeople. Members of the Society donated bread, cookies, cake, jelly and peanut brittle. Also on sale were mums, bittersweet and penny plants. Items from the Doll House on East Main Street as well as placemats and napkins were available. William Molno, well known Branford artist, sold paintings from his easel on the law. It is hoped that many more members will contribute articles for the sale next year. Please call Judy Grenhalgh, 488-5851, for information or contributions to the sale or Festival.

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