



Branford Historical Society
Post Office Box 504
Branford, Connecticut 06405

NEWSLETTER

May 1987

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

Our annual membership meeting will take place on Thursday, May 28, 1987 at 8:00 P.M. at the Branford Community House. The Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate:

Officers - 2 year terms

President: Mrs. Marjorie Dill
 Vice President: Mrs. Jane Bouley
 Secretary: Mrs. Elinor King
 Treasurer: Mr. Robert Sherwood
 Asst. Sec'y Treas.: Mrs. Laura Adamson

Members-at-large - 2 year term

Mrs. Janet Gaines
 Mr. MacCready Plant

Preceding the meeting there will be a covered dish dinner at 6:30 and following the business meeting Joan Spiegel will present a slide show "This is Branford". Please bring your own plates (paper or other) and silver and some main dish or salad. At the door we will collect \$1.00 apiece for which we will supply decaffeinated coffee and apple pie. We shall look forward to seeing you. Please call 488-0542 or 488-3658 for reservations.

On the Board of Directors in addition to the elected officers and members at large there are nine appointed chairmen of standing committees. They will be as follows:

Buildings & Grounds - Robert Hart
 Guides - Peg Hotchkiss
 Hospitality - Harriet White
 Library - Betty Linsley
 Membership - Jeanne Szeifert
 Museum & Accessions - Pricilla Oliver
 Program - John Ifkovic
 Publicity - Judy Greenhalgh
 Ways & Means - Unfilled
 Legal advisor - Larry Walters

As you can see Ways and Means is up for grabs (don't hold your breath!)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As your President for four years I have been very happy. It is a fine feeling to lead this organization. However, I am looking forward to being active as a member-at-large without the awesome responsibilities of the Presidency.

The Branford Historical Society has come a long way. It is a recognized member of the Branford community and its President is asked to participate in many town activities.

The Harrison House is an asset to Branford. Many Branford residents are eager to have their out-of-town guests visit the 1724 saltbox. We receive many requests for information about Branford ancestors. Fortunately we have two ardent researchers: Jane Bouley and Elizabeth Radulski.

The Bylaws adopted in 1984 continue to be an excellent base of operations. Forming committees to bring more people into the actual operation of the Society is a goal which we wish to stress. Perhaps more of you will come forward and indicate your interest.

Our lectures are innovative and well attended. Oral history is being pursued and school children visit the Harrison House. The restoration of the Barn with its varied farm equipment and working loom has added to the Museum's offerings.

The Garden Club continues to dedicate its services to the maintenance of our colonial garden, for which we are very grateful.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to guide the Branford Historical Society for the past four years.

ARCHIVES AND REFERENCE MATERIAL

We have recently received an outstanding collection of old documents regarding Solomon Tyler of Branford (1745-1772).

Mr. Tyler's great grand nephew, Lester Nicolls Towner of Baltimore, has put together two volumes of their documents accompanied by typewritten interpretations and explanations. Each document is spread out in full and encapsulated in acid free mylar. The note books measure 14" x 12". It is a tremendous labor of love and should benefit many researchers.

Mr. Towner discovered the documents in a small trunk tucked under the eaves of the attic of the Solomon Tyler House near Mill Plain Road in Branford.

Also our Society has recently acquired the Diary of Joshua Hempstead of New London, Connecticut - Covering a period of forty-seven years from September, 1711 to November, 1758. This unusual and very detailed account is published by the New London County Historical Society and contains much "valuable genealogical data relating to New London families, reference to Colonial Wars, to the shipping and other matters of interest pertaining to the Town and the Times".

GUIDES

Peg Hotchkiss is busily preparing for the opening of the Harrison House on a regular basis from June 1 to October 1, Wednesday through Saturdays 2 to 5. A luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at the House and training dates for new guides are: May 14, 21, 28 and June 4. Please telephone 481-5240 for more information.

HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVERS

Frank Kinney has done a major clipping job on the front hedge.

Howard Tuttle is keeping our Society scrapbook up to date with all clippings.

Terry Tucker and his crew cleaned up the H.H. grounds as his contribution to the Society.

The Woman's Club loaned us their slide show on H.H. to show at the NHCHS.

The new house survey book containing 450 more Branford Houses is available at the H.H. with actual photos of the houses.

"BRANFORD AS IT BEGAN" will continue in the November Newsletter.

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