



Branford Historical Society
Post Office Box 504
Branford, Connecticut 06405

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 1988

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

History of Branford
 (cont. from previous newsletter)
 by Jane Bouley

(Branford Historical Society Vice President Jane Bouley was appointed to the post of Town Historian by the Branford Board of Selectmen in March '88. Congratulations!)

The settlement of Branford progressed after its founding until 1665 when a threat to its existence occurred. Branford was a part of the New Haven Colony which was separate from the Connecticut Colony. The New Haven Colony enforced much stricter Puritan rules governing the rights of church and non-church members. In 1664 the New Haven Colony was terminated and absorbed into the Connecticut Colony with its much more lenient views.

A large faction of the Branford settlers, under the leadership of Branford's minister Rev. Abraham Pierson, felt they could not live with the new government. Twenty-three men signed an agreement to go with Rev. Pierson to begin a new settlement now known as Newark, New Jersey. The group was also joined by residents of Milford, New Haven and Long Island. So in 1665, Branford was left with only half of its population and no doubt there was a struggle to survive. In 1667 those that remained in Branford, joined by some new settlers numbering 47 in all, signed the New Plantation Covenant, pledging their support and dedication to the town of Branford.

(to be continued)

April 23, Saturday - "Spring Clean-up"

Harrison House - 10:00 - 3:00.

Our beautiful 1720 House and two acres of lawns and gardens needs your help. Please bring rakes and clippers. Bob Hart will be in charge.

April 28, Thursday - Program Meeting

Community House - 7:30.

Representatives from the Irish and Italian communities will discuss their arrival and establishment in Branford. The first two meetings in this series have been lively and entertaining - don't miss this one. John Ifkovic, Program Chairman.

April 30, Saturday - Lunch

Harrison House - 12:00.

May 26, Thursday - Annual Dinner

Meeting. A catered dinner will be served featuring baked chicken, salad, vegetable and dessert for \$8.00 per. Please send reservations, including check to Branford Historical Society, Box 504, Branford, by Monday, May 23. Any questions, call Harriet White, 488-3658. Dinner at Community House 6:30. Program to follow will be "Branford, Then and Now" narrated by Paul Birbarie.

June 18, Saturday - Strawberry Festival.

Details inside this letter.

July 28, Thursday - Mid-Summer Wine

Party. All members are cordially invited to attend and welcome the new members (of whom we have 34).

MUSEUM AND ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

ANY INFO OR PHOTOS OF '38 HURRICANE?

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the '38 hurricane, Jane Bouley would like to have you share your experiences during the storm and be allowed to make copies of photos. Please call her at 488-6531.

DONORS & LOANERS -

MAY '87 TO APRIL '88

* = extensive collection

Estate of Reginald Baldwin*
Lambert Barrows
Blackstone Library*
Jane Bouley
Mrs. Milton Bradley
Branford Art League
(Lorraine Black)
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Brewer
Earl Colter
Frisbie Family Assoc. of
America (Nora G. Frisbie)
Society of the Descendants of
the Fowlers of Hartford
Mrs. William Gaines
Mrs. Bess Goudreau
Ann H. Hadley
Mable B. Kerrigan
Alice L. Lambert
Helen W. Mulvey
Judith O'Neill
Lois Osborne
Norman Plant, Jr.
Mrs. Bradley Prann
Richard Squeri
Mrs. Claude Stannard
Michael Sykes
Lester Towner*
Frances Kelsey Zacher*

EXHIBIT WILL FOCUS ON WWI

The theme for the exhibit room this summer will be Branford's role in war with the focus on WWI. The Society seeks items from all of the wars, Revolutionary to present for use in this display - photos, uniforms, medals, pamphlets, posters, etc.

URGENTLY NEEDED

By the Museum and Accessions Committee, your old feather pillows to restuff our parlor settee, and old cotton sheets or pillowcases to use in preservation of our collection.

Save those Tag Sale articles for the Branford Historical Society Harvest Day in October. No room at home? Bring them to the next meeting or make arrangements to leave them at the Harrison House - we'd be glad to store them until the sale.

Most of our acquisitions this year have been for the library - letters, ledgers, daybooks, documents and photographs. These are highly desirable and we are very grateful to those who made the donations.

However, we want to remind you, our members, that the museum also needs very old pewter and brass, some samples of treenware - early woodenware - and some very early ceramics such as Delftware. A very few of these items would go a long way in enhancing our collection.

The Society has been donated the papers and about 200 photographs from the late Reggie Baldwin, thanks to the generous gift of his daughter, Barbara Baldwin Mudgett. The Society is very pleased to be the recipient of this collection and to be able to preserve it for the future.

HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVERS

Among those who have done things for us gratis, we wish to thank publicly Arne Ahlberg, Jim Collopy, Jane Hooker, John Kayman, Bradley Prann, "Unc" DaRos and Bill Van Wilgen.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Harrison House has been untouched since the Christmas party in December. Can you imagine the clean-up to be done? We all know that after a long hard winter there is plenty to do outdoors - picking up trash and branches, raking, trimming. And finally, the barn, with its many recently acquired artifacts needs its twice yearly cleaning.

Please come and bring your tools on Saturday, April 23 from 10 to 3.

LUNCHEON MEETING

On Saturday, April 30, at 12:00 there will be a luncheon meeting at the Harrison House. This meeting is for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Branford Historical Society and the Harrison House, its collections and library. During the month of May a series of workshops will be held on the following subjects:

- History - Branford Historical Society and Harrison House
- Collections - introduction to articles and artifacts
- Library - archives and photographs
- Guiding - optional

Each subject will be covered twice in two-hour sessions as follows, from 10:00 to 12:00:

- History - Tues, May 3 and Thurs, May 5
 - Collection-Tues, May 10 & Thurs, May 12
 - Library - Tues, May 17 & Thurs, May 19
 - Guiding - Tues, May 24 & Thurs, May 26
- Participants may choose Tues. or Thurs.

Please call Janet Gaines, 488-8835, by April 25 if you would like to come to the luncheon or are interested in the workshops.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

(a leading feature of the Branford Fest)

- WHAT - Native strawberries, biscuits, and real whipped cream.
- WHEN - Saturday, June 18, 11:00 - 3:00
- WHERE - Near the Academy, Branford Green
- WHY - Because it's fun!
Also OUR MAJOR FUND RAISER
- WHO - EVERYONE!

We're running for just four hours this year and hope that everyone can give two hours according to their abilities. You will be called.

WHY A MAJOR FUND RAISER?

Do you think your house is hard to maintain? Ours is 250 years old and on two acres of grounds. We also support a major collection of records and photos of Branford's history - the collection grows monthly in size and importance.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

- Blakeslee, Arpaia & Chapman
- Chowder Pot
- Cosgrove Construction Company
- Dr. Donald DiGiulian
- Gabel's Package Store
- Giordano Construction Company
- Horwitz Department Stores
- Richard Kahl
- Owenego Club
- Palmer-Plant
- Realty World
- Sullivan & Donegan
- Tilcon-Tomasso

"Brief History of the Thimble Islands" by Archibald Hanna

Branford Historical Society
Box 504
Branford, CT 06405

Please send _____ copies of "Brief History of the Thimble Islands." Price \$7.00, plus \$1.00 postage.

TO: _____



NEW MEMBERS - 1987-88

Barbara Bailey
Joan B. Barns
Frank & Becky Barron
Jean-Marie & Neita Blondeau
Kevin & Roxanne Coady
M/M Goodwin Cooke
M/M Henry English
Walter & Lois Flesche
Laura S. Fischer
Martha K. German
William & Margaret Gouin
Henry Harrison
Ruth Lambert
John & Elizabeth Hatton
Margaret Ippolitto
Joan Churchward Jenkins

V. S. Karlawish
John & Mable Kerrigan
Alice Lambert
Georgette Laske
Pauline Lybeck
Olga Makowsky
Mrs. Paul C. Marsted
Joyce Martin
James Nelson
M/M Thomas Pugh
Judith Rany
Robert & Candy Raposo
Audrey Thompson
Betty West
Anelia Zielinski

HOW OUR COLLECTIONS CAN HELP YOU

The Branford Historical Society's research collections are an important resource to all of us concerned with Branford's history and the preservation of Branford's architectural heritage. Thanks to the efforts of Jane Bouley, Janet Gaines and others, countless old postcards, historical photographs and maps, as well as the town's recent historical resources inventory, have been made easily accessible for public reference in the library at the Harrison House. While many members are familiar with our collections, it is surprising to learn how little they are used.

It is really worth making the effort to view them, especially if you are trying to understand what Branford used to look like or if you are involved with the restoration of one of Branford's many fine buildings. Old photographs and images help us understand the changes made to a building over time and can assist us in planning a building's restoration. Recently, for example, the Branford Center Revitalization Review Board has been studying our photograph collections in order to assist property owners in the development of historically accurate rehabilitation plans.

If you are contemplating a restoration project, or know anyone who is, please feel free to call Janet Gaines at 488-8835 or Jane Bouley at 488-6531. They will be happy to help you.