



Branford Historical Society
Post Office Box 504
Branford, Connecticut 06405

SPRING, 1989

CALENDAR

Focus on Branford (continued)
 by Jane Bouley

The early 18th century began the need for the early settlers to expand their horizons and form new settlements. The earliest of these was north to the present day North Branford and Northford, originally part of Branford. Land was laid out in these regions in 1679 and slowly permanent homes were built. Branford became known as the First Society and the new settlement was known as the Second Society or North Farms.

North Farms had their own militia but continued to come to Branford to church. Several North Farms residents built "Sabbath Day" houses on the Branford Green to use between the morning and afternoon services. In 1717, 27 farmers from the Second Society petitioned the General Assembly seeking to form a separate Society. The proposal was denied because it was not felt that North Farms could support their own minister. A second petition was passed in 1725, a meeting house was built, and the town of North Branford was established.

April 19, Wednesday, 12:00, Harrison House, "Thankful Harrison Ghosts a Luncheon." Anyone interested in learning more about the Harrison House, its guide program and history is invited for lunch. A guided tour of the house and grounds will follow. Reservations: call Peg Hampton, 488-1177.

April 27, Thursday, 7:30, Community House. Peter Young, Executive Director, ACES; Chairman, Baptist Church 150th Anniversary Committee. "History of the First Baptist Church."

May 6, Saturday, Branford Litter Committee Cleanup Day, Branford Green, 9-12.

May, Harrison House Workshop.
 (choose series)

Tues. series	Thurs. series
May 2 10-12	May 4 10-12
May 9 "	May 11 "
May 16 "	May 18 "

May 25, Thursday, 6:30, Community House, Annual Meeting and Dinner. Speaker: Abbott L. Cummings, Montgomery Professor of Decorative Arts, Yale University.

June 17, Saturday, 11-3, Branford Green, Strawberry Festival.

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Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Reservation for Annual Meeting and Dinner, Branford Community House

Menu: Chicken
 Vegetable and salad
 Dessert and beverage

\$8.50

Number Reservations _____

CANDLEMAKING PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS

Under the leadership of Jane Bouley, Peg Hampton and Harriet Spear, a very successful demonstration of candlemaking equipment has been taken into the public schools. A 20-minute program has been developed that can be geared to the age of the students. This presentation is generally followed by a visit by bus to the Harrison House, a truly valuable experience.

The committee is developing another program of "What Is It?" Early American tools and implements will be shown and the children asked to guess their use. Anyone have a curious artifact? Let us know. 488-4580.

HOUSECLEANING? MOVING? CAN'T USE?

Save articles for the fall Tag Sale on Harvest Festival Day in October. Items can be left at the Harrison House during Open Hours after June 1, Wednesday through Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00, or call 488-4580.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Plans have begun for the Society's annual strawberry festival. We hope all members are planning to help by working either Friday or Saturday, by loaning equipment and by purchasing tickets. This is our major fund raiser and the profits (over \$2,000.00 last year) help defray expenses for maintenance and upkeep of Harrison House.

Approximately 35 people are needed to prepare the 350 quarts of berries Friday afternoon and evening. Rinsers, hullers, runners, and people to run the slicing machines make up the Friday crew.

On Saturday at least 50 people can be used to do a myriad of jobs. Able-bodied people are needed to set up and clean up from 8 to 11 a.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m. Behind the scenes we need 20 people to whip the real cream, sugar the strawberries and carry the finished products to the servers. We also need shortcake and drink servers as well as ticket takers between 11 and 3. Last year we served over 1,200 shortcakes in four hours. A number of people volunteered more than 8 hours. It would be nice to have some more volunteers so we could arrange shorter shifts.

We also need to borrow equipment. Heavy duty processors with slicing attachments (Osters are perfect) for Friday's work, and 5 gallon buckets with lids to store the strawberries would be appreciated. On Saturday we need several large wash tubs, 8 to 10 heavy duty mixers (Kitchen Aide?) for whipping cream, heavy duty extension cords, at least 10 large stainless steel bowls for whipping, and for serving cream and strawberries, as well as long handled spoons and ladles for stirring and serving.

If you can volunteer you may contact Marge Dill at 488-4580 or Elizabeth Radulski at 481-0491. Written messages sent to Branford Historical Society, Box 504, Branford CT 06405 will also be graciously received. If you helped last year, you will probably be contacted again by a committee chairman, but if you don't receive a call, please contact us. Your help is needed and appreciated.

Liz Radulski

PLAQUES

The house plaques are now completed by Autografix and are being installed. We are now taking orders for the next ten. If you want further information, call Elizabeth Radulski evenings, 481-0491, or write: Branford Historical Society, Box 504, Branford, CT 06405.

BIG DOINGS AT THE SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

Two exciting activities have been going on in the Harrison House during the winter. One started with a phone call from Floyd Shumway, former Director of the New Haven Colony Historical Society. Floyd is at present the chairman of the Distribution Committee of the Society of the Cincinnati. He said they were considering making a grant to the Branford Historical Society. Since that Society is based on military history, they wanted to know whether any occupants of the Harrison House had gone forth to war. Jane Bouley, with her usual acumen, was able to determine that indeed Martha Harrison Baldwin's son had fought in the Revolution. The next question was, what did we need?

Early in 1988 the Wadsworth Atheneum had approached us about the possibility of a loan of some Wallace Nutting furniture. One of their considerations was a structural survey of the Harrison House to determine the safety of the loan. Thus we had no trouble in identifying the need of a grant for a structural survey. Fortunately, we were able to obtain the services of the C. Wuerth Restoration Contractors, and now, thanks to the generosity of the Society of the Cincinnati, our survey is complete.

The other very exciting activity is the use of the Harrison House by a group of Yale students under the direction of Abbott Cummings. Mr. Cummings is the Charles Montgomery Professor of Decorative Arts at Yale and an authority on 17th and 18th century houses. His plan in this course is to do an in-depth study of the Harrison House, its occupants, its furnishings and domestic life in general in Branford in the 18th century.

From January to May, fifteen Yale students will be searching out every aspect of life in the 1700's in Branford. Their report to us will be invaluable in our interpretation of the Harrison House to visitors.

Janet Gaines, Former President

ACCESSIONS

1988 was a banner year for acquisitions for the Harrison House itself and for many additions to the archives and photo library of the Society. Gifts came not only through the generosity of members, but also from other friends in Branford and various Connecticut towns, as well as several in other states. This concern for the Branford Historical Society is gratefully accepted.

Priscilla Oliver, Museum Chairman

LOANERS AND DONORS, APRIL 1988-JANUARY 1, 1989

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*Extensive collection for archives
and photo library.

#Permanent gift of former loan.

Thanks to Arnold Peterson for
providing materials for and building
shelves for our growing archives and
to J. Collopy for help with our water
and heating equipment.

NEW MEMBERS

Aguzzi, Alfred B., Sr.
The Bohan Family
Casselberry, Beth
Dahill, Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Derbacher, Mr. and Mrs. John
Eaton, M. Beckwith
German, Mrs. William
Hallenbeck, Mary
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Hollman, Donald
House, Allen R.
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