



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

SPRING 1992

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT BILL JOHNSTON

This year we have planned some maintenance projects for the Harrison House, which include a new gutter on the rear of the house, structural repairs to the front entry door and rear chimney post. The front of the house will also be painted. These repairs need to be carried out to protect the house from our ever changing New England weather.

The front door repair will also include changing the swing from right to left, as it was hung when the house was constructed.

For storage of our extensive photo and document archives, we have created more space. By remodeling the south wall of the kitchen, we can store the 100 or so boxes of the collection. By removing existing cabinets and investing in smaller appliances, we have also made a much more efficient kitchen.

During the remodeling, the original board wall was discovered behind a newer plaster wall. This wall is now exposed for all to see. The evidence of shelving and whitewash over a red stain finish indicates that this room was originally used as a "buttery." This discovery was confirmed by Prof. Abbott L. Cummings, Yale University, when he visited the Harrison House with his class in April.

I'd like to express many thanks to our Publicity Chairman, Jackie Ulrich for working so effectively with the Branford Review and other publications and to Alice Lambert for the hours spent on her computer turning out our newsletters. Thanks also to Treasurer Bob Sherwood who keeps our financial records in good order, to our Secretary Jean Szeifert for keeping minutes, sending notices and helping with Executive Board correspondence, to our Member-at-Large Michael Sykes for giving us magnificent Christmas parties and to Member-at-Large John Loeb for his contributions from his vast experience, including the Presidency, with the New Haven County Historical Society as well as from his knowledge of local history and of the internal workings of museums and collections.

Without the constant and diligent efforts of all the Board members who have contributed to this newsletter and who regularly keep this Historical Society running smoothly, we would not be here for you today. THANK YOU.

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An additional thank you goes to the **BRANFORD GARDEN CLUB** for redesigning the Alta Newton Memorial Garden at Harrison House and to the Men's Division for rebuilding the garden and including crushed oyster shell paths. All new plantings will be added in May. Come enjoy our lovely garden and yard.

MUSEUM/ACQUISITIONS *** NANCY HENDRICKS**

The year 1991 was a bountiful one for our museum, archives and photograph collections. The Branford Historical Society deeply appreciates the many fine gifts and loans made by caring members and friends. I would particularly like to thank several persons for major donations of family heirlooms. Norman Plant presented us with a compass and sextant which had belonged to Edmund Palmer II, a well known sea captain in the eighteenth century. The sisters Edith Hills and Florence Klump gave us a handsome framed picture of Aaron Lanfare, born in Branford in 1824, and a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient during the Civil War. The picture was accompanied by the telescope given to him by Queen Victoria of England for bravery during a rescue of English sailors at sea and bears an inscription detailing the rescue. These gifts are an important part of Branford's history and we are proud to be able to show them to future generations of our town.

We are pleased that so many were able to enjoy the MIF display. It was one of our leading industries and touched so many Branford families. This display will be replaced in June by several smaller ones on various themes of local interest.

Many thanks again to all of our DONORS and LOANERS listed below:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Salvatore Altrui | * Nancy Hendricks | * Mrs. Jared McQueen |
| * Maureen Bloss | * Mrs. Donald Higney | * Eunice Medlyn |
| * Jane Bouley | * Edith Hills | * Mrs. Sherwood Mercer |
| * M/M. Harold Brewer | * Mrs. Harry Johnson | * Pearl Blackstone Milne |
| * Doris Buza | * Eunice Jones | * Leo Morowski |
| * C. J. Crowley | * Winifred Judge | * Clare Noyes |
| * Mark Dillon | * James Kelly | * Priscilla Oliver |
| * Lawrence Esposito | * Morgan Keyes | * Charlotte Pfeiff (estate) |
| * Mrs. Richard Fletcher | * John Kirby, Jr. | * Norman Plant |
| * Nancy Gaylord | * Florence Klump | * Otis Poole |
| * Paul Gaylord | * Alice Ludlow Lambert | * Helen Raffuse |
| * Paula Genelli | * John Loeb | * M/M Robert Smith |
| * Peg & Harry Hampton | * Ron McDermott | * Nathan Thomas |

IN MEMORIAM *** PRISCILLA OLIVER**

In the interval since our last newsletter we have received several memorial donations in memory of Lambert B. Barrows who passed away at the end of 1991. Mr. Barrows, a native of New York, graduated from Union College with a degree in civil engineering. He married Elizabeth Jourdan of Branford in 1934. They moved to her Grandmother Linsley's farm from New York in 1943 and ran an egg business as Jourdan's Farm. After retiring, they traveled extensively.

Another donation was received in memory of Louise L. Poole in addition to those mentioned in the October Newsletter. It is with gratitude that both the families and the Society thank you for your thoughtfulness.

BUILDING and GROUNDS RESTORATION *** PAUL DWYER**

Yes folks, spring has finally arrived! And with it comes the need for volunteers to help prepare the Harrison House and grounds for another season full of tours and events. Consider this a chance to enjoy the warm sun and friendly company as we share the tasks of leaf raking, pruning, and general yard clean-up. The more volunteers that participate in the activity, the quicker our tasks are done. If you are willing to spend a Saturday morning in late May, please volunteer by contacting Paul Dwyer at 488-6340 or Bill Johnston at 481-6418.



NOTICE of ANNUAL MEETING and DINNER



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Date: THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1992

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Branford Community House

DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL

A RESERVATION REQUEST FORM
IS FURNISHED BELOW FOR
COMPLETION AND RETURN
NOT LATER THAN MAY 18

DINNER COST IS \$8.75 PER PERSON

BUFFET MENU

- Chicken Marsala
- Roast Loin of Pork
- Seafood Newburg
- Baked Ziti
- Sauteed Fresh Vegetables
- Tossed Garden Salad
- Waldorf Slaw
- Fruit Salad
- Bread-Rolls-Butter

DESSERTS

- Assorted pies and cakes
- Coffee - tea

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR CHECK ATTACHED.

DINNER SERVICE WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 6:30 pm

A short business meeting will follow dinner, about 7:30 pm. Brief reports will be given by officers and some committee chairman.

Following the reports, a slide presentation will be given by Christopher Wigren entitled

"THE MERRITT PARKWAY: TO ENJOY AS YOU GO."

The presentation will focus on construction, design and history of the Parkway and mention some of the preservation issues currently facing it.

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DINNER RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

COMPLETE AND DETACH

GUIDES ++++++ INEZ BURNE

The Harrison House is the visible asset of our Society. The goal of the Society is to make the museum available to the public. Usually a few people give a great deal of time to this end, a system which no longer works. We need to have an extensive roster so that a new person could be teamed with a veteran to allow familiarity to develop over the season. A very small percentage of our 300+ members serve as guides. Please consider putting your name on the list for the coming year. The Guide Committee will provide training and simplified guide sheets enabling new docents to speak comfortably about the House. This year the House will be open 1-4 pm, Thursday to Saturday, June 4 to September 26. **Please contact Inez Burne at 481-9498.**

 **IT'S STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN**         

The Society will be having our 13th Annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 20. This is a major undertaking and requires everybody's assistance. It is our biggest fund raiser. Proceeds from this event help us to maintain the Harrison House building as well as our various collections of Branford memorabilia. Over 500 people enjoyed the hospitality of the Harrison House in 1991, including many school children. We know the funds are well spent.

You will be receiving tickets in the mail and we hope that you will support the Strawberry Festival by purchasing them in advance. Each ticket will entitle you to a generous portion of strawberry shortcake topped with real whipped cream and either coffee or lemonade.

There are other ways in which you can help to make the Festival a continuing success.

We need the following people:

- Committee Chairmen
- Hullers for Friday, June 19, 3-6 pm
- Volunteers for a variety of jobs on Saturday
- Truck owners to pick up the berries
- Strong backs for Saturday morning set up
- More strong backs for cleanup

And the loan of this equipment :

- OSTER food processors - Friday
- KITCHEN-AIDE heavy duty cream whippers - Saturday
- Large coolers for lemonade
- 100 cup coffee maker

We thank you in advance for all your help, especially those who have already volunteered. If you have questions, suggestions, or can give of your time, please call:

BETTY LINSLEY - 488-0884 or JANE BOULEY - 488-6531

