

Major Rick E
Eiff
2nd Co. 1st
H. Knorr

61 Cedar Knolls



From The Harrison House

The Branford Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 1998, Volume 3, Issue 1

From the President...

All the world's a stage. If that is true, then 1997 was a very successful production for the Branford Historical Society...

The strawberry sales at the Branford Festival on the green gave us a generous return for all the effort that was made.

Fran Walsh, Ways and Means Chairman, promoted a successful antique appraisal program.

Our annual tag sale exceeded last year's take...no thanks to the weather.

John Ifkovic conducted a walking tour of the Bradley Street Historic District, including a tour of the Harrison House and refreshments.

Jane Bouley had a standing room only lecture at the Blackstone Library about the Branford River from colonial times to the present.

It just wouldn't be Christmas time without the annual visit to the Harrison House where there were lights, trees, garlands, refreshments and sociability.

Arnold Peterson has built new display cases for the Branford Room, allowing Nancy Hendricks and her committee to display a greater number of our period artifacts.

And, future programs are already planned for 1998!

If you think of our programs like stage shows, then you must realize it takes more people back stage to result in a good performance!

Our programs and chairpersons are always in need of a good "crew" to assist them. As I stated in my last newsletter, membership is only one part of the production. We need active members, too. Active participation brings a sense of ownership in the organization.

Just think...if every member could get *one* new member to sign up, or get one member to be more active, we could increase membership and revenue, and assist the Society with the preservation of our past.

What a production *that* would be!

In closing, we extend our grateful appreciation to the many individuals who have given of their time and effort to make this year another successful one!

Bob Bescher
488-0100

Stage Hands Wanted!

We currently have two committees without a chairperson...Hospitality and Ways and Means, (Fran Walsh has tendered his resignation).

Anyone who would like to become active may call Bob Bescher, 488-0100, or Elinor King, Membership, 488-1258.



What it's all about...two of Branford's future enjoy a little of Branford's past.

A Successful Season

What a pleasure to see the successful results of the hard work of our committees, chairpersons and programs. Our fall and winter programs were perfect examples of the benefits of active members.

Those of you who could not attend Town Historian Jane Bouley's lecture on *Along the Branford River, In Time and Place*, may get to see it at some future time as Jeff Clark videotaped the presentation.

The overflow crowd at the library was treated to a very informative, entertaining talk. Jane described the impact of the Branford River, its tributaries and flood plain on commerce and recreation in the area from the time of the early inhabitants, the Totokets, through the early settlements, to the present day.

(Continued on page 3)



From the Harrison House
is a publication of the

Branford Historical Society
124 Main Street, P.O. Box 504
Branford, Connecticut 06405
(203) 488-4828

**Board of the Branford
Historical Society**

President	Bob Bescher
Vice-President	Bill Davis
Secretary	Harriet White
Treasurer	Dave Hyatt
Corresponding Secretary	Priscilla Oliver
Assistant Treasurer	Winnifred Judge
Accessions	Alta Powelson
Archives	Pearl Moeller
Guides	Anton Wohlert
House and Grounds	George Goeben
Membership	Elinor King
Museum	Nancy Hendricks
Newsletter	Jennifer Payne
Past Pres.	John Ifkovic
Program	Judy Myjak
Publicity	Jackie Ulrich

Our Winter/Spring Program

Branford Historical Society members and the public at large are invited to attend any of our Winter/Spring programs. All programs, except the Annual Meeting are held at the Blackstone Library. Refreshments are served at 7:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 8:00 p.m.

February 19 _____

WOMEN PILOTS IN WORLD WAR II

Branford resident, Jane Miller, psychotherapist and author, will talk on the period in her life when she flew planes with the WASP volunteers during WW II from aircraft factories to bases all over the United States and England in order to free up pilots for combat. It was an exciting time when women had an opportunity to match the men in training and performance. Miller test-flew the BT-13, a single engine plane, at a training base in Bainbridge, Georgia. The Womens Air Service Pilot program was attached to the Air Force, but did not receive the recognition they deserved for 33 years after the war.

March 19 _____

THE SHAKERS

Thomas C. Daly is a Shaker scholar, presently working at the Shaker Museum and Library in Old Chatham, New York. He lives in Lenox, Massachusetts, and will lecture on the Lennox Shakers.



April 16 _____

BENEDICT ARNOLD

The Reverend Dr. Wallace T. Viets is a retired pastor of the First Methodist Church in New Haven, was a teacher at Yale Divinity School, and a Fellow of Timothy Dwight College at Yale. His interest in Benedict Arnold began when he grew up only 25 miles from the site of Arnold's greatest victory, and from residing in New Haven, where Arnold was an influential citizen prior to the Revolution. Trying to understand this complex individual has become a hobby with Dr. Viets, and his lecture will try to convey this without either condoning or condemning this historic figure.

May 21 _____

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

The program following the Annual Meeting and Dinner will be a musical presentation by the Jackson Pike Skiffers. Will and Katie Tressler will perform songs and tunes from by-gone days, music from 1800 on, with a variety of unusual instruments. Look for more information about these very professional performers in May, but hold the date. The dinner will be at the Community House, as in the past.

Successful Season

It is certainly imperative that all Branfordites support the efforts of the Branford Land Trust, the Branford River Project (sponsored by the Branford Rotary and the Land Trust), and other groups and individuals taking an active role in ensuring the environmental integrity of Branford's great natural resource for future generations.

Holiday Open House

On December 7, approximately 150 guests attended the Open House at the Harrison House. Chairman Linda Peterson, with the help of a large and enthusiastic committee, provided beautiful colonial holiday decorations, while some of our generous members made the delicious refreshments. In line with this year's "farm" theme, many farm tools from our collection were displayed throughout the House. A painting of early family life in Branford, by Dr. Isaac Leete, Eva Peterson's great grandfather, was prominently displayed and drew much interest.

This year there were two Christmas trees, one in the parlor and one in the hall. The hall tree was decorated with farm animals by Rosalind



Priscilla Oliver, Branford Historical Society Corresponding Secretary, enjoys the Holiday Open House.

Jones, and the parlor tree with a unique variety of items by Chelsea Peterson. Chelsea's thin slices of lemon and lime with small applied bits of colored material resembled miniature stained glass windows as the tree lights shone through them. Many of the guests took time to tour the house and museum. A raffle was held for the Christmas trees and the two pleased winners were Joseph Dawson and Francis Kelley.

We are delighted that so many adults and children have made the party a Holiday tradition!

Harvest Festival

Our annual Harvest Festival's Tag, Bake and Publication sales made a profit of \$1,140. We are grateful to the members who donated articles and baked goods, as well as those who helped the day of the festival. It is this support that creates a successful event. We especially thank Bob Bescher, George Goeben, and Winifred Judge for co-chairing the affair.

Membership Notes

Dues are Due!

Last call for dues payment - we really don't want to lose you!

Memberships are important to us, not only as an income, but because they tell us how effective we are in enlisting support from our community.

If you're not sure about the status of your membership, please check the code on your mailing label. "C" indicates that your membership is current through 1997; "R" means you have not yet renewed your membership; "L" indicates a Life Member.

If you've misplaced the dues envelope, or if you have any questions, give Elinor King a call at 488-1258

Welcome!

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Barbara and Colin Bennett
Richard and Eileen Field
Rosalind A. Jones
Emil and Gerlinde Kehelenbach
John and Mabel Kerrigan
Rex and Doris Leeds
Frederick and Nancy Mastin
Lawrence and Janet Mead
Judith Myjak
Robert and Mary Sobolewski

Special Thanks...

The Historical Society wishes to thank all the people whose donations or loans allow us to maintain our museum and add to our archives. Please continue to share with us your bits of Branford history.



A painting of early family life in Branford, by Dr. Isaac Leete.

Historical Society Review

News from the Blackstone Library

by Marlene Palmquist

Over the past months since the Library returned to 758 Main Street, the Reference staff and I, along with Jane Bouley, have been planning the best layout for the Branford History Room. We have moved the family genealogies and most of the town histories from the high density storage area to the Branford Room; making judgement decisions along the way, unfortunately, slows things down.

The general plan for this room is to include books on Branford history

and local authors, genealogies, Connecticut town histories, archival materials, vertical file material that supplements information stored in the Town Hall and Jane's collection of Branford photos. Scrapbooks of carefully collected articles about the Town from the *Branford Review* and *The New Haven Register* will remain stored in the high density but easily accessible area because of their size. The Branford Room, because of the sensitivity of the materials housed there, will be kept locked until the room can be properly monitored.

Your interest and patience is appreciated.

On Sale at Harrison House

The Harrison House has many items available as gifts or for personal enjoyment. A popular item is the birds-eye view of Branford, an early map, 30"x24", suitable for framing, \$5.00; the *Early History of Branford*, also \$5.00; the *History of the Thimble Islands*, by Archie Hanna, in beautiful blue and gold hard cover, \$10.00. Note paper and note cards of the House also available.

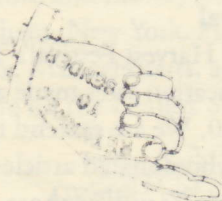
About the Newsletter

We welcome your input! Send in your photos, facts and stories for upcoming issues of *From The Harrison House*.

R
JANET AND RICK MAHONEY
75 HOPSON AVENUE
BRANFORD, CT 06405



76



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Branford Historical Society
Post Office Box 504
Branford, Connecticut 06405

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 24
BRANFORD, CT