



THE JONATHAN DICKERMAN HOUSE

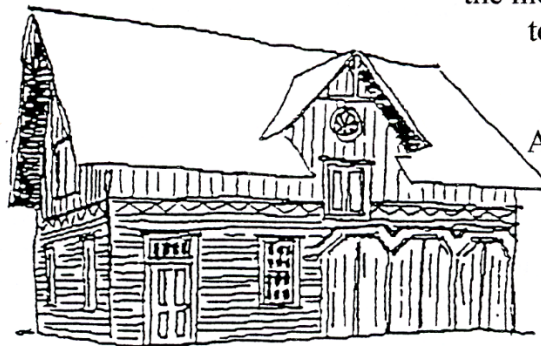
The Hamden Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2001

Town Accepts the Rectory Barn

With all the events the Hamden Historical Society has been involved in since its incorporation, the Town's acceptance of the Rectory Barn on January 3rd has to be one of the most important. The Legislative Council voted 14-0 (1 absence) to accept control of this 19th century barn. This historically significant and architecturally unique structure was a barn at the military boarding school for boys. The original structure was burned down in 1868 and rebuilt a year later. Henry Austin, the architect who designed this building and the New Haven City Hall- among others, might never have thought this Gothic style barn would survive all these generations later. But it has and it will, thanks to the generosity of Oscar Roos-owner of Centerville Lumber, the Hamden Historical Society, the Legislative Council and Mayor Amento.

Al Gorman, president of the Historical Society, believes the \$52,000 in donations will be needed to complete the move from its present location on Whitney Avenue lumberyard owned property near the Miller Library. Since the best time to move the barn is during winter, the move will be completed by early March. A permanent location has yet to be determined, but it is assumed the move will be completed by early March. Mayor Amento will reach an agreement soon after its move. The future use of the structure is also uncertain, but it is hoped the barn might be used as an arts and performance center as well as for preservation of Hamden's history.



(drawing by Christopher Wigren)

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The Historical Society wishes to thank the Hamden Rotary Club, civic organizations and our members who have generously donated to the preservation fund. Without these donations and the arduous effort of the likes of the late Brian Poirier, Hamden's Historian Martha Becker, former and current presidents of the Historical Society Bill Doheny and Al Gorman, this chapter in one of Hamden's historic buildings could not have happened. This is a shining moment for those who care for Hamden's history.

From the President,

Thanks to all of you the year 2000 has been a very productive one for us. The enthusiasm, spirit and dedication of our members are inspirational. I am most grateful to our officers, members and volunteers for their support. We look forward to 2001, with more challenges and triumphs.

With warmest regards, Al Gorman

REMARKABLE SEASON FOR DICKERMAN HOUSE VISITS

We tallied 436 visits to the Dickerman house in the Spring and Summer of 2000. Among these were 341 3rd graders, their teachers, and chaperones touring the house as part of a Hamden history study course. The children are always a pleasure and we look forward to seeing them each year. Nancy Faugman, Helen Spencer and Lois Casey conducted these visits which usually take place from April through June.

New docent training was held in June and we added Phyllis and Joe Pepe, Linda and Roger Rovero and Alice Torengo to our docent pool. They joined Al Gorman, Jack and Lucille Connelly, Pan and Chris Ronderio, Marlene and John Corolla, Ginny and Walter Zukunft, Marie and Sue Colasanto, Judy Newman, Betty Osgood, Charles Kortsep, Barbara Hogan, Connie Whalen and Lois Casey in welcoming visitors to the house on weekends during July and August. Our thanks go out to all for giving their time and energy to this worthwhile undertaking.

A glance through our guest books showed mostly local area visitors but we did have visitors from the states of Oklahoma, Texas and Illinois—our fame grows.

In the fall we had visitors from Ohio and North Dakota who were searching for information on their Hamden ancestors. The J.D. House as well as the Hamden History Room were important parts of their research.

Fall also brought a great group of seniors from the Institute of Learning in Retirement who were doing a series of museum visits and they included the Dickerman House as part of their tour.

All in all, a very good and a very varied season of visitors. We hope, next year to be able to encourage more docents. If this sounds like something you might enjoy, please call Lois Casey at 248-6030.

Bench Dedication

On Sunday, October 29, 2000, the many friends and family of Brian Poirier gathered at the site of the Dickerman/Talmadge Cider Barn to dedicate an engraved granite bench in his honor. The Dickerman property had a special place in Brian's heart; as a Society member and its former president, he had a hand in every aspect of maintaining, improving and helping to make it a showplace for the public to learn about its history. The Society wishes to thank former Mayor DeNicola and current Mayor Amento for attending the event which was enriched by the beautiful music of Valerie Duffy.

A special note of thanks to John Nolan on behalf of the Nolan Monument Company for his contribution toward the bench and installation. As well as to Phyllis Pepe remembering Brian with the words of the poet Tennyson from "Ulysses".

*... Though much is taken, much abides; and though
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are—
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

1842

Antique Show A Success

We are grateful to the Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers who sponsor their annual event for the benefit of the Historical Society. This event is 39 years old and for the last 20 years, it has been held at the Miller Library and Cultural Center. With their donations and the profit made in the kitchen, the Jonathan Dickerman and Talmadge Cider Mill properties can continue to be preserved and improved.

Antique Show Kitchen Report

A truly fine time was had by all who worked at the Antique Show Kitchen this year. A record sum of \$995 was tallied as our profit. As always, members were most generous with delicious contributions of chili, baked goods, coffee, etc. While we try to keep our expenses down, these contributions allow for pure profit and are a tremendous help for the "bottom line".

Kudos to Carol Betz, Lois Casey, Joyce Gilbert, Nancy Faughnan, Barbara Hogan, Terry Deshefy-Longhi and John Longhi, Phyllis and Joe Pepe, Pamela Rendeiro, Connie Whalen, Bob Zoni, Virginia Zukunft and Al and Betsy Gorman.

Holiday Ornament

Hamden's Parks and Recreation Department chose the Rectory School Barn to be featured on its annual ornament. This is the 11th in a series of ornaments depicting Hamden Historic landmarks; our Jonathan Dickerman House was featured in 1996. The 2000 holiday ornament is available at the department's office in Center One; call 287-2570 for information.

Society Honored

On November 14, 2000, our Historical Society was honored by the Hamden Chamber of

Commerce with their 2000 Community Service Award. At a dinner at 500 Blake St., the Society received a plaque and J.D. House picture for its contribution to the Hamden community. Mayor Amento also presented the Society with a proclamation detailing the Society's service. The ceremony was conducted by Steve Grove, chairman of the event, and Keith Kountz as Master of Ceremonies. President Al Gorman received the awards on behalf of the Society which was also represented by Board members, Lois Casey, Betsy Gorman, and Ginny Zukunft. This recognition is a testament to the Society's preservation efforts and dedication to local history; all our members should take pride in this achievement.

Members' Information

For those who are interested in genealogical research, the following organizations may be helpful:

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.
P.O. Box 435
Glastonbury, Conn. 06033-0435
(860) 569-0002

<http://csginc.org> [a non-profit organization]

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), <http://www.familysearch.org>

United States Genealogy Web Project
<http://www.99nain.com/jrothgeb/ctgenweb.htm>.

Your Society is a member of the Connecticut Historical Society. If you wish to visit their museum, feel free to contact Al Gorman at 288-0017 to borrow our member card. The current exhibit is "Lions and Eagles and Bulls" (Early American Tavern & Inn Signs). The exhibit runs through April 29, 2001. The C.H.S. is located at:

One Elizabeth Street
Hartford, Conn.
www.chs.org/signs

Did you see the J. D. House recently? It's all **RED**. It was painted last August by Erik Hird of Primeit Co.

A no extra cost to you Historical Society Fund Raiser

You can help the Historical Society with a phone call. SNET has pledged to the Historical Society five cents of every dollar you spend on the long distance calls you make from your home. There are **absolutely** no extra out of pocket costs to you. When you make in-state, out-of-state, international and calling card calls, SNET will aggregate your calls and the calls of other folks who are joining you in this effort. Then, SNET will send us a check that equals 5% of the cost of all those long-distance calls. To help us get this money from SNET, all you need do is call 1-800-635-7638 and tell them you want five cents of every dollar you spend on your long-distance calls to go to the Hamden Historical Society, Code #3062. This can be one of our easiest fund raisers yet—please call today and join in this effort.

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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