



THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FALL EDITION 2002

WHO WE ARE

Board of Directors

Al Gorman
President

Bill Doheny
Vice-president

Barbara Hogan
Recording Secretary

Sam Becker
Treasurer

Martha Becker
Historian

Committee Chairs

Louise Brundage

Lois Casey

Betsy Gorman

Stella Johnson

Ken Minkema

Joe Pepe

Virginia Zukunft

The above streamlined list does not do justice to the Board members who wear more than one hat serving

on many committees, assuming a variety of roles

and contributing in numerous ways, making our Society an active and responsible community organization.

Help us, help Hamden.

DEAR MEMBERS: Now you see it, now you don't. If you are not watchful, things tend to disappear. Sometimes it's replaced, relocated or reconfigured, but its gone. Then our memory has to readjust to a new vision, without the past image.

In a matter of a few days, this September, the landscape at 560 Shepard Avenue was changed by the demolition of an 1857 rural Greek Revival farm a half story the home of (1824-1895), a was "one of the Hamden's agricultural (Townwide Architectural



house. The two and structure had been Willis Humiston farmer, whose house best reflections of origins as an community." Historic and Survey).

Let's become more watchful. If we turn away too often, we will lose our cultural heritage, our local aesthetics and our sense of place. "Historic buildings and interesting architecture separate an extraordinary place from an ordinary one." (Hartford Courant editorial, 7/5/02).

Annual Giant Valley Association of Antique Dealers Show

NOVEMBER 16th and 17th...Doors open at 10:00 and 11:00 AM.

Please plan to attend

Volunteers needed to collect entrance fee at front door, call 288-0017

The Hamden History Historical Society Library announces its hours for the year 2002-2003. This year the Library will open for the public on **Tuesday 10:00-12:00, Thursday 1:00-4:00 and Sunday 1:00-3:30**. The History Library will be open at least 2 Sundays a month; please call the Miller Memorial Library for details about Sunday openings.

Summer Hits and Misses “..at the Bat”

“...there rose a lusty yell, It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;”

Last Spring your Society applied for a small grant of \$1900 from the Connecticut Foundation for Greater New Haven. The proposed project, The Heritage of Hamden-History in the Community, was designed as a public lecture series to increase knowledge of Hamden’s role in American History. The series of four presentations would have been held in various locations to promote easier neighborhood access. We were informed that the application was not approved.

“Strike one, ‘the umpire said.”

In July , the Connecticut Historical Commission informed us that they decided not to award the Society a grant-in-aid from the Historic Restoration Fund. We had hoped the grant would help defray the cost of a new roof on the J.D.House; limited available funds was the reason stated. Our appreciation to Ken Minkema for completing the complicated application process.

“...and the umpire said, “Strike two.”

Our recently installed drip hose watering system was monitored daily by Joe Pepe; it kept the gardens moist and flowering during this dry, hot summer. With the help of John Carolla, the electric plug in the J.D.House store room is now working and there will be light! The newspaper coverage announcing the J.D.House’s summer weekend openings was certainly a hit with Joe “safe at second and John a-hugging third.”

“...and once more the spheroid flew.”

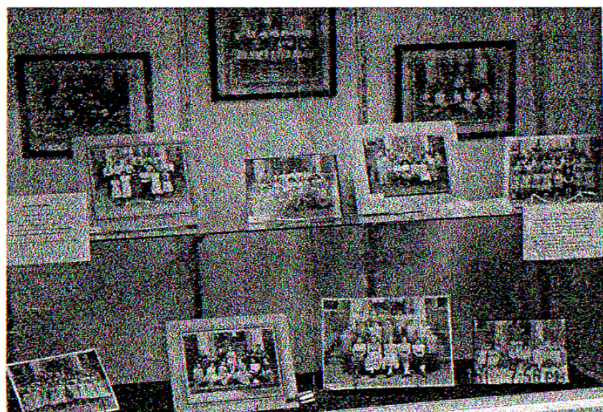
Each weekend this summer the J.D.House was open and staffed by docent volunteers who gave their time in order to display Hamden’s only house museum to the public. A home run!

“The band is playing and hearts are light.”
[apologies to Ernest L. Thayer]

RECORDS SET

The J.D.House summer opening and school visits set new records for attendance this past season. This is all due to the efforts of Lois Casey and her education team of Nancy Faughnan and Helen Spencer. Four Hamden schools sent a total of 242 students for the tour last Spring as part of their local history curriculum program.

As well, Lois organized the summer weekend docent schedule. This season saw a record high of 131 visitors. We appreciate our volunteer docents: Ginnie and Werner Zukunft, Mim Devine, Marcie McKeon, Linda and Roger Rovero, Jack and Lucille Connolly, Barbara Hogan, Connie Whalen, Betty Osgood, Pam and Chris Rendiero, Joe Pepe, Charles Kortsep, Ginny Spillane, Stella Johnson, Al and Betsy Gorman and Lois Casey. Our 1792 Dickerman Museum is special and sharing it with the public is only possible with your help.



Have you seen our new displays in the History Room cabinets at the Library? Last month Al Gorman set up displays of State Street Elementary School class photographs. He asked if patrons could come and identify the students in these pictures and with the help of John Carusone and Barbara Kennedy we now have several identifications, but we need more help, so please come and assist our staff with this effort.

Hamden Historic Commission Established

In May of this year, Mayor Carl Amento invited a number of citizens to be members of an Historic Properties Study Committee. The establishment of such a committee was pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-147q; the committee's charge was to prepare a report for submission to Hamden's P & Z and the Legislative Council regarding an historic property ordinance within the town.

Society members Bill Doheny, Martha Becker, Ken Minkema, Debra Sharkey and Al Gorman served on the eight member committee. This process was initiated by the Society so that Hamden would be granted Certified Local Government (CLG) status and thereby, become eligible for special CLG restoration funding administered by the CT Historical Commission.

On August 21st, Hamden's Legislative Council passed an Historic Properties Ordinance which accepted the committee's report, terminated the Study Committee and most importantly, created an Historic Properties Commission. The Commission's powers are prescribed by CGS, Section 7-147p-q, whereby historic preservation will be integrated into the local planning and zoning making process. The Commission is established to promote the "...educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of characteristics of individual buildings and places associated with the history of or indicative of a period of style of architecture of the town, state or nation."

"A.T." now RED

A year ago the Talmadge family donated an "out house" to our Society. It was moved and placed on the Dickerman House property to serve as a tool shed for the Spring Glen Garden Club members who care for the gardens. Originally used by the West Woods School until the 1950's, the shed certainly fits into the Dickerman property setting and, of course, Jonathan would have had one of his own. In painting the exterior to match the J.D. House's color, the initials "AT"

were discovered carved into the now north side. "AT" or Arthur Taldmadge was the generous donor of the cider mill barn which was relocated to the Society's property a few years ago.

Pictured here is our "historic" handyman and professional carpenter, Bob Zoni, repairing the tool shed's sill plates. Bob has generously donated many hours of his time, knowledge and skill to helping us at the J.D. House, Barn and property.



SAVE THIS DATE

ANNUAL GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 10:00-5:00 &
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 11:00-4:00**

This annual event will be held at the Miller Memorial Cultural Center, 2901 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, CT. The gate receipts and kitchen profits directly benefit the projects and programs of the Hamden Historical Society. This is our only fund raiser and we ask for your support.

Each day Society members provide lunch in the Social Hall and we can use your help in serving; also donations of food/baked goods, chili, cans of coffee, cans of tuna or quarts of ice cream are welcome. Especially needed are donated homemade baked goods. What we do not have to purchase, increases our profits.

Call Al or Betsy at 288-0017 by the 12th, if you are going to bring a donation or if you want to volunteer to work in the kitchen (we also need people to booth sit) and work the gate.

The Giant Valley Association of Antique Dealers arranges this show to benefit our Society. Tell your friends and relatives to come, better yet, bring them along. This show, in its 41st year, is highly rated for its congeniality, ambience and antiques. See you there

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 5512 HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

41st Annual **GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW**



November 16th and 17th, 2002
SATURDAY 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.
SUNDAY 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

MILLER LIBRARY - CULTURAL CENTER
2901 Dixwell Ave. Hamden, CT
Admission \$3.50 Admission with this card \$3.00

FREE PARKING — REFRESHMENTS

A BENEFIT FOR THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Sponsored by the Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers

