

## WHO WE ARE

### Board of Directors

Al Gorman  
President

Ken Minkema  
Vice-president

Barbara Hogan Recording  
Secretary

Sam Becker  
Treasurer

Martha Becker  
Historian

### Committee Chairs

Louise Brundage

Lois Casey

Betsy Gorman

Stella Johnson

Bill Doheny

Joe Pepe

Linda Rovero

Virginia Zukunft

The above 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.



# THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION 2004

Dear Members,

Ever drive by a structure that particularly catches your attention, something about its design, color or detail attracts your eye? Maybe it is a barn or outbuilding, possibly an old factory or a house with gingerbread molding which draws your notice. Sometimes the structure has been abandoned to neglect and decay; you see that it is vacant and wonder about its future. Maybe the owner is unwilling to bear the cost of repairs, thus it is allowed to deteriorate and becomes a danger. One day the place is gone, the space empty.

It is a struggle between valuing the past and the pull to destruct for the future which often places historic structures or just nice looking old places in jeopardy. To help balance this competition, Hamden now has a Delay of Demolition Ordinance requiring the public notification and posting of demolition permits for buildings older than 50 years and larger than 500 square feet; it also imposes a 90 day waiting period, if there are any objections.

The Ordinance will not stop demolition in every case, but when invoked it may, with coordinated effort, serve to preserve an endangered building. It provides a "window" of opportunity to convince the developer or owner that there may be alternatives to demolition. In some instances, the delay may allow some time to save by removing overlooked historical materials or disregarded items of significance or to preserve a special architectural feature. The Ordinance will not stop any demolition of a truly dangerous building. National Historical Registry listings are already covered, but now our local inventory of historic structures and many others are specifically covered.

The responsibility for any success with this new local ordinance, effective in the middle of May, 2004, will rest with interested people who can propose practical solutions. Your Society will be informed when a demolition permit is requested; the ability to intervene is helped by early awareness of endangered properties. Saving a structure for "saving sake" is a luxury we do not have. Developing alternative uses, rehabilitation suggestions for adaptive uses or constructive ideas are worth the effort to preserve our visual heritage. This Ordinance gives us a fighting chance.

The research and drafting of this ordinance was the work of the Hamden Historic Properties Commission on which Society board members serve.

## IN THE PAST

### The Connecticut Twenty-Ninth Colored Regiment

This infantry regiment was mustered into service in 1863 by order of then Governor William A. Buckingham. By November the regiment was encamped in the section of Fair Haven known as Grape Vine Point (Now Criscuolo Park). The men who made up the army regiment were freemen, ex-slaves, Native Americans and Caucasian officers from throughout Connecticut. In March 1864, they marched off to fight for the Union. Nineteen members of this regiment have been identified as having been Hamden residents.

Priv. Williams, John W.	Priv. Gross, John W.
Priv. Ashley, John H.	Priv. Williams, John W.
Priv. Camper, Henry	Priv. Dennis, John
Priv. Higgins, Alexander	Priv. Sills, Joseph K.
Priv. Jackson, James	Priv. Jones, Philip Jr.
Priv. Seaman, Andrew	Priv. Williams, Henry
Sargt. Tribute, John	Corp. Brewster, James W.
Corp. Williams, Lewis H.	Priv. Havelon, George
Priv. Humphrey, Joseph	Priv. Williams, James
Musician Alexander, Lawson	

The descendants of the CT 29<sup>th</sup> Colored Regiment C. V. Infantry have formed a nonprofit organization with the intention to erect a monument in New Haven to honor this Connecticut regiment's contributions in the Civil War.

## IN THE FUTURE

Opening the Dickerman House during Goldenbells season for just a day, reminds us that docents will be needed for the house's weekend viewing beginning July 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 29<sup>th</sup>. We open to the public each Saturday and Sunday during the summer from 1:00 until 4:00 PM. Please check your calendar, plan ahead and call Lois Casey at 248-6030 to reserve an afternoon for volunteering at the J. D. House. The more volunteer docents we have the more days our house museum can be enjoyed.

*CLEAN UP DAY* to prepare the Dickerman House and grounds is scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, at 9:00 AM. Any help you can give us will be appreciated and lighten the responsibility. Rain or shine the inside of the house needs to be dusted, washed, curtains hung and the store arranged.

## SOUNDS OF THE PAST

An enjoyable, entertaining "Radio Nostalgia Program" with Bob Schultz was held in February. The presentation of radio program samples and trivia, voices and music was arranged by Linda Rovero and hosted by Ginny Zukunft and Betty Osgood. An interested audience of over forty listeners let their imaginations once again be stimulated by the sounds of the golden days of radio.

## IN THE AREA

At the Knights of Columbus Museum, "Creating St. Peter's" Architectural Treasures of the Vatican." This exhibition traces the design, construction and evolution of St. Peter's basilica. Included is the sixteen foot wooden 1560 study model of Michelangelo's design of the dome. The exhibit is presented now until August 31, 2004, at One State Street in New Haven.

The Connecticut Historical Society Museum offers "Heroes, Heartthrobs and Horrors" an interactive and dynamic exhibition focusing on Connecticut's important role in the creation and evolution of the American comic book. A featured exhibit through September 7, 2004, at One Elizabeth Street, Hartford. Contact [www.chs.org](http://www.chs.org) for more information.

When traveling and planning to visit a National Trust site, Society members may borrow our National Trust for Historic Preservation membership card. It is useful for special rates and packages at more than 100 Historic Hotels or America and free or reduced admission at more than 300 historic sites worldwide. Visit [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).

## IN THE BACKYARD

The Society wishes to thank member Oscar Roos for his donation of a couple of boxes of old bottles found around the former location of the Rectory School Barn on Whitney Avenue. Among the bottles was one for "Scott's Emulsion Cod-Liver Oil with Lime and Soda" another for "Paine's Celery Compound" and one for "Starwater—Miracle of the Washday." Bring back any memories? Mr. Roos, also, donated some 1903's postcards of Centerville, Sesquicentennial Parade newspaper articles, Chamber of Commerce booklets and information on Rev. Everest's Rectory School.

The Society is appreciative of Board member Stella Johnson who is investigating the value of the old bottles and who donated a new broom for the J. D. House.

Al Gorman, pictured with Richard Linehan (left) President of the Giant Valley Antique Dealers Association, receives a check for \$3,100.00. This donation is a result of last year's Antique Show and Sale held by the GVADA to benefit the Society. We thank all the Association's members, the patrons and supporters of the Show and our Society members who worked so hard to ensure the Show's success.



Remember the Hamden History Room welcomes any donations of Hamden photographs, records, documents or information which will contribute to our local knowledge. Contact Joe Pepe, our archivist at [hhs@hamdenlibrary.org](mailto:hhs@hamdenlibrary.org) or [jshpep@aol.com](mailto:jshpep@aol.com).

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

**READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

A new publication hot off the presses, *Images in America: HAMDEN* is a photo essay of a remarkable journey through time in our neighborhoods. Containing 200 captioned photos from our archives, the new book is available at the Hamden History Resource Library (Miller Library 3rd floor) Tues. 10-12 and Thur. 1-4 or by calling Al or Betsy Gorman at 288-0017. The \$20.00 purchase will help support the Society.

Join us at the Jonathan Dickerman House to celebrate the Society's publication; meet the editors, enjoy wine, refreshments and our company as we present--



*Whitney Ave., Centerville, Conn.*

*Images in America: HAMDEN.*

SUNDAY AUGUST 1ST 1:00-4:00 PM

## ***NEWSLETTER***

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