



THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SUMMER EDITION 2006

Dear Members,

The Board of Directors wishes to express its appreciation to current members for renewing their memberships and to welcome new members. We are also thankful to those members who made an extra contribution with their dues payment. The funds derived from membership dues barely cover the Society's operational budget that consists of maintaining the Dickerman House. Improvements to the House, Cider Mill, and grounds are funded through grants and our major fund raiser, The Annual Antiques Show. All officers and board members are volunteers who serve without any remuneration.

In the News:

It was announced this summer that the Hamden Historic Properties Commission was awarded an Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (H.P.T.A.G.) from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. The Society is a partner with the commission in applying for the grant, which is to be used towards a National Register nomination for the Ives House. The grant is funded in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council.

At present, the Town of Hamden is in negotiation with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for a license agreement regarding the Ives House, because the CT Dept. of Public Health ruled the land cannot be leased as originally planned and the house sold to the Town. This new agreement is a way to preserve the historic house in place, while allowing for restoration and limited public use. Once a National Register designation and a license agreement are in place, we can know the Ives House will be saved from demolition.

Soon to be in the News:

Society officers worked with the Historic Properties Commission on a self-driving brochure of Hamden's historic sites and architecturally significant buildings. To be published this fall, the brochure will be available at the Library, Town Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Dickerman House. Under the leadership of Ken Minkema, Commission chair and Society VP, the Society was of great assistance. Also thanks to Bill Doheny, Doug Baker, Ellen Highkin, and Daniel Ioime. The funding for the publication is from a grant obtained from the Connecticut Commission of Culture and Tourism.

Al Gorman, President

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW
OCTOBER 28 AND 29th**

Food donations accepted. Volunteer help needed. Call Al or Betsy 288-0017

Hamden Boy Makes Good

Among the many famous individuals who have a connection to our community is our nation's newest Poet Laureate, Donald Hall. He was born in New Haven in 1928, but grew up in Hamden on Ardmore Street. Hall attended Spring Glen elementary School, and Hamden High School for two years, before enrolling in Phillips Exeter Academy. Then he went on to Harvard, Oxford, and Stamford Universities before settling in 1975, with his late wife and fellow poet, Jane Kenyon, at Eagle Pond Farm in rural New Hampshire, which his family has owned since the Civil War.

I was afraid the waking arm would break
From the loose earth and rub against his eyes
A fist of trees, and the whole country tremble
In the exultant labor of his rise.

These lines from "The Sleeping Giant" are just a few of many local references found in Hall's poetry. He expresses a sense of loss in "Traffic" which refers to the Brock-Hall Dairy business on Whitney Avenue which was then owned by his family.

Now suburbs have migrated north
Leaving Whitneyville behind, with its dead factory
Beside a dead movie

Or the reference to Johnson's Pond off Thornton Street in "Kicking the Leaves."

...when we walked together
in Hamden, before the war,
when Johnson's Pond had not
surrendered to houses, the
two of us hand in hand...

Hall's poems are expressions of passion in a simple style while speaking to themes of life's sorrows and celebrations, and sometimes with a Hamden reference. Yet Donald Hall is more: he is a baseball fan.

Beginning as a Brooklyn Dodgers fan while growing up in Connecticut, he converted and cheered for the Boston Red Sox when the Dodgers moved to California. Hall has written about baseball for *The New York Times* and *Sports Illustrated*. In 1973, he was invited to spring training with the Pittsburgh Pirates; for him, baseball is both an escape and an inspiration. In his new anthology, *White Apples and the Taste of Stone*, Hall includes a baseball poem called "Baseball" a work of nine parts, or innings, each with nine stanzas, each of nine lines, and each line containing nine syllables.

Hamden congratulates its local boy, Donald Hall, now Poet Laureate.

YOU ARE THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS

The Society thanks all the summer docents who gave their time to open the Dickerman House so the public could visit our house museum in July and August. A special appreciation to Ginny Zukunft, who made the arrangements and scheduled the docents this season. Our “keys for success” included Connie Griggs, Lois Casey, Stella Johnson, John and Marlene Carolla, Al and Betsy Gorman, Lorraine Velardi, Don Werner, Ken Minkema, Nancy Faughnan, Barbara Hogan, Connie Whelan, Pam Rendeiro, Ginny and Werner Zukunft, Linda and Roger Rovero, and to those who did double duty. Thank you!

The weekend before we opened the “JD” House for the summer, Society members volunteered to help ready the house for its summer season. Our appreciation is extended to Ginny Zukunft, Betsy Gorman, Lois Casey, Barbara Hogan, and Kimberly Casolino who cleaned, shined, dusted and washed inside.

Bob Zoni and Al Gorman supervised outside. Pictured right, looking busy.



Vera Morrison, Town Clerk, is pictured with Al Gorman and Joe Pepe, Archivist for the Hamden History Library, displaying important Hamden documents. They were deacidified and microfilmed with an Historic Document Preservation grant through the CT State Libraries which encourages Town Clerks to recreate and restore town records. One document is a 1731 deed to John Morris, which was signed with symbols and seals of seven Quinnipiac Native Americans during the seventh division of land by the New Haven Colony. The second is a colored 1868 Beers map of Hamden. Copies are displayed in the Town Clerk’s office; the originals are in the Hamden History Library at Miller Memorial Library.

45TH ANNUAL GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW

October 28th and 29th, 2006

Saturday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Sunday 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.



MILLER LIBRARY - CULTURAL CENTER

2901 Dixwell Avenue Hamden, CT

Admission \$4.00 Admission with this card \$3.50

Directions:

From I-91 North or South, take Exit 10 to end (Rte. 40/Mount Carmel Connector). At traffic light take a left onto Whitney Avenue and go six traffic lights. At the sixth light (Dixwell Avenue) take a right. The Miller Library-Cultural Center is a short distance on the left.

From Route 15 North take Exit 61 and from Route 15 South take Exit 62. Turn right onto Whitney Avenue and at the second traffic light (Dixwell Avenue) take a left. The Miller Library-Cultural Center is a short distance on the left.

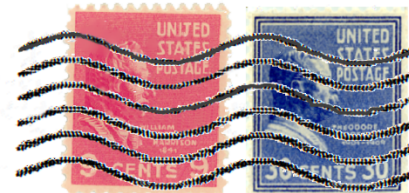
A BENEFIT FOR THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored by the Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers

The Antique Show is the Society's major fundraiser. Gate proceeds and kitchen sales go directly to support our Society. Bring this card for a reduced admission. Please plan to attend. Bring a friend. Stop by and enjoy lunch. Support the Society.

SOUTHERN CT 064

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NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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