

THE JONATHAN DICKERMAN HOUSE

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR RENEWAL

2009

The Hamden Historical Society is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

P. O. BOX 5512 - HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

Dear Society Member,

Thank you for your support of the Hamden Historical Society. It is time for the renewal of your membership.

2009 brings continuing challenges for non-profit organizations. With energy costs, insurance premiums, lawn care, etc. at the Jonathan Dickerman House Museum on the rise, your membership support is more important than ever. Donations through the annual antique show and its kitchen, from individuals and the sale of our two publications have helped to sustain our work.

Through your support, we have opened the Dickerman House and Cider Mill barn to hundreds of Hamden school children each spring as well as many summer visitors. The Hamden History Library within the town's Miller Memorial Library is thriving as it provides information to casual as well as professional researchers. We continue to be a voice to protect, promote and preserve our local history.

Please return the enclosed renewal form by the end of June with your tax deductible gift. Enroll a friend or family member. I encourage your active support and appreciate your membership.

Sincerely,

Al Gorman, President

203-288-0017

Annual Financial Statement

January 2008 – December 2008

Income

Interest Income	1,693
Membership	2,280
Donations	368
Antique Show Contribution	2,500
Antique Show Sales (Kitchen profits)	792
Book Sales	560
Archivist Research	203
Library: Bradley Fund	4,464
Rental	200
Arcadia Press (Royalty)	119
Jeep Brook Grant	4,361
Total Income	\$17,540

Expenses

Utilities	1,155
Lawn Service	1,225
Archivist Services	4,464
Archival Material	49
Memberships (Historical assoc.)	170
Pencil Promotion	151
Postage	179
P.O. Box Rental	72
Safety Deposit Box rental	50
Printing (Newsletter)	90
Creative Printing	390
J.D. House Insurance(unoccupied)	3,642
CT Annual Report (Sec. of State)	25
Landino Sign Co. (new J.D.H. sign)	200
Garden Club (Plants)	47
Hospitality	60
Tree Work at Dickerman property	725
PAST, Inc. (Jeep Brook Research)	4,361
Security	251
Total Expenses	\$17,306

Assets

Checking account	2,253
Money Market	433
Certificate of Deposit	50,449
Total Assets	\$53,135

Financial Statement

For your information, the Society's 2008 financial statement has been prepared by our Treasurer, Joe Pepe. It contains no major expense, e.g. a new house roof, but as in our own lives, an increase in insurance costs (\$500) and a decrease of bank interest income (-\$450). Our publication sales and donations have been steady. The Board of Directors greatly appreciates the support you have shown to the Society. Our thanks to our "keeper of the books," Treasurer Joe Pepe who does double duty as our Archivist in the Hamden Historical Library.

Membership

Spring time is the time for our members to renew their support for our Historical Society. Enclosed you will find an envelope for your annual dues. Instead of a separate mailing this year, we are including the appeal letter and return envelope in the newsletter.

Summer Docents

Summer Docents needed...call Al Gorman, 288-0017. We wish to open the Dickerman House on weekends beginning July 5th, 1 to 4P.M. Please consider giving one afternoon to show off Hamden's only house museum.

Annual Meeting

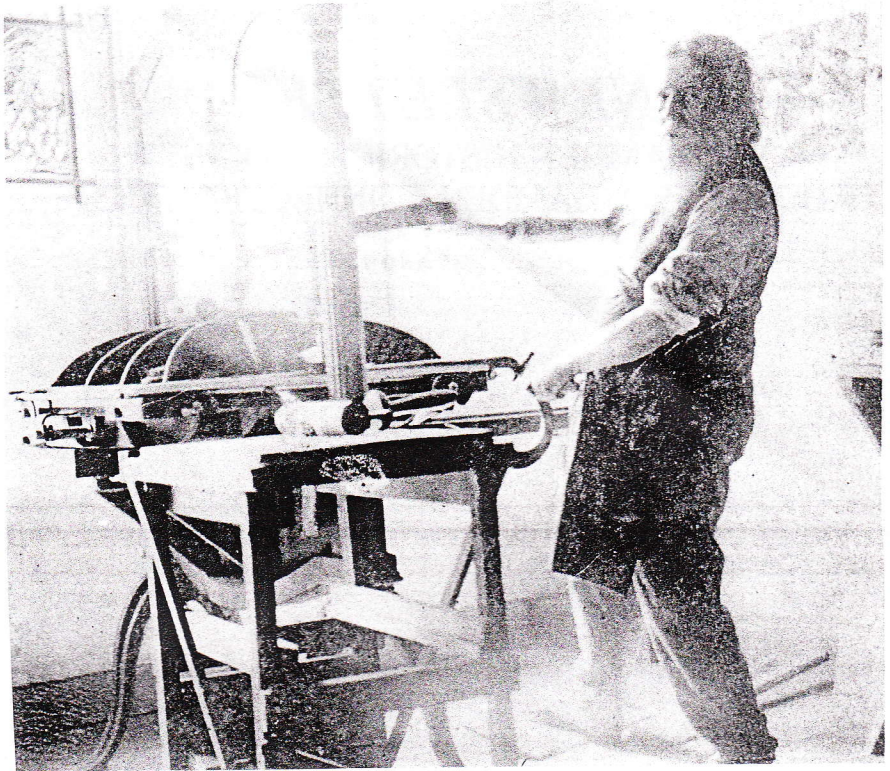
We are fortunate to be able to present **Florence McBride**, a naturalist, photographer, lecturer, filmmaker, and educator to give us a showing of "The Mill River: Water and Wildlife." This is a video exploration of the river from its source to New Haven Harbor showing some of the birds and other wildlife. The dramatic 2006 flooding will be seen and a special view of the birds of spring will be seen. Florence received the Roger Tory Peterson Institute's national "Nature Educator of the Year" for her work on developing a bird- focused science program in the Hamden public schools. Please join us **Thursday, May 14**, in the Senior Center at Miller Memorial Complex at 7:00 P.M. entrance at the rear. Election of Society Officers will take place and refreshments will be served.

Donation

A donation to our Hamden History Library, courtesy of Dean Orser, a copy of Hamden Men in the World War. It contains information collected by the Hamden War Bureau.

THE OLD MAN OF 'APPLEDORE'

One of the houses nominated to the National Register is 1804 State Street. It was the home of William J. Linton and the home of his Appledore Press from 1870 to 1897. In 1870, this house was nestled at the edge of an apple orchard. Our Architectural Heritage book observes that this obviously 18th century house has been extensively altered with dormers, a bay window, and various Victorian embellishments. These 19th century alterations convey a thoughtful but off-beat expression of domestic architecture, which must have suited its very famous tenant rather well.



About William J. Linton, a few qualities spring to mind: extraordinary artist, a man of remarkable energy, and passionate radical. His life, starting in England in 1812, was a life of tempestuous commitment to his ideals, personal growth, and superior artistic accomplishment as poet, editor, translator, printer, publisher, artist, and engraver. He was once credited with producing “the most sumptuous book on wood-engraving in the English language.” In producing it at “Appledore,” he wrote the text; cut some of the copies manually. His art was engraving, of which he uttered: “In engraving, as in other branches of the art, the first thing is drawing; the second, drawing; the third, drawing....is all drawing with the graver, or it is not engraving at all.”

If the art of engraving was Linton’s white steed, then that quoted philosophy was his lance. With that lance, in his final years in southeast Hamden, he thrust his idealistic commitment to his craft into the heart of those he thought had violated its canons by adopting the modern methods of mass production and facsimile printing. He referred to those who set “mechanical skills above art.” Yes, he was one who saw the techniques of engraving change tremendously and resisted that change, but he had the wisdom to see that mechanical facility is a pale form of progress if it diminishes the art! In political and social thought, he was a radical who communicated with many of the leading thinkers of his day. But in art, he was steadfastly committed to ideals going back at least as far as England’s William Blake.

This article was previously published in an earlier newsletter. It was written by Brian Poirier, our past president. Information in this article is drawn from R. F. Gleckner’s “W.J. Linton, a Latter-day Blake” published in the Bulletin Of Research In The Humanities by The New York Public Library. Mr. Gleckner relied on our Historical Society Library for some of his research. What’s more, Mr. Linton’s famous printing press, pictured above with the master at work, is owned by the Society and is waiting for someone with the zeal and interest of its former owner to bring it back to life. Any ideas?

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 5512, HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

THE MILL RIVER WATER AND WILDLIFE

Video Presentation by Naturalist, Educator & Photographer

FLORENCE MCBRIDE

7:00 PM THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009

HOSTED BY THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Refreshments Served

Senior Center at Miller Memorial Complex

2901 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden

Public Welcome No Charge