



HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER WINTER EDITION 2012

Dear Members,

Winter can be a quiet time of year. Our Dickerman House Museum is closed; our fall fund-raiser, the antique show, is over, the Dickerman gardens are at rest, but the Society is still active. We attend meetings that discuss preservation issues, continue to work with groups regarding local history and, as you will read in this newsletter, open our history library to the public for research. The cartoon from Parade (10/9/11) could reference our local work and activities.

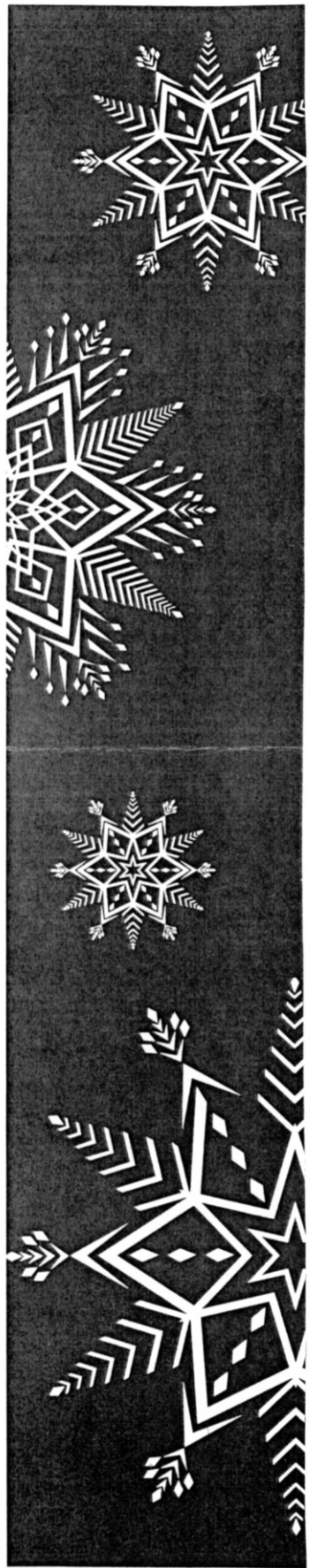


Please visit our website at www.hamdenhistoricalsociety.com. We have had almost 600 site visitors since it opened last summer.

Our Society partnered with the Friends of Brooksvale Park to obtain a Barn Grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation. The structural condition assessment has been completed with the report noting that “the large English bank barn at Brooksvale Park is generally in structurally sound and serviceable condition.” Recommendations for certain repairs may be addressed by the Town over a period of years. The barn, reconstructed in the 1890’s, is located on what was once Hamden’s Poor Farm established in 1861 with land donated by Enos Brooks. The farm became a park in 1947 and today has 195 acres.

Hamden in Winter by Eric Lehman

We boil tea by a frozen stream
watching the broad-winged hawk
who keeps a lonely vigil on the border
of our sleepy town. A few moments ago
the two of us hiked along the bare ridge
of Hamden’s highest mountain, viewing
frosty woodland wonders no one else did
on this January day. Our luck will hold.
On the path ahead awaits a saucy bluejay,
two woodpeckers, and another bird of prey,
who will flee from us, but slowly,
as if only human eyes could keep him real.



1961 was the year Roger Maris hit his 61st home run; Kennedy succeeded Eisenhower as President; West Side Story was released as a film and A Man for All Seasons opened on Broadway. That same year the Giant Valley Association of Antique Dealers held its FIRST antique show.

This year, 2011, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary!

During this past year, we experienced an earthquake, a tropical storm, and a snow storm in October, yet this annual antique show opened with sunshine and mild temperatures, many visitors attended, dealers were busy, and the Kitchen Staff performed like clockwork. Our profit was 552 dollars.

The Kitchen All Stars were: Eric Lehman, Amy Nawrocki, Nancy Faughnan, John and Marlene Carolla, Kim Cassolino, Lois Casey, Craig Reynolds, Louise Brundage, Ken Minkema, Barbara Hogan, Al and Betsy Gorman. The Support Team consisted of Barbara Doheny, Lorrie Minkema, Barb Hamilton, Don Werner, Bob Zoni, and Lorraine Velardi with extra contributions from Barbara Hogan, Louise Brundage, Betsy Gorman, and Ginny Zukunft.

In 1961, Six Flags over Texas opened, Del Shannon sang "Runaway," Catch-22 by Joseph Heller was published, Freedom Riders were arrested in Mississippi, and Harvard beat Yale 27-0.

Fifty years later, the Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers are still organizing this show which benefits our Historical Society, and it continues to be a popular, annual community event in Hamden. We thank Rick Linehan, GVAAD President and Jim Warrick, who will be the Association's liaison to the Society. Our appreciation is extended to the many members who supported the show, to the Town for its cooperation, and especially to the Giant Valley Association of Antique Dealers for fifty great years. This year's donation was \$2000.



2011, Harvard beat Yale 45-7.

Ready to serve: Kim Cassolino, Lois Casey, Louise Brundage, and Betsy Gorman

DONATION

From the municipal historian for Cheshire, Ron Gagliardi, the Hamden History Library received a variety of items related to Hamden's history including a cookbook published by St. Ann's Church in 1976, a commemorative coin for the 50th Anniversary of Hamden High School, postcards, photos, booklets, correspondence, a bound book published by St. John the Baptist Church to mark its 100 years of Catholic life, and various ephemera. Thank you for being on the lookout.

HAMDEN HISTORY LIBRARY ROOM SERVES HAMDEN AND MORE

The Hamden History Library Room, located on the third floor of the Hamden Memorial Library, opened its non-circulation collection to the public for the 28th consecutive year this past September. The Hamden Historical Society, Inc., which owns the collection, appreciates its position as tenant of the space which is dedicated to the service of Hamden's history. The Library Room is operated by a part-time archivist, Joe Pepe, two cataloguers, Virginia Dowd and Phyllis Pepe and assisted by a number of local historians: Dave Johnson, Gil Spencer, Julie Hulten, Sandy Marenholz, William Buller, author Eric Lehman, and of course, Hamden's Municipal Historian, Dr. Kenneth Minkema.

The collection's purpose, written in our mission statement adopted in 1984 by the Hamden History Library Board, which oversees the operation of the Room, and required by the State of Connecticut Public Library which grants the necessary Storage Facility Certificate of Historic Collections is to "collect, preserve and make available historical materials relating directly and significantly to Hamden." The History Library Room archives are preserved according to the guidelines set forth by the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association. To fulfill its mission the collection is opened to the public Tuesday from 10-11:30AM and Thursday from 1-4PM each week beginning in September and ending in June. Alternate times for research can be arranged by appointment during the year and summer.

The Hamden History Library served well over 800 patrons last year. The archive attends to patron visitors and online researchers, provides in-house research assistance and upon request, conducts research for patrons unable to research themselves. Patrons researched our archives for material on a wide range of local history topics including inquiries on founding fathers, town development and government, civic associations, volunteer organizations, community service, family histories, historic homes and buildings, neighborhoods, vital records, land records, school records, notables, historic celebrations, church and ecclesiastic records, disasters, small and large industries, business development, transportation records and others too numerous to mention.

Contributions continue to assist the History Library in building the collection, Patrons from here and afar donated recollections, photographs, texts and documentary material to help preserve our history. Our collection has grown to include hundreds of books, thousands of photographs and currently, ninety-five manuscript boxes. The staff is continually revising the archive collections, updating subject indexes, sorting the map collection and digitizing photographic collections.

Our archivist is paid from an endowment, The Bradley Trust Fund, administered by the New Haven Community Foundation; the Society supports the operating budget and all cataloguers are volunteers, as well as Society members.

For inquiries regarding our archives, please visit the collection during the year or call us at the library 203-387-2680. We can also be reached by email at our webpage: <http://hamdenhistoricalsociety.com> or you can email Joe Pepe at joepepe1@comcast.net. We look forward to helping you.

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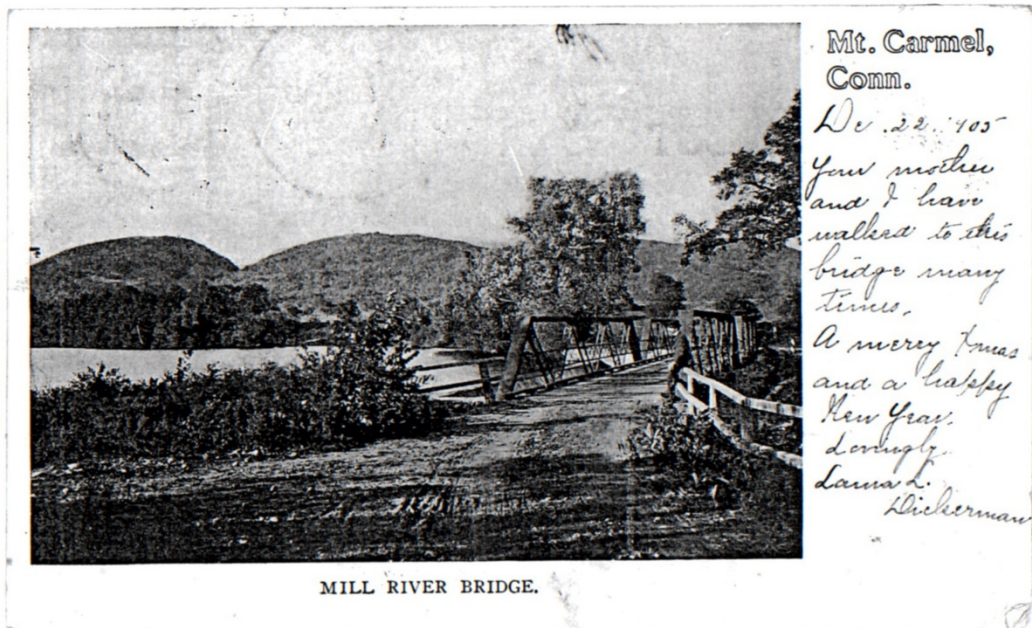


NEWSLETTER

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

WINTER EDITION 2012

06518+2460



MILL RIVER BRIDGE.

Postcard dated 1905, December 22. Sent by Laura L. Dickerman