

WHO WE ARE Board of Directors

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Joe Pepe

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THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SUMMER EDITION 2013

Dear Members,

We want to thank our members for continuing to support the Society by renewing their memberships. That support coupled with the Antique Show gate is our primary source of revenue. We appreciate your timely response and generosity.

Please check the Society's new web site:

www.hamdenhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com

Julie Hulten, our web manager, has created the design, posted information, programs, newsletters, photos, links to related sites and more. Julie has moved us into the 21st century.

Mark your calendar with the dates for the annual Antique Show
November 16th & 17th

We still are looking for summer docent volunteers for the J.D.H. Please call me (203-288-0017), if you can spare a Saturday or Sunday, 1 to 4 PM in August.

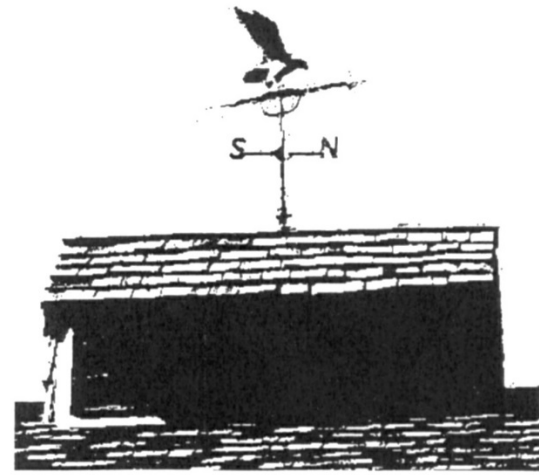
On September 12th, the Society will offer a presentation by Bob O'Brien, who is on the Advisory Board of the Civil War Round Table. He will lecture on local connections to the Civil War, display artifacts, and relate the story of George Washington Warner. More information to follow.

Our Society will host a wine and cheese party for all our members at the Dickerman House on **Sunday, August 25th from 1 to 4 PM**. This is the last day the house will be open for the season. This is a "Thank You" for your support as summer docents, education docents, library volunteers, herbs garden helpers, and for your membership. Join in the fellowship. Stop by and say hello.

A rousing THANK YOU to Barbara Hogan who is stepping down as our recording secretary. Always accurate, always involved, always contributing, always positive, always sharing, and always smiling. Thank you.

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.

WEATHERVANE Sitting proudly atop the c1900 historic bank barn at Brooksvale Park in the northwest part of Hamden is a weathervane. This weathervane has been adopted by the Friends of Brooksvale Park, Inc. as its symbol and prompted a reader of their web site to send this photo with information found in a *New Haven Register* article, June 9, 1971. "A memorial weathervane in honor of the late Fremont Dickerman of Mount Carmel will be presented to Brooksvale Memorial Park by the 9th District Republican Club, Wednesday evening at 7:30."



Front row: L-R Stephen Dickerman Stange, Howard Stange, and Raymond Enos Stange.

Back row: L-R Robert Fitzgerald (Park & Rec. Dir.), Charles P. Randell (Rep. Club Pres.), Arthur Talmadge (Fund Chair.), Anna Mary Dickerman (widow), Marion Dickerman, Fremont Dickerman, Jr. and Burton Elliot Dickerman (Fremont's brother).

The weathervane that once was on the cupola of the 1952 Miller Library building on Dixwell Avenue (Now demolished for the new parking garage for the HPD and Town Hall restoration project) has been preserved. It will be remounted on the new animal barn being constructed at Brooksvale Park.

THANK YOU FROM A STUDENT AT BEAR PATH SCHOOL

"Dear Ms Casey and Ms Faughnan, Thank you for helping me understand all that I did not get. I loved the part when I got to sit in the little seat and draw on the desk. I never knew that they go to the bath room out side. My favorite part was when we saw the big bell it was amasing. I will go to the Dickerman house with my family and I will be the teacher and tell them all I learned and my family will love it! Sincerely, Emma"

Our thanks, as well, to Lois and Nancy for conducting the school educational tours at the J.D.H. this spring. At least six Hamden school classes enjoyed the experience. Thank you!

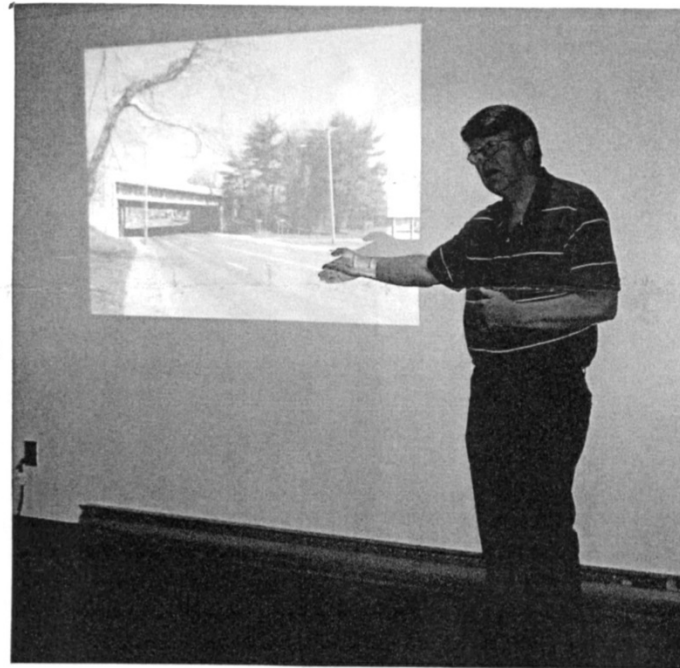


EARTH DAY

Historic Properties Commission member, Ellen Highkin and Society President Al Gorman shared information and pamphlets at Hamden's 6th Annual Earth Day Celebration. over 4,000 people attended the day's events at the Hamden Middle School.

ANNUAL MEETING

Stories of heroes and service were intertwined with a narrative history and photos of Hamden's firefighters during the presentation by distinguished historian Dave Johnson, Captain HFD (Ret). May's annual meeting had an audience of over forty attendees. They learned that volunteers were the front line firefighters from the 1800's up to 1924 when Joe Marks became the first paid fireman as a driver. Over the years, the fire fighting service evolved into a paid department. Today, three volunteer companies remain out of the original eight. We thank Dave for the fascinating lecture, Julie for the media assistance, and Betsy for the homemade refreshments.



Afoot through Connecticut's Natural History

"...and found the cave had a long and storied history going back hundreds of years. Tours had been given during the 1800's, when the Giant had human inhabitants perched in cabins on the glaciated ridges. Someone had gotten stuck and the private tours had shut down. Then, in the 1890's, two boys had come up to see the cave and instead found a dead body at the entrance...."

This is a quote found on page 49 in *Afoot in Connecticut: Journeys in Natural History*, published by Homebound Publications, 2013. The book is the newest work by Eric Lehman who is a Society Board member and author of *Hamden: Tales of the Sleeping Giant* and *Insider's Guide to Connecticut* among other works.

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518



Members, you have seen this photo before, if you read the Society's Images of America: Hamden publication. It is the sesquicentennial procession in 1936 from the Rochford scrapbook. We are now working on another publication, focusing on Hamden in the 20th century. Available this autumn---at convenient locations near you, or at the Hamden Library Room.