

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2015

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World War I Program

Dr. Holly Richards, left, looks on as Dane Deleppo, right, demonstrates the various types of equipment World War I soldiers

carried and stored in their backpacks.



Dr. Richards, a Harwinton resident, is a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University and the University of Hartford. She presented a program that described the causes of the "Great War" and how it drew in the world's most significant economic powers and why and when the United States entered into the conflict.

Deleppo displayed some of the typical equipment issued to soldiers with Dennis Andrews assisting by showing how the items were worn. The World War I artifacts are part of Harwinton's Hungerford Museum collection.

The three-hour program was held March 29 at the Harwinton Library and was jointly sponsored by the Harwinton Historical Society and Hungerford Museum.

World War II Programs Scheduled April 18 and 19

University of Connecticut history professor Dr. Karl Valois will return this month to the Harwinton Library on Bentley Drive to discuss World War II. The program is sponsored by the Harwinton Historical Society. **Please Note:** The original dates of April 19 and 26 have been changed to Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, due to a scheduling conflict.

The Second World War was a global conflict that involved most of the world's nations and all of the great economic powers. It resulted in millions of fatalities – both civilian and military - and was the most widespread war in world history. There is no charge for this Historical Society-sponsored event although donations are appreciated.

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Upcoming Programs & Events

The Historical Society's Board of Directors is planning a number of programs and activities for 2015 including the following:

- World War II Program **April 18 and 19**, 2-4 pm, Harwinton Library on Bentley Drive.
- Antiques Appraisal Saturday, **May 16**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Hall
- Annual second grade tour of schoolhouse and barn (**late May/early June**)
- Ice Cream Social and Connecticut Open House Day – **June 13** from 2 to 4 p.m.
- Annual Appeal - August
- Harwinton Fair – first full weekend in October (**Oct. 3 and 4**)
- **New!** Cemetery Walk **Friday evening, October 16** (rain date October 17)
- Annual dinner for members in **November** – date to be announced.

If you are able to assist with any of these activities, please contact a member of the Board of Directors or send an email to harwhistsoc@gmail.com.

HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

The Litchfield Historical Society is planning a symposium on immigration. "The New America: Discovering and Documenting the Immigrant Experience" will take place on **Monday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Registration is required by May 11. For additional information go to www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

The 2015 History Bites Lecture Series continues each Thursday at noon until June 4. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. To register, contact the host organization. Visit the Litchfield Historical Society web site for a link to additional information about this popular annual series.

A BIT OF TRIVIA

Answer to March Trivia Question:

The Blizzard of 1888 was named the “worst snowstorm in Connecticut history”. A total of 50 inches of snow fell from the start of the storm on the evening of Sunday, March 11, until it ended on March 14, 1888. Winds of 60 miles per hour helped create drifts 38 feet high. A total of 400 people died during the storm.

April Trivia Question: What is a Shivaree?

(Answer in May newsletter)

Curators’ Corner ...

Three books in the Historical Society’s collection have been identified for deaccession. It has been determined by the curators and accession committee that the books, which have been in the Society’s possession since 1991, are not significant to Harwinton’s history. One of the books concerns the history of Stonington, Connecticut, and will be donated to the Stonington Historical Society. The other two concern genealogy and are listed below.

If anyone who is a member of the Historical Society would like to have either of these books, please contact Beverly Mosher at 860-486-0610. The book titles are: *“English Genealogy”* by Anthony Richard Wagner and *“A Genealogical Gazetteer of Scotland”* by Frank Smith.

New event: Antiques Appraisal

An Antiques Appraisal Day will be held on **Saturday, May 16th** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Harwinton Town Hall. Appraisals will be \$5 per item. Antiques expert Michael Tomaszewicz will be available to review and appraise your treasures. Appraisals may include (but not limited to) art, stuffed animals, dolls, china, furniture, glass, books, documents, sports memorabilia and most other general merchandise. **No stamps or firearms, please.**

Interested in helping the historical society with this event or to ask questions, please contact Historical Society Vice President Nancy Schnyer at 860-485-0035 or by email at nschnyer0035@charter.net

October Cemetery Walk

South Cemetery will be the background for a “Cemetery Walk” on October 16 (rain date October. 17). Details are still being worked out, but the initial plan is to allow you to visit with several of Harwinton’s ancestors who are buried in the town’s second oldest cemetery who will make a “special appearance” at this event. The cemetery was established by town meeting in 1807 and the first burial was in April of 1809. Over the next 100 years more than 600 people were buried there. Plan to attend and learn more, or get involved now by contacting Harwinton Historian Roger Plaskett at www.harwintonhistory.com. Researchers, actors and general helpers are needed during the planning process.

Ice Cream Social and Connecticut Open House Day

An Ice Cream Social is being planned on Saturday, June 13, from 2 to 4 pm on the grounds of the Harwinton Consolidated School. This event will be in coordination with Connecticut Open House Day, a one-day event designed to showcase Connecticut's diverse history, art and tourism. Harwinton's barn museum and restored 19th century one-room schoolhouse will be open and free to the public. Ice cream will be available at \$2 for a cone or cup.



This year marks the 11th annual Connecticut Open House Day sponsored by the Connecticut Office of Tourism.

BOARD MEETINGS: The Board of Directors will meet on the last Thursday of the month at 3 p.m. at the Skinner House, Bentley Drive. Next meeting: April 30. HHS members are welcome to attend.

HARWINTON FAIR: While Spring cleaning your house, basement, garage or storage shed, please keep the Historical Society's Country Store at the Harwinton Fair in mind. We need items that are in good to new condition and appropriate for sale at the store. This is a major fund-raiser for the society and a lot of help is needed. If you have items to donate or would be willing to help in some other way, please contact Bonnie or Dennis Andrews, 860-482-7978.

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS: Please send your suggestions for programs, activities or the newsletter to: harwhistsoc@gmail.com or PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791. Written contributions to the newsletter are also encouraged.

BARN AND SCHOOLHOUSE HELP: Help is needed on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to noon to clean the schoolhouse and barn after the long winter. Please bring any of the following: dust cloths, window cleaning supplies, broom, rake.

We are also looking for people to serve as hosts/hostesses in the school and barn when these buildings are open to the public. A brief history of the buildings will be made available to those willing to volunteer. Please contact Bonnie or Dennis Andrews, 860-482-7978.

SUPER SATURDAY: Harwinton's Super Saturday 2015 - where civic and community groups can fund-raise and promote their groups - is scheduled May 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Community Shred-It will be available in the Town Hall parking lot from 9 till noon. Limit: 10 boxes (from households only). From 3-7 p.m. the Harwinton Lions Club will sponsor a car show at the Town Hall complex and the annual Project Graduation tag sale will be held at the Harwinton Fairgrounds from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact 860-485-0626 or the town's web site for more information.