

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September 2015

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Coming soon

Harwinton Fair October 2, 3 and 4

This year will be the 159th annual Harwinton Fair sponsored by the Harwinton Agricultural Society. The Historical Society has been a major presence at the fair for many years. We provide the main displays in the popular Early Americana exhibits at the South end of the Fairgrounds. This is a major effort on the part of the historical society to help bring an awareness of our organization and Harwinton's history to the fair's visitors.

New this year: The fair will be open Friday night from 4 to 9 p.m. as well as all day Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The additional night is being promoted as "Freebie Friday". There will be food, entertainment, amusements, music, and an antique car show. Admission will be free. The Historical Society's Country Store will be open from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday.

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Oct. 9 Trip to Boston

Don't miss another opportunity to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston on a trip led by UConn History Professor Dr. Karl Valois !

If there is enough interest, the trip will take place Friday, October 9th and the cost will be \$35 per person. The bus will leave from the Harwinton Town Hall on Bentley Drive.

Reserve your seat now by contacting HHS Program Chairperson Candace Jones-Pacholski **no later than September 15th**. There are 56 seats available.

To contact Candace: Call [860-485-9343](tel:860-485-9343)
or respond via email to harwhistsoc@gmail.com



Answer to the Trivia Question for August: What is a “Kitchen Junket?”

A “kitchen junket” is an old New England tradition. It might also be known as “dancing in the kitchen.” A group of people would gather at the home of one of the participants for an evening of mostly square and contra dancing. Music was provided by a few local musicians playing piano, fiddle and drums or any other combination that might be available. A caller (prompter) was in attendance to ensure that the dancers were performing the dances correctly.

The junket was usually held in the kitchen since it was a large room and could be cleared of furniture easily. Dancers gathered in early evening with the first dance beginning as soon as there were sufficient people to make a set for a square or contra dance. It was a good place for beginners to learn the intricate steps of the more difficult dances such as *Chorus Jig, Lady of the Lake, Lake Walpole’s Reel, Money Musk and Hull’s Victory*.

After a couple of hours of fast-moving dancing, refreshments were served by the hosts and then dancing resumed. In addition to dancing, this was an opportunity for neighbors to get together and share the most recent news and gossip or commiserate about the weather.

- By Beverly Mosher, curator

Trivia Question for September: During the Revolutionary War, how many battles were fought in Litchfield County?

New this Fall

Program on the Colonial Period and Pequot Wars

The Harwinton Historical Society will provide a new two-part program on the Colonial Period beginning on September 27, 2015 at the Harwinton Library from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Dr. Karl Valois, Professor of History at the Torrington branch of UCONN, will discuss the reasons for Connecticut’s first settlements, how people lived during the colonial era: their occupations, gender roles, and their schools. He will also tell us about the Pequot Wars – the first war between Native Americans and English settlers in America including the massacre at Mystic in 1637.

A second part of the Colonial Period talk will take place on Sunday, October 11 from 2 to 4 p.m., also at the Harwinton Library.

The Society invites all interested persons to attend and join in the discussion. There will be no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted.

Programs of this type are made possible by a grant from the **Miriam Mason Cable Trust Fund of the Foundation of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.**

If there is enough interest a bus trip to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston will take place Oct. 9th.
*** See separate article on page 1 of this newsletter for more information about the bus.

Harwinton Fair October 2, 3 and 4 (Continued from page 1)

There will be an admission charge on Saturday and Sunday.

The Historical Society's exhibits in the Country Store, Blacksmith Shop and Shingle Mill are only possible because of the effort and contributions of many historical society members and friends.

Here's how you can help:

- Contribute hand-crafted or like-new items that are appropriate for sale at a Country Store (items can be dropped off at the country store between 4 and 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday the week of the fair.) To contribute at a different time, contact Bonnie and Dennis Andrews at 860-482-7978.
- Pies, cookies, fudge, bread, jams and jellies, muffins, cupcakes and similar home baked items are always popular. They must be dropped off at the Country Store before 3:30 on Friday, Oct. 2 or Saturday or Sunday morning. Please do not mark items with prices in advance, but please note if your baked goods contain nuts!
- Volunteer to work a shift or two in the Country Store or Shingle Mill
- Help with setup or cleanup
- Offer to make phone calls
- Make a financial contribution to help offset the expenses related to the fair

Ken Birden, blacksmith, will return on Saturday and Sunday to demonstrate the workings of a blacksmith shop.

Brian Dunbar, millwright, and a crew of volunteers will demonstrate making wood shingles in the circa 1850's mill. The mill will be open on Saturday and Sunday. If you can volunteer for a few hours in the mill, please contact Brian at brian@kasznay.com or 860-485-9056. Training will be provided for new comers.

Pam Chambers of New Hartford will return to demonstrate her pottery skills and will have hand-crafted items for sale in the Country Store.

The Harwinton Library friends will provide a display about the local public library. The Harwinton Seniors will make their colorful hand-crafted fleece blankets available.

Three books about Harwinton's history will be for sale in the Country Store: *Vignettes* by Lloyd Shanley (former first selectman and town historian), *"This n That"* by Raymond Bentley (the town's first historian) and *"More Memories"* a collection of Harwinton memorabilia by the Harwinton Historical Society.

To volunteer in any capacity, please contact Dennis or Bonnie Andrews at 860-482-7978 or via email to harwhistsoc@gmail.com.



“If Stones Could Talk” – October 16th

A free night-time guided tour of South Cemetery will take place Friday night, October 16th from 6 to 8 p.m. This will be a non-frightening adventure into the town’s past. Local actors will be on hand inside the cemetery for one night only to tell visitors what life was like in Harwinton in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

You must obtain a ticket to attend. Free tickets will be distributed at Town Hall on Bentley Drive the night of the walk and a shuttle will bus visitors to the cemetery. No cars will be allowed at the cemetery site on South Road. Tours will leave the Town Hall at 15-minute intervals. Each tour will be accompanied by a guide who will introduce visitors to people such as Joshua Williams who sold the town land for the cemetery in 1807, Abijah and Hildah Catlin, who hosted George Washington at their Harwinton Inn, Civil War Veteran Submit Castle, War of 1812 Veteran and local farmer Allen Kellogg. Cyprian Webster, a deacon of the church, prominent citizen and the first person to be buried in South Cemetery will also tell his story as will several others.

Rain date for this event is Saturday, October 17.

HHS Elections

In November, the Historical Society will be holding elections of officers for 2016. A dinner and entertainment is being planned, probably on a Sunday afternoon. In preparation for that, a call is going out to all members seeking a few volunteers to serve on the nominating committee or the Board of Directors. Anyone interested in assisting with this should send an email to harwhistsoc@gmail.com or contact one of the directors listed on the front page of his newsletter.

Annual Appeal Being Launched

The 2015-2016 annual appeal will be mailed to Harwinton residents and friends of the Historical Society soon after Labor Day. Contributions from the 2014-15 appeal allowed the society to continue to work to preserve the town’s history and also to award a scholarship to Lewis Mills graduating senior Julia Diuseppe of Harwinton. Julia is a freshman at Syracuse University this fall.

To the previous year’s donors: your contributions were greatly appreciated and are being put to good use to meet the historical society’s mission. To future donors: We look forward to your contribution.