

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2014

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OFFICERS:

President: Eleanor Woike
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Luella Bartes
James Curtis
Carol Kearns
Candace Jones-Pacholski
Elaine Sederquist

CURATORS:

Beverly Mosher
Bonnie Andrews

BUILDINGS:

Dennis Andrews

Annual Appeal Update

The Harwinton Historical Society's Annual Appeal campaign for 2014-2015 kicked off in September 2014 with a letter to all Harwinton residents with a postal address. The bulk mailing went to a potential 2,424 households. An additional two dozen letters were mailed to members who live outside of Harwinton.

Replies to the Annual Appeal for 2014 have been very positive with about 100 households responding.

Harwinton Fair Results

This year's Harwinton Fair was held on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 4 and 5. In spite of rainy weather most of Saturday and an early closing of the fair that day, the Historical Society's exhibits at the Country Store, Shingle Mill and Blacksmith Shop were very popular.

The success of this year's fair was the result of a large volunteer effort. Twenty-five people worked 2-hour shifts at the Country Store during fair weekend and an additional crew of 12 manned the shingle mill. More than 30 people made food donations. Others donated items for sale.

Particular thanks go to Carol-Ann Stentiford, John Thrall, Luella Bartes, Bev Mosher, Charles Kirchofer, Peter Thierry, Hayward Farms and Jay Delay for their special contributions that went above and beyond.

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Building Supervisor Dennis Andrews stains the Barn Museum

Answer to the October Trivia Question: The original name of the Harwinton Fair was “Cattle Show Day” according to “The History of Harwinton” by Raymond Bentley. The day started as a yearly gathering of farmers to buy, sell and trade oxen and steers. Later farmers and their spouses displayed farm produce and household products. The first location of the “fair” was on South Road. The fair is now located on Locust Road.

A BIT OF TRIVIA: Harwinton's first town meeting was held on December 20th in a private home on Locust Road. What was the year? Answer in December newsletter

Curator's Corner

Traveling Archivist: On Monday, Nov. 3, the curators will be visited by Traveling Archivist Elizabeth Boucher who will review our archiving process, answer questions and offer suggestions. Harwinton was selected to participate in the Traveling Archivist program offered through the Conservation ConneCTion, which is part of the Connecticut State Library. We have forwarded several archive-related documents to Elizabeth to review prior to her visit. These include a copy of our collections policy and a prior initial archival assessment that was conducted for us in 2010.

New Accessions: We have recently acquired two new accessions: a wicker baby carriage from the 1800s was donated by Fred and Thelma Fiore of Harwinton and a Shmoo donated by Harwinton resident Larry Connors. Both items were on display at the Harwinton Fair.

- Curators Bev Mosher and Bonnie Andrews

Moving Forward with StEPs Program

The Harwinton Historical Society has participated in the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations, or StEPs for the past two years. This is a program offered by the American Association for State and Local History, or AASLH and is a national self-study educational program that recognizes selected historical societies' completion in each of the program's six phases. Six areas are being studied and evaluated. They included: Mission, Vision and Governance; Audience; Management and Stewardship of Collections; Stewardship of Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Interpretation.

Harwinton has been awarded Bronze certification for completion of the first level of the program. The committee (Candace Jones-Pacholski, Harry Schuh, Carol Kearns, Ellie Woike, Bonnie Andrews and Dennis Andrews) are now working to meet the criteria for the “silver” second level of the program.

*Harwinton Fair update...*Continued from page 1

Pam Chambers of New Hartford demonstrated her pottery skills both days in the country store and Harwinton resident Ken Birden worked the blacksmith shop.

Dennis and Bonnie Andrews were co-chairmen of the country store and Brian Dunbar returned as millwright in the shingle mill.

Brian noted that Charlie Kirchofer not only worked in the mill, but donated and cut all of the slabs of wood to make the shingles.

In the country store, ginger cookies (from the recipe used by the late Raymond G. Bentley and now baked by his grandson Peter Thierry) were very popular as were the sour pickles and cheese. Fudge, pies, cookies and cupcakes sold well. The store was a popular place for people to gather on Saturday to escape the rain.

Throughout the coming year, please keep the Historical Society's participation in the Harwinton Fair in mind. Hand-crafted items are needed. Sewing materials are sought by quilters and books in excellent condition sell well. You may contribute your donations at any time at a meeting of the historical society or by contacting Bonnie or Dennis Andrews at 860-482-7978 or any member of the board of directors.

PERSONAL NOTE:

We are sad to report the passing of historical society member Jadwiga "Heidi" Gorowski, 81. She was the wife of the late Joseph J. Gorowski. Heidi was born in Poland, daughter of the late Boleslaw and Anna (Ustach) Grygo, and had been a Torrington resident since 1964. Survivors include a daughter, Elizabeth Gorowski-Imburgio and her husband Frank of Dix Hills, NY, two grandsons, Michael Imburgio and Richard Imburgio, a sister, Teresa Sekula of Poland, and a lifelong friend, Lucille Sobczyk. Burial was in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Upcoming Programs & Events

Monday, Nov 24, 2014: Harwinton Historical Society dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a regular membership meeting at 7:30 at the Harwinton Senior Center, 209 Weingart Road. A separate flier will provide details and additional information about this event.

Monday, Jan. 26, 2015: The annual meeting and election of officers of the Harwinton Historical Society will take place the last Monday of January – Jan. 26 – at the Harwinton Senior Center on Weingart Road.