



HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



December 2016

Mail: PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791

email: harwhistsoc@gmail.com

OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Andrews

Vice Pres.: Nancy Schnyer

Secretary: Elaine Sederquist

Treasurer: Harry Schuh

DIRECTORS

Term Ends 2017:

Luella Bartes

Candace Jones-Pacholski

Term Ends 2018:

Carol Kearns

David Ryan

Term Ends 2019:

Bruce Burnett

Shirley Gay

IMMEDIATE

PAST PRESIDENT

Eleanor Woike

CURATOR

Bonnie Andrews

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Dennis Andrews

OTHERS (non-board)

HISTORIAN

Roger Plaskett

AUDITOR

Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL

Patrick Wall

Bruce Burnett Joins HHS Board

Retired high school history teacher Bruce Burnett has joined the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in 2019. Bruce is replacing Jim Curtis who is retiring from the board but will continue to assist with special projects.

Shirley Gay was re-elected to another three-year term as a director. Her term will also run until 2019

Officers re-elected at the November 20th general membership meeting held at the Harwinton Senior Center were: President Bonnie Andrews, Vice President Nancy Schnyer, Secretary Elaine Sederquist and Treasurer Harry Schuh. Eleanor Woike will continue on the board as the immediate past president as will Curator Bonnie Andrews and Building Supervisor Dennis Andrews. Non-board positions that were reappointed were Historian Roger Plaskett, Auditor Marilyn Mitchell and Legal Counsel Patrick Wall.

Program Jan. 8th: WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Of all the great reform movements in United States history, perhaps none can match the perseverance of women's suffrage. Beginning with the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, various women's rights leaders fought a 72-year struggle before winning the right to vote.

Join Dr. Karl Valois, from the University of Connecticut, for a discussion of the long road to suffrage that was finally achieved by the 19th Amendment in 1920. Dr. Valois will relive the obstacles, the shifting arguments for and against voting rights, the rival women's groups and their ever-changing tactics, and the leading personalities who finally achieved success.

All are invited to this program on January 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Harwinton Library on Bentley Drive.

A Bit of Trivia

Answer to November Trivia Question: Seven electoral votes are assigned to Connecticut

*Trivia Question for December: The first telephone book ever issued contained only fifty names and was published in which Connecticut city? Answer in the January Newsletter. ***

**** NOTE: Beginning in January the answer to the monthly trivia question will appear in the same issue as the question.**

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 20TH

Please note that the annual meeting of the Harwinton Historical Society is scheduled Sunday, Jan. 20th at 1 p.m. at the Harwinton Senior Center. Featured speaker will be Town Historian Roger Plaskett. More information will be distributed once plans have been finalized.

2016-17 APPEAL

The Harwinton Historical Society's Annual Appeal is continuing. Anyone who would like to contribute, but did not receive an appeal notice, is welcome to help with a tax deductible contribution with an "Annual Appeal" notation mailed to the Harwinton Historical Society, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791. A portion of the funds from the appeal will provide scholarships to two graduating seniors from Harwinton at Lewis Mills High School.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in January 2017 only active Harwinton Historical Society members who do not have an email address will continue to receive the newsletter via US mail. The newsletter will continue to be distributed monthly to more than 260 email addresses.

To become a member for 2017, please send a check with a "membership" notation to Harwinton Historical Society Treasurer, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791. Dues are currently \$15 per person.

Harwinton has seen many industries during its 280 plus years including grist mills, saw mills, coopers, tin shops, hat shops, wagon shops, furniture makers, and clock makers. The existence of a lead mine, however, has remained part of Harwinton's lore, but proof of its existence has been elusive.

Looking Back in Harwinton's History

CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE NEWS



Register Citizen Photo by John Murray, staff photographer

Fate of 25-year-old Blue Spruce Debated for an Entire Year

Twenty-five years ago, in 1991, items making the news in town included the following: For a year – beginning in the spring of 1991- the town debated the future of a 25-year-old Colorado blue spruce tree located on the town green. Members of the local veterans' organization said the 35-foot tall tree interfered with proper color guard maneuvers during Memorial Day ceremonies and had grown too large to decorate for Christmas. Some others in town wanted to save the tree – including two 11-year-old girls - Jennifer Wilbert and Holly Merbaum – who petitioned town officials to keep the tree. The controversy ended on April 1, 1992 when the big tree was removed and the veterans replaced it with a much smaller, 8-foot tall fir tree