

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 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 2016:

James Curtis
Shirley Gay

Term Ends 2017:

Luella Bartes
Candace Jones-Pacholski

Term Ends 2018:

Carol Kearns
David Ryan

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Eleanor Woike

CURATORS

Beverly Mosher
Bonnie Andrews

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Dennis Andrews

OTHERS (non-board) HISTORIAN

Roger Plaskett

AUDITOR

Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL

Patrick Wall

Looking Back ... at Harwinton's History

“In the very rigorous winter of 1779-80, many deer perished in Harwinton, from inability of getting at food. Those which were in that winter killed by hunters here, were in so emaciated a condition that their value was solely for their skins. Since that time, no deer have been found here - The severity of the winter referred to was, twenty years ago, often described by aged men. Snow fell during forty days in succession. It lay four feet deep, even in March, covering fences, and had become so hard that horses and oxen travelled easily on its surface. For weeks ... all travel, except by men using snow-shoes, had been suspended.”

“*The History of Harwinton, Connecticut*”

By R. Manning Chipman

Program: Sunday, March 6th

ABOLITIONISM MOVEMENT BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

Of all the antebellum reform movements before the Civil War, none was more controversial than abolition of slavery. Contrary to popular belief, not everyone in the North joined the crusade to end slavery. And, even more shocking, the abolitionists were condemned, assailed, and even attacked in the North for decades for their extreme radicalism.

The Harwinton Historical Society will sponsor a program on this topic on March 6, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. at the Harwinton Library on Bentley Drive. Join Dr. Karl Valois, from the University of Connecticut, for an eye-opening discussion of the origins of abolitionism, its major historical figures, its radical views, and its lasting legacy in American history.

All are invited at no charge although donations are appreciated.

***** Save the Date: Sunday, April 17th *****

Speakers have been scheduled for a two-hour program on the iron furnaces that once existed in Connecticut. This program was arranged in response to requests from those attending other Historical Society programs. The event will be held at the Harwinton Library from 2 to 4 p.m.

REMINDER: 2016 Historical Society Membership Dues

Dues for 2016 are \$15 per person (with the exception of life members) and were due on or before the last day of February 2016. Please mail your checks made out to the Harwinton Historical Society to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791 as soon as possible to maintain your membership.

A Bit of Trivia:

The February newsletter asked: What is the state insect of Connecticut?

Answer: The praying mantis was adopted as the state insect in 1977.

March Trivia Question: The state of Connecticut passed a law concerning a new activity in 1901. What was that activity?

JOHN FREDSELL NAMED 2016 HARWINTON CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



2014 photo from the Harwinton Historical Society files

A banquet to honor John D. Fredsall, Harwinton's 2016 Citizen of the Year, will be held at Fairview Farms Golf Course on Friday, April 22, beginning with hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. Reservations are \$38 per person. Call 860-485-1550 or mail a check made out to "Harwinton Award Committee" to 34 Orchard Hill Road, Harwinton, CT 06791.



From the Harwinton Historical Society files

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

Workers clear snow by hand on Litchfield Road, just west of Clearview Avenue, in the 1930s. Members of the snow removal crew were paid 40 cents an hour.

Time marches on and, with it, history is made

What can we expect from 2016? We are just two months into the New Year and several major events have already taken place.

At the end of January the World Health Organization announced the outbreak of a Zika virus. In February, North Korea drew the attention of the world by launching a long-range rocket in violation of U.N. treaties. In mid-February Roman Catholic Pope Francis and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill – leaders of their respective churches- met for the first time and signed an accord in Havana, Cuba. Also in February, the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia added a new dimension to the U.S. presidential race.

And more history will be made in the months ahead - some events will be predictable and others will not. There may be a new mission to Mars before the end of summer, the world’s longest and deepest traffic tunnel is expected to open in June in Switzerland and NASA’s Juno space craft is scheduled to reach Jupiter on July 4th.

In August the world will turn its attention to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the start of the 2016 Summer Olympics

Locally, the news may not be quite as sensational, but history will be made just the same. It is our job to help preserve and encourage an appreciation for times gone by.

- Bonnie Andrews