

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November 2016

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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:

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David Ryan

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Eleanor Woike

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Beverly Mosher
Bonnie Andrews

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Dennis Andrews

OTHERS (non-board)

HISTORIAN
Roger Plaskett

AUDITOR
Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL
Patrick Wall

Save the Date – Nov. 20th!

The Harwinton Historical Society will hold a general meeting for members and others on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the Harwinton Senior Center, 209 Weingart Road. Pizza will be served followed by a business meeting that will include election of officers and directors and discussion of HHS activities and meetings for 2017. The pizza will be free to members. Non-members will be asked to contribute \$5.

All current officers will be nominated for re-election as will director Shirley Gay. Jim Curtis will be retiring as a director and Bruce Burnett will be nominated to fill that vacancy. Beverly Mosher is retiring as curator. Her position will be filled temporarily by several volunteers.

Additional nominations for any of the positions may be made at the meeting. All elected officials will begin their terms in January.

January Program: 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 at the Library on Bentley Drive from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

Second Cemetery Walk a Success: Likely to Return in 2017

Due to the popularity of the first Harwinton cemetery walk in 2015, which was titled “If Stones Could Talk,” a second event, called “The Graveyard Shift” was held on Oct. 14th. This, too, was a success, so it is likely a third one will be organized for October of 2017.

This year, 218 people came to hear local actors tell the story of Harwinton residents from the past and how they contributed to the town’s history. Twelve actors were stationed throughout South Cemetery, each offering a brief story of their life in the 1800s.

The evening began at Town Hall where free tickets were distributed for tours that left at 15-minute intervals between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Sarah, the wife of Deacon Cyprian Webster (portrayed by Dot Ciechoski) greeted people on the bus and gave them a brief introduction to South Cemetery.

This year 218 tickets were distributed and over \$500 in donations was contributed to help defray expenses associated with the evening.

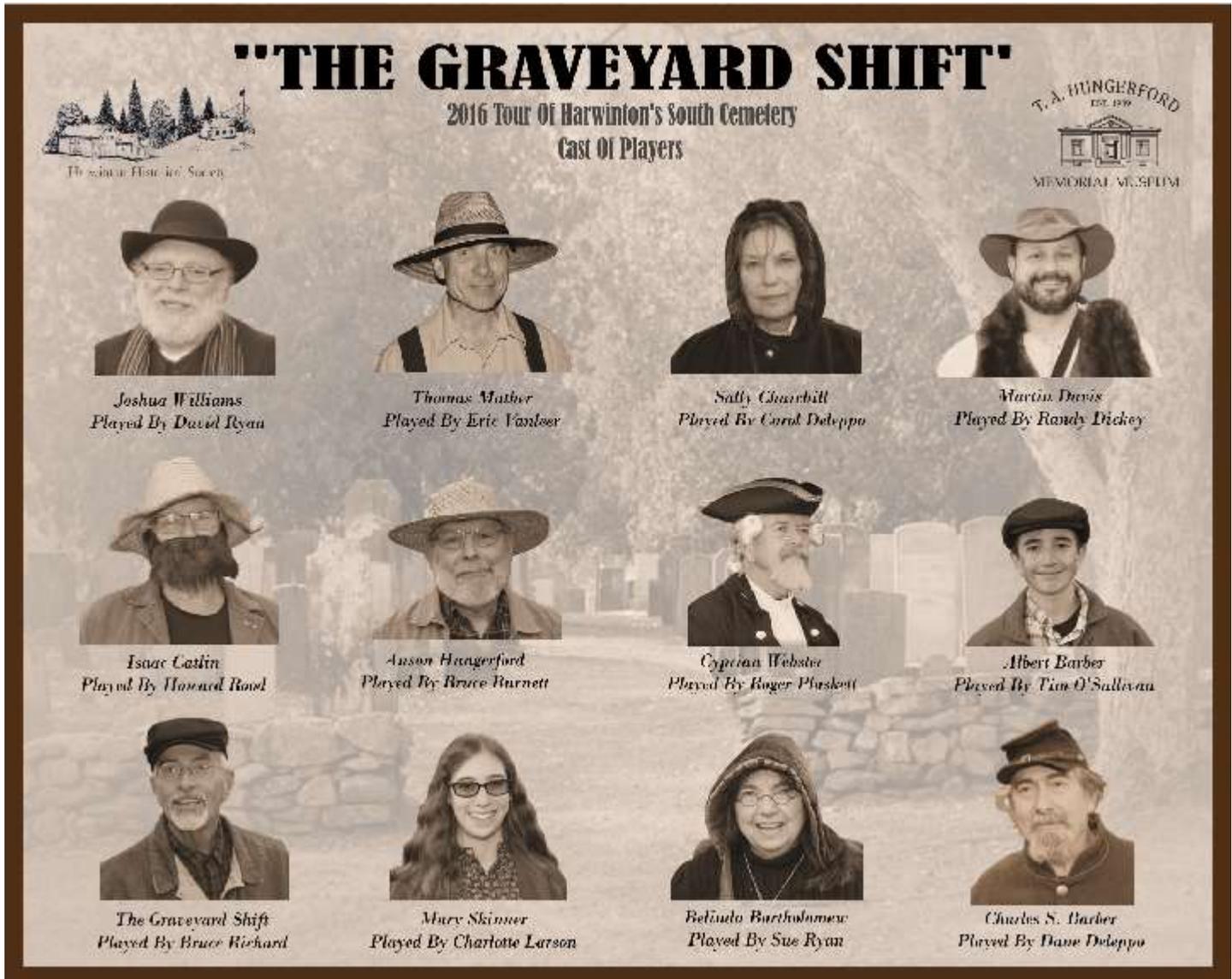
Town Historian Roger Plaskett organized the event both years. He also prepared displays for Town Hall. Students from the Lewis Mills High School Leo’s Club (a student branch of the Lions Club) served as tour guides. Historical Society Vice President and town Selectman Nancy Schnyer was responsible for the activities and refreshments at the town hall.



Dot Ciechoski as Sarah Webster

A collaborative effort by the Hungerford Museum and Historical Society supported the event. Refreshments and parking assistance were provided by the Harwinton Woman’s Club, Harwinton Women’s Fire Auxiliary, Historical Society and individual volunteers. The bus was from All Star Transportation. The path at the cemetery was marked by 400 tea lights borrowed from the town Recreation Department. The Historical Society contributed a case of new lights for the town’s use in the future.

Anyone interested in participating in this event in 2017 as an actor, volunteer, researcher, writer, or in any other capacity, should contact Town Historian Roger Plaskett at the harwintonhistory.com web site.



"The Graveyard Shift" Cast of Players

David Ryan as Joshua Williams (Harwinton preacher for 32 years who provided the land for the South Cemetery burial ground)

Eric Van Leer as Thomas Mather (Born in Harwinton in 1824, worked hard and made do with little). Before he died of consumption (tuberculosis) he had buried several of his children in South Cemetery).

Carol Deleppo as Sally Churchill (young woman whose house is still standing).

"The Graveyard Shift" Cast of Characters, continued from page 3

Randy Dickey as Martin Davis (farmed, hunted and trapped near Davis Swamp in the area that is now Lake Harwinton).

Howard Rood as Isaac Catlin (militia member and Revolutionary War soldier).

Bruce Burnett as Anson Hungerford (his house is still occupied on South Road; he was the grandfather of Newman Hungerford).

Roger Plaskett as Cyprian Webster (Harwinton resident since 1735, church and town leader and first person buried in South Cemetery).

Tim O'Sullivan as Albert "Bertie" Barber (young boy killed by lightning at age 12).

Bruce Richard as The Graveyard Shift worker (wanders the cemetery listening for a bell that would indicate someone had been buried alive).

Charlotte Larson as Mary Skinner (a teenager during the Revolutionary War).

Sue Ryan as Belinda Bartholomew (local centenarian born in 1786).

Dane Deleppo as Charles S. Barber (Civil War soldier and an organizer of the Harwinton Fair)

Dorothy Ciechoski as Sarah Webster (wife of Deacon Cyprian Webster)

Lost and Found: Someone left a plastic bag with a gift card and receipt at the cemetery tour Oct. 14. If it is yours, please contact Sue Ryan at davidryan485@gmail.com or 860-485-9600. Please be able to identify where the gift card was issued and/or the type of item listed on the receipt.

ANNUAL APPEAL

The Harwinton Historical Society's Annual Appeal is under way. Anyone who would like to contribute, but did not receive an appeal notice, is welcome to help with a tax deductible contribution and "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.

Looking Back in Harwinton's History By Joyce Peck

Someone who is always looking at Harwinton history is Roger Plaskett, the town's current official Historian – the third person to hold this title. Appointed June 20, 2006, he marked 10 years in the "job" earlier this year. Among other things, Roger has created a wonderful web site - www.harwintonhistory.com. There is even a place for you to note your own Harwinton experiences.

Roger has dedicated his web site to his two official predecessors Lloyd T. Shanley Jr., a longtime town first selectman and Harwinton history maven, and Raymond G. Bentley, who spent a good portion of his life writing about his beloved community and even hand-churned homemade ice cream for the historical society's annual summer ice cream social. Plaskett credits much of the information on the web site to Shanley and Bentley. Some of the information in these newsletters comes from the trio too: Plaskett, Shanley and Bentley. Check it out.

Note: Joyce Peck is a new member of the Historical Society who has volunteered to help provide Trivia questions and "Looking Back in Harwinton History" information for the monthly newsletter. Joyce is an active community volunteer and former local newspaper reporter. Her assistance is greatly appreciated.



From the curators: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

1838 Eliza Barber Bible

A small Bible with the name "Eliza Barber, Harwinton" inscribed inside the front cover has been donated by Frederick W. Miller of Illinois. The copyright date of the Bible is 1838, published by Roby, Kimball, and Merrill, Concord, N.H. The Bible measures 4 3/4 inches long by 2 3/4 inches wide by 1 3/8 inches thick, with a maroon cover. The binding is hand sewn. Although the cover shows wear, it is in pretty good condition. Accompanying the Bible were copies of several pages from the Barber family genealogy. Eliza Barber (born 1826) is a distant cousin of Mr. Miller's. She died in 1850 at age 23 and is buried in Harwinton's North Cemetery.

Collis P. Huntington Article

The Burlington Public Library has passed along an article from the Jan. 29, 1967 Sunday Republican Magazine about Collis P. Huntington titled "The Poor Boy of Harwinton." Thank you to Ann Mazeau, a volunteer at the library, for thinking of us.

Continued on page 6

Recent Acquisitions, continued from page 5

Nancy Drew Story Books

Victoria Elliot has donated two books for use in the one room schoolhouse. Both were published in 1932 and are from the Nancy Drew Mystery Series by author Caroline Keene.

Autograph Book

Several other books from the 1800s have been offered to the curators by Jimmy and Linda Pregno and are under review for acquisition. One is an interesting old autograph book.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in January 2017 only active Harwinton Historical Society members only who do not have an email address will continue to receive the newsletter via US mail.

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

A Bit of Trivia

Trivia Question for November: How many electoral votes are assigned to Connecticut?

Answer to October Trivia Question: The first general farm organization was the Grange, officially referred to as The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry. The Grange is a fraternal organization in the United States that encourages families to band together to promote the economic and political well-being of the community and agriculture. The Grange, founded after the Civil War in 1867, is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group with a national scope. Major accomplishments credited to Grange advocacy include passage of the Granger Laws and the establishment of rural free mail delivery.

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

Also Happening in November

Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. "The Not-So-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife" sponsored by the Harwinton Library Friends at the Harwinton Library. This program is free of charge and is recommended for adults and children ages 12 and up. Please call 860-485-9113 or visit the library to register.