

HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

Mail: PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791

email: harwhistsoc@gmail.com



Officers and members of the Historical Society's Board of Directors, prepare to start their December meeting. Pictured above (clockwise from bottom left) are: David Ryan, Martha Lecko, Michael Orefice, Bruce Burnett, Dennis Andrews, Nancy Lyons, Everett Lyons, Harry Schuh, Carol Kearns, Elaine Sederquist and Bonnie Andrews. The directors meet the last Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Jason Skinner House in the Wintergreen Housing Complex off Bentley Drive. Members of the Society are always welcome to attend these meetings.

Please see page 5 for information about memberships and the annual meeting

OFFICERS – 2020-2021

President: Bonnie Andrews
Vice President: Nancy Lyons
Secretary: Elaine Sederquist
Treasurer: Harry Schuh

DIRECTORS

Term Ends 2020

Michael Orefice
Everett Lyons

Term Ends 2021

Carol Kearns
David Ryan

Term Ends 2022

Bruce Burnett
Martha Lecko

**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT**

Vacancy

CURATOR

Bonnie Andrews
with assistance from
Mary English & Corinne Curtis

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Dennis Andrews

OTHERS

(non-board positions)

HISTORIAN

Roger Plaskett

AUDITOR

Marilyn Mitchell

LEGAL COUNSEL

Patrick Wall

Email:

harwhistsoc@gmail.com

Harwinton Historical Society

PO Box 84
Harwinton, CT 06791

LIST OF UPCOMING PROGRAMS

2020

Transcontinental Railroad – presented by History
Professor Hamish Lutris:

Sunday, January 12 at 2 p.m.
Harwinton Town Hall

Mary Lincoln, From Birth to Death with Civil War Re-
enactor Carol Deleppo:

Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m.
Harwinton Public Library

The Year Without a Summer – presented by
Harwinton Historian Roger Plaskett:

Sunday, March 8 at 2 p.m.
Harwinton Congregational Church

***19th Amendment: A Tale of Suffrage, Sacrifice, and
Success*** - Mariann Millard (Mariann presented the
well-received “First Ladies” program in 2019):

Sunday, April 5 at 2 p.m.
Harwinton Town Hall

The Crate: Reliving the Holocaust - Author Debbie
Levison.

Sunday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m.
Harwinton Public Library

New England’s Other Witch Hunt with State Historian
Walter Woodward

Sunday, October 18 at 2 p.m.
Harwinton Town Hall

***First Ladies: High Tea & High Notions – Champions of
Social Causes*** with Mariann Millard (First Ladies
presenter)

Sunday, November 15 at 2 p.m.
Harwinton Town Hall

**Please forward your program comments and
suggestions to harwhistsoc@gmail.com**

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD:

THE ONE IMMEDIATE VITAL NEED OF THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC

HAMISH LUTRIS

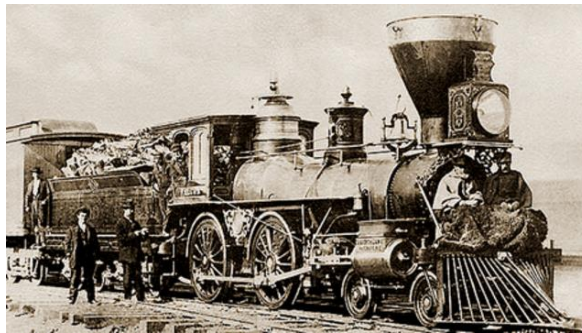
Sunday, January 12, 2020 @ 2 p.m.

Harwinton Town Hall

The transcontinental railroad was considered the greatest engineering and financial feat in the world at the time of its completion. Yet, thousands of bodies marked its route, hundreds went bankrupt on the railroads, and many decried their power and influence. Come learn about the history of the railroad from its beginnings in the United States in the 1820s to May 10, 1869 when the transcontinental railroad was finished. Explore the vast power and influence that railroads exerted over the United States, altering the country's customs and making us a nation of travelers.

Harwinton's own Collis P. Huntington, one of the railroad's Big Four, had a vast influence on our country. The 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad was celebrated in 2019.

Join us as popular presenter, Professor Hamish Lutris, Associate Professor of History, Political Science, and Geography at Capital Community College in Hartford, returns to the Harwinton Historical Society. Professor Lutris has led historical programs and hikes at some of America's premier natural and historical sites. He has lectured extensively in the United States, Europe, and Canada presenting programs on wide-ranging historical topics including Native American history, the Civil War, scientific history, social and cultural history, World War I, World War II, and the American West.



The program is free and open to the public.

From the President's Desk:

As a new year approaches, members of the Harwinton Historical Society can point to some significant achievements in 2019. It seems to me that quite a lot was accomplished. And yet, there is a bit of disappointment. Imagine how much more could be achieved with more participation!

This past year, we were able to purchase and install signs at four of the town's cemeteries. The Harwinton Fair was very successful. The Annual Appeal has seen participation from a great many residents. Children from the Consolidated School visited the First District one-room schoolhouse and barn museum.

"Spirits of Harwinton" returned to South Cemetery in October and visitors were able to meet characters from the past and learn a bit more about the town's heritage.

Throughout the year, a small but loyal group of volunteers maintains the society's artifacts in space rented on the second floor of the Jason Skinner House.

All members of the Historical Society receive copies of the minutes from the monthly Officers and Board of Directors meetings which describes in detail the many activities that are going on.

If each member (an even those who are interested but not members) would volunteer for one activity in the course of a year, the impact would be significant. So, how can you help?

- Volunteer to do one thing to help with the Harwinton Fair (bake, work one shift, set up, prepare items for display, make phone calls)
- Offer to be at the schoolhouse or barn to greet visitors one day during the summer
- Help with the annual Consolidated School Field Trip
- Take photos of HHS activities
- Contribute refreshments for a program
- Participate in the Cemetery Walk
- Join the Program Committee
- Help the Scholarship Committee
- Submit news items to the local media
- Volunteer to take minutes at a board meeting

Bonnie Andrews, president

**HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP FORM (NEW OR RENEWAL)**

The annual meeting of the Harwinton Historical Society will take place on **Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 1 p.m. the Harwinton Senior Center**, 209 Weingart Road. In case of snow, the meeting will be rescheduled.

We will begin with refreshments followed by reports from officers and committees.

Board members will facilitate a discussion of the future of the Historical Society, which will be used to guide actions by the Board of Directors. If you cannot attend but would like your thoughts, ideas or suggestions considered, please submit the in advance to harwhistsoc@gmail.com or to PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791

2020 memberships are due now. Please detach and return the form below.

----- Detach and Return -----

2020 HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name of Member (s) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Providing an email address will help reduce the cost of postage

Please check if a Life Member (no dues required) _____

Amount included (**\$15 per membership**): New ____ Renewal ____

Make checks payable to the Harwinton Historical Society

PLEASE RETURN BY FEBRUARY 15, 2020 TO:

**HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 84
Harwinton, CT 06791**

I would be willing to help _____