



THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INCORPORATED
P.O. BOX 5512 — HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

**THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1999**

HISTORY LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION

Wednesday, April 28, 1999, at 5:30 PM, in the Historical Society's History Library on the 3rd floor of the Miller Memorial Library, 2901 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, across from Town Hall, 5:30-6:30 PM

For those of you who have expressed an interest in seeing this resource but were not able to do so because of its limited hours, and any others, come one come all to this open house at which Society members will show why this Library receives requests from as far away as Oregon and New Mexico. 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be available. For info, call (203) 288-0017.

ANNUAL MEETING AND THE DICKERMAN HOUSE & BARN MAY 15, 1999 105 MT CARMEL AVE (DICKERMAN HOUSE) 11:00

Hamden Historical Society Holds Its Annual Meeting
This Annual Meeting Includes The Election Of Officers

On Saturday, May 15, 1999, at Dickerman House Museum on 105 Mt. Carmel Ave, Hamden
The Society Will Host An Unusual General Meeting Of Its "working board"
Come prepared to work at 9:00 or vote for new officers at 11:00

From 9:00 AM to noon, the Society will host an unique general meeting. It will be our Spring Clean-Up and social hour(s) and general meeting. We need to clean up and make presentable for the summer season the J D House, Dickerman-Talmadge barn and the grounds. Bring your work gloves, rake, shear broom and good spirits. The Society "Stone Men", chronicled in our last newsletter, will again perform the feat of turning random, huge stones into well-planned landscape servants. We promise to do so without any crushed thumbs this time.

Come at 9:00 AM to help or come at 11:00 AM for the meeting and a view of what the Society is doing at the site. There will not be a formal presentation. AT 11:00 AM, the work will cease long enough to hold the biennial election of officers. Refreshments will be served. Do not miss this opportunity to see how your Historical Society really works and to participate in some planning for the new millennium. If any questions, call Al at (203) 288-0017.

THE SOCIETY STORE

Again we remind our established membership and new members and friends about the availability of our book entitled *HAMDEN OUR ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE*. Authored by Martha May Becker & Nancy Davis Sachse, it is available for \$12.00 at 1 Evergreen Ave., Suite 11, (B. Poirier) Hamden, normal business hours. Call 248-8001 to assure availability before traveling to the office.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY AND THE DICKERMAN HOUSE

The structure of the Society's Dickerman and the way it sits on its site must inspire a number of artists. Right now, in the display cases on the wall of the Historical Society Library on the 3rd floor of Miller Memorial, is an exhibit of artistic renderings of one kind or another of that house. Plan to see it when you are in Hamden's main Library at 2901 Dixwell Avenue.

Right after that exhibition was put together, president Al received a contact from Barbara Hogan. It seems that Mrs. Raymond Schwartz commissioned Jean Sieler to paint the house in 1948 for a price of \$60.00. Ms. Sieler was a 1945 graduate of Hamden High and a graduate of the Yale Art School. When done, it hung in the Schwartz home for many years. Thanks to Lt. Col. Raymond Schwartz and Barbara Hogan. Several times lately, members and friends of the Society have jumped in to inform persons with custody of unique items relating to Hamden's history that there is a good home for them. It is essential that all of you continue to be vigilant or too many of these items will be lost.

Accompanying this 1948 painting were 1955 and 1963 New Haven Register articles on the Dickerman House. The 1963 article

shows that a separate new building was once intended to be built at the site for a museum. That never occurred and our new, old barn now sits there. The 1955 article reminds us that the house went well into the 20th century before it acquired modern utilities such as electricity and piped plumbing. Found in the house when it was turned over to the Society back then was one of the gems of our collection, an 1860s Lincoln campaign banner stating:

H A M D E N
RED, WHITE and BLUE
CLUB
THE UNION NOW
AND FOREVER

It is shown being held by Howard W. Dickerman, a descendant of the original owner of the house, and by then Society president Henry S. Kelly. We now know a little more about the Society's history of moving and restoring that house.

JONATHAN DICKERMAN HOUSE

The Stone (aged) Men, whose heroic efforts on the grounds of the Dickerman House were chronicled in our last newsletter, will go at it again. On May 15, 1999, in excellent weather we expect, stone work adjacent to the Dickerman-Talmadge barn and Dickerman house will continue. Any able-bodied men and women who would like to help should call Al at 288-0017. As the other announcement in this newsletter states, even if you cannot help, come anyway and participate in our May general meeting.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The plight of the Rectory School Barn at 2308 Whitney Avenue remains the subject of efforts by Al Gorman and Bill Doheny. We await word as to certain requested estimates for moving it whole or in pieces. We also await word on possible state funding help.

SOCIETY HISTORIAN

The Hamden Chronicle recently profiled Society Historian Martha Becker. Martha was presenting her talk on the history of the Hamden neighborhood of Centerville. Only our Martha can focus on history that local and do it with such appeal and expertise. Some 70 people attended the program at the Miller Memorial Library.

SAID AND DONE 241 YEARS AGO

"At a Regular meeting of the Society of Mount Carmel March the fourteenth AD 1758: held by adjournment Said Society voted that for the future they would warn thire Society meetings in the following manar: namely by beating the drum from Capt Daniel Bradlys house to Elisha Bradlys house: and from Enos (?) house to Mr. Andrew Goodyears house: and proclaim the time and place at both places at Least five days before said meetings." From minutes of the Mt Carmel Congregational Church

We do not plan to go to that extreme to remind YOU, our membership, of the Society's May meeting. But keep open the date of May 15, 1999, at the Jonathan Dickerman House for your attendance at the Society's Annual Meeting. Those of you who live out of state and plan to visit Connecticut at that time, take this opportunity to attend and introduce yourselves.

DICKERMAN HOUSE HERB GARDEN

The Spring Glen Garden Club provides excellent volunteers each year to help Society member Terry Deshy-Longhi maintain the gardens at the J D House. In the Fall of this year, that wonderful group of volunteers will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

They plan to do so at the J D House and we welcome them and wish them well.

JULY 4TH, THE BIKE TOUR

The Historical Society co-sponsors a bike tour from the Dickerman House on Mt Carmel Avenue to the Eli Whitney Museum. It is part of an event to celebrate and showcase the rich history of the Mill River that runs through so much of Hamden. The Dickerman House will be open that day.

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS FOR HOUSE

The Society needs some helpers to sit at the J. Dickerman House on Mt Carmel Avenue on the weekends of July and August, 1999. It can be informative and enjoyable for all who participate. It is opened from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on the weekend. There is a booklet available to answer your questions at the house museum.

Please call Lois at 248-6030 and do so as soon as possible. Lois needs to know who is available so that she can plan. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 5512 - HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518