

THE JONATHAN DICKERMAN HOUSE

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2000

BRIAN POIRIER

Our community was a better place because Brian Poirier lived amongst us. Our Society was vibrant and positive because of Brian's leadership.

"To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better,... This is to have succeeded."

Indeed, in all things Brian succeeded... a respected attorney, a dedicated father, loving husband, eloquent writer, knowledgeable preservationist, historian, and gardener...to mention a few. His life was dedicated to quality and virtue. The Board of Directors of the Hamden Historical Society are saddened by his loss, but he left to us a spirit of purpose, a legacy of accomplishment, and a love of Hamden and its heritage that we can follow. Thank you, Brian.

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**SUMMER UPDATE**

Finished at last! Only the Great Wall of China took longer to construct than the retaining walls flanking the lower level entrance of the Dickerman/Talmage Cider Mill.

Beginning at 8:00AM on a lovely 85 degree Saturday, the Stone aged wall men and women gathered to build the last wall section of this seemingly endless project. We are glad to report that the wall is finished at last. A debt of thanks to stone captain and tractor chief Bill Doheny; his son Will who serves as transporter and assistant tractor driver; Bob Zoni or steadfast carpenter who lugged rocks that day; Terry and John Longhi who worked with boundless energy--John a geologist by profession is a rock lover anyway and Terry, "I just want to drive the tractor"; our new J.D. House and property manager, Joe Pepe who honed his rock wall experience, and Al Gorman helped.

While on the inside of the J.D. House, the cleaning crew of Ginny Zukunft, Lois Casey and Betsy Gorman dusted and shined to make the House ready for our summer opening, July one.

A break in the work provided time for an annual meeting at which, President Al Gorman summarized the Society's activities to date and explained proposed future action for J.D. House maintenance, as well as progress of the Rectory School Barn project. In the afternoon, Lois Casey conducted docent training for this summer's season.

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**SAVE**

October 28th & 29th for the *GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW*.

## GRANT AWARDED

The Society is pleased to announce we were awarded a competitive matching grant-in-aid from the Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund. The Connecticut Historical Commission informed the Society on July 7th it would receive the requested amount of \$12,500.

The matching grant will be used to restore the J.D. House's 3 first floor fireplaces to work in order, to reline the chimney and make the oven usable. The chimney has been capped since the early 1960's when the House was moved from State property to its present location.

Don't expect roaring fires in the summer season, but we need to address the decaying and crumbling brick, fix the flashing and ensure the structural strength of the chimney. As important, this project will add to the authenticity of the 1792 House and maybe allow for hearth cooking demonstrations. This project will go out to bid.

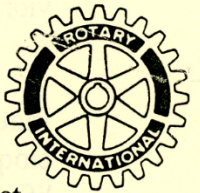
## TOUR

We hope you were able to attend the Mount Carmel Cemetery Tour last May. Our Historian Martha Becker conducted the visit that informed over 50 visitors about our town's heritage using the grave markers as chapter headings. The forty-five minute guided visit stopped at head stones belonging to well known Hamden families, including the Pecks, Dickermans, Chattertons, Doolittles, Tuttle and Bradleys. Our thanks to Martha and to the members who joined us that overcast day. Refreshments were offered by the Society at the conclusion. This activity was part of the Hamden Golden Bells Festival.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF HAMDEN

We are indebted to the Rotary Club for matching up to \$10,000 in our effort to relocate the Rectory School Barn. This project is gaining support; member contributions are still welcome. Thank you, Hamden Rotary.



# NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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