



THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION 2007

Dear Members,

The **Spring Glen Garden Club** extends a cordial invitation to all Society members to attend

A Wake Up Call...A Small Standard Flower Show

Wednesday May 23, 2007 1:00 to 4:00

at the Dickerman House and Cider Mill Barn

Refreshments will be served. No admission fee.

Annual Meeting and Program

On Thursday, May 10th, the Society will hold an election of officers and present *Connecticut Glass and Bottles: Art and History* followed by refreshments. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM in the Senior Social Hall of the Miller Memorial Library/Cultural complex at 2901 Dixwell Avenue. Entry is at the rear of the building which is handicapped accessible; it is free and open to the public. The speakers represent The Museum of CT Glass and the Southern CT Antiques Bottle and Glass Club. Please try to attend. Bring a bottle.

Summer Docent Sign Up

Please plan to help us by acting as a summer docent at the Dickerman House on a Saturday or Sunday, 1 to 4 PM this season. We do have the only and best preserved house museum in Hamden and should be proud to show it, especially with its new roof! Special thanks to Ginny Zukunft, who will coordinate and schedule the openings. Consider which day you can donate to docent and call Ginny at 248-6018.

On the left is Bob Zoni at the beginning of the roofing project. The old roof had been removed and the exposed area covered to prevent water infiltration. Bob worked non-snow days this winter.



AND now...The Pictures

In the Society's Winter Newsletter, the article "Jepp's Brook Mill Site" by Ken Minkema informed the reader about this archaeological site in Hamden, its background, and future plans for designation.



Looking south, the clear remains of a foundation in the foreground and in the back, part of the first dam wall. Jepp's Brook is on the left.



Looking east, remains of the wheel pit with the water race in the foreground.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sherman Avenue, located next to Mount Carmel Congregational Church, was named for Nathaniel Sherman, the church's first pastor, 1768-1770.

Hamden street name signs are artifacts of material culture. They may memorialize and teach, as well as mark a location. Our community has its share of streets, lanes, roads and drives named after trees, flowers, birds, numbers, U.S. Presidents, and of course, a Main Street. But some street names have an historic reference or have been so named for individuals.

We are familiar with the origin of Whitney and Dixwell Avenues which are named after the English regicide judges, but what of Hall, Blake, or Morris? Hall street which is located in Whitneyville was named for Henry Hall who served as a town selectman, state senator, and was president of the Whitneyville Improvement Association for the years, 1907-25. Hamden Hall Country Day school was named for him, and his street runs behind the school. Blake Road, also in Whitneyville off Whitney Avenue, was named after William Blake, a grand nephew of Eli Whitney. Morris Steinent gave his name to Morris Street (between Blake and Augur); he was very active in civic and cultural affairs at the end of the 1880's besides founding the New Haven Symphony Orchestra.

Three streets in Southern Hamden, which run off the east side of Dixwell Avenue, are named Foch, Pershing, and Haig. They were Generals commanding the allied forces during World War I. Each of the streets ends at Marne Street which was the name of a battlefield in France where the German advance was halted in 1918. The Hamden Veterans Commission has been engaged in a project collecting the names of Hamden streets which were named after war heroes. At least 65 Hamden roads have been named after a Hamden veteran who was killed in action.

In the West Woods section of Hamden, there are streets named: Choate, Hotchkiss, Deerfield, Andover, and Exeter; so named by the developer after New England preparatory schools. Another developer, Veggo Larsen, gave Worth Avenue in Centerville its name; he chose it to reflect a feeling of value and wealth like the Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, Florida. He also named Chestnut Lane, off of Mount Carmel Avenue, because the property being developed was next to a chestnut tree grove; today the grove is called Chestnut Plantation at Sleeping Giant and is the responsibility of the CT Agricultural Station. Richard M. Sullivan, as then President of the Veggo Larsen Co., developed the Millpond Village area and named Bromley Court, Stratton Court, and Stowe Court for his love of skiing.

Early Hamden families were honored with streets named after them including: Ives Street after the Ives family whose factory produced brass hardware for the carriage industry, Todd Street after five generations of Todds, Dickerman Street was probably named after Loverett A. Dickerman who was in the CT General Assembly in 1881, Gorham Avenue in the High Plains section so named for the family which was active in church and civic affairs since the area was settled, and Doolittle Lane, a private way, named after the family which was one of the first to settle in Mount Carmel.

The impetus for this article is a school research paper written by Ted Fitzgerald and edited by Town Historian, Martha Becker. The paper with Martha's notes is in the Hamden History Library. We appreciate their research which demonstrates that street signs can serve as guide posts to the past. More than place names, street names can be read as part of our local heritage; they stand as a directional sign to our community's history

Al Gorman

NEWSLETTER

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



What's in a name? School Street runs between Evergreen Avenue and Washington Avenue, so named for the school shown above. The school was used until a new building was built on Dixwell Avenue where Miller Library now resides. Once abandoned, School No. 5 in Centerville was occupied by the Hamden Provision Company.