



HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER WINTER EDITION 2013

Dear Members,

Quiet. It was too quiet. Where was everyone? Saturday morning, the doors were open, and it was quiet. Maybe it was the wrong day? The weather had cooperated: bright, sunny, and 50 degrees, but no crowds, no lines forming at our counter, no bustle of eager, hungry people. Quiet.

We were at our stations: Joan Remy, Sandra Marenholz, Betsy Gorman, John and Marlene Carolla. All were ready to serve. Next to arrive were Amy Nowrocki, Eric Lehman, Kim Casolino, Don Werner, and Kathy Casolino. We were ready! Finally, one, then another stepped forward; then a pair, followed by a small group and more entering the luncheon area, ordering and enjoying the Society's Kitchen fare. It was the right day after all.

Sunday, the show opened at 11:00 AM. Quiet again. Maybe we should be on the Avenue flagging down cars, waving at people to stop, and calling attention to the great menu inside? Again the Kitchen team was ready, focused, and waiting. On the staff were: Betsy Gorman, Barbara Hogan, Louise Brundage, Lois Casey, Nancy Faughnan, Ken Minkema, Don Werner, Bob Zoni, and Betsy Pattison. Slowly but surely, customers arrived, lines formed, people smiled, and all was well.

For all our concern, the slow but steady stream of customers provided a profit to the Society of \$700. This was a very pleasant surprise to all of us. As is so often the case, the generously donated bounty at the "bake table" was pure profit and made a big contribution to our "bottom line." A great big "THANK YOU" to all our helpers.

Al Gorman

In Memoriam

Nancy Davis Sachse, long time member and co-author of our publication, [Hamden: Our Architectural Heritage](#) and the popular, [Born Among the Hills](#).

Ivesville: A Historic Village

Anyone even passingly acquainted with Hamden knows about Eli Whitney's factory and village, portions of which still straddle Whitney Avenue on the extreme southern border of town. But there were other, lesser known early industrial villages of this sort in what was to become Hamden. One was along what is now Ives Street and extending down Broadway in Mt. Carmel. The area, known as "Ivesville," was established by Elam Ives, whose late 18th-century house still stands on the south side of the street beside the Mill River. Ives made a name for himself hauling goods overland during the War of 1812, and afterwards the family, headed by his son James, set up a carriage parts factory. Through the 19th century, this manufacture expanded, until a huge plant stood at the bend of Ives Street and Broadway. Only a small portion is left today, that which survived a huge fire.

An important aspect of Ivesville that has survived is the row of "mechanics" houses along the east side of Broadway, many dating back to the 1830s. These workers' homes make this hamlet unique in this area--a small factory village that presaged the larger complexes later built around the country. It is interesting to point out, with the near completion of Quinnipiac University's new Irish Immigration Museum on Whitney Avenue not far to the north, that many of these "mechanics" were from the Old Sod, and may have originally worked on the Farmington Canal.

For the past couple of years, a team of individuals, composed of members of the Hamden Historical Society, the Hamden Historic Properties Commission, and local residents, have been working--ever so slowly, and against opposition from some town politicians--towards establishing a historic district along Ives Street and Broadway. This would be our town's first such district.

A recent study published by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism shows that historic districts bring many advantages. They increase property values and create a sense of place. They not only help retain the character of an area, but also act as a hedge against commercial and residential creep, factors which are particularly relevant as the Whitney Avenue corridor is under pressure from increasing development and traffic flow.

Members of the Hamden Historical Society are encouraged to support this effort to preserve our town's history in any way they can. Write letters of support, or take part in the historic district committee's work. Ultimately, our town is large enough and varied enough to warrant several districts, which could serve to preserve the past within the present and for the future.

Notes of Interest:

- *** The Ivesville Industrial District has been nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- *** Hamden's former Poor Farm, the 100+ year old barn, acreage, and the farmer's house, located at what is now Brooksvale Park has been nominated for a listing on the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places.
- *** Visit our booth on April 20th, at Hamden's Earth Day celebration at the Hamden Middle School.



Help Wanted!

If you have any Hamden photographs of people (your family), in-town events, sports games, parade pictures, memorial occasions, club or church pictures, or other event photos taken between the 1940's and 2000, and would be willing to donate one or two to the Hamden History Library for possible inclusion in a new Society publication, please contact Al Gorman at 203-288-0017. Check your attic!

NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Pictured below is J. E. Barry. The photo was taken in August, 1937, at his home at 3757 Whitney Avenue. The Greek Revival house was originally built by Amos H. Bradley around 1845.



Joseph Barry was a grocer with a store at 447 Shelton Avenue.