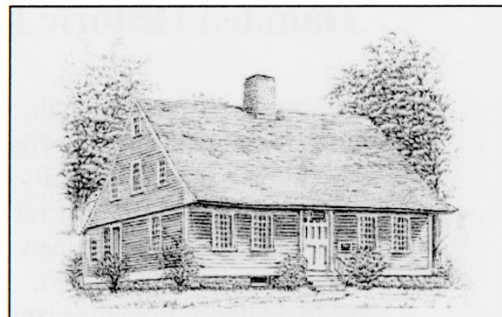


THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017



UPCOMING EVENTS for Spring and Summer 2017

Saturday, June 10 CT Open House Day

Jonathan Dickerman House
105 Mt.Carmel Avenue, Hamden, CT
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Schedule of Special Activities

1:00-4:00 House Tours
1:00-4:00 Old Fashioned Games
1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Punch and Judy puppet show
Enjoy the antics of Punch and Judy; performed by Richard Smith
2:00 and 3:00 Puppet craft
Make your own Punch or Judy puppets

Tuesday, June 27

7:00-8:30 Hamden Senior Center
HE was Actually a SHE: Women Soldiers of the Civil War
Multi-media presentation by Karlee Turner Etter
(See description below)

July 9, 23 and August 13, 27

Sundays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Family Days
Jonathan Dickerman House
Enjoy family and kid-friendly activities

HE Was Actually a SHE on June 27

During the American Civil War, between 400 – 1,000 women disguised themselves as men, “bore arms and served in the ranks” (Mary Livermore). Some scholars estimate that approximately 250 southern women and more than 400 northern women served alongside the men. Eventually, most of the women were found out, but some, such as Sarah Edmonds and Jennie Hodgers managed to keep their true identities a secret.

Ms. Turner-Etter’s multi-media presentation examines the Civil War through the lens of five female soldiers whom defied social convention and reinvented themselves as men in order to “prove [themselves] as good a fighter as any of the gallant men who had taken up arms on behalf of the cause” (Loretta Janeta Velazquez/aka Lt. Harry T. Buford).

Join Hamden Historical Society on June 27 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to discover the untold stories five Victorian women who refused to take NO for an answer and contributed both to the war and to women’s rights.

JD House Facelift

This month, the Jonathan Dickerman House has been undergoing a much-needed facelift: replacing damaged clapboards (woodpeckers were especially active last season), scraping old paint, caulking joints, reglazing windows, and painting the entire exterior. Thanks to Bob Zoni, who is working on clapboard patches (see the light-colored areas in the photo below, which will be painted), and to Erik Hurd and his crew for everything else. This time around, the color is going to a slightly deeper red, lending the venerable home even more gravitas than usual, so we encourage members to visit this summer to see the results. Funds for this project were provided in part by generous contributions made in memory of our past president Al Gorman. Thank you to our caring members!



Still Standing!

As of the publication of this newsletter, the T & T (Todd and Toll) Houses on Whitney Avenue are still standing. Over the past year, Quinnipiac University has been systematically tearing down approximately a dozen structures, many of them on the state historic registry; however, efforts by the Hamden Historical Society and the Hamden Historic Properties Commission, aided by nearly a thousand people who signed petitions demanding a halt to this madness, have succeeded in staying the wrecking ball for these two houses—the Orin Todd House, built in 1815, and the Cheshire Turnpike Tollhouse, built c. 1800. Earlier this month, staff members of the State Historic Preservation Office in Hartford met with representatives of QU to save the structures. Because they are on the National Registry of Historic Places, they have special status and are protected under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. Happily, QU has agreed to hold off on demolition, and must supply a sixty-day notice of intent to demolish, answerable to the state's office of the attorney general. Those driving by have noticed that the ugly phosphorescent address numbers have been painted over—a good sign—and we are waiting for news from the mayor's office that the demolition permits have been pulled. What remains is for an evaluation team to be permitted inside the houses to assess ways they might be restored and repurposed. Thank you to all HHS members who have helped in this ongoing effort!



Coming Soon!
Hamden Historical Society and WQUN presents:

Regularly scheduled Radio Spots about Hamden's history; possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Hamden's Poor House
Women's Seminary
Firsts in Town
Old Laws and Ordinances
The Farmington Canal
Toll Keepers' House
What children Did
Personal journals

Stay tuned for additional information in the **Fall Newsletter**.

NEWSLETTER
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