



SHELTON HISTORY CENTER C H R O N I C L E



Spring 2011

Help Survey Shelton's Historic Barns May 4

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation is thrilled about one of its on-going projects: a comprehensive survey of the state's historic barns! We hope you will help us with this exciting project.

Shelton History Center will co-sponsoring an informational program with the "Trust" on **Wednesday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the Plumb Memorial Library, 65 Wooster Street, Shelton.**

Todd Levine, Director of Historic Barns of Connecticut for the Trust, is inviting volunteers who will help identify the location of the barns in their respective towns and/or perform windshield surveys (a windshield survey is simply taking a photograph of a barn and noting the address, usually from the safety of a car, thus the name).

The 4th target area is eastern Fairfield County and the Valley and includes Monroe, Trumbull, Bridgeport, Shelton, Stratford, Seymour, Ansonia, Derby, and Beacon Falls. Please join us at a presentation and workshop. Refreshments will be provided.



They will give a brief presentation on the history of the barn in CT and then teach you how to categorize barns by the type, use and construction technique. The resource identification workshop will involve noting the approximate locations of the barns to be surveyed. Then the Trust personnel will divide up the towns into manageable areas for the survey groups to survey.

After a team (which consists of at least 2 volunteers) has been assigned to an area, it will have 4 weeks to survey the area and input the data into the database, found at www.connecticutbarns.org. The database will be the foundation for a statewide historic resource inventory, which will give barns in certain towns some level of protection. Currently, barns have almost no protections. Survey information will be used as the basis of State Register and National Register of Historic Places nominations.

The workshop will include data entry instruction, photography tips, standard vocabulary and safety issues. Volunteers will be given a map of their designated area, a letter of purpose of the project to give/show to wary barn owners (explaining the program), a sample volunteer timesheet (required by the state), a booklet with pictures and vocabulary, a letter of commitment to sign and a tutorial on how to enter the info into the website database.

If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, please RSVP by email to barns@cttrust.org or call at 203-562-6312.

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From the President

—Marty Coughlin

Welcome to spring as cold as it has been. Each year when spring arrives, the Shelton Historical Society invites you to renew your membership, and by now you should have received your letter and renewal form. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to us. We need your support so we can fulfill the Society's key functions: educating Shelton's children about the history of our community and preserving the history of our community. Plans are underway for our annual car show held every Father's Day. Since 2011 is the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, you shouldn't miss our Civil War reenactment in September. We are looking to expand our adult education mission with additional speakers throughout the year. These events will be highlighted in our newsletters and information will be found on our enhanced web site: www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org. And if you haven't been to the History Center, please stop by and hear about and see how your membership dollars are being used. Currently we're documenting our clothing collection and implementing our furnishings plan.



Teaching American History

—Carolyn Ivanoff



We were fortunate to have been asked to participate in a Teaching American History Grant program with Shelton, Trumbull, and New Haven schools. The role of Shelton History Center was to introduce our material culture collections that highlight the first half of the 20th century to educators who are registered to participate.

On April 13, 2011, the Shelton History Center provided a professional development for 35 teachers from districts in Fairfield and New Haven Counties under this Teaching American History Grant program. This three year Federal grant program was awarded under the leadership of Shelton Public Schools in partnership with Yale University, Gilder Lehrman Center, and Sacred Heart University and provides teaching and learning opportunities for teachers in American History. The grant is titled Democratic Vistas and the focus of study for this year is

1900-1945, encompassing the World Wars and the Great Depression. For more information about this program, please visit www.therblig.com/vista/events.htm.

The staff of the History Center provided teachers with an outstanding field experience opportunity that took teachers behind the scenes to a rich period in our history before the First World War. Teachers experienced a Connecticut farmhouse in 1913 through objects, documents and highlights in our local history from fields to factories. The Shelton Historical Society provides a unique experience in Connecticut and New England with its interpretation of this period. The second field experience for the teachers attending the grant will be the FDR Library and Museum in Hyde Park so the Society is in elite historical company for this program. The response to this teacher education program was overwhelmingly positive and endorsed by attendees. Behind the scenes activities for teachers highlighted the History Center school programs, included exploring all of the buildings at the history center, participating in activities that helped provide authentic field experiences for the time period from farm to factory and pins to pianos.

The History Center staff modeled a variety of effective teaching strategies that teachers could bring back to their classroom and provided teachers with an array of high quality teaching materials. Each attendee received a binder prepared by the History Center full of information and applications for the classroom, two of the History Center's award winning publications, and various materials relevant to the period of study. Evaluations from attendees documented the professional quality of our programming and the knowledge and professionalism of our staff. Overwhelmingly, participants felt that the Shelton Historical society was a local history jewel and the only complaint was the weather. Even our awesome History Center staff cannot control that! Instead, since our ancestors did not have the luxury of central heating and neither did the program, we provided an authentic, valuable professional development experience for teachers from many different districts in two counties.



BULLETIN

A Page to Save



From the Director: Good to Know

This is general information regarding operations at Shelton History Center.
Please refer to this as you become reacquainted with everything we do!

Contact Information: The Shelton Historical Society staff consists of a director (Tracey Tate), a librarian (Ellen Kolesk), and a curator (Deborah Rossi), all of whom work in the office part time, generally Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. We welcome volunteers on these days to help with clerical and other duties. The best way to reach us is still by phone, so please call (203) 925-1803. We are not always at our desks, however, so leave a message. Use the following email address, but know that it is not always the fastest method of communication: shcdirector@gmail.com.

Please visit our web site, which is a work in progress, but we try to post events and activities in a timely manner: www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org. We have ideas for exciting and interesting content that we hope to add this year. (Oh, if only we could fit all of our ideas into our days!)

To save postage, we plan to send announcements and newsletters via email. To take advantage of this method of communication, please send an email to sheltonhistorynewsletter@gmail.com. (This address is used only for adding email addresses. Email addresses are not shared.)

Buildings and Grounds: We have spent some time in 2010 organizing the contents of all the buildings at Shelton History Center. These are the c. 1822 Brownson House, the 19th century Wilson Barn, the 1872 Trap Fall School, two small outbuildings, and the Carriage Barn, built in 2007 to house horse-drawn vehicles. With some collection materials or supplies in each structure, this is no small accomplishment.

The apartment in the Brownson house is in need of some repairs and upgrades, which will be accomplished this year.

Programs and Events: Librarian Ellen Kolesk continues to facilitate monthly book discussions on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., held at the Huntington Branch Library. All are welcome.

Hundreds of students visit Shelton History Center each spring and fall to learn about our community's past. *We need help to deliver these programs!* You are guaranteed to learn about Shelton's history and might even have fun presenting to our audience. Likewise, people are needed so that we can open our doors to visitors on the weekends. Interested? Please see Tracey.

In 2011, the summer children's enrichment program, Adventures in History, will take place August 8-12. Check the web site soon for forms and information.

Our Vintage Vehicles Antique & Classic Car Show is scheduled for Father's Day, June 19 and be sure to come to the Civil War Living History event on September 10. Again, check the website for information or entry forms. *(Continued on next page)*

Wish List

These donations always help!

Drop them off in the office or in the tub by the office door.

- Tall kitchen trash bags, paper towels
- New crosscut paper shredder
- Old fashioned cloth diapers for cleaning
- Galvanized tubs, buckets, old or new, rusty or not!
- 36" tension rods (need 8)
- Fels Naptha soap bars
- Potting soil mix
- 2" peat pots, no hole in bottom
- Jumbo craft sticks
- 1/4 cord of firewood, delivered (call first), we'll stack
- Library style book ends
- a Viewmaster

SHELTON READING CIRCLE

Meet the first Tuesday
of each month from
7-8:30pm at the:
Huntington Branch
Library
41 Church St
Shelton CT, 06484
(203) 926-0111

It's free and open to
the public. In general, books tend to have an historical
theme. Consider joining us!
May 10: People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks



(Continued)

Grants and Funding: Several of our projects are funded by grants. Two huge projects that are in the works now are the reinterpretation of the Dining Room to evoke the pre-World War I time period, and the textile collection assessment and the formation of a procedural guide to handling our material culture collections. Smaller grants are helping with costs for the educational and volunteer programs as well as repairs to the buildings and preservation supplies for the print and paper collection. Writing grants for projects large and small is a constant activity in the office.

Volunteers contributed approximately 1,300 hours of assistance in 2010, but those are just for hours that people remembered to record. Some of our volunteers are “shy” about recording their time, so this is a low estimate. We are grateful.

Thank you to those who have supported Shelton Historical Society financially either through Annual Appeal donations, membership, volunteering, or other gifts. Please know that we do a lot with a little and times are difficult for everyone, especially non-profits. (We’d love to work more to bring additional plans to fruition.) Think of us often!

Calendar of Events

May

- 3-31—9:30-11:30—School groups visit
- 4— 6:00 p.m. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation barn survey informational meeting at Plumb Memorial Library (see page 1)
- 10—Shelton Reading Circle
- 14—9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m. Olde Ripton Garden Club plant sale at the Huntington Congregation Church parking lot
- 17—Board meeting

SAVE THE DATES:

- Aug. 8-12 *Adventures in History*
- Sept. 10 *Civil War Living History*

June

- 7, 9—9:30-11:30—School groups visit
- 11—11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.—Connecticut Open House Day and book signing (1:00-3:00 p.m.) by Mary Ruth Shields, author of *Naugatuck Valley Textile Industry*
Free Admission
- 14—Shelton Reading Circle
- 19—10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Vintage Vehicles Antique & Classic Car Show (see page 5)
- 21—Board meeting



Join Our Gang!

Membership in the Shelton Historical Society

Your financial support through membership in our organization is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a member to support our missions and programs, please send completed form with a check payable to Shelton Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 2155, Shelton CT 06484

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

New Membership: _____ Renewal Membership: _____

Corporate Membership: \$100.00 _____ Family Membership: \$30.00 _____ (Number in family _____) Individual: \$20.00 _____

If you would like to help Shelton Historical Society save postage costs and trees by receiving notices and newsletters via email, please send an email to sheltonhistorynewsletter@gmail.com.
(This address is used only for adding email addresses. Email addresses are not shared.)

Would you like to know about our volunteer opportunities? _____
Ask your company about their matching program and submit the information to us to match your
Membership and other contributions.

Shelton Historical Society is a 501© 3 Non-profit organization

Vintage Vehicles Antique and Classic Car Show

Sunday, June 19, 2011



It's become a tradition!
Spend Father's Day with Dad strolling down memory lane while you peek under the hoods of a variety of cars of his youth and yours at the Shelton Historical Society's

Vintage Vehicles Antique & Classic Car Show.

at Shelton History Center, 70 Ripton Rd.

A wide variety of classic old vehicles of all kinds come out of their garages to park for a day on the grass under the shade for all to see.

Vote for your favorite vehicles in five categories.

To enter your own Vintage Vehicle for 2011

Spend your Father's Day with us showing off your car at: Shelton History Center 70 Ripton Rd.
1/2 mile north of the Huntington Green

Register your car for a day of fun, prizes, and camaraderie with your fellow car enthusiasts.

To pre-register please make check payable to Shelton Historical Society, Inc. for \$8.00 per car and send to:

Shelton Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 2155
Shelton CT 06484

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
Email:	_____
Phone:	_____
Year/Make/ Model:	_____
Year/Make/ Model:	_____
Have you participated in the past year?	_____



Adventures in History

August 8 — 12, 2011

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Boys and Girls 7 –12 years old.

To find out more information please visit our website at:

www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org

or

Call us at (203) 925-1803

Shelton Historical Society

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*To study the flow of common
life is to discover the electricity
of history.*

- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Please visit our Website:
www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org



Congratulations to Alex Oppel for his recent accomplishment: earning the Eagle Rank in Boy Scouts of America. Alex chose to complete a most difficult project at the Shelton History Center, one that has been needed since the Wilson Barn was restored in the 90's. He excavated and regraded the area along the foundation of the barn and built a retaining wall at the entrance of the lower (gift shop) level. Thank you, Alex!

Shelton High School has instituted a policy of community service for all students starting with the class of 2014. We would like to thank Casey, Matt, Ian, Lenni, and MaryAnn for volunteering some of their time to us during the 2010-11 school year. You know who you are!

Thanks to all board members and volunteers who raked, swept, gardened, weeded, vacuumed, washed windows, stacked wood, and climbed ladders on Saturday, April 2 as we freshened the Shelton History Center for the spring and summer season. It was the first SUNNY day of the spring and your help was appreciated.