The Shelton Historical Society is proud to announce that it has just received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut League of History Organizations for its interpretation of the Brownson House on the grounds of Shelton History Center. The public is invited to celebrate on Saturday, June 9, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. during Connecticut Open House Day. The Connecticut League of History Organizations presents Awards of Merit to institutions and individuals who demonstrate the highest of professional standards, and who enhance and further the understanding of Connecticut history. The purpose of the Awards of Merit is to recognize the care, thought and effort invested in these contributions and to inspire and encourage others by acknowledging exceptional contributions to state and local history.

Although the house was built c. 1822, it has been furnished to demonstrate how a middle-class farm family coped with the rapidly changing society of the early 1900’s. The 1913 interpretation of the historic house was inspired by the discovery of a ledger that detailed the family’s every expense and all income during 1913-14. It revealed activities that took place in the community, how business was transacted by local farm families, and travel undertaken by the Brownsons for entertainment and business purposes.

Connecticut Open House Day is an annual event scheduled the second Saturday of June, where cultural organizations and tourism attractions throughout the state open their doors to Connecticut residents, inviting them to discover – and rediscover – Connecticut’s fascinating world of art, history, film and tourism with a variety of special visitor incentives.

The unique one-day event is part of a broad state initiative that began in 2005 and is coordinated by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism (www.CTvisit.com).

Shelton Historical Society personnel will be available to give tours and answer questions during CT Open House Day. Members of the Teen Time Travelers, the youth group associated with the historical society, will teach games to young visitors and compare their school with the Trap Fall School on the grounds of Shelton History Center. Share some celebratory refreshments, too!
From the Archives: The Brownson Collection

— Ellen Kolesk, Librarian

Would you agree that this year, perhaps more than ever, we were eager for warm weather and summer to arrive? So, what was the Brownson family doing during the month of June? A look into the diary that Gertrude Brownson kept gives some idea of what life was like for her family in June of 1942.

Her family’s life revolved around the weather as it dictated the activities for the day. So, most entries began with a commentary on the weather:

“Felt miserable – cloudy and chilly”
“Another nasty day”
“The sun shone and it seemed so good.”

Rain or shine, the Brownsons were very active at home on their farm and in the community. During the day, “Harry set tomatoes & missing cabbage” or “spent all day mowing out the peonas, hoed cobblers (potatoes), set bean poles & planted lima beans & some corn.”

Gertrude picked and canned more strawberries than you can imagine. When she wasn’t canning, Gertrude was baking. “Baked bread pies & cookies & a loaf of raised cake” all in one day not to mention “3 batches of cupcakes for the wedding.”

June is traditionally a month for weddings and Gertrude recorded three. When Marcia Kaddeland walked down the aisle “we trimmed the Parish House & Church with daisies, Maiden hair fern – white peonas & syringa – It was all lovely & the supper was good chicken salad, rolls, cupcakes. Ice Cream, Coffee & punch – They were all pleased with our hard work. Daisy gave us a check for $75.”

The Brownsons were always busy with family and friends. People stopped in for supper almost every other day. On one occasion, “spaghetti, meatballs & waffles” were served. But, there was still time to attend evening meetings. “In the Eve went to Canteen Class at Derby High School had supper of beef loaf, scalloped pot., cabbage salad, coffee, biscuit & fruit cups for $.25. It was nice. 40 of us to eat.” Then there was the canning demonstration at the Congregational Parish House, Red Cross meetings, and an outing to the Sperry & Barnes kitchen at their plant in New Haven. This all after a day of buying groceries, washing, ironing, collecting rents, and “watering the cows.”

Only one entry for the month mentions, “We were both so tired have done little as possible all day.” Those were the days when you could buy a bull calf for $4.00, throw a wedding for $75, enjoy an evening playing rummy with friends, and admit to being tired once in a while.

From the Director: Housekeeping

— Tracey Tate, Director

Hope everyone has finally recovered from that late winter that lasted through spring and the local storms that blew trees down all around us. Whew! Our historic house suffered from seeping water in the basement office that had us mopping for days after that May 15 storm.

The good news is that we as an organization have been rewarded with an Award of Merit from the CT League of History Organizations for the 1913 interpretation of the Brownson House. What a wonderful way to end a 20 year endeavor — we didn’t realize that all the baby steps we’ve taken toward that goal took us that long! From securing climate control in the storage area to assessing collections to procuring very special wallpaper for the front parlor, the end result is gratifying for all staff and volunteers who concentrated on the goal. Through what we know about the family who lived here in 1913 we are able to focus on the history of our entire community and tell those stories to our visitors. For example, as Ellen specifically mentions the Brownsons in the story above, we know that they were a reflection of many other farm families in town who were canning and cooking and tending to their work. As we tend to our work at the History Center, we thank our members and the community for their constant support.
BULLETIN
A Page to Save

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT Open House Day</td>
<td>Happy Holiday!</td>
<td>Adventures in History</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-4:00</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9:00-12:00</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>House Open to the public for tours</td>
<td>for children 7-12</td>
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<td>Shelton Reading Circle</td>
<td>Teen Time Travelers will be making ice cream for a social!</td>
<td>(see website for info)</td>
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<td>6:30-8:00 at Huntington Branch Library</td>
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<td>Teen Time Travelers</td>
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<td>Teen Time Travelers</td>
<td>Shelton Reading Circle</td>
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<td>4:30-6:00</td>
<td>6:30-8:00 at Huntington Branch Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Shelton Reading Circle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vintage Vehicles</td>
<td>Teen Time Travelers</td>
<td>6:30-8:00 at Huntington Branch Library</td>
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<td>10:00-2:00</td>
<td>4:30-6:00</td>
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<td>(see last page)</td>
<td>Teen Time Travelers</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>House Open to the public for tours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection Committee</td>
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Looking ahead: September 29 “Celebrations” Tea

Wish List
These donations always help!

TWO Legal-size filing cabinets (Our vertical file material is jam-packed with information from the past, all catalogued for modern use. With many people keeping files digitally now, perhaps someone has a few cabinets available.)

Is anybody willing to do laundry for us once a month? We use sheets and cleaning rags on a regular basis.

Snacks for Teen Time Travelers who meet on Fridays.

Meet the second Tuesday of each month from 6–8:00 pm 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! Call Ellen at 203-925-1803 for more information.
Memos from Membership

Hello Members!

Thank you all for your continued support of the Shelton Historical Society by renewing your 2018 membership.

We enjoy seeing our members at our programs and events and out about in the community. It means so much to us to have you be part of SHS. **Be proud of being a member** of this successful community organization. Your membership helps us with our mission of education, historic preservation, and to continue to provide programs for our members and the public.

Forget to send in your renewal? No problem! You may have recently received our renewal letter and form in the mail. We don’t want to lose you. Please continue your membership with us by mailing it in today.

We are also proud to note that many of our members are not only first generation families, but second, and in some cases, third generational family members. We are happy to see the growth of our organization through its members; those who continue to join us year after year and new members who are starting a tradition of supporting an important community resource as the SHS.

See you at our next event, CT Open House Day. Stop in and support CT History right in Shelton!

In thanks and friendship,

Cheryl Dziubina
Membership Committee

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Join Our Gang!

Membership in the Shelton Historical Society

Your financial support through membership is 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:_______

Business Membership: $100.00____ Family Membership:$30.00____ (Number in family____) Individual:$20.00_____

Volunteers help us attain our goals in many different ways. Interested?

_____ Special events  _____ Collection  _____ Buildings/Grounds  _____ Clerical/computer

_____ Education/tours  _____ Membership  _____ Refreshments  _____ Publicity/communications

Shelton Historical Society is a 501© 3 Non-profit organization
Notes from the Underground
— Deborah Rossi, Curator

The War Games of August 1912 were mostly likely the largest ever held on the East Coast. The Red Army was the foreign invader attempting to take over New York City and its water supply. The Blue Army marched into Shelton on August 10 to defend the bridges across the Housatonic River.

We recently received a donation of ten black and white photographs of the Blue Army in downtown Shelton. Here is a selection from this recent donation.

Above: The iron Viaduct Bridge stretched over the railroad, canal and Canal Street from its construction in 1888 until it was replaced in 1973 with the concrete bridge that is there to this day.

Below: The boys are talking to the soldier in front of the Thomas J. Finn saloon at 55 Bridge Street.

Someone with a sense of humor captioned this “The Toils of War.”
Shelton Historical Society
70 Ripton Rd.
P.O. Box 2155
Shelton, CT 06484
203-925-1803
shcdirector@gmail.com
www.sheltonhistoricalsociety.org

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

- Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Like us on Facebook!

Vintage Vehicles
Antique & Classic Car Show

SUNDAY, JUNE 17
Father’s Day
10:00-2:00

Refreshments, tours, special features. Vote for your favorites!

Fun for the Family
Visitors: A dollar for Dads, $5.00 admission or $10/family (4)

Proceeds benefit programs of Shelton Historical Society.

Be there or be square!