

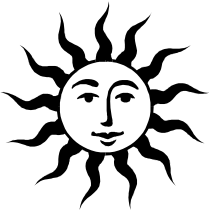


# MANSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 41, No. 4

July 2005

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Thanks to all of you who donated funds to our publications matching grant appeal; we now need only \$800.00 more to secure the \$5,000 offered by our kind anonymous donor. Another request form is included in this Newsletter. Please donate if you have not already done so. The goal well within reach!

Two very successful events were held this spring by the Society – the Museum Opening on May 22 and the bus trip to Historic Deerfield on June 7. The Museum Opening was well attended and included an interesting demonstration of flint knapping and some Native American tools by Brian Jones and Erik Smith of PAST, Inc. Our Museum Committee and Director, Ann Galonska, are to be commended for all their hard work in mounting this year's displays. I also want to thank the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the Connecticut Archaeology Center for their generous loan of artifacts and their assistance with the exhibit, "Ancient Peoples of the Mansfield Area." We hope that this will be the first of other such cooperative efforts. If you were unable to attend the Opening, the exhibits will be on view through the end of September; you can see them on Thursday or Sunday afternoons from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Plan to visit!

Our trip to Deerfield was a pleasant and informative excursion during the first heat wave of the season. Thank goodness for air-conditioning! The trip included tours of some of the historic homes and the Flynt Center of Early New England Life as well as a delicious meal at the Deerfield Inn. We thank Len Seeber and Ann Galonska for arranging this delightful trip.

A nominating committee, chaired by Joan Gerdson, and including Joan Quarto, Tim Quinn, and Isabelle Atwood has begun its work to fill vacancies on the board for next year. The annual meeting and dinner are tentatively planned for September 9. Stay tuned - details and reservation forms will be in the next newsletter.

Jim and Poppy Whitaker will be moving out of town this summer. They have been such stalwart members of the Society that we want to thank them by hosting an ice-cream social in their honor on Sunday, July 17. This event will give everyone a chance to say goodbye to the Whitakers while enjoying ice cream, courtesy of the UConn Dairy Bar, and a variety of yummy toppings. We hope to see you there!

*Jody Newmyer, President*

## **JOIN US FOR AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN HONOR OF JIM AND POPPY WHITAKER Sunday, July 17, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

Jim and Poppy Whitaker have been active members of the Historical Society since 1968. For many years Poppy was Chair of the Acquisitions and Collection Management Committee, charged with the care of our collections. Jim served as Treasurer of the Society from 1987 – 90 and was a long-time member of the Finance Committee. Both have been actively involved with the Museum Committee for over 25 years and have been responsible for innumerable exhibits.

The Whitakers are moving to Maryland in July to be closer to family members. We will certainly miss them but wish them well in their new home. They are delighted to have a chance to say good-bye to their many Historical Society friends. Please come for an enjoyable afternoon and help us give the Whitakers a proper send-off!



## A VERY SUCCESSFUL MUSEUM OPENING!



The museum officially opened for the season on May 22 – a damp and chilly day – but that didn't deter our visitors. About 75 people came to view the new exhibits and see the interesting demonstrations of Native American technologies. Brian Jones and Eric Smith of the Public Archaeology Survey Team (PAST, Inc.) demonstrated flint knapping and explained the process of making a variety of stone tools. They also showed how to use the pump drill and bow drill and how to produce fire. A roaring campfire would have felt good that day, but alas, with the dampness, only smoke could be produced. We thank Brian and Eric for their fascinating and informative program!

All and all, it was a wonderful kick-off for our summer season! Many thanks to everyone who helped at the event and to the many people who provided refreshments.

*Ann Galonska, Museum Director*

### **It takes many hands to prepare the exhibits and operate the museum each year. WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:**

- Lisa Ferriere, Joann Goodwin, Susan Spack, Joyce Passmore, Meghan Connelly, Doreen Philpotts, Marty Yutzey, Isabelle Atwood and Ann Galonska who prepared this year's exhibits. This year it was truly a collaborative effort with every one pitching in wherever needed.
- The Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center for loaning artifacts and working with us on the exhibit about Mansfield's ancient peoples. We especially want to thank Cheri Collins for her assistance in preparing the text and identifying and dating the artifacts.
- Anthony Philpotts for identifying the materials used for the stone tools and providing information on geology and weathering for the "Ancient Peoples" and "18<sup>th</sup> Century Gravestones" exhibits.
- David and Marty Yutzey, Charles Pelletier, Ruth Moynihan and Isabelle Atwood for loaning artifacts for the exhibits.

- Alice Kolega who organized refreshments for the Museum Opening and our many members who baked the delicious "goodies".
- Isabelle Atwood who has spent many hours recruiting our hosts and hostesses; also the many people who volunteered to host.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL ON A JOB WELL DONE!**

### **RECALLING STORRS OF THE 1930s & 40s**

*Excerpts of notes written by James Whitaker based on his conversation with Albert I. Mann, October 25, 1983*

Albert I. (Al) and Roberta (Bert) Mann came to Storrs in 1930 from Litchfield County where he had been in the extension service. He became the extension dairy specialist at the Connecticut Agricultural College which boasted about 450 students at the time. With a salary of under \$2,500, they first looked in Willimantic for an affordable rent. However, in the end, they were fortunate enough to obtain half of a double house on Gilbert Road for \$45 per month. Rents for single houses on campus ran from \$75 to \$85 per month.

The president's home was located on Faculty Row (the road parallel to Mirror Lake), just south of Whitney Road. Presidents living there during the thirties included Works, McCracken and Jorgensen. Three other very large houses were located north of Whitney Road, the first of which was occupied by retired president Charles Beach until his death.

The first house on Whitney Road was occupied by Miss Edwina Whitney and her collection of several cats. Other residents on Whitney included the A. J. Brundages, Henry Dorseys, Daniel Nobles and Dewey Steeles.

On the north side of Gilbert Road it was Marion Dakin and A. I. Mann, Albert Waugh and Leonard Riccio, Robert Johnson. The south side included Stanley Owens, George Saul, Russell Decoursey, Nathan Whetten, Walter Landauer, Jerauld Manter, Howard Rollins and Roy Guyer.

The Jobey Lampsons lived on Faculty Row south of the president's home. Continuing south were houses occupied by Roy Jones, William Cheney, Albert Wilkenson, Walter Kulp, David

Warner, Sherman Hollister and Ralph Gilman. Doctor Gilman served the students as well as conducting a private practice. This list of residents of Whitney, Gilbert and Faculty Row included a large proportion of the college staff at the time.

The area to the southwest of Gilbert Road was divided into garden plots and there was a great competition to have the first peas in the spring and other gardening firsts throughout the season. There was considerable socializing and just as later, some liked an after dinner drink, other declined; some liked to play bridge and others didn't. Football in the fall and baseball in the spring were but a short walk away and everyone went. Dances with live orchestras were held in the community house of the Storrs Congregational Church. Bert Mann held dance classes and many Storrs children benefited from her instruction.

The Men's Faculty Club was active in the 30s with regular monthly meetings. Quarters for the club were located in the top floor of the Beach Tower, where a pool table and a ping pong table were available. The Women's Club of Storrs was also active with monthly meetings held in the community house.

Three faculty tennis courts located where the former Phil's Store now stands were crowded every weekday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Marcel

Kessel and Wendell Cook were the star faculty players.

The only store in Storrs during the thirties and forties was Beebe's on the west side of 195 along the lake. After Mr. Beebe, the store was operated by Mr. Gillette, the Elges, and finally by John Fitts. A free delivery service was operated in all kinds of weather and groceries were sold "on the cuff", a privilege that a number of people took advantage of and ran up large bills that some never paid. Shopping for other than groceries required a trip to Willimantic.

About 1935 a rule was introduced that limited the stay in college housing to seven years. The result was that many of the above mentioned families living on Faculty Row and Whitney and Gilbert Roads built homes on Willowbrook Road and in other areas near campus.

**IN MEMORIAM** - We are sad to report the loss of another long-time member of the Historical Society – Hugh Hamill. Hugh had been a member of the Society since 1966. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Mansfield Center Historic District and was a strong advocate for historical preservation. We will certainly miss him and offer our condolences to his family and friends.

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## MANSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MATCHING GRANT APPEAL

A generous anonymous donor has offered The Mansfield Historical Society a \$5,000 grant in support of the Society's publishing efforts . . . IF the Membership matches it. We have three monographs in progress that we hope to publish soon: a revision of *Listen to the Echoes* about the early history of Spring Hill; a new book about Mansfield's silk industry; and a new monograph about Shubael Conant, an important figure in Mansfield's early history. Covering the cost of these publications, in addition to our on-going expenses, is critical if we are to protect our endowment. **We are only \$800 short of matching the Publications grant – Please help us reach this important goal!**

**YES, I WISH TO MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT OF \_\_\_\_\_ IN SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY'S PUBLISHING EFFORTS.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to  
The Mansfield Historical Society, and  
mail it and this form to:

Mansfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 145  
Storrs, CT 06268

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED  
TO OUR PUBLICATIONS FUND**

Arthur S. Abramson  
Ray and Carol Anselment  
Adrian & Janet Atkins  
Isabelle Atwood  
Curt & Ina Ruth Beck  
Beverly & Harry Beckwith  
Honey & Harry Birkenruth  
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John & Patty Tanaka  
Mary E. Thatcher  
Helene & Murray Wachman  
Sidney & Florence Waxman  
Frank Wemple  
Jim & Poppy Whitaker  
Keith Wilson & Marjorie Hayes  
Marilyn Wilson

**REMINDER - Isabelle Atwood will be calling members to recruit hosts/hostesses to man the museum on our open days. Please say YES! We can't have the museum open without your help.**

**Mansfield Historical Society  
P. O. Box 145  
Storrs, CT 06268-0145**

**Web site: [www.mansfield-history.org](http://www.mansfield-history.org)  
E-mail: [mansfield.historical@snet.net](mailto:mansfield.historical@snet.net)**

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**The Museum is open Thursday & Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30, through the end of September**

