



PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL

NEWSLETTER

2014



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - EVERYONE WELCOME

**Meetings are held at the Plainfield Community Services Complex
482 Norwich Road, Plainfield CT unless otherwise noted. A brief business meeting is held prior to each program.**

FALL PROGRAMS

Jeanne Alexander, Program Chairman

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Plainfield Historical Society
P.O. Box 104
Central Village, CT 06332
Visit us at
www.plainfieldhistory.org

The Plainfield Historical Society newsletter is published each Spring and Fall. Newsletter Committee: Marge Hoskin, Ruth Bergeron, Laura Moorehead (Angell House Design.)

Wednesday, September 24 • 7 pm

Tavern Signs: Advertising and Art in Early America

Tavern and inn signs, treasured today as folk art, were originally eye-catching advertisements for food, lodging, entertainment and a place to meet. From the Colonial period through the pre-Civil War years, countless thousands of signs hung from buildings, posts, and trees alerting travelers to the dining and lodging accommodations available at local taverns and inns.

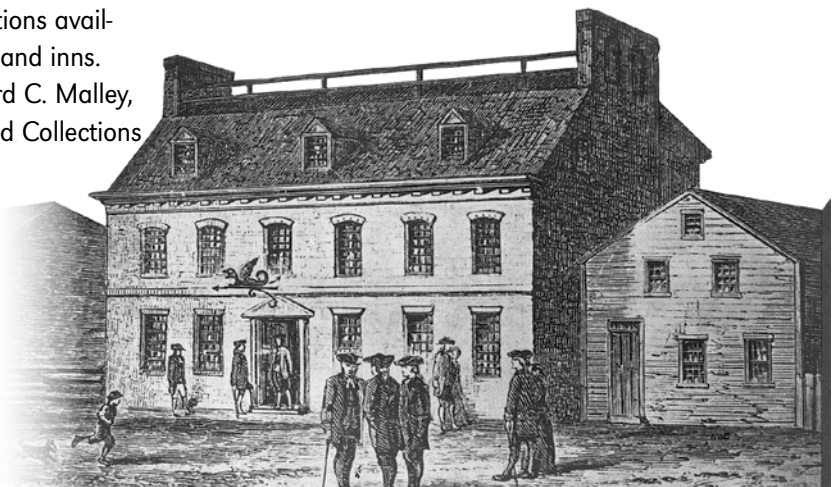
Join us as Richard C. Malley, Head of Research and Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society, explores this topic, using the Connecticut society's incomparable collection of tavern and inn signs

Sunday, October 5 • 1 pm

"A Walk through Lawton Village"

Join Plainfield Historical Society President Ruth Bergeron for a one-mile walk through history. Meet at Plainfield Town Hall. Info: 860-564-8561. For more Walktober walks and events, visit TheLastGreenValley.org.

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PROGRAMS

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Wednesday, October 29, • 7 pm

Women of the Civil War

Come meet a group of women who are doctors, nurses, soldiers, spies and those who kept the home fires burning during the Civil War. Featured will be Louisa May Alcott, author of "Little Women," whose 1863 "Hospital Sketches" depicts an Army Nurse's true account of her experiences during the Civil War. This illustrated lecture will be presented by Beverly York, Education Director of the Windham Textile & History Museum

Wednesday, December 3 • 7 pm

The Connecticut State Police Museum and Educational Center

Learn about the history of our Connecticut State Police established in 1903 which today comprises more than 1400 troopers and support personnel. The museum in Meriden is operated by the State Police Academy Alumni Association and holds a collection of artifacts, including photographs, vintage motorcycles, early uniforms and lots of paperwork, even a copy of a ticket given to baseball star Babe Ruth. A spirited talk will be given by Jerry Longo, CSP Sergeant (Ret,) who is Historian and Museum Chairman.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015 • 7 pm

Annual Show & Tell Program

Bring an item or story and have an enjoyable and often surprising mid-winter meeting

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CANCELLATIONS

In the event of inclement weather, call 860-564-8561 for cancellation information.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since our last newsletter, we have been very active. At a well-attended annual meeting in May, members elected the 2014-2015 officers and board members listed in this issue. Our speaker was Walter F. Cwynar, Chairman of the Plainfield Conservation Commission.

At the request of the local DAR, Deborah Avery Putnam Chapter, we presented information about "The History of Plainfield." The meeting was held in the Plainfield History Room.

August found us at Plainfield Pride Day. The subject of our display, "The Lawton Mills," drew many interested visitors and comments. We met people we would not have otherwise encountered and shared some history.

The Central Village branch of The Jewell City Savings Bank requested assistance from the society in obtaining historical photos for the new building's interior. At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the bank presented a \$500 donation to the society. We have also provided photos copied from our collection for the new interior décor at Colonial Health and Rehabilitation Center in Plainfield village.

At Canterbury Old Home Day, September 13, we happily repeated our Plainfield Pride Day display. We have been involved with Griswold/Jewett City's bicentennial planning as a consultant.

We are again participating in The Last Green Valley's Walktober. Our October 5 event is "A Walk Through Lawton Village."

Many questions come to the society in different ways. Our website and e-mail address make us accessible to more people. Most questions are about buildings, bridges, cemeteries, people, genealogy, and past events.

Genealogical inquiries are often referred to the Killingly Historical Center in Danielson; however, we also use Town Clerk records, our history "Plainfield Transformed," the town's historical resource surveys, and "The Journal" newspapers on micro-film in the Town Clerk's vault to provide the answers.

Board member Merry Humphrey has undertaken the needed improvement of the overflowing subject files in the vault. She is adding new sub categories to aid in searches. And we are planning to update our website with Laura Moorehead as Webmaster.

Our postcard /fundraiser committee meets monthly. To raise funds for the project, we have produced souvenir tea towels representing the four villages.

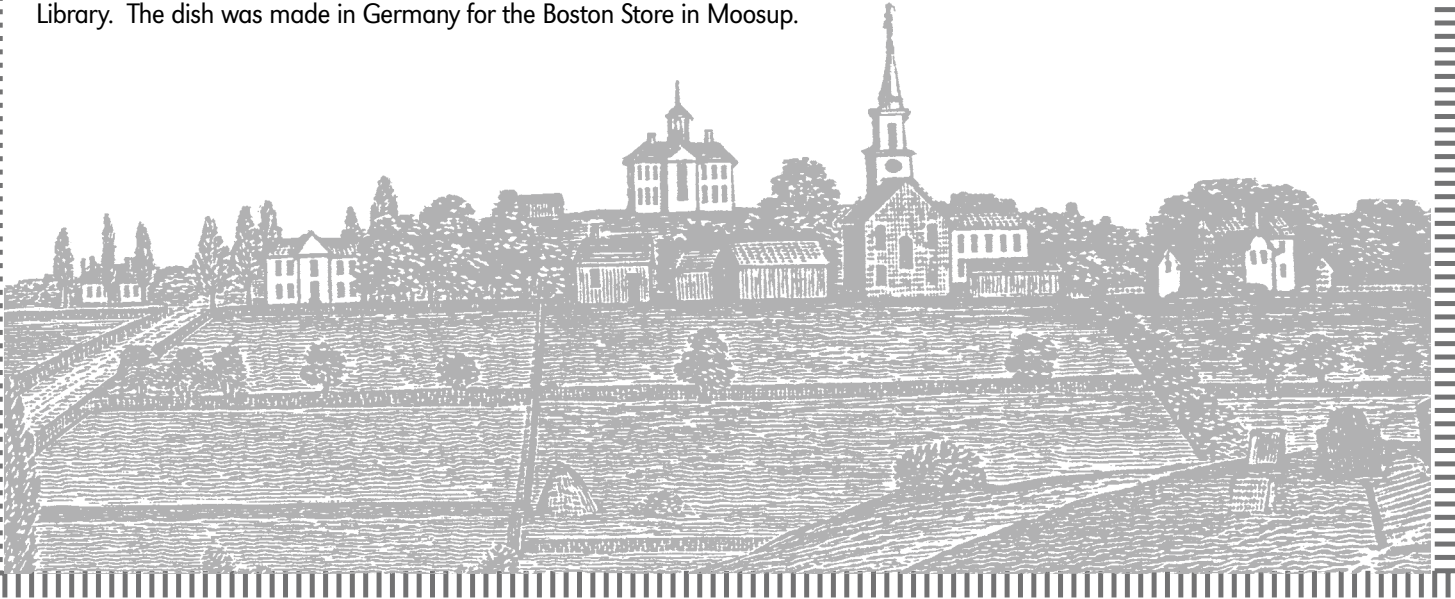
We are constantly making history for today's events are future history. We are privileged to preserve as much as possible. In some cases, as in the recently demolished Barber block in Central Village, while we cannot save the building, we can save the story, artifacts and photos. A representative of the Connecticut State Office of Historic Preservation on a site visit agreed that the Barber building could not be saved even though it is part of a National Historic Register District.

Ruth Bergeron
President

PLAINFIELD HISTORY ROOM

Located in the recreation-seniors complex, the History Room is operated by the Plainfield Historical Society, the officially designated Town Historian. The hours are 2-4 pm Fridays or by appointment.

The site provides a convenient meeting place for those who seek information about the town's history and for donating photographs, ephemera, etc. to the historical society's collection. Visitors have come from as far away as Georgia. Recent donations include: a map of Plainfield's conservation land, photos of the interior of the Lawton Mill showing workers, a 1986 photo of American Standard employees, a commemorative Plainfield High School plate and a small dish depicting the Aldrich Free Public Library. The dish was made in Germany for the Boston Store in Moosup.



PERFECT GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Copies of "Images of Plainfield" (2007) are available at the Town Clerk's Office, Recreation Department, Aldrich Public Library and Plainfield Shell Station (Mark Andstrom,) Copies are \$19.99 each; or \$30 by mail (call 860-564-8493.)

Village Tea Towels \$10.99 each. Member Rachel Holmes came up with the idea and is handling production activities. The Plainfield towel depicts a typical New England Church, Central Village (once the town's 'trolley central'), a trolley, Moosup, a train engine and Wauregan, a bucolic scene with red barn and outbuildings (call 860-564-8561.)



WHO'S WHO • PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013-2014

Board of Directors:

- Ruth Bergeron - President
- Rosalie Laskarzewski-Vice President
- Arthur Nicol- Treasurer
- Dan Ditullio- Secretary
- Janet Bouley- Assistant Secretary
- Jeanne Alexander - Program
- Connie Hadfield - Youth History Education
- Madeleine Krecidlo - Membership
- Marilyn Labbe - Research
- Meredith Humphrey - Collections & Archives
- Barbara Stankiewicz - Hospitality
- Mary Ann Gregory
- Advisor: Marge Hoskin - Publicity

PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join or renew your membership, complete the form below, or bring your dues to the meeting. The new membership year began May 1st.

Individual \$10.00 Household \$15.00 Life \$150.00

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Are you interested in working on a Committee? Special project?

Which one? _____

Please return form to: Plainfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 104, Central Village, CT 06332.

Checks should be made payable to: Plainfield Historical Society.

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