



MANSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 53, No. 2

September 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are enjoying a long stretch of beautiful late summer days as August turns into September and the cool nights tells us that fall is on the way. The Mansfield Historical Society museum opening was on June 4, 2017 and was very well attended. One of the exhibits celebrated one hundred years of Boy Scouts in Mansfield; Troop 56 Scoutmaster Louanne Cooley and I (Assistant Scoutmaster) put together the exhibit with the able assistance of Ann Galonska. On opening day, tents, backpacks and other scout camping equipment from the 1960's through the present day were set up in front of the museum. Current Mansfield scouts and former scouts were present for a photo that represented the decades from the 1950's through the present day (see below).

World War I was memorialized in a second exhibit and the final exhibit was on the archaeological investigations of the former Farwell House site. The exhibits will be on view through Sunday, October 1st.

The final report for the Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (HPTAG) has been accepted and the Mansfield Historical Society has received the final grant payment. The HPTAG project has provided the Town and Society with a road map for the future to preserve the historic buildings that house the Society and its collections.

Unfortunately it is not possible to initiate any repair projects at this time.

Due to the stalemate over the state budget, grant opportunities are currently limited. It is also unclear how much Mansfield's town budget will be impacted by the impending reduction in state aid to municipalities. Mansfield is also in the process of seeking a new Town Manager. As these issues are resolved, we look forward to again partnering with the Town in applying for grants and moving forward with the needed repairs.

(Continued on the next page)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.: ANNUAL MEETING - DINNER AND PROGRAM

Performing artist **Tom Callinan**, Connecticut's first official State Troubadour, will present "Thumb's Up for Connecticut! Songs, Stories & Tunes from Connecticut's Past & Present." This event will be held at the First Church of Christ (Congregational) in Mansfield Center (549 Storrs Road). Reservation forms for the dinner are included in this newsletter.

(President's Corner continued)

Lisa Ferriere has resigned as chair of the Acquisitions Committee after fourteen years on the executive council. We thank her for her many years of service on the board and are pleased that she will continue to help with the collections.

This will be my final President's Corner column, since I have been President of the Mansfield Historical Society for five years. I am happy to report that Vice President David Landry will move to the President's position and I know MHS will be in good hands.

I would like to thank all the current and former board members, and volunteers that I have had the privilege to work with over the last five years. Thanks go to Museum Director Ann Galonska for her work in organizing exhibits each year and for all her work on the HPTAG project. A complete listing of volunteer acknowledgements for 2017 may be found later in this newsletter.

Please join us on Friday, October 6th at our annual meeting and dinner at the First Congregational Church in Mansfield Center. Tom Callinan will present a musical program of historic songs. In 1991, Tom was selected to be the first Official State Troubadour by the Connecticut General assembly and many know him as far back as the 1970's, with the group "The Morgans".

It is the time of year once again for membership renewals. Please spread the word to people you know that are interested in history and may want to become members of MHS. You can email us with their contact information and we will send them a membership form.

What skills and interests can you bring to MHS? There is always a need for volunteers to help out on committees or to do other tasks. It is the volunteers that make sure that the history of Mansfield is preserved and shared. Should you have any suggestions for the Historical Society and its museum, please contact us via mail, phone (860-429-6575) or e-mail (mansfield.historical@snet.net).

Keith Wilson, President

**COME ONE, COME ALL!
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING ON OCTOBER 6**

Our annual dinner meeting will be held on Friday, October 6, at the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Mansfield Center (intersection of Rtes. 89 and 195).

We hope you will join us for an evening of fine food and entertainment. Following dinner and a brief business meeting, Tom Callinan will regale us with a

program of diverse songs from Connecticut's past and present. He will draw upon his extensive repertoire of folksongs, sea chanteys, popular songs and tunes from a variety of times and places, as well as his own original compositions.



Tom Callinan

1995. Annually he presents several hundred performances for tens of thousands of people, spanning nursery schools through nursing homes.

He is well-known for his entertaining and informative narrative style that engages his audiences with catchy choruses, interesting anecdotes, and an assortment of musical instruments. Prepare to have fun!

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE DINNER. Please send in the enclosed reservation form or call the museum (860-429-6575) by **September 29** to reserve your spot.

Those who wish to attend the PROGRAM ONLY should arrive by 7:30 p.m. There will be an admission fee at the door of \$4.00 for MHS members and students or \$5.00/non-members for those who are not attending the dinner.

**THERE'S STILL TIME! THE MUSEUM IS
OPEN THROUGH OCTOBER 1**

If you have not already done so, we urge you to visit the museum before it closes for the season on Sunday, October 1. The museum and library are open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. There are three interesting new exhibits to see.

The front room of the museum features an exhibit celebrating the centennial of scouting in

Mansfield. It showcases the history, activities and service projects of the local Boy Scout troops over the past 100 years. Many thanks to our president and Troop 56 Assistant Scoutmaster Keith Wilson and Scoutmaster Louanne Cooley for preparing this interesting exhibit. It has proved to be quite a draw this summer, attracting many families of both current and past Boy Scouts.



***Troop 56 Scoutmaster and Guest Curator
Louanne Cooley***

The second exhibit commemorates the centennial of World War I. “Mansfield during the Great War” explores the effects of the war on the local community as well as the contributions of its citizens and the Connecticut Agricultural College to the war effort.

This exhibit was first presented in 2007 and was redesigned and augmented this year by museum director Ann Galonska and student intern Craig Nakatsuka. Many thanks also to Anne Greineder, Jaime Lang-Rodean, Mary Feathers and George Waller who assisted in updating and restaging the store display to reflect the World War I era. We also appreciated Dick Roberts’ work in researching the military records of various soldiers.

The third exhibit focuses on the circa 1750 Farwell house, now gone, and the archaeological investigations of its site. It also includes information on the Farwell/Jacobson Barn, now on the National Register of Historic Places. This exhibit was a collaborative project of the Mansfield Historical Society and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Many artifacts discovered during the KAST archaeology field schools from 2004-2016 are on loan from the Connecticut Archaeology Center.

The display was arranged by Ann Galonska and Craig Nakatsuka. We are especially grateful to State Archaeologist Brian Jones and archaeologist Ross Harper for their help in interpreting the artifacts.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THIS YEAR’S EXHIBITS!

We also wish to thank the following individuals and organizations who loaned photographs, artifacts and memorabilia for the exhibits:

Scouting Exhibit: Dick Roberts, Dave Correll, Frances Woody, Quentin Kessel, Tom Sorrell, Ryan Dunstan, Eric & Jacki Reynolds, Peter Drzewiecki, Shawn Shook Kornegay, Marietta Johnson, Phil Monty, Toby and Jennie Talbot, Louanne Cooley, Keith Wilson, Troop 56 Archive, and Nathan Hale Heritage Center, Camp June Norcross Webster.

World War I Exhibit: Allan Crane, Marc Kronisch, and Keith Wilson.

Farwell House/Archaeology Exhibit: Connecticut Archaeology Center, Brian Jones, Ross and Quinn Harper, Daniel Allie, and Mary Feathers.

In other news, Ann Galonska presented programs on Mansfield’s early silk industry to the third graders at Annie Vinton Elementary School on June 13 and at the Windham Textile and History Museum on June 17. This again required raising silkworms and they were an extra attraction at the museum during June into July.

The timing of these programs on the heels of the museum opening necessitated ordering live silkworms rather than hatching them from eggs. Extras were ordered to allow for die-off during shipping. However, unbeknownst to us, the supplier also included extras. Over 100 silkworms were received and all survived. Keeping them well-fed with mulberry leaves became quite a challenge!

Fortunately the burden of feeding the silkworms was somewhat eased when 45 of them were given away to people attending the program in Willimantic. That left about 60 to feed until they made their cocoons. However the prospect of later dealing with 60 mating moths was daunting. Stifling the cocoons seemed to be a better option.

Stifling is an unfortunate but necessary part of the silk-making process. If the silkworm’s life cycle were to continue, the larva would metamorphose into a pupa and then into a moth. The emerging moth would break the continuous fiber that composes its cocoon, thus making the cocoon impossible to reel (unwind). In the silk industry, most cocoons are stifled to prevent the development of moths. Only a small percentage are preserved to produce the next generation of silkworms.

The stifling process was easier (and less smelly) than anticipated. The cocoons were baked at

180° for 40 minutes to kill the pupae within. Then the process was repeated over a series of days to completely dry the cocoons' contents.

The stifled cocoons were given to Peggy Church, a local spinner and weaver. She had adopted 30 of the silkworms following the Willimantic program with the intention of reeling their cocoons. She was glad to receive more cocoons! **She will demonstrate the silk reeling process at the Atwood Farm on Saturday, October 14, noon - 4:00 p.m., during Joshua's Trust's "Apple Cider Pressing" event.** Stop by to see how silk cocoons are hand-reeled, just as they were some 200 years ago during the heyday of Mansfield's home silk industry.

Over the past few months, the museum has also received some outstanding additions to its collections. Althea Stadler's collection of women's hats and bonnets was given to the museum by her daughter, Christine McCarthy. The collection includes 48 hats, spanning from the 1870s through the 1960s, as well as numerous hatpins, fashion plates and additional resource materials. Some of you may recall the beautiful exhibit of hats and bonnets that Althea curated back in 2001. Many of those hats are included in this collection. Many thanks to Lisa Ferriere who has assisted in cataloging this large collection.

Harold Storrs has also donated a handsome Staffordshire wash basin and pitcher, circa 1820s - 1830s, along with a stenciled washstand upon which to display them. The wash basin and pitcher feature a pink and green transfer pattern of bucolic and classical scenes. The set belonged to a member of the Rosebrooks family and will join other Rosebrooks artifacts in our collection.

Local artist Annie Wandell has also given us a set of 13 small wooden buildings that she had made as gifts for her mother Francelia Butler. Twelve of the buildings are replicas of the historic homes and mill in Mansfield Hollow where her mother lived. There is also a replica of the Barrows and Burnham Store in Mansfield Center.

We are very pleased to add all these items to our collection. It is largely through such generous gifts that our collection continues to grow.

Ann Galonska, Museum Director

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Richard Schimmelpfeng, our librarian of over 30 years and long-time board member, passed away last March. A Richard Schimmelpfeng Memorial Fund has been established to support the future growth and development of the library and archives. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.

To build upon the work of Richard Schimmelpfeng, the MHS Executive Council voted at its January meeting to contract with Daniel Allie, who was already volunteering in our archives. He has been tasked with migrating the library/archives records from the current card system into a new database. He reports on his progress below.

Since the time of the last newsletter, I have made great progress in cataloging items in the library's digital database, both in adding new material and in recording collections that had not yet received searchable records. Now, in addition to the book and pamphlet holdings, I have recorded the entire scrapbook, diary, and account book collections, as well as added new entries to each.

The book collection, once I had entered its existing holdings, grew extensively—from 519 recorded volumes to a current and growing number of 660. In this process, I have located many missing items and discovered even more that had never been recorded in any way, so that in only a few months, our little library has both become considerably easier to use, and grown considerably.

Yet, much remains to be done—I have only recently begun cataloging our vast manuscript files. Check back in this space for further updates in the future. Or, better yet, come out to the museum and see for yourself!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

If you have not paid your 2017 dues, please respond to the second dues notice recently mailed. Dues notices for the 2018 year will go out near the end of October. If you have questions as to the status of your membership, please contact Pam Roberts, drpampt@gmail.com or call/text 860-428-2406.

We count on your annual renewals and thank all of you who are dues paying members. YOU make the work we do to preserve and celebrate the history of Mansfield and its residents possible.

The 2018 membership form will again include a member's interest survey and list of volunteer opportunities. Please fill it out and return it with your dues payment. As Membership Chair I wish to engage you in ways your varied interests, skills and expertise can benefit the Society.

If you wish to find out more about joining the Mansfield Historical Society, be in touch with Pam or visit the Museum on Saturdays and Sundays in September to pick up a membership form. Thank you for your interest.

Pamela Roberts, Membership Chairperson

LOCAL LORE AND ROAD NAMES

The names of many of Mansfield's early road refer to their route to a village or to a local landmark (i.e.: Gurleyville Road, Ravine Road, etc.). Then there are other roads where the origin of their names are much less obvious. Puddin Lane and Dog Lane are two such examples.

The October 1973 issue of the Mansfield Historical Society Newsletter included an article by Grace and Willis Homer that relates the story behind the name of Puddin Lane.

"We heard the following anecdote when we bought a lot on Puddin Lane in 1932. At that time some people called it Pleasant Valley Extension while others called it Puddin Lane. Judge Llewellyn Storrs [Mansfield's Judge of Probate, 1900-1937, and Town Clerk, 1922-1938] explained the origin of the name Puddin Lane as follows.

When he was a little boy, his grandmother told him this story that she had been told by her parents when she was a little girl.

Back in the late 1700s there were two main roads in Mansfield, both running North and South. To go from one to the other, people had to go down to Windham or up to what is now known as the Storrs area. So, some people in the south end of Mansfield got together for a road making bee to make a road that would go from the East bank of the Natchaug River to the road that went from Windham to Mansfield City.



A day was chosen and the men worked on the new road while the women prepared dinner. One of the foods was a large kettle of Indian Puddin (spelled as pronounced) which was corn meal that was cooked over an open wood fire. The kettle was hung over the fire on a three legged tripod. There were, of course, a large number of children present. One of them, a boy, tripped over one leg of the tripod and the whole thing, kettle and contents, spilled over him. He was quite badly burned as the pudding was boiling. After the road was finished, no name was given to it, but whenever anyone spoke of the new road, they identified it as the road "where the boy was burned by the Indian Puddin." Gradually it became known as "Puddin Lane" and Puddin was spelled as it was pronounced then – dropping the g."

The January 1993 issue of the MHS newsletter included an article about the history of Dog Lane,

researched and written by Theora J. Whetten. In it, she offers some speculations on how Dog Lane got its name. An abridged version is reproduced below. It has been slightly edited and updated as needed.

In the Mansfield Land Records, Volume 11, pages 204-205, 29th day of November, 1787, it is recorded: "*TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, Greetings. Know ye that I, JAMES ROYSE of Mansfield in the county of Windham and the state of Connecticut in the consideration of the necessity and convenience of an open and public highway starting from Spring Hill Road [now Route 195] near my dwelling to the house of Solomon Royse in said Mansfield – do hereby give, grant and confirm unto Experience Storrs, Esq. of said Mansfield and to the rest of the inhabitants and heirs of Mansfield, and to all the good subjects of this, and the United States of America, for the use of a public highway forever, the strip of land herein described, viz:*

"Beginning on the East side of Spring Hill Road above 16 rods northerly of my said house in the South line of Joseph Dimocks land, thence the line runs E. 42 degrees N. 130 rods and 18 links to a stake and stones in said Dimocks line, thence E. 16 degrees S. 16 rods N 20 links to stones, thence E. 35 degrees N 35 rods to a stake and stones, etc."

On September 19, 1809, 22 years after James Royse gave the road to the town, Samuel Royse sold the land along the road to Samuel Sanford (MLR Vol. 15, p. 452) but the deed does not mention the name of the road as Dog Lane. On July 26, 1832, 45 years after the road was given to the town, a sale of land by Samuel Sanford of Boston, to John Hunt of Boston, describes the parcel as "*the land was sold at the corner junction of Turnpike road and Dog Lane so called*", (MLR Vol. 22, p. 199). The buyer paid \$1500. This is the earliest reference to the name Dog Lane that I can find. From 1832 on there are many references to land bought and sold, bounded on one side or the other by "*Dog Lane so called*".

It is not known how the Lane got its name. Miss Edwina Whitney was born in September 1868, 81 years after James Royse gave the road to the people, and it had been called Dog Lane 26 years before she was born. There are several theories – one, credited to Miss Whitney, is her story of driving her family's cows down the Lane every morning and bringing them home every evening. The nearby families kept horses down the Lane and as the children took the animals back and forth they would stop at the "Dog's Grave" at the top of the hill. The dog must have been a great pet because his grave had been well-marked many years before Edwina and the cows went down the Lane. Another theory is that the

Lane is more or less the shape of a dog's leg. [A sharp bend in a road is often called a "dogleg".] The Lane is 230 years old and has been named Dog Lane for the last 185 years.

By 1938 the Lane had been abandoned for many years and was not passable for any type of vehicle. It was filled with boulders and trees with 6 to 8 inch diameter trunks were growing in the middle. The lower end was a swampy area. The Whettens and a few other families purchased land along the old road desiring to build there. However there was no way for construction equipment to reach the sites. They hired Ann Rapport to search through the old records in the Town Hall to find out who owned the Lane. She found that at a selectman's meeting when Dog Lane had been brought up, the subject had been tabled and never resumed. Therefore the Town still owned the road.

The Town agreed to make the road passable but the Whettens and the Dowds couldn't wait. They made their own arrangements to clear a way for the construction equipment. Eventually the Town improved the road but for several years it was a dirt road.

In the late 1960s, a committee was appointed by the Town to study the names of roads. Some had never had names and name changes were considered for others. At a Town meeting the committee chairman proposed that Dog Lane be re-named Black Birch Road because "no one wants a road named after a dog and there are some nice black birches on the lane." A tall lanky forestry professor (Ed Wyman) jumped up and for about three minutes gave an oration about "Who is more faithful to man than his dog? Who is man's best friends? etc., etc." When it was time to vote there was only one small "yes" and a resounding "NO"!

MEMORIES OF THE DOG LANE SCHOOL

In September 1890, Susan and John Dunham of Tolland sold "a piece of land on the north side of the highway known as Dog Lane" to the fourth district for a schoolhouse. They were paid \$50 for it. The Dog Lane School served the Storrs community until 1930 when the new Storrs Grammar School opened (now the Audrey Beck Municipal Center). In 1993 Harold W. Weigold and his sister Miriam Barlow each wrote down their memories of attending the one-room school on Dog Lane. Below are a few excerpts.

Harold Weigold: "I started school in September 1926 at the one-room school that was located on Dog Lane... This one room school was a primary school for the first three grades for children in the Storrs area plus

the kids living in the Mansfield Four Corners area and children that lived on North Eagleville Road out to what is now known as Club House Road. Some children that lived on Route 195 down as far as the Town Hall on Spring Hill also attended the school. The children that attended the Dog Lane school were children of people connected with the College. The other children in the Spring Hill area went to school at the Mansfield Hollow school or the Spring Hill school. Most children walked to school except those that lived at Mansfield Four Corners [who came by bus].

Our house was on Hanks Hill Road just a short distance in from Rte. 195. We walked back and forth to school cutting through the farm lots belonging to William Farrell and onto the college property. The Warrens and Nichols also walked cross lots.

The school wasn't very large. There was a wood shed attached to the east side of the building. There were also two outhouses in the rear of the school. There was a front door with a large step stone in front of the door. There was also an entrance through the wood shed.

In the front of the room there was a platform, one step above the rest of the floor, where the teacher's desk was located – I suppose so the teacher could see the students better. There was a stove on the right side of the platform. I can remember the teacher making cocoa on the stove so we could have something hot to drink at lunch time...

...Quite a few children came from families that didn't have much income. There were also some children from families that had recently come to this country and whose parents didn't speak much English. There were also children whose parents were college faculty members who were better off financially."



Dog Lane School

Miriam (Weigold) Barlow: "The one-room Primary School on Dog Lane held Grades 1-3, when I became a first grader in 1927. The school was a white frame clapboarded building with a small ell that was a combination coatroom and woodshed. You could enter the schoolroom through the front door or the ell. The

front door had a large flagstone step with a woven metal mat to clean off the dirt from our shoes.

The schoolyard wasn't large – under a half acre it seemed. Just west of the left boundary was an open area which extended to the state road and contained some wild flowers including wood betony. Behind the school were outhouses, as the only indoor plumbing the school contained was a tiny sink in one corner that had a cold water tap. In the opposite front corner was the big round wood-burning stove. On very cold days the teacher gathered us together at the front of the room and read to us while the stove warmed things up a bit...

All the desks were attached to the floor – smaller ones on the right side. One hoped to graduate to a larger one that had a top which lifted up to get at the storage space inside.

... At recess the teacher came out with us and often we played such games as "Go in and out the Window" or "Here We Go Looby Loo." I thought they were fine. We sang with these games too. At lunch time we usually played what we organized ourselves: "Hilly Over," which involved throwing the ball over the roof of the ell, and "Steal the Capitol" were the favorites. Girls might also have hopscotch marked out on the bare ground, or play "Jacks" on the stone step...

... One event that was much looked forward to was the picnic at the end of the school year in June. We took our lunches and walked down the main road less than a half-mile to the South Eagleville Road. On that road a few hundred yards in was a collection of boulders good for climbing on called Eagleville Rocks. It was as exciting as going forty miles to the shore or to some state park would be now."

MUSEUM HOSTS ARE STILL NEEDED

Could you host at the Museum, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., on the following dates? It's a great chance to spend time with the exhibits before the Museum closes for the season on October 1.

Sunday, September 17

Saturday, September 23

Saturday, September 31

Sunday, September 24

Sunday, October 1

Instructions are clear and museum director Ann Galonska will be onsite to answer any questions that come up. Please call Pam Roberts (860-428-2406) to sign up OR go to: <http://www.mansfieldct-history.org> and click on Host/Hostesses tab in the upper right of the menu bar. Follow the instructions for signing up.

RESERVATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER Friday, October 6, 2017

Please reserve _____ places for dinner. Enclosed is a check made out to "Mansfield Historical Society" in the amount of \$_____ at \$18.00 per person. (The amount includes the \$4.00 admission fee to the program.)

Entrée Choice: Salmon_____ or Vegetable Lasagna_____

The meal also includes appetizers, salad, side dishes, bread and dessert.

Name(s): _____

Phone #: _____ **Email:** _____

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

Please send your reservation form and check to Mansfield Historical Society, PO Box 145, Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268.

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

Web site: www.mansfieldct-history.org
E-mail: mansfield.historical@snet.net

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REMEMBER: October 6 – Annual Dinner Meeting & Program Dinner Reservation Deadline – Sept. 29

We want to recognize the following people who helped make this year's museum season a success. And a special THANK YOU to Pam Roberts who coordinated the volunteers.

- **The “Cleaning Brigade” who spiffed up the museum prior to the opening:** Anne Greineder, Jamie Lang-Rodean, George Waller, Dick and Pam Roberts.
- **Those who provided refreshments for the opening event:** Pam Roberts, Donna Clouette, Carol McMillan, Nancy Rucker, Betty Savage, Joan DeBella, Sheila Clark and Ann Galonska. **And also these brave souls who baked “goodies” using authentic World War I recipes:** Jane Reinhardt, Nancy Rucker, Mary Feathers and Anne Greineder.
- **Those who provided coverage at the refreshment table or within the museum during the opening:** Mary Feathers, Anne Greineder, Nancy Rucker, Sheila Clark, Pam and Dick Roberts,
- **Those who assisted with set-up and break-down for the opening:** Keith Wilson, Dick and Pam Roberts, Nancy Rucker, Scott and Ryan Dunstan.
- **Our museum hosts (to date):** Donna Clouette, Helen Collins, Louanne Cooley, Mary Feathers, Anne Greineder, Keith and Marietta Johnson, Carey Jordan, Alice Kolega, David Landry, Pam and Dick Roberts, Cynara Stites, and Keith Wilson.
- **Members of the Garden Gate Club** for their work in maintaining our garden and landscape plantings.

Please forgive us if anyone was overlooked. We appreciate all our volunteers!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!