



The Thompson Historical Society Newsletter

www.thompsonhistorical.org

Spring 2001

Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendar now so that you will be able to attend and support the following events scheduled by your Thompson Historical Society:

Thurs., April 5: Meeting of the Membership

A presentation by Joe Iamartino, Society Vice President of his 100 Favorite Photos of Thompson from the recent photo archiving / CD project. At the Old Town Hall, 7 PM

Sat., April 21: Patriot's Day in Thompson

Celebrate Thompson's role in the American Revolutionary War. Re-enactors will be on the Thompson Common all day long. A great time for family and friends.....

Wed., April 25: THS Board of Directors Meeting

7 PM - Ellen Larned Memorial Library, Thompson Hill

Thurs., May 3: Meeting of the Membership

"Man in the Net" - a movie filmed in Thompson, CT. The Old Town Hall, 7 PM

Thursday, June 7: Annual Meeting of the Society

This meeting will be held at the new home of Rob & Sue Vincent, 112 County Home Rd. (Rt. 21). Picnic at 6 PM; Meeting at 7 PM.



The Ellen Larned Memorial Library on Thompson Hill

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• Nominating Committee:

Sue Vincent has volunteered to serve as chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the 2001—2002 year. All officers as well as Board of Directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting on June 7, 2001.

If you have a suggestion, contact Sue Vincent, Jeff Barske and /or Lucille Barrette from the nominating committee.

Museum Shop

The Museum Shop continues to be a major emphasis for the Society and has become an excellent source of revenue. Chaired by Valentine Iamartino, the Museum Shop has a very active committee.

The Volunteer Staffing Committee is chaired by Helen Flood and has staffed the shop the first Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm, and 10am to 4pm on Patriots Day. If you'd like assist the Museum Shop, please notify Helen and

she'll work you into the schedule.

The Committee is always looking for new products to sell. Contact Valentine at 860 923 3776 or other members of the Committee; Sue Vincent, Helen Flood, Henrietta Panu, Wendy Barske, Lucille Barrette, Beth Greene or Jane Vercelli with ideas.

Finally, we thanks all who have assisted at the Museum Shop. Your help has added much to the success of the Society this year.



South view of Thompson, (central part.)

1830s View of Thompson Hill, from Barber Book

Note that the Congregational Church is opposite where it sits today. In the 1830s, the church sat on the Common. It was later rebuilt on its current site facing the Common in the late 1850s. The view is looking north on Rte. 193 towards the Common. Visible to the right of the sign next to the road is a low building, the Thompson Bank, which sits today at Old Sturbridge Village. Prior to moving to Old Sturbridge Village, the building was home to Troop 66 of the Boy Scouts.

THS Help Wanted

The Thompson Historical Society is looking for volunteers for a number of activities:

Cataloguing the Historical Society's Collections:

Hattie Green is looking for people interested in documenting the Society's collection of documents and artifacts. Work is usually Thursday mornings but other times can be arranged. Interested parties should call 860 923 3200.

Photo Archiving Activities:

Joe Iamartino is looking for people interested in scanning old photos, soliciting new material or helping to maintain the Microsoft Access database of the Society's digitized files. Interested parties should call Joe at 860 923 0151.



The old Thompson Bank became the home of the Boy Scouts. Thompson Historical Society President A. David Babbitt can be seen in this photo. He is in the top row, 3rd from the right.

Where is your uniform, David?



Presentations by the Society

Dave Babbitt, President and Joe Iamartino, Vice President recently presented historical programs on behalf of the Society. Dave was at the 6th Annual American Revolutionary War Exhibit and Muster Day at the Old State House in Hartford, CT. He presented the Thompson Heroes of the American Revolution. You'll be able to revisit this exhibit on Saturday, April 21, in the Old Town Hall.



1955 Flood—Main Street, North Grosvenordale.

Joe presented a slide show of historical photos of Thompson for the Thompson Recreation Department at the Library / Community Center.

The same program will be shared with the Society on April 5, 2001 at the Old Town Hall.

Clean-Up Day— May 19

Saturday, May 19th has been chosen as the Annual Spring Clean-Up Day at the Society's properties. We ask that members volunteer two or three hours of effort on this day to help us "spruce up" our properties and grounds.

Volunteers should meet at the Old Town Hall at 9 am. Brings rakes and bags!

Trip to Lowell Planned

The Society is planning to offer its members and friends an opportunity to visit the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, MA and Lowell's National Historic Park sometime in the fall.

If you are interested in this bus trip, please notify Dave Babbitt at 860 923 3200. We are putting together a committee to organize this trip in the near future. Details will be available later this spring.

The Thompson Historical Society's website:

www.thompsonhistorical.org

Thompson Videos

During the Patriot's Day Celebration, we plan to have video programs running in the Old Town Hall. These videos have been professionally produced by various groups, including one from Bob Vila of 'This Old House' fame.

Videos include:

- Thompson Homes, featuring the

Williams Home from the Home & Garden Channel

- Thompson History from Channel 14
- March for Independence—a video documenting the reenactment of the 1775 march to Boston

Stop by the Old Town Hall and rest awhile!

Remember to check out our website from time to time.



Thanks to the good work of Barbara Loy, our website remains informative and well-maintained. Thanks Barbara!

The Thompson Historical
Society
P.O. Box 47
Thompson, CT 06277
Phone: 860 923 3200
www.thompsonhistorical.org

A. David Babbitt, President



Top: Grosvenor-Dale Co. workers—turn of the century

Left: A.J. Dery Store, Grosvenordale, 1906



The Brass Ball Inn:

We have received an unusual post card of a large rock claiming to be the site of the Old Brass Ball inn and turnpike turnstile. While the card is in poor condition, the rock is viewable but the site of the Old Brass Ball Inn is not known. One person believes it to be in E. Thompson. If anyone knows of the site of this old inn, please contact the Historical Society.

A copy of the post card will be on display on Patriots Day at the Old Town Hall.

Pictorial History Book of Thompson Planned

The Thompson Historical Society is working on a pictorial history of the town using its extensive photo archives. The book is expected to be a large size hard cover, with chapters on each village in town.

The Historical Society is looking for volunteers to work on each village section. The plan is to have each village assigned to a "Chapter Leader". The leader is responsible for soliciting quotes and interesting facts about the village. The photos can then be used to support the quotes or facts being discussed.

Support from the Thompson public will be solicited in a series of open houses that will encourage discussion about

specific villages.

These open houses will be publicized well in advance. We encourage everyone interested in contributing to the book to attend.

Chapter leaders are :

Joe Iamartino: Thompson Hill

Dave Babbitt: North Grosvenordale

West Thompson: Alice Biesiadecki

Quinebaug: Peg Babbitt

Quaddick: Hattie Green

Open are: Mechanicsville

East Thompson, Grosvenordale,

Fabyan and Wilsonville.

We are looking for volunteer layout / designers experienced with the publish-

ing industry. Thompson is blessed with a number of published writers and experts in the printing field. We look for these people to volunteer for this book effort as publishing consultants or writers. We need your help!!

Please contact Joe Iamartino at 860 923 0151 if you are interested in participating in any capacity.