

Strong-Porter House
COVENTRY, CT



August 2009
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Sign Post

Brick School House
COVENTRY, CT



Notes from the President



Barn Grant

If you haven't seen it in the newspapers yet, you might not know that the Historical Society was given a grant for \$5,000 for restoration work on the Strong Porter Barn from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. This money will go toward Phase II of our restoration of the barn – stabilizing the shed portion of the barn. Many thanks are due to the CT Trust for Historic Preservation for this grant.

Fundraising Efforts:

Now we must match this grant money with \$5,000 of Society money. We have two major fundraisers this fall – A Hauntingly Enchanted Evening which will run for 4 nights in October and a Christmas House tour in December. Please get on the list as a volunteer for these events. Later in the fall we will be mailing out our annual fundraising letters to Coventry townspeople. If anyone has any ideas for other fundraisers, please let us know. We are continuing to raise money for the move of the blacksmith shop.

Coventry Celebrates 300 Years

The year 2012 will mark the 300 anniversary of the Town of Coventry, and the Coventry Historical Society is working hard to get all our buildings into shape for this big event. This year, thanks to one of the boy scouts in town, the Brick Schoolhouse was painted inside and out. Our work continues on the restoration of the Strong Porter barn. The final phase of the restoration will be the most expensive – a new roof. Along with regular maintenance costs, a lot of fundraising will be directed to finishing that project. When the barn is complete, it will house our two Coventry hearses that have been refurbished over the past three years, and this fall the Armstrong wagon will be coming home from Massachusetts where it, too, has been undergoing restoration. All our projects have one main theme – we want the Coventry Historical Society and all its properties to last well beyond our lifetimes for future generations to enjoy. If you are interested in helping us to achieve these goals, please volunteer your time on these worthwhile projects.

2009 TAG Sale/Plant Sale Notes

The tag and plant sale held on June 7th and 14th was a great success! We raised over \$1400 for the cement pad and the move of the blacksmith shop from the Fife and Drum property to Strong Porter. Thanks to all those people who donated items to the sale. And thanks to all those volunteers who helped to set up/tear down and run the sale. We certainly appreciated all those people who came to shop and helped to make this a successful fundraiser for the society.

Bob Visny, chairperson



Society Events

All dates and times are tentative. Please refer to the CHS Web Pages for the most accurate information.

Budget and election of Executive Board Meeting Picnic Saturday, September 19th - Strong Porter Museum

September is the time when the society holds its annual meeting (Pot Luck) - to pass the budget for the upcoming year and to elect a new slate of officers. Details are to be announced later.

Brick School Halloween Party Sunday, October 4, 2009

The third annual Brick School Halloween Party will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2009 from 1-4. Food, fun, games and prizes, all for \$2 per child. Costumes are optional. Call Ginney Dilk for reservations (or to volunteer to help) 742-9656.

A Hauntingly Enchanted Evening 2009 October 23, 24 and 30, 31

I'm lining up volunteers for *A Hauntingly Enchanted Evening*. We have gone to four nights: Friday, Oct 23, Saturday, Oct 24, Friday, Oct 30 and Saturday, Oct 31. I know four nights is a lot to ask but if you'd like to participate pick the nights you are available and I will do my best to accommodate your schedule. I am looking for volunteers to be tavern wenches, lantern carriers, luminary lighters, food prep (Oct 30/31 only), time keepers, bread bakers, set-up, tear-down, pumpkin carvers, concessions help, general "gofers," and actors. No experience is necessary, we will be happy to provide any training necessary. Last year we had 92 volunteers many of whom were not society members. We can offer community service to middle/high school students and fun for everyone. We do know how to have a good time!

Our theme this year is "the plague." The infected people have been relegated to the woods where a mysterious plague doctor administers to them. There will be more interaction between the guests, lantern carriers and woods personnel with less emphasis on the "jump out and scare" tactics.

To volunteer call Ginney Dilk at 742-9656 or email at gdilk@aol.com

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY HOME AND HEARTH TOUR
Saturday, December 5, 2009

10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT

FIVE HISTORIC HOMES/ONE HISTORIC CHURCH

\$15.00 IN ADVANCE/\$20.00 DAY OF TOUR

LUNCH BY RESERVATION ONLY

COMMUNITY HOUSE, SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ROUTE 44, COVENTRY

11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

\$7.00

TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED THE DAY OF THE TOUR
AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE, SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
FROM 9:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

FOR RESERVATIONS:

860.742.7474

pnatusch@earthlink.net

TICKETS WILL BE MAILED UNTIL NOVEMBER 28
RESERVED TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE CHURCH

SNOWDATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009

Society Members Christmas Party –Sunday, December 13th



Wanted: Treasurer for the Coventry Historical Society.

Bill Wajda, our current Treasurer and former Archivist has decided to retire from the position. Bill has given untold contributions of time and attention to the society for many years. If you have experience in this area, are willing to give up one night a month for the Society and are interested in the position, please contact the President, Pat Natusch. pnatusch@earthlink.net phone# 742-7474 or a CHS Board member on page 4.

Wish List - display boards and mannequins to make our displays in the museums really stand out. We also need to improve the lighting in the display rooms. If you can help with this let us know by contacting one of the Executive Board members.

Coventry Historical Society

P. O. Box 534
Coventry, Connecticut 06238

Phone:
860.742.9025

E-Mail:

WriteToUs@coventrycthistoricalsociety.org

The Coventry Historical Society Web Site is located at:

www.coventrycthistoricalsociety.org

Executive Board

President	Patricia Natusch	742-7474
Vice-President	OPEN	
Secretary	Diana Gale	742-2450
Treasurer	Bill Wajda	742-6273
Archivist	Susan Way	742-5271

Members at Large

Ginney Dilk	742-9656
Yvonne Filip	742-3005
Peter Hrechanyk	742-9123
Jim Murphy	742-3054
Mary Schweitzer	742-6295

Wanted: Articles for Publication in THE SIGN POST.

Send or email your article to the Society. Please include complete citations of information in your article, including the name of the source, author, place and date of publication. Articles must be received by a board member by the 2nd Thursday of the month. Articles in Word or PDF form send to: **Sign Post Editor** Jim Murphy
murf1776@charter.net

Become a Member

If you aren't already a member of the Coventry Historical Society, please consider joining now!

Single Membership \$10.00

Family Membership \$15.00

Send us your name, address and contact information using one of the methods listed on the left of this page.

Telephone number and **email address** would be appreciated.

*Coventry Historical Society
P. O. Box 534
Coventry, CT 06238*