



Strong-Porter House (c. 1730)

October 2008  
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# Sign Post



Brick School (c. 1825)

## President's Corner

As I was the Vice President and Roberlie had to step down, I filled in for the rest of the year. We have voted on a budget and an Executive Board with some new additions for the 2008-9 year at a very successful BBQ at the Strong-Porter Museum. Please see the list on the back of this issue.

We have had a very successful although interesting year here at the Society.

We had some very successful fundraisers in the tag sale and AHÉE (A Hauntingly Enchanting Evening). Even though the Farmers Market has brought more visitors than ever to the Strong-Porter Museum, Farm Day was not so successful for some reason and is being discontinued. The annual Sundae on a Sunday at the Brick School and the Walktober events continue to be popular.

Work continues on the restoration of all of the buildings and the horse drawn vehicles, some work is complete, some is still in process. The barn foundation and supporting beams are presently being worked on, as well as the Armstrong wagon.

As of this writing the Sprague House is still on the market even though we reduced the price \$50,000 to \$200,000. Four acres of land are included as well as the house.

We look forward to the year to come some very positive things are happening. We will continue to move the Society forward, if any members have input or ideas please let us know, we will more than happy to respond.

Jim Murphy  
Executive Board member  
Sign Post Editor



## **TRANSCRIPTION OF ELEANOR INGLE'S DIARY IN THE SUMMER OF 1917 ON THE SHERMAN FARM IN SOUTH COVENTRY CT. (In two parts)**

I have a wonderful diary my Mother wrote in 1917 (at age 11) of her summer on the Sherman's Farm on Ripley Hill Rd. It mentions the Hazens and some of the other families in the area and what fun they all had berry picking, swimming and walking into Coventry or taking the "old horse" or the trolley car to Willimantic to shop. I have made a transcription of it (her spelling is awful! Ha!)

Sincerely, Midge Marshall



(Part 1)

THE FARM was the Sherman Farm in South Coventry Ct. It belonged to the Sherman in-laws of Eleanor's. Aunt Betsey Sherman, the elder. The Sherman's would go on vacation in the summer and the Ingle family would take care of the farm and have a wonderful time as well.

PLAYERS: "Ant Betsy" Eleanor's mother's sister Elizabeth who married Al Sherman , " Ant Edith" Eleanor's mother's sister Edith married to Charles Newell ( Muriel was their daughter ), Uncle Will may have been William Marigold and his wife Anna may have been "Ant Annie" ( Bessey and Sarah may have been their daughters, the Marigolds were Eleanor's grandmothers family ) Uncle Bill was Eleanor's mothers brother , "Honey" was nickname for Eleanor's sister Marjorie. Most of the others were neighbors on Ripley Hill.

Sun. July 22 weather warm. My cousin came to spend a week here on Ripley Hill

Mon. July 23 weather very hot. We did not do very much it was too hot.

Tues. July 24: weather very hot. Thunderstorms in the afternoon. We did not do much in the morning but after dinner, we all laid down. When we were getting dressed and my Aunt Edith went out into the kitchen with her corset and barefooted and was standing there when a boy of 14 who worked on our farm came to the door and remarked about the weather. That night Aunt Annie awoke by the sound of some person trying to get into our house. This morning we found the left behind of some man on our porch.

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Wed. July 25: weather hot. We did not do much in the morning but in the afternoon we got the old horse and went to Coventry and stoped at the store and Muriel was holding the horse and a car come and the horse startled. Muriel tried to stop the horse but she backed half way across the car track and then stoped. My Aunt Edith came out and led her over to the other side of the street. That night we slep out and we were afraid that that man might come here so we took our big dinner bell and put it at the top of our bed.

Thurs. July 26: Weather very warm. We did not do very much in the morning but in the afternoon we walked to Coventry and took the car for Willimantic. When we got there we were surprised to find that the stores were closed on thurs.and the only two places that were open were the Saloon and the drug store and we entered them both. Then we took the car for home. We were expecting to find the horse in Coventry to take us home but no horse was there. We When we saw Barber get off and start for home we followed. When we got home we went after the milk on the way up to the house we met a wagon full of children with Eddie dragging Muriel and I got in and rode down the hill. Then we had to push it up again. we rode down three times then we stopped. Eddie to drink 14 glasses of water. That night we slep out and had the big dinner bell at our bed.

Fri. July 27: weather very warm. This morning we went for a short hay ride to the barn. Gorgege fell and hurt his head and the horse opened the horse feed box and ate some. This afternoon we went for a hay ride to Eagleville. When we stoped and wated for them to unload the hay we walked aroung and a old lady came out and asked us if we were wild like some roses, we said "yes' She gave us the roses and we were coming back and Forest said "go down and look under the bridge' when we got down there we found two undressed boys and with just overalls. he said we're swimming get out. So we started up and told Forest what he had said. On the way back Forest got us girls a icecream cone and some candy. Then we got half way home it began to rain we had a umbrola but we wanted to get wet.

Sat. July 28: weather pleasant and cool. Last night I was awaken by the sound of a cat calling. I called to the cat but could not see her. This morning we found three little kittens under the vine on the porch. I have a three collard cat black, orange and whight. Muriel's cat was pure black, Marjore's was pure gray. They are about six weeks old. We have been playing with the kittens all the morning. Ester came up from the next house down from us around near noon we picked a basket full of currents and then went over to the black cap patch to pick black caps. We got our legs scratched. We came up to the house and found my father. After diner we went down to Ring-dando and maid current jell whild we were cooking them we were surprised to find Marion coming down the path. After we made our current jell we went with Forest to get some blueberries. After Marion went home, Forest gave us a hay ride to his house. Bernice came too. She came back \this afternoon. Forest walked back with us in the moon light and carried Chars.

Sun. July 29: weather doughtful in the morning but clear in the afternoon. This morning we went ponlilling with Forest. When we got there we desided we would like to go fishing. He dug worms and got fish poels then we started. We walked through the woods and got to the river, we got in the boat and went half way up the river and we found that his brothers were folwing us in a row boat. we went way up the river and then came back and met a crod of boys and girls were having a picnic. we called to them and they could not gues who we were. We went home and hot their at four o'clock. That afternoon we went to Willamatic in my uncles auto. when we got back we batisezed our kittens. My kitten is Trisey, Muriel's is Miger and Honey's is Flufh. After our batzen we cooked our fish that we had cut and some pattoes.

July 30-Aug.5: weather fair. My couson went and Bernice and Honey and I heave been having a grand time. Mrs. Joshon came over to stay a day. One morning Honey went out to the shed and hse came back and told mother that she thought she saw my cat there but she was not shure. Mother went out and found my kitten laying there with its head off. We were all excited and were looking for the others we found them before dinner.

Aug 7: weather clear. This morning we strung beans and this after noon we went huckle berrying on a hill across from us. After we had picked a half pail full my father set it in a bees nest. He got stung on his head twice. after a while he put mothers petycoat on his head. Muriel put Mrs. Hazens apron on and went with him. He took the petycoat off his head and put the pail on it was full of bees and then he grabed it, he got another sting on his leg. After this excitey we were pickin pesfully and were aroused by the sound of my father calling that there is a bull so we ran. Muriel and I took a club to club him with we ran until we got to a fence we went through then came to a road we walked until we got to our auto.

Aug.8: wed. weather pleasant. This afternoon we all laid down after dinner and I red a book then we got the old horse and went to ride to Coventry to the stores. On the way back we found father and Mrs. Joshon in the auto in back of us

Thurs. Aug. 9: weather rain. We did not do much in the morning but in the afternoon we went to ride with the growsedy man in his auto. He went 45 miles a hour. when we went to get in he said to Muriel you get in the frount and he said to Honey and me you little girls get in the back. he said to me you get in the basket so I got in the basket and had to duble up to try and get in. Honey got in the back of the car when we got there we went in to the drugstoor and got some things then we went to another stoor then we went up the long hill when we got mously home we met Mr. Snider which we met in on e stoor he said if he had know it he would of tacken us home. That night we slep out and in the midel of the night we were awaken by the sound of rain and mother came and helped us take our cots in.

(To be continued in the January issue of the Sign Post).



## Coventry Historical Society

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The Coventry Historical Society Web Site is located at:

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## Executive Board

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Mary Schweitzer	742-6295
Bob Visny	742-8354

## 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.

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. Articles in Word or PDF form send to:  
**Sign Post Editor** Jim Murphy [murf1776@charter.net](mailto:murf1776@charter.net)

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### Mark Your Calendars!

**October 5, 2008** Halloween Party at the Brick School

**October 11, 2008** Walktober 2008 "Stepping Stones in Time" Sponsored by the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor and CHS. Call 742-8354 or 742-9656 for information

**October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2008**

A Hauntedly Enchanted Evening 2008. This will be a two-day event this year due to the success we had last year. See announcement inside.

**November 20, 2008**

History, Lore and Legacy of the Civilian Conservation Camps in Connecticut, an author talk, and power point presentation  
7 PM Second Congregational Church Community House, Rt. 44, Coventry, CT  
Call 742-8354 for information. See article inside.