
PAST AND PRESENT

The Newsletter of the Haddam Historical Society

Volume 46 No. 2, Winter 2008



The Old Red House Tea Room

The Starbucks of the Early 20th Century

In the early 20th century Charles Ingersoll and his wife Nell, occupied the Thankful Arnold House and kept a tea room in the western most room of the house. The enterprise was called “The Old Red House Tea Room” an allusion to the color of the exterior of the house at the time. Charles Ingersoll was the great grandson of Joseph and Thankful Arnold and the fourth generation of the Arnold Family to reside in the house.

Tea rooms gained popularity in the early 20th century and were found in small towns, suburbs and large cities throughout America. They were traditionally run by women who provided home cooked meals in a quiet comfortable homey atmosphere. Most patrons were women although men also frequented tea rooms after their popularity caught on. Tea rooms also catered to motorists who “sauntered” through old New England towns and would stop for simple fare in a tranquil restful place. A 1915 Hartford Courant article on the popularity of tea rooms noted that there was “hardly a town in Connecticut where a tea room is not found in some Colonial House”.

The Red House Tea Room accommodated visitors traveling along the Middlesex Turnpike from Hartford to the Shoreline and had all the ingredients for a successful venture: the historic house, location along a busy roadway and quaint Colonial neighborhood. Longtime member Mary Wright remembers patronizing the tea room in the late 30’s and early 40’s with local author and reporter Ruth Hayden. She recalls it was located in the ell addition of the house and had three tables offering a simple tea. The archives of the Haddam Historical Society has an original menu from The Old Red House Tea Room which shows they served “Waffles and creamed chicken with tea or coffee” for \$1.25. Other entrees included “Toast and marmalade with tea” for 50 cents or a “Cheese Dream with bacon” for 35 cents. Chicken dinners, southern style could be served by appointment. It is not clear how long The Old Red House Tea Room remained in business, but many tea rooms lost favor because of high prices and motorists were seeking a faster meal and started to patronize the quick luncheonette or roadside stand. The Historical Society is fortunate to have the original sign from the restaurant and a direct link to this fascinating era of women’s history.

*O “The Old Red House” at Haddam
On the central village street,
Is the place for hungry travelers
If they want good things to eat.*

*With green shady trees about it,
It’s as cool as cool can be,
And you’ll find it quite refreshing
If you drink a cup of tea*

*The roadway stretches onward
For many a lengthy mile,
So the tired and weary traveler
Should stop here and rest awhile.*



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35th Annual Connecticut Spring Antiques Show

Saturday, March 8 – 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, March 9 – 11 am to 4 pm

Connecticut Expo Center, Hartford

\$10 Admission, Parking Free

The show cited as “an Americana treasure trove” continues its tradition of attracting serious collectors, supporting new collectors and bringing both together with 70 dealers and experts who share a passion for period American antiques and decorative arts.

Sunday Booth Chats**Lewis Scranton**

“American Decorated Tin”

1 pm

Scranton of Killingworth, Connecticut will discuss the identification, condition and form of American Painted Tin and demonstrate the difference between painted versus stenciled tin. He will share items from his personal collection as part of the talk.

Charles and Barbara Adams

“Is it Bennington or Rockingham?”

1:45 pm

Charles and Barbara Adams will give a booth chat titled “Is it Bennington or Rockingham?” They will touch on the history of pottery at Bennington located in Vermont and use examples from their inventory to show how to identify pieces that are not marked. In addition, they will show and discuss several rare and seldom seen pieces from their private collection.

Arthur Liverant

“Little Chairs for Little Buns”

2:30 pm.

Liverant will deliver a talk titled “Little Chairs for Little Buns”. Arthur Liverant is the third generation to own and operate Nathan Liverant and Son Antiques. Established in Colchester, Connecticut in 1920, Nathan Liverant and Son represents three generations in the fine arts field. The shop maintains a large and varied inventory of Fine Americana and continues to acquire some the finest examples of New England regional furniture, paintings and related accessories of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Haddam Collects*Member Tea Tables on Display at Antiques Show*

For the second year, members and friends of the Haddam Historical Society will exhibit fine examples of American antiques to grace the entrance of our nationally recognized Antiques Show in early March. Last year’s exhibit featured antique chairs and was well received. This year the display will feature Tea Tables and exhibit a variety of different styles, materials and construction.



2007 HADDAM FOUNDERS' DAY AWARD



On November 9, 2007 the Haddam Historical Society honored two long time members at the annual Founders' Day Dinner held at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown. For the past 29 years the Society has honored one or more volunteers who have performed outstanding service to the Society to further its mission to “preserve, collect, interpret and promote the history and heritage of Haddam for present and future generations.” This year's Founders' Day Awards were presented to two gentlemen who have spent countless hours working on historical society endeavors and making the society the vital, vibrant organization it is today.

Rusty Clowes (right) has been active in the Society since joining in 2000. He has contributed in many ways from building kites with 5th graders to chairing our largest fundraiser the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show. He has served on the Board of Directors for two full terms, coordinated and planned the Founders' Day event and worked as a house captain for the Society's successful historic house tours. However it is as co-chair of the Antiques Show that Rusty has devoted countless hours of service resulting in what has been called “one of the most important authentic antiques shows in the nation” by the Antiques and Arts Weekly.

Mark Aldieri (left) has also been active in the Society as well as local affairs including the Lions, Haddam Neck Fair and Haddam Neck Fire Department. He has contributed to or volunteered for many Society activities including the Antiques Show, fundraising auctions, and community outreach events. He also served on the Board of Directors. An architect by profession Mark has assisted the society in many projects and has been instrumental in helping the society address current space needs issues. Known as “Mr. Barn”, he has driven to the four corners of the state looking at available barns for their potential as an HHS museum and has always made himself available for advice and support.

Camp Bethel named to the National Register of Historic Places

On December 11, 2007, the National Park Service listed Camp Bethel on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official list of the Federal Government of properties worthy of preservation for their significance in American History, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture.

The nomination commissioned by the Camp Bethel Association and prepared by Jan Cunningham states that it is “a representative example of the camp meeting, an enduring form of American evangelical religious expression that originated on the frontier during the Second Great Awakening. One of the few surviving permanent campgrounds of this type in New England, it has been in continuous operation since its founding in 1877. Camp Bethel contains a significant cluster of vernacular cottages embellished in the Carpenter Gothic-style, which together with the layout of the grounds, illustrate architectural conventions and cultural norms historically associated with the camp meeting tradition”.

The Historical Society applauds the Camp Association and members for respecting the importance of their property and having it recognized as a significant architectural and historical asset to our community. We are currently working with the residents of Higganum Landing to have their special neighborhood listed on the National Register.



The Haddam Historical Society Warmly Welcomes New Members

Marissa Cartoceti and Stephen Sabo, Haddam
George Duncan, Old Lyme
Gloria Gorton, Higganum
David Haddad and Rose Lake, Haddam
Sabrina and Tim Houlton, Higganum
Cynthia and Brian O'Neill, Haddam



*Haddam House Falling Down, Charles Church Collection,
Haddam Historical Society*

For the latest information and events
Visit

www.haddamhistory.org
www.CtSpringAntiquesShow.com

Thankful Arnold House Shards and Venture Smith featured in New England Antiques Journal

The February issue of New England Antiques Journal has a special section on the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show and features an article by noted local author Anne Farrow on Venture Smith and an interview with Executive Director, Elizabeth Malloy on the Arnold House shards. We will have copies available at the museum if you are interested in picking up a copy. You can also visit the magazine on line at www.antiquesjournal.com

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