

A Tale of Two Barns “Stories in Wood and Stone”

To farmers, barns are the ‘soul of the farm.’ To the general public, barns represent our rural and agricultural past. They are monuments in the American landscape, both culturally and architecturally. Haddam, Higganum and Haddam Neck feature a variety of historic barns and outbuildings including sheds, ice houses, creameries, outhouses and corn cribs. The Haddam Historical Society is in the early stages of documenting these significant buildings and is impressed with the wealth of remaining structures in town. Each barn has a story and below are just two of these stories.

The Candlewood Hill Farm Barn is a magnificent structure located behind the Captain John Smith House on Jacoby Road in Higganum. The oldest part of the barn dates from 1725-30. Typical of the English style barn it was originally built with three sections; a wooden threshing floor in the center, stables for dairy cows and horses on one side and a haymow or “bay” on the other. The interior features hand pegged timbers with markings which identified how it was assembled. In the 1870’s an additional bay was added and a lean-to addition, originally open, was constructed along the rear of the barn.



For three generations the property was owned by the Smith Family. The first owner was Captain John Smith, a seafarer. His son John Jr., who inherited the house in 1808, was a blacksmith and while serving in the Revolutionary War is said to have helped forged the chain of links that was stretched across the Hudson River to stop British ships. The current owner, since 1966, has a chain of large links which was found in the barn and may have belonged to John, Jr. John Smith III, who was also a blacksmith, farmed the surrounding land and the property remained in the family until 1899. In the mid- 20th century Joseph Harrington and his wife Mae came to the Higganum farm from New York and raised strawberries and grapes which were sold at Rozniaks in Higganum. Mr. Harrington was the author of the Lieutenant Kerrigan mystery series. The property also features a “creamery”, a small building used to house pans of milk to separate the cream and produce by-products such as butter. Today the barn is lovingly maintained and continues to serve the property for storage, workshop and an occasional wedding reception.

The Cold Goat Farm Barn is located on Clarkhurst Road in Haddam Neck on the property of the Samuel H. Arnold House. This well preserved English style barn is built into a hill or bank. Sitting on a dried laid foundation the “bank barn” provides two levels that are easily accessible. The hay and farm equipment were stored on the upper level which is approached in the back and animals were kept on the lower level. The basement level is cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter and many bank barns had frost free manure storage beneath the main level. The post and beam barn displays board and batten siding and has an 1854 date on the corner stone. Samuel Arnold was a farmer and lived on the property from 1840 to 1896. The barn was hit by lightning in the late 1960’s and was the first structure fire put out by the newly formed Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Dept. In 1996, the present owners purchased the barn, house and surrounding land, with clear intentions of saving the barn. The roof of the barn was falling in and the husband declared "if we don't save that barn in two years it will be lost!" Since then the building has been carefully rehabilitated. However the most important thing restored to the barn are the animals. It is home to a herd of Angora Goats. Cold Goat Farm, which is set in an idyllic location among open pastures, continues to serve as a link to our agricultural past and each spring it is a delight to visit and hear the voices of young kids rising from their new “historic” home.



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Newsletter-Elizabeth Malloy &
Barbara Glista

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Elizabeth Hart Malloy

Education Coordinator

Sarah Neal

The Thankful Arnold House is open for tours
Wednesdays 9-3, Thursdays 2-8, and Fridays 12
noon to 3.

Between Memorial Day Weekend and
Columbus Day Weekend the house is open on
Sundays 1-4.

Tours and access to the archives and collections
are also available by appointment.

Call 860-345-2400.

www.hadamhistory.org

From the President.....

It is truly an honor to serve as president of the Historical Society and a particular joy to take on this role at this time in the life of the organization and the town. The Historical Society welcomed me to town when my husband, daughter and I moved here six years ago this month. I joined the Society, attended some gatherings and felt the hospitality of the Society and the town. As President, I hope to extend that experience of hospitality to others who are new to town and celebrate the rich history of the town we all share.

I have been on the board for nearly 3 years. I was initially recruited to chair the membership/development committee because of my background in fundraising and nonprofit development. Our committee has built a strong annual campaign and the gifts from the town have done much to expand our programs. I am most proud of our committee's Haddam Guides program that provides tours to newcomers to town so they can get oriented to the landmarks and stories that distinguish our town.

My attentions in the past 6 months have turned to the jail property. I have a PhD in nineteenth century and wrote my dissertation on prison reform in the 1830's, exactly the period of reform that shaped the building of the Haddam jail. This feels like a magical coincidence to end up in a position to help steward the development and the preservation of the jail. I look forward to working with others to shape the future and the uses of the property and to tell the history of the town, county and state through the stories of our jail.

The educational programs of the Society are near and dear to me. I have a daughter at Haddam Elementary and she is thrilled by what she experienced in the 2nd grade program and is looking forward to participating in our summer camp next year. We continue to expand these programs and build on our extraordinary success.

Because of years spent in historical societies researching for my PhD, I also value the extensive collections of the Society, the letters, the records, and the "treasures" of the past. It is this preservation work that lets us interpret the rich nuances of our history, to make sense of what it meant to live 100, 200, 400 years ago and how that history shaped what we have become.

Finally, because my day job is to launch sustainable social ventures, I revel in the success of the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show in providing on-going revenue to the Society. The profits from the antiques show sustain so much of our work in addition to being a really, really fabulous event that draws attention from all around. The volunteers and dealers that make the show work are a core part of the success of the Society.

My goal as president is to work with the other officers, the board, and the committees, to continue to strengthen the Society. We have important work ahead of us and will need good plans, abundant energy and deep commitments to realize our hopes for the Society and to continue to fulfill our mission on behalf of the town.

I would be thrilled to hear from you: your thoughts, your suggestions, and your hopes. I can be reached through the Historical Society 345-2400, and look forward to seeing you at our Fall Festival, October 14. I'll be the one running the cider press.

Joy Anderson

A Week in the Life of an Early American Child - A fabulous success!

During the last week of June the Thankful Arnold House was abuzz with activity and laughter as eight young people learned what life was like in the 1830s. Seven girls and one boy enjoyed a variety of early 19th century activities and crafts from emptying the chamber pot to making butter and milking a goat. Each child was given the name of a girl or boy who lived in the neighborhood in 1830 and we had members of the Cook, Hutchison, Hayden, Hazelton and Arnold families. The program was lead by Thankful Arnold (Education Coordinator, Sarah Neal) who was assisted by her daughter Nancy (Emily Neal), son Isaac (Oliver Neal), sister Sally (Executive Director, Lisa Malloy) and nieces Hannah and Grace (Hannah and Grace Malloy).

We had many visitors during the week including Aunt Fanny (Vivienne McGarry) who brought her farm animals and showed the children how to milk and groom goats, clean, card, dye and spin wool and collect eggs from the chickens. The Reverend John Marsh (Reverend John Olson) came to tea on Thursday followed by a celebration of the 4th of July complete with a parade, speech and dancing. On Friday Mrs. Hazelton (Kathleen Sullivan) from across the street came to visit with items she had just purchased from the traveling peddler.

In addition to those previously mentioned the Society would like to also thank Joy Anderson, Esther Beierle, Frances Dallas, Helen and Al Deag, Marge DeBold, Liz Finan, Gail Hanson, Rod Auclair, Jan Sweet, Bob McGarry, and David Neal.

The children had a wonderful educational experience. They learned about the importance of family and friends and gained an appreciation for a way of life that emphasized hard work, frugality and sense of community. It was a rewarding occasion for all. Below are some responses from our end of the week evaluation:

Would you have liked to live in Haddam in 1830? Why or why not?

- "I would of liked to live here in 1830 because they found other things amusing than TV"*
- "I would not because I would have had to do a lot more work."*

What surprised you the most about life in 1830?

- "...that girls sewed for fun!"*
- "...how hard it was."*
- "...how much the kids helped out"*

What important lesson from Mrs. Arnold's time can you apply to your life today?

- "...how to sew and identify herbs."*
- "...that you can't be lazy and procrastinate."*
- "...to behave well."*
- "...be frugal, frugal, frugal."*



The Friends of Natasha Sweet Scholarship

The Society would like to acknowledge the very generous donation of \$500 in the form of camp scholarships from the Friends and Family of Tasha Sweet, in memory of one who thought the Thankful Arnold House was her second home. Tasha, a beautiful and elegant greyhound, was the beloved companion of former Executive Director, Jan Sweet. The scholarship supported either a full or partial scholarship to our summer education program. If you are interested in supporting our 2007 Summer Experience please contact Education Director, Sarah Neal at 345-2400.

Remarkable Women in Haddam's History

Haddam has been home to many prominent and significant women throughout its history. These include Sybil Huntington May, wife of the Reverend Eleazer May, who painted the earliest known landscape of a Connecticut River Valley town, The Honorable Belle Russell, noted judge who tried more than 800 criminal cases and Nina Hudson Arnold, Connecticut's first woman Certified Public Accountant to name just a few. In future issues of the newsletter we will highlight some of these noteworthy women and their contributions to our town, nation and world.

Kate Campbell Hurd Mead, MD

By Barbara Glista, MD

Dr. Kate Campbell Hurd Mead, physician, public health advocate, women's rights activist, scholar, historian and author, was an amazingly accomplished woman who resided in Haddam from 1929 until her untimely death in 1941.

Kate Campbell Hurd was born in 1867 in Quebec, and grew up in Newburyport, Massachusetts where her father had a medical practice in his wife's family home. Young Kate was encouraged in her desire to become a physician and after high school and a year of private tutoring, attended Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and graduated in 1888 at the age of 21. She interned at the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Boston and continued her medical studies at universities in London, Paris and Stockholm.

From 1890 to 1893 she served as Medical Director at Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore. During those years she participated in the Medical Historical Club of Johns Hopkins Hospital where she met some of the icons of medicine of the day and became interested in the history of women in medicine.

Kate's marriage in 1893 to William Edward Mead, PhD Professor of the English Language at Wesleyan University, was to prove to be a union of interests in historical research.

The Meads moved into a large house on Broad Street in Middletown, where Dr. Mead opened her practice specializing in the emerging field of Gynecology. Dr. Mead is thought to have been the first woman MD in Middletown. She is listed as an incorporator of Middlesex Hospital in 1895, and was a Consulting Gynecologist from 1907 to 1925.

Public Health and Preventive Medicine were of vital importance to Dr. Mead. Following a month in 1912 serving as school physician, Dr. Mead reported to the Board of Education that an alarming number of children were in need of medical and dental care and that poor hygiene and undernutrition were pervasive problems. "One thing is quite true: it is impossible to make good citizens out of blighted babies or stunted children. Effectiveness in life is related to health more closely than any other thing. The struggle to live is a duty, not a side issue, and if we are to rid ourselves of the burden of caring for the dependent members of our community, 85 percent of whom are dependent owing to ill health, we must practice preventive medicine in our school children. Our laws compel us to educate the minds of these children, but economics should compel us to give them sound bodies as well".



Dr. Mead participated in numerous medical and societal activities for the benefit of the community. Through her efforts the Middletown District Nurses Association was organized. She aided in the formation of the Middlesex Hospital Training School for Nurses and the Hospital Aid Society

Dr. Mead was also a prominent member and frequent office holder of many international, national and local societies, including the State Medical Society, American Medical Women's Association, the League of Women Voters and the Speakers Bureau of the Red Cross. She was an organizer in 1919 of the Medical Women's International Association and served as Corresponding Secretary for the United States from 1929 to 1941.

Professor William Mead, an English language historian, did research in the great libraries of Europe during his summer vacations and sabbaticals. Kate, suspending her practice, accompanied him and collected material for the history of women in medicine that she expected to write.

In 1925, when her husband retired, Dr. Mead decided to give up her medical practice and fully undertake her history project. The Meads spent two years in London where they were especially fond of working at the British Museum Library, with Kate “seeking authentic information in original Greek, Latin and other languages from which to compile as true and complete a story as possible of the work of women in medicine.” They then visited many European, African and Asian countries where Dr. Mead continued her research, unearthing old manuscripts, interpreting pictorial and sculptural representations and selecting illustrations. She also interviewed women practitioners and encouraged them to join the Medical Women’s International Association.

The Meads returned to Connecticut in 1929 and established their home in Haddam, at Sunnymeade, a house overlooking the Connecticut River. While focused on writing her book, she continued to participate in many organizations, and was Chairperson of the History of Medicine Committee of the American Medical Women’s Association from 1925 to 1941. She also became involved in local community activities, including the Haddam Garden Club. She promoted the formation of the Haddam Public Health Association, and served as its President from 1931 to 1936.

Dr. Mead’s “Medical Women of America” was published in 1933 by Froben Press. Her major opus, ‘The History of Women in Medicine’, was an anticipated three volume work. She was unable to find a publisher for Volume I and finally published it privately under the imprimatur of the Haddam Press in 1938. This book, which was widely acclaimed, was described as “a worthy monument to a distinguished historian.” While working on the second volume Dr. Mead had difficulty finding a translator for 13 long pages on the history of pioneer medical women in Russia. Volume II was ready for the press at the time of her sudden death.

On January 1, 1941, while visiting his sister, the Mead’s housekeeper, H. Albert Johnson tried to extinguish a grass fire in the meadow at the rear of the property and collapsed into the fire. Responding to children calling for help, Dr. Mead ran down the steep slope to assist Mr. Johnson and suffered a fatal heart attack part way down the hill. She was 73 years old and described as “one of the best known of Middlesex County residents.”

When her husband William died in 1949, her library on women in medicine went to the Medical College of Pennsylvania in accordance with her will, and a bequest to her alma mater established the Kate Hurd Mead, Class of 1888 Fund, which supported a lecture series. In 1950, Dr. Kate Hurd Mead’s life and legacy were celebrated during events marking the centennial of Woman’s Medical College. In Haddam, Dr. Mead is memorialized through a Public Health, Inc. fund established in her name.

Appreciation is extended to the Middlesex Historical Society and Acting Director Susan Allison, for providing materials for this article.

Charles Church Photo Collection

An extensive collection of early glass plate negatives has been recently donated to the Haddam Historical Society by the Family of Charles Church. Nearly 200 late 18th and early 19th century photos feature many scenes of Haddam and include people, buildings and various scenes. Many of the photos are easily identifiable, others however are not. If you are interested in helping us to identify or date these special glimpses into our town’s past, please contact Ed Schwing or Lisa Malloy at 345-2400. Below are just a few examples of photographs found in the collection.



The Church Family



An Early Keg Party. Note the “Stone House” in the background

*The Haddam Historical Society
Welcomes New Members*

Chester Apy &
Camp Bethel Association, Haddam
Rod Auclair, Moodus
Mark & Lynda Birch, Haddam
Cheryl Czuba, Haddam
Sally de Gozzaldi &
Chris Knowlton, Haddam
Liz & Mike Finan, Higganum
Higganum Dental Associates
RoseAnne Holladay, New Harbor,
ME
Robert Herrmann-Keeling &
Carolyn Mariconi, Higganum
Debbie Karpf, Haddam
Cynthia & David Sullivan,
Higganum



*Fall Auction
OCTOBER 14, 2005, 7 pm
Higganum Firehouse Community
Hall*

The Haddam Historical Society will be holding a fundraising auction on October 14, 2006 with donated antiques, art and goods & services. We are seeking high quality and worthy contributions. Please consider contributing a donation. The auction will offer a diverse variety of top-notch items including fine art, clocks, furniture and Americana.

If you have something to donate please call Lisa Malloy at the Arnold House 345-2400 or Mary Bird at 345-3510 to make arrangements for pick up or drop off. All donations will be tax deductible. Mark your calendars for this not to be missed event!

WISH LIST

- New or gently used **vacuum cleaner** with HEPA filter
- Free **storage facility** with climate control and security
- LCD Projector** and accessories

Arnold Letters Published Thanks to Leslie Starr

The Society would like to thank Leslie Starr for all her hard work in completing the transcription and publication of the Arnold Family letters, which are now available for view at the Arnold House and Brainerd Memorial Library. The letters were found in the Arnold House during its restoration in the 1960s and most were written between Isaac Arnold and Isaac Arnold, Jr. between 1857 and 1865, when Isaac, Jr. was attending West Point and serving as an officer in the Union Army. In the 1980s and 1990s the letters were sorted and transcribing started. Leslie completed the project in January of this year.

The letters written over 150 years ago by people long forgotten are alive and tell of life in a small town in Connecticut during a time of national upheaval and governmental decisions.

Meet the Board of Directors

Deborah Adams moved to Haddam in 2000, leaving her home and office in Madison, CT. She feels Haddam is beautiful and has an "untouched" quality. She is an interior designer and has owned her business for 27 years. Her interests are antiques, art and gardening. She serves on the Board of Historical Society because she wants to be part of preserving Haddam's significant past and unique beauty. She has been actively involved in the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show and encourages anyone who has an interest to become involved.

Claire Brayfield moved to Higganum in 1996 with her husband and daughter due to its proximity to her job. She works full-time at Soundings Publications, in Essex, as "Circulation Manager" and is in her 22nd year with the company. Claire's husband works with his family at B&S Heating and Air Conditioning, based in Cheshire and daughter Laura, an honor student at HKHS, is on the volleyball and golf teams. The family spends many weekends in Goshen, NH, snowmobiling in the winter and swimming in the summer at Lake Sunapee. Claire wanted to get involved in town activities and when asked if she would be interested in the "Treasurer" position at the Historical Society, accepted.

Carl Conrad is a retired business executive with extensive experience in Asia, where he lived for many years. He particularly enjoys old houses. His is a 1793 colonial next to the Thankful Arnold House. He is also an avid gardener. His other primary interest is archaeology, which he is studying at Wesleyan University.

Sue Costa decided to move to Haddam from Old Saybrook to overlook the Connecticut River with her husband, David in 2004. She and David have two grown children and have owned and operated Bennie's Market in Essex since 1979. Sue enjoys nature walks, playing bridge and entertaining friends and family- although her favorite pastime is spending time with her two grandchildren. A Registered Nurse by profession, at present the only "needling" she does is at Board meetings! She is presently serving as Vice President and is on the Nominations Committee, Social Committee and Antiques Show Volunteer Committee.

Helen Deag is retired after 25 years of service with the State of CT in both CVH and Cedarcrest Hospitals. Her last years of service were as Executive Secretary. Helen's current endeavors include many volunteer activities both on a local and state level and she is active in VFW Aux., St. Peters Ladies Guild and Friends of Brainerd Library. She and her husband Al are the parents of four (two now deceased), grandparents of seven and great-grandparents of seven with the eighth due to arrive in mid-August. Helen currently serves as the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Al Deag is a forty-year resident of Haddam. He is a retired hospital administrator; active volunteer with District 17 schools as a mentor for 11 years. Al is extremely active in the Historical Society Education Committee and most of its programs. He is now a house husband who likes cooking and laundry. Al and Helen have been married 57 years.

Melissa Gibson and her late husband Paul moved to Higganum in 1979 with their two sons, Sean and Ian. In addition to working as a community pharmacist and raising a family, she has served the society as president, treasurer, and, for 16 years, the garden lady. In 2004, Paul and Melissa restored an historic farm on Candlewood Hill road. Their dream, and now hers, is to operate an organic vegetable farm. She is looking forward to renewing her commitment to preserve our local history

Cynthia Goetz is the woman you see leaning on the rake and pulling weeds at the green house across from the Thankful Arnold House. She works in Hartford as a certified nurse-midwife where she's caught babies for almost 20 years. She is fascinated with the history of Haddam's John Cook, a conspirator who took part in the Harper's Ferry raid with John Brown and who was raised in the house she now owns with her partner, Liz Yorke. The historical society's archives and town hall records are a treasure trove for rich details of the Cook family's life in Haddam. She's worked for the Education and Development Committees and would like to work with the archival material to preserve Haddam's history and the wonderful stories of the people who lived here.

Charlotte Gradie, who has been involved in the Historical Society for over ten years, is a professor of history at Sacred Heart University. She lives in East Hampton just over the line from Haddam Neck and enjoys the Society because it gives her a chance to meet interesting people and expand her love of history. Charlotte is a past president of the society and the co-author of "Haddam 1870-1930".

Sue Pedemonti lives in Higganum with her husband, Rich and has been a paralegal working for an Attorney in Berlin for 27 years. They reside in an antique home that they restored 6 1/2 years ago. Spare time is spent antiquing, sailing and enjoying grandchildren. Sue and Rich love their little cabin in Vermont and get there whenever possible. She is active in the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show.

Steve Rocco is an architect in private practice, with a degree in architectural history as well, and a long held interest in preservation. He is also a board member of the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust. A 20 year resident of Haddam he is very happy to be a resident of historic Higganum Landing. Steve's current project is the new Riverhouse Banquet and Conference Center on Route 82 in Tylerville near the Swingbridge. His spare time activities include photography and travel, and keeping four kids amused.

Deborah Rutter lives with her husband Bruno Morasutti and her two school-aged children on Walkley Hill Road in Haddam. A librarian in Cheshire, Deborah loves to read, cook and garden, but seems to spend most of her free time driving children from one place to another. Deborah has lived in Haddam for 20 years and can't imagine living anywhere else. She is active in the Haddam Historical Society because she is interested in preserving and sharing the many aspects of Haddam that make it such a wonderful place to live. She is the immediate past president of the society.

Jan Sweet and her late husband Mal moved to Haddam in 1971. While working as a systems analyst for the Aetna, Jan began the 17 year project of restoring their Revolutionary War era house. In 1998 she resigned from her fourth term on the HHS board to accept the position of Executive Director. Four years later she retired to spend more time kayaking and traveling. She was the Chair of the Social Committee for many years and has continued to be a member of the Collections and Program committees. Occasionally Jan reprises her tour guide role as the "ghost" of Thankful Arnold.

Cremation Hill Murders

The Society would like to thank the following people for their help with the presentation of the Cremation Hill Murders held earlier this year: Howard McAuliffe, Rogene Gillmor, Gary Mala, Dr. Wilfredo Nieves, William Francisco, Katie Short, and Kristopher Sowa.

Higganum resident Pat Drury is looking for her mother's bicentennial scrapbook which was lent out but never returned. If you know the whereabouts of the album please call Pat at 345-2717.



The Show web site will be up and running shortly. Look for it at www.ctspringantiquesshow.com

FALL APPLE FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 14, 2006
1:00 TO 4:00 PM
Thankful Arnold House

The Society will celebrate the fall harvest with traditional activities and pastimes. Join us for an afternoon of crafts, games and making apple cider. Home made apple pies and apple syrup will be available. The house will be open for tours. Crafts will include felting a harvest apple with Vivienne McGarry of Cold Goat Farm.



Haddam Historical Society Calendar of Events

September 1 through 4, **Haddam Neck Fair**. Labor Day Weekend! Visit our booth at the Haddam Neck Fair.

September 9, **Haddam River Days**. Saturday, 12 pm to 6 pm. Visit our tent at Haddam Meadows State Park

October 1, **Barn Talk and Tour**. 2 to 4 pm. Visit old and new barns with barn raiser Brendan Matthews in the Walkley Hill neighborhood. Free for members; \$5.00 for non-members.

October 14, **Family Fall Apple Festival**. Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm. Thankful Arnold House. Join us for a fun filled afternoon of fall activities including making cider, crafts, spinning and more. We will have homemade apple pies and syrup for sale.

October 14, **Fall Auction**, Saturday 5 to 6:30 pm Preview and 7:00 pm Auction, Higganum Firehouse Community Room, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum. Fundraising auction of fine art, antiques and more! Refreshments.

October 26, **Old House Group**, Thursday, 6:30 pm, 114 Brault Hill Road, Higganum. Tour a beautifully restored cape in the Burr District of Higganum.

November 3, **Founders Day Dinner**. Friday at 7 pm at the Wadsworth Mansion in Middletown. Look for invite in mail.

November **Community Collections** at the Arnold House. "Sailors Art" Members and friends are encouraged to share and display sailor's art from the 19th and 20th centuries including macramé, sailor's valentines, scrimshaw, and ships in a bottle. Call 345-2400 for more information.

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