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# PAST AND PRESENT

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The Newsletter of the Haddam Historical Society

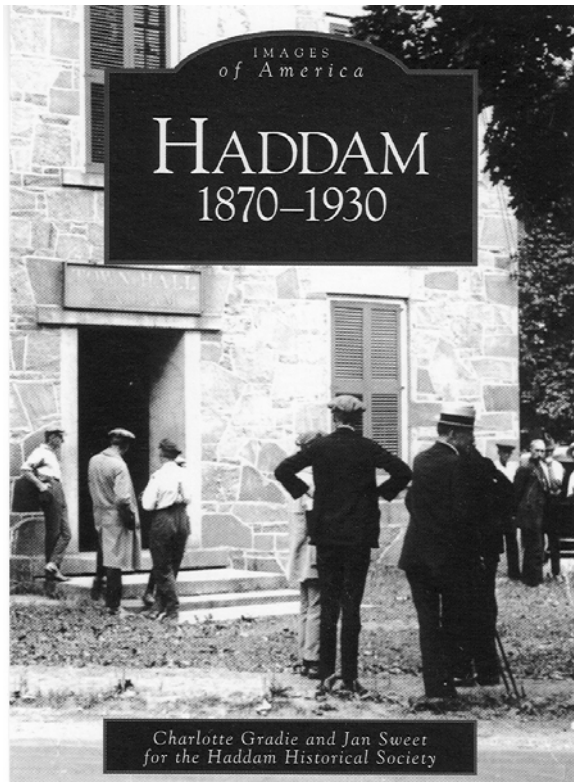
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## Haddam Historical Society Unveils Pictorial History of Haddam 1870 to 1930



The Society is pleased to present *Haddam 1870-1930* co-authored by town historian Jan Sweet and Professor Charlotte Gradie.

Published by Arcadia Publishing of New Hampshire, the book recounts the story of a dynamic period in the history of Haddam. Following the Civil War, Haddam's population like many rural New England localities, stabilized. Shipping declined and the town lost its courthouse. Rejecting stagnation, the people of Haddam capitalized on their Connecticut River location and fast running streams to develop industries as complements to agriculture and quarrying. This period of industrial expansion is exemplified by the Cutaway Harrow and Scovil Hoe companies, among others. The population also changed, as immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Czechoslovakia and other countries moved to town to work along side the native Yankees in both agriculture and manufacturing.

The book presents a journey through Haddam between the years 1870 and 1930 and begins with a trip up unpaved Saybrook Road through the villages of Shailerville, Haddam and Higganum. It then crosses the Connecticut River by ferry to Haddam Neck and then crosses the river again at Tylerville. The book continues with a look at Haddam agriculture, industry and historic houses. The journey ends with the changing times of the 1920s.

The publication features 200 rarely seen historic photographs from private collections and the archives of the Haddam Historical Society. The authors interviewed town residents and used historic documentation and records in researching the book.

The first shipment of 500 sold out quickly and 500 additional copies are now on hand for purchase.

Available for \$20, the book can be purchased at the Thankful Arnold House, 14 Hayden Hill Road, Haddam, CT and designated locations throughout town including the Higganum Feed Store, Country Market, Hi-Way Package Store, Higganum Pharmacy and the Town Office Building. For further information please call the Haddam Historical Society at 345-2400.

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*Past and Present* is a semiannual publication of the Haddam Historical Society, a private, nonprofit organization established in 1955. We welcome your comments at 860-345-2400, P.O. Box 97, Haddam, CT 06438 or [www.haddamhistory.org](http://www.haddamhistory.org).

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Development/ Membership-  
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Finance-Rusty Clowes

Gardens-Cindy Sullivan &  
Deb Rutter

Genealogy-Al & Helen Deag

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Social -Carol Smith

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Newsletter-Elizabeth Malloy &  
Barbara Glista

## Executive Director

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.haddamhistory.org](http://www.haddamhistory.org)

## From the President.....

Anyone who has lived in Haddam for any length of time can identify the imposing stone building on the corner of Saybrook Road and Jail Hill Road as the old county jail. When I first moved to town eighteen years ago, the jail was the first historic structure that caught my attention and made me want to learn more about the history of the town. Now, thanks to the overwhelming support of the local citizens who turned out at the town meeting on January 10, the town will acquire this significant piece of our history along with 51 acres of land from the state for a nominal conveyance fee. The board of directors of the Haddam Historical Society voted unanimously to support this acquisition. Not only is the jail an important building from both an historic and architectural perspective, it was built of Haddam granite by Isaac and Samuel Arnold, the sons of Joseph and Thankful Arnold, and thus has a direct connection to the Thankful Arnold House Museum headquarters of the Haddam Historical Society.

According to First Selectman Tony Bondi, once the ownership of the property has been transferred to the town he will be looking for a group of interested and active citizens to form a use committee. The committee will be charged with reviewing possible uses for the property and making recommendations to the town in a timely fashion. This will be an incredibly exciting opportunity for anyone interested in making a lasting contribution to our community and I know that some of our members will wish to be part of this process. Like many of you, I am eager to learn more about the possibilities for the land and the buildings, and feel very fortunate that our community has this wonderful opportunity. It is a happy New Year indeed!

With warmest regards,  
*Deborah Rutter*

## Survey of Haddam Barns

Barns have long been an integral part of the Connecticut landscape. Barns are the story of our agrarian past. Since Colonial times these important outbuildings have played a vital role in our community. With the decline of farming in the state however many barns have become neglected and obsolete and with the pace of rapid development are quickly disappearing.

In 2005 the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation began a comprehensive survey of historically significant barns throughout the state. The Trust is now seeking help from communities and local history organizations in documenting these significant buildings. The results of the survey will be posted on a new website [www.connecticutbarns.org](http://www.connecticutbarns.org) to preserve and make available the story of Connecticut agriculture as symbolized by its wide variety of barn types and uses.

In 2006 the Haddam Historical Society plans to start a town-wide survey of historic barns and outbuildings and is seeking volunteers to help. Surveyors will be trained and the material collected will be submitted to the Connecticut Trust and posted on the Connecticut Barns website, as well as be available at the Society's office. If you are interested in volunteering please call Lisa Malloy at 860-345-2400.



*John Brainerd House Barn, Haddam Neck*

## Haddam Historical Society Appoints Sarah Neal as Education Coordinator

The Haddam Historical Society is delighted to announce that Haddam resident Sarah Neal has been appointed Education Coordinator for the organization. Mrs. Neal is a graduate of Trinity College and Tufts University and has extensive experience as an educator in the heritage field. The Society has long recognized the importance of quality educational programs and hosts over 1000 school children each year from Regional District #17. The Society's goal is to make history come alive by inviting students to experience daily life in a 19<sup>th</sup> century Connecticut home. In 2005 programs were offered for grades 2,3,4,5, and 7, including a new program in conjunction with the Killingworth Historical Society and held at the one-room Union District Schoolhouse on Roast Meat Hill Road in Killingworth. The Society plans to expand its educational programs to home schooled students and scouts and develop a summer camp program to be offered in 2006.

The position is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council Heritage Advancement Program. These statewide grants are awarded in a competitive process each year to heritage organizations to establish or extend an important staff position at a critical point in the institution's development. Heritage Advancement Grants are awarded on a three-year sliding scale, providing a stable foundation of support while the grant recipient finds alternative funding. Each grantee is required to match the grant amount and to demonstrate significant progress toward financial independence to receive funding in years two and three.

The Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC) is a statewide non-profit institution located in Middletown, Connecticut that focuses its work on two time-honored traditions in the humanities—reflective reading of literature and exploration of history. CHC heritage programs, often conducted in partnership with state and regional cultural organizations, fund community humanities projects that explore Connecticut's diverse local heritage, as well as American and world history. This year, the CHC will produce or fund over \$2.8 million in cultural programming that enriches the lives of state residents and visitors statewide.

For more information on the Connecticut Humanities Council and its programs, please visit [www.ctheritage.org](http://www.ctheritage.org) or call (860) 685-2260.



Sarah Neal

### Society Awarded Grant for Summer Camp

The Society has been awarded a \$2000 grant from the **Middlesex County Community Foundation** to develop a week-long summer learning experience titled *A Week in the Life of an Early American Child c. 1820*. The camp will allow young persons ages 8-12 to experience the life of an American child around 1820 who lived in a small New England town. Campers will enter Federal period Connecticut where they will spend five days with Thankful Arnold in her home in Haddam. Role playing will allow participants to portray real children who either lived in the Thankful Arnold House or were neighbors in 1820. Campers will assume the responsibilities and duties of children of the time and take part in many indoor and outdoor chores. They will become familiar with domestic items used in pre-industrial America and learn how the herbs from the garden were put to household, culinary and medicinal uses. Campers will also review school lessons of the day and prepare for the community celebration of Independence Day.

Another goal of the camp is to encourage an appreciation for the way of life in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. One might wonder how young people today could appreciate the life then, which was so different and indeed difficult. In fact, the culture of early 19<sup>th</sup> century America is totally foreign to what students experience today in the United States. This program will demonstrate that Thankful's children and neighbors can teach us much about how to live today. They can offer wise lessons on the importance of hard work, a devotion to family and faith, frugality and a sense of community. Camp activities will underscore important 19<sup>th</sup> century values so that students can gain a new insight into the past and apply these values to their lives today.

The grant money will be used to research and develop activities for the camp which will be different from those currently offered in our Education programs and may include gardening and herb uses, butter churning, dipping candles, woodworking, and games. For more information please contact Sarah Neal, Education Coordinator at 345-2400.

## Founders' Day Award 2005

Each year the Haddam Historical Society presents its annual Founders Day Award to one or more members of the organization who have performed outstanding service to the Society and contributed to furthering its mission “*to preserve, collect, interpret and promote the history and heritage of Haddam for present and future generations.*” This year we honored three vital and worthwhile members who have each contributed to the Society in numerous ways.

**Charlotte Gradie**, long time Historical Society member and professor of Latin American History at Sacred Heart University served on the Board of Directors from 1996-2002 and was president of the Society from 2000-2002. She continues to be very active in the society and although technically a resident of East Hampton (although very close to the Haddam Neck border) we consider her an honorary resident of Haddam.

Charlotte has contributed to the society in many ways. She is an instrumental member of the Collections Committee and Museum/Tour Committee. As a professional historian and former employee at Sturbridge Village Charlotte encouraged us to rethink how the property was interpreted and bring history to life for our visitors. During her tenure on the Board, the Society looked closely at the history of the house and family and with grants she helped obtain developed a more accurate tour reflecting the period of the mid-1820's when Thankful Arnold went from being the wife of a successful merchant to a relatively young widow. Other projects Charlotte had a hand in were the Shards Investigation, Shailer and Knowles, and development of the Society's Strategic Plan.

With her connections in the heritage and scholarly worlds the Society had the opportunity to work with professionals who otherwise might not have been available to us. She brought a level of professionalism to the organization and made the Society a more mission-driven proactive entity. Charlotte's many talents also include sewing and she was responsible for the authentically styled bed coverings in the downstairs bedroom of the Arnold House.

Charlotte's most recent project, Haddam 1870-1930, co-authored with Jan Sweet is one of her greatest contributions to the Society and town. Working for months in the chilly basement of the Arnold House, Jan and Charlotte poured over hundreds of photographs to include in the book. This was followed up with arduous research, writing and editing as well as hand delivering the draft to the publisher in New Hampshire. Many hours were devoted to the project. The end result is a magnificent publication of which both Jan and Charlotte should be very proud.



*Charlotte Gradie*

**Barbara Glista** has been a dedicated volunteer for the Haddam Historical Society since coming to town in the late 1990s. One of the first things she did upon arriving in Haddam was to join the Historical Society and she has been indispensable ever since. She has served on the Board from 1999-2005 and many committees including Membership, Development, Antiques Show, Collections, Education, Space Needs, Gardens and Strategic Planning. She has spent many hours writing and editing the newsletter, developing displays and researching and painstakingly sewing costumes. Barbara is hard working, thorough, and has been an extremely able contributor to both the Board and the committees she has served on. She has kept us on task when we tend to stray and makes sure we stay focused on the matter at hand.

Barbara suggested, coordinated and facilitated the production of the Haddam Court House “replica” as the HHS entry in the Middletown Anniversary Parade. The court house has since been exhibited at a number of local events. She was a key figure in the development of the membership brochure and the Haddam Historical Society logo where she played a major role in the overall brochure design and writing and editing of the copy. She has also made strong contributions to the Antiques Show committee, in particular to the show design sub-committee where she was instrumental in helping with the layout and design. In particular we must cite her for her contribution to the show entrance for last years show. Any volunteer who is willing spend hours in the woods, in the middle of winter, gathering branches and cutting trees and then more hours gluing on tiny white flowers is deserving of a huge gold star.

Barbara has also been crucial to the publication of our newsletter, *Past and Present*. Not only does she write pieces for the newsletter but she also edits and proofreads every article, event and list that goes into it. She also reviews our pages and articles for the Haddam Bulletin. Barbara is also instrumental in putting together the small exhibits you see around town.

She is also willing to expand her knowledge of the heritage field which has been an asset to the organization. Every year she attends professional seminars and workshops on all types of museum subjects including collections care, fundraising, and exhibitions.

Barbara is also interested in gardening and landscape design and not only was she involved with the reinterpretation of the Arnold House garden with the herb study group, but she also devotes many hours volunteering for other organizations such as the Haddam Garden Club, Middletown Garden Club, East Haddam Garden Club, and the gardens at the Florence Griswold Museum. She is a member of the Landscape Design Council of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut.

**Al Deag** has made a significant contribution to the youth of this area through the Haddam Historical Society's Education Programs and the Haddam-Killingworth Mentoring Program. His love of history and willingness to share it with young people is a treasure of the Society.

For the last four years Al has been an active volunteer with the Education programs of the Haddam Historical Society and has been a member of the Education Committee since 2002. In those years he has volunteered with each and every school program. In October and November you can find him showing second graders how to cut and paste the three phase construction of the Arnold House on the cover of a booklet. He then engages them in a hands-on activity in which they guess the use of obsolete household items. Just ask Al to explain what a niddy-noddy is and how to wind a skein of yarn! In March he is working with 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys, helping them make a kite. Last May, he was an older scholar at Killingworth's Union District Schoolhouse where he specialized in geography lessons. That same month he welcomed third graders on a scavenger hunt in the Arnold House. Finally in June, seventh graders from the Middle School gathered in the Ancient Burial Yard where he told them about the lives of Haddam natives John Cook and Daniel B. Smith, two young men who lost their lives in events relating to the Civil War. Last year Al spent over 80 hours volunteering with the students themselves in programs from the Haddam Historical Society. He also attended numerous meetings and assisted with program preparation.

In addition to his volunteer work with the Haddam Historical Society, Al has worked with the Haddam-Killingworth Mentoring Program for the last nine years. Currently funded through a Drug-Free Community Grant, the Mentoring Program pairs a young person in need, identified through the school system, with an adult friend who is willing to develop a relationship with the youth. This is time spent one-on-one in the school setting, getting to know the student by talking, perhaps playing a board game, and in Al's case, sharing historical materials of interest to his mentee. Throughout the school year, Al has met weekly with his mentees and taken a real interest in them. This year he has two mentees, each at a different school. Mr. Ernie Nagler, Coordinator of the HK Mentoring Program, calls Al one of the gems among his mentors. Mr. Nagler went on to say that the guidance counselors love to see Al coming in to meet with his mentees because he has such a special skill in relating to young people. Haddam-Killingworth Middle School Principal, Miriam Wagner, adds "Al Deag is beloved by all in our school community. We salute him, not only for his wealth of information, but for the generous spirit as he shares his most valuable gift, his time!"


Al is a person who always finds something positive in a young person, and he compliments them on that talent, skill, or interest. He is also an encourager; one who builds up the confidence of our youth. His many hours of volunteering with the young people of Haddam and Killingworth speak loudly to his genuine concern for them and their future.



*Helen and Al Deag*

**The Haddam Historical Society  
Welcomes New Members**

Jacqueline Anderson, Haddam  
Suzanne Blancaflor, Haddam  
Laura and Jim Borg, Higganum  
Jessica Criscuolo, Higganum  
Dan and Emily Duffy, Higganum  
East Haddam Historical Society  
Margaret Faber, Middle Haddam  
Ann Hallman, Tucson, AZ  
Pamela P. Journey, El Cajon, CA  
Anna Ruth Masters, East Hampton  
Cathleen and Eric Meder, Haddam  
Jill Muennich, Haddam  
Dave and Geri Shaw, Haddam  
Kathleen Sullivan, Higganum



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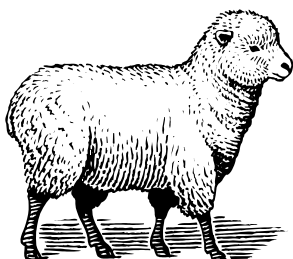
18 KILLINGWORTH RD., HIGGANUM, CT 06441  
(860) 345-2315 • FAX (860) 345-1091

The Society would like to thank Jerry and Gail Powell's Hi-Way Package Store for their ongoing support of the Society and its programs.

**Winter Woolies**

Sundays, January 22 & February 5  
1 pm to 3 pm  
Thankful Arnold House

Sit and Knit with other experienced knitters. Beth Hartke will be on hand to offer advice. Light refreshments



**Connecticut  
Spring  
Antiques Show**

**March 11 and 12, 2006  
CT Expo Center  
Hartford, CT**

The Haddam Historical Society will host the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Connecticut Spring Antiques Show on March 12 and 13, 2006.

Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Admission is \$10 per person, Volunteers- Free Admission

The Society's Antiques Show Committee is hard at work preparing for the Connecticut Spring Antiques Show, one of the Society's largest fundraisers and considered by many as the premier show for Early American, pre-1840 furniture and decorative arts. Over 65 of the nation's most respected antiques dealers will feature outstanding examples of furniture, silver & pewter, brass & ironware, porcelain & pottery, fine art and much more!

This year's theme is Connecticut Valley Craftsmanship and we are honored to have Thomas and Alice Kugelman speak on Connecticut Valley Furniture: Eliphalet Chapin and His Contemporaries on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. The Kugelmans with Robert Lionetti authored a book of the same title in 2005 which was a companion piece to the Connecticut Historical Society's exhibit on Connecticut Valley Furniture this past year. The Kugelmans are lifelong collectors who have become leading authorities on Connecticut Valley furniture. They created the Hartford Case Furniture Survey (HCFS) in 1990 and have conducted detailed research including systematic examinations of over five hundred regional examples. They have written and lectured extensively on their findings. On Sunday, booth chats with leading dealers will continue the educational programs.

The success of the show relies heavily on the many wonderful and dedicated volunteers of the Haddam Historical Society. This year we will be asking for help to guard the show exits, greet visitors, booth sit for dealers, help out with hospitality and show set up and break down.

We will begin calling for volunteers in early February, but if you are interested in becoming involved before then we have a number of jobs still open including coordinating the Dealers' Coffee, assisting in the distribution of posters and show cards and breaking down the show on Sunday.

The Society is seeking the following items to use for the weekend of March 11 and 12:

- Large Coat Rack, Wireless microphone, Easels, and LCD projector. If you have any of these items which you are willing to loan please call Lisa Malloy at the Society's office at 345-2400.

## Privies to Parlors House Tour a Roaring Success!

The Society would like to thank the many people who made our Fall House Tour a great success especially our homeowners: **Deb Adams, Kent Baker, Jody and Eric Bogdan, Nancy and Stanley Brittingham, Marijean and Carl Conrad, Marnie Goodman and Gordon Hard, Cynthia Goetz and Liz Yorke, and Amy and Doug Roper.**

Tour co-chairs Jan Sweet and Amy Roper did an outstanding job and our committee volunteers, Norma Burr, Rusty and Diane Clowes, Susann Costa, Marge DeBold, Marnie Goodman, Lisa Malloy, Sarah Neal, Deb Rutter and Carol Smith were invaluable. We thank our house captains John Anderson, Esther Beierle, Jody Bogdan, Rusty and Diane Clowes, Sarah Neal, Amy Roper, Deb Rutter, Wendy Savino and Liz Warner for their essential services.

Vivienne McGarry did a great job coordinating our Haddam Made Market and Rod Auclair was our parking guru. Special thanks to Yvonne and Tiger Carlson for providing the tent, Susann and David Costa for donating refreshments, Hallmark Homes for advertising, Dave Lenzi for photography, David Neal for preparing the map, David Wolfram for the fabulous brochure design and Beryl Thorpe and John Whitmore of George Whitmore & Company for making the signs.

The Society also deeply appreciates the many volunteers who served as house monitors, parking attendants and greeters including John Anderson, Esther Beierle, Susan Bement, Jim and Laura Borg, Jo Brann, Louise Carlson, Ron Chambers, Rusty and Diane Clowes, Dana Cone, Susann Costa, Kathleen Curran, Al and Helen Deag, Marge DeBold, Mel Ellis, Anne Farrow, Rogene Gillmor, Barbara Glista, Nancy Hart, Hazel Kurlansky, Jessica Labbe, Ginny LaBella, David, Hannah, Grace and Davy Malloy, Carol and Dick Matregrano, Gerry Matthews, Ron and Mary Alice Matulevich, Sandra McCurdy, Bob and Vivienne McGarry, Dianne and Annie McHutchison, Kristin Millard, Jeanne Miller, Mary Morton, Sarah and David Neal, Cheryl Parmelee, Ellie Pringle, Linda Rigono, Deb Rutter, Wendy Savino, Alicia Sessa, Carol and Terry Smith, Barbara Stellenwerf, Natalie Stewart, Mary Todzia and Liz Warner.

HHS is extremely grateful to the Haddam Garden Club for the floral arrangements they prepared for the tour homes and to the volunteers from H-K Youth and Family Services including Cheryl Chandler, Katie Church, Brittany Halleck, Jessica Maine, Katie Roy and Nick Stanford. We also could not forget to thank the industrious entrepreneurs who sold cookies on our behalf including Katherine and Paul Morasutti, Oliver Neal, Cam, Quinn and Riley Millard and Briana, Joshua and Bennett Sessa.

A big thank you goes to Gail and Jerry Powell of Hi-Way Package Store in Higganum for hosting the wine tasting at the post tour party.

The tour attracted over 200 visitors and raised over \$7000 for the Society. We would like to hold another house tour in 2007 highlighting a different part of town. If you would like to be involved or have ideas you would like to share please give Lisa Malloy a call at 860-345-2400.



### *Commemorative Pie Plate Available*

In honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the Haddam Historical Society is offering this commemorative salt glazed stoneware pie plate for \$30.

The plates are decorative as well as microwavable, oven, dishwasher and food safe and measure 10 ½ inches in diameter. The plate which features the HHS logo and name in cobalt blue was created by Eldreth Pottery in Oxford, Pennsylvania. There is a limited number available. Please call the office at 345-2400 or stop by to purchase one.

### Have you renewed your membership for 2006?

Please renew today. Forms are available online at [www.haddamhistory.org](http://www.haddamhistory.org)

The Old House Enthusiasts Group will return in the spring of 2006. If you are interested in sharing your home and restoration stories with our group please call Lisa at 345-2400. We would like to thank our 2005 hosts, Bob Johnson of Johnson Millworks in Haddam Neck, The Malloy Family, Jan Sweet and Bob and Marcia Reynolds. Look for information on our website.

The Society would like to thank **Cindy Davis of Focus Bookkeeping** for donating her ongoing services to support the business needs of the Society.

## Haddam Historical Society Calendar of Events

**January 22**, Sunday 1 pm to 3 pm. **Winter Woolies**. Thankful Arnold House, 14 Hayden Hill Road, Haddam, CT. Join other enthusiastic and experienced knitters for a relaxing afternoon with no modern day intrusions. Free Admission. Light Refreshments. Registration call 860-345-2400.

**February 5**, Sunday 1 pm to 3 pm. **Winter Woolies**. Thankful Arnold House, 14 Hayden Hill Road, Haddam, CT. Join other enthusiastic and experienced knitters for a relaxing afternoon with no modern day intrusions. Free Admission. Light Refreshments. Registration call 860-345-2400.

**March 11 and 12**, Saturday 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm. **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Connecticut Spring Antiques Show**. Premier Early American Antiques Show featuring over 65 of the nation's most prominent dealers. Saturday Keynote Lecture, 1:00 pm by Dr. Thomas and Alice Kugelman, leading authorities on Connecticut Valley Furniture. Sunday will feature Booth Chats on Connecticut Valley Craftsmanship. Admission to show \$10 (Educational Programs included). Connecticut Expo Center, 265 Reverend Moody Overpass, Hartford, CT. Exit 33 (Jennings Road) off of I-91.

**March 30**, Thursday at 7:00 pm. **Emil Schutte and The Cremation Hill Murders**. Higganum resident Howard McAuliffe will talk about one of Haddam's most notorious residents and the multiple murders he committed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Free for HHS members. \$3 for non-members. Firehouse Community Hall, 439 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT.

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