



BRICK NOTES

Letter from the President



Dear CHS Members,

Summer is just about over and Fall is almost upon us. We have been involved in many activities: We kicked it off with a very successful Annual Pot luck Dinner May 3rd, Memorial Day Plant and Bake Sale, Connecticut Open House Day, Shakespeare in the Garden, Connecticut Opera, Pierson Days just to name a few.

The Museum Room has been open every Thursday from 5 pm to 7 pm since February 7th and we are seeing more visitors every month. Our Volunteer Docents were also able to open the room each night of the CT Opera. The current exhibit is The Abraham Pierson School. We do update our items as we find them and more are donated to us.

CHS Awarded two Morgan School Students Scholarships. More information about the students and the scholarships can be found later in this edition.

The CHS annual Ghost Walks will be held on October 22nd and 23rd with the assistance of Kidz Konnection. The Stanton House and the Indian River Cemetery will be a part of the walks as usual this year. Kidz Konnection will also have a Halloween Event the weekend of Ghost Walks, Saturday October 26th.

We've had many donations that we have been cataloged into our Library, including the blueprints to the Clinton National Bank addition circa 1952. Thanks to Mario Lupone for those. Charles and Linda Stannard have been donating many items that have been in the Stannard family for many generations.

CHS is expanding our partnership with the Henry Carter Hull Library. The Voices of Clinton Series will be on October 1st at 6 pm with a video from Lou Bougie and past CHS President Bob Bischoff, and on October 19th CHS and HCH will have a program at the library on The Little Red School House. Trollies will be available at the library parking lot to take visitors to a tour of LRS as there is no parking available there. More information will follow as these dates approach.

We will be sending further information on our Holiday Luncheons soon.

We could title this the Thank You Voluteers Issue. Please note all the folks who have helped make CHS what it is today. Thank you all so very much! If you would like to voluteer to assist please get in contact with us at our email address.



Dave Bautz was recognized and honored for his years of service as President of the Clinton Historical Society, May 1, 2015 - May 1, 2018, helping to "save our past for the future". Dave has not retired from the board, thankfully, and continues to give hours of his time caring for the upkeep of the CHS buildings and grounds, making repairs, coordinating with contractors and so much more. Thank you, Dave!!!



Thank you to Diane Gustafson and team for all of their efforts in having another successful Plant and Bake Sale on Memorial Day. Townspeople always look forward to enhancing their gardens and their kitchens by means of this popular fundraiser.

Another year of Pierson Days and another year of excited and interested students, teachers, and parents who toured the Old Brick and learned about the culinary and medicinal uses of some of the plants in our gardens. The Tool Museum is always of great interest and in the Flynn Library they learned about archives, maps, and the visual changes of Main Street Clinton from 1915 to the present, by means of Burt Godwin's diorama of Clinton during its trolley years and photographs found in our archives. Thank you to Laraine Scherban who coordinated the dates and logistics with the Pierson School and also to Anne Baker, Faithe Mangler, Diane Gustafson, Gail Webster, John Quinn, Dave Rainey, April Godwin Shuman, Charlotte Neely and Christy Pontillo who gave of their time for this event.



CHS participated in Connecticut's statewide history celebration. The Old Brick was open for tours and visitors enjoyed our gardens, the Buell Tool Museum, and the George Flynn Library where the diorama of Clinton's Main Street circa 1915 was on display. A huge thank you to Laraine Scherban for making all the arrangements and for coordinating all of the day's volunteers: John Quinn, Faithe Mangler, Jack Scherban, Bill Stine, Christy Pontillo, Charlotte Neely, and April Godwin Shuman. At the same time Anne Baker had the Museum Room open featuring the current exhibit about the Abraham Pierson School. Thank you, too, to Carrie Allen and Megan Stine, who created the colorful "Clinton's Historic Community" brochure promoting the Old Brick, the Stanton House and the Andrews Memorial.

The Museum Room is now open every Thursday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Anne Baker is our museum curator and she's been working hard getting the newest exhibit up and running and additionally sprucing up many of the signs throughout the room, not to mention getting the room cleaned and polished. Volunteers are more than welcome to help on any given Thursday and Anne will gladly train you. Offer one Thursday a year, a quarter, a month - your help is greatly appreciated!

Christy visited The Morgan School to present the CHS scholarships to this year's recipients. The Ernest C. Burnbam Scholarship, given to the student who has shown genuine appreciation for history and has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field, was awarded to Phoebe Sullivan. The Victor Mays Scholarship, awarded to a student who has show exceptional talent as an artist and has demonstrated a comitment to pursue a career in the visual arts field, was presented to Davis Saturno.





News from the Library: The family of Nadine Smith Swan recently donated a number of documents, post cards, and scrap books to the Flynn Library. In one scrap book was a newspaper article from the New Haven Register, dated August 16, 1925 entitled “Band Passes Into History After Half-Century of Fine Service”. It relays a bit of the history of that band. Originally known as the Clinton Cornet Band, the Military Clinton Band was organized in 1881. Henry Kelsey, Joseph Hurlbut and Alvah Pierson decided there was enough musical talent in town for form a band. Familiar family names are among those names



listed: Kelsey, Bushnell, Platt, Wright, Merrill, and Burnham. The band had a leader and a drum major and the instruments played included cornet, alto horn, bass horn, trombone, piccolo, snare drum, bass drum, and cymbals. Their music was heard at church picnics and weddings, and early on the group organized an annual tournament. These tournaments included bands from Branford, Guilford, Essex, Old Lyme and Clinton. Their original uniforms were purchased second hand from the “renowned” New Haven Grays. The band participated in the ceremony

of the dedication of East Rock Monument in New Haven as well as at the dedication of the Soldiers Monument in New London. In the summer there were weekly concerts on the town bandstand. Every winter they worked hard to put on a drama in Morgan Hall which helped raise money for band music, particularly the latest marches, especially those of John Philip Sousa. Joel Platt was a fine musician, playing the cornet in the band, having taken cornet lessons from Herbert Clark, a cornet soloist in Sousa’s band. The last time they met and played was at the dedication of the Soldiers’ Monument on the lower Green in May, 1911. In 1925, the band’s history ended as the organization presented its treasury’s balance of \$184.76 to the Henry Carter Hull Library. It should be noted that Nadine Smith Swan’s father, Richard Edgar Smith, played bass horn in the band, hence the importance of this article to her.

Included with this donation was a rare copy of “Mr. Charles Morgan”, written by B.G. Northrop, printed in New Haven by Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylore, Printers, 1879. Birdsie Northrop was a friend of Charles Morgan. Mr. Northrop was integral in the creation of the Connecticut Board of Education, and was the developer of Village Improvement Societies throughout Connecticut. The later pages of this pamphlet spell out what Mr. Northrop recommended for Clinton in how to adopt and create “The Rural Improvement Association”, noting officers, and membership fees, which would be waived for those who planted three trees along the streets of Clinton.

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Can You Help?

CHS is always looking for volunteers, even for just an hour or two. Please consider becoming a docent at the Old Brick, join with the Tuesday morning gardeners or two hours on a Thursday afternoon as a host in the museum room. Volunteers are always welcome for events like the Ghost Walk, Memorial Day, Pierson Days and more. For further information please email us at: CHSOldBrick@gamail.com

CHS Calendar of Upcoming Events

CHS Annual Garden Party

Sunday, September 8, 2019

CHS Ghost Walk

Tuesday, October 22 and Wednesday, October 23, 2019

Christmas in Clinton

Sunday, December 1st

1:00 p.m. till 5:00 p.m.

Open House at the Old Brick and the Museum Room

Holiday Luncheons in the Old Brick

Wednesday & Thursday December 4th and 5th at noon

Holiday Dinners in the Old Brick

Friday & Saturday

December 6th and 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Return Service Requested

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Society
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