

# HISTORICAL HARTFORD SOCIETY

Hartford Vermont 05047-0547

Volume 1, Issue 1

Society Newsletter

September/October 1988

This is the first issue of Hartford Historical Society's Newsletter. We hope it will keep all our members informed of the business matters of the Society as well as upcoming events. Because our Society has chosen to have Executive Committee meetings during non-program months (August, October, December, February, April, June), and keep business matters to a bare minimum during program meetings, the Committee wanted a vehicle to keep the general membership included in all Society matters. Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

## September Meeting at St. Anthony's Church

Our third meeting in the Hartford Church series will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church. As in the past, we will have an opportunity to learn the history of the church and get a chance to study the architecture. Member's personal church experiences of general interest may be shared during the meeting.

St. Anthony's history began in 1847 when, according to John St. Croix, the Reverend John B. Daley offered the first mass in town. A parish was assigned to the Reverend Magliore Pigeon in 1869, property next to St. Anthony's cemetery on South Main Street was purchased in 1870, and a church, rectory and school were built in 1871-1872.

A new rectory was built in 1884-1892, and the church building was expanded. The current church was built in 1897-1898. This church was completely remodeled in 1956-1963.

There is a picture of the original church and parochial school in St. Croix's Historical Highlights of the Town of Hartford Vermont. The church was sold and became a private dwelling.

## July Meeting at the West Hartford Congregational Church

Despite warnings that the church had no sanitary facilities, a group of about 20 members and friends gathered to learn about the church history. Fred Bradley, President, brought the second record book from the church, and he and Muriel Farrington, Program Chair, took turns reading selected sections from it. There was some discussion as to whether the church had been moved from Dothan Road, but according to St. Croix's history, this was not so as the Dothan Church was still in use until 1844; the West Hartford Congregational Society was organized in 1829 with services held in the brick school until 1832 when the church was completed. This building was renovated in 1800 and again in 1894. We spent some time examining the architecture, the glass windows, and nooks and crannies. We were distressed to see that the windows are being shot out (as is happening in Wilder also), and the roof needs repairs.

## Upcoming Events

**October - Special Meeting:** The Society will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 7 pm in the Vermont Room in the Hotel Coolidge where all items collected by the Society will be on display. Please let one of the Executive Committee know of the availability of any "table type" display cases that could be borrowed for this meeting.

**October/November Historical Society/Church Supper:** The Society and Hartford Church have agreed to sponsor a Bean Supper possibly October 1, 8, November 5 or 12 with the purpose of raising money for preserving donated items. The Church will be responsible for the kitchen and the Society will be responsible for the dining room. The proceeds would be split. Twelve to fifteen Society members will be needed for the dining room. We will also be needing pies. If you can help, please let a Board member know.

**Other Items:** There is a movement in Quechee to designate much of Quechee as an historical district. Bob Plattner has attended the meeting, briefed our Executive Committee, and recommended a smaller area, primarily the village, be so designated. Certain sections of road could be designated scenic roads, and individual buildings historical sites. He will update the Society as this movement progresses.

### Society Officers:

Fred Bradley - President  
Muriel Farrington - V.P. /Program Chair  
Robert Plattner - Treasurer  
Marguerite Hogg - Secretary  
Esther Bachelder - Director-at-Large

Paul Bennett - Membership Chair  
Georgia Plattner - Membership Cards  
Priscilla Gadzinski - Cataloging  
Cameron Clifford - Geneologist  
Muriel Farrington - Archeologist

### Charter Members:

Esther Bachelder	Irene Brockway	Sibyle Gilbert	Georgia Plattner
Janet Blood	Anita Derosie	Jeannette Gould	Robert Plattner
Alma Bradley	Marjorie Derosie	Marguerite Hogg	
Fred Bradley	Muriel Farrington	Kate Lyon	

Honorary Lifetime Chapter Member - John St. Croix

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