

Squire's Tavern Quarterly

Sugar Meadow Island

by Walt Landgraf, BHS

For over a century, photographs looking upstream on the Farmington River, taken from the Pleasant Valley bridge, have been framed on their western edge by a beautiful, grassy, treed island.

Historically this island was a part of Proprietor Lot 41 laid out in 1760 as part of the fourth division of the Town of Barkhamsted. Lot 41 was laid out on the rights of Samuel Holcomb of Windsor, one of the original proprietors of the town. His heirs sold these rights to the Phelps family of Windsor.

It is interesting to note that Lot 41 was bounded on the south by the Mast Swamp where lots were also laid out in 1760 as part of the second division. These parcels continued down the west bank of the Farmington River to New Hartford and, along with lots of the first division laid out in 1734 on the east bank of the river, they covered the area known as the Mast Swamp.

The 1760 lots of the second division were smaller than other lots because of their high timber value. It is in this area that giant white pines were found growing on rich, well-watered soils underlain with gravel that provided good drainage. Some of these pines were harvested for ship masts and all were valuable for lumber. The evergreen nature of the pines and hemlocks in this area suggested the name "Green Woods" for the river valley.

On June 21, 1788 the Phelps family sold Lot 41, which straddled the river and included the island, to Ezra Weed of Danbury. The next day, Weed sold the western 25 acres of this lot to Eli Holcomb

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Part 6, *Over at the Squire's Tavern*

The Visitor from New York City

by Frederick Fenn, BHS

"Shhh," warned Charlotte as her family came clamoring into the house. It was half-past one o'clock in the morning. "Bela," she said to her husband, "tell the kids to be quiet. We have a guest tonight and it wouldn't be good to wake the poor gentleman in the middle of the night."

"Did you tell him we were haying?" asked Bela Sr.

"I did and he said not to worry. He said he was used to clamoring and clattering and all sorts of outside noses." Charlotte looked at Susan who had stayed with the older children in the field after their evening picnic. There was a twinkle in Charlotte's eye, "He's from New York City!"

Susan let out a squeal and that was immediately squelched by big brother Bela's hand cupped over her mouth. Susan giggled and pulled away from her brother. "New York City!" she whispered. "I've got to talk to him. He must tell me all about what it's like there."

"Do you think he's ever heard of Miss Fanny Grace?" asked Lottie. "I wonder if she's still famous."

The family sat around the back parlor fireplace sipping hot tea. Charlotte had built a small fire for warmth and for atmosphere in the room. It was their living room when there were no guests about.

"I've put him in the large guest room upstairs, so you children can get up into the attic without disturbing him. Now off to bed with you," Charlotte gently shooed her children toward the stairs. "And don't wake the little ones, please!"

"What's his name?" asked Bela

Sr. He paused at the dining room doorway, stretching.

"Mr. Honeywell," said Charlotte as she ushered the children to the staircase with one last reminder for silence. There was sound of footsteps tip-toeing up the first set of stairs, then even more muffled footsteps on the second set of stairs. The third step of the attic stairs creaked. Bela grimaced as each child seemed to find that particular stair. Once the trail to the attic quieted down, the whole tavern became middle-of-the-night quiet.

It seemed like only a few minutes had passed before Buffalo, Edmond's pet rooster, began his morning duty of calling to everybody and everything at sun's first light.

Charlotte rose and went into the back kitchen. She lit her lamp that stood on its own shelf by the door to the south-facing woodshed. The whole yard was enveloped in an early morning fog. Buffalo continued his loud calling. He usually stopped when the sun poked its head up peeking down into the valley. Charlotte built up the fire in the stove and set the kettle on to boil as well as the coffee pot, then put out biscuits and bread for breakfast. After putting them on a large white porcelain platter, she pulled two small pottery jars off the shelf—one with butter, the other with blackberry jam—and placed them beside the biscuits and bread.

"That was a short night," Bela

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commented, picking up a piece of biscuit from the platter and popping it into his mouth. "How long is Mr. Honeywell going to be staying?"

"He said he would like to stay here for today and tomorrow," said Charlotte setting cups and saucers on the worktable in the center of the kitchen. "He has business with Lambert Hitchcock up at the new chair factory." Charlotte stopped her work and wiped her hands on her apron. "Mr. Honeywell has a store on a street called Broadway." The coffee pot began to perk, spitting on the hot stove reminding anyone who could hear that it was unattended. Lottie came into the room and, using her apron as a potholder, picked it up and set it on the worktable beside the cups and saucers.

Bela Sr. pulled three cups toward him and filled two with hot coffee for himself and Charlotte, and tacitly offered some to Lottie. It was a morning joke between the two of them for Bela knew the response would be, "No thanks, Dad, that stuff is too bitter for my sweet personality!"

Bela Sr. hurriedly sipped his coffee, set the cup down and

stepped onto the back woodshed. He lit his pipe as he circled around to the back of the tavern toward the black smith shop. The sun would soon burn off the fog and turn the coolness into a bright sunny hot day. Any work done by the fire would be best done in the cool of the morning.

It was almost seven o'clock when Mr. Honeywell came down from his bedchamber. He was refreshed from his good sleep, and all smiles.

"Good morning, Mr. Honeywell," greeted Susan. "Would you like your breakfast here in the front kitchen or could I bring it to you in the back sitting room?"

"Well, let's see now. Everyone has finished eating except me, is that correct?" Mr. Honeywell asked looking around the empty front kitchen. He was of medium height and terribly thin. He was not the sort who could put in a day's work out in the fields without collapsing from exhaustion. He was a "city man," as the folks in Pleasant Valley called such a person, not suited to the country life. His attire boasted a fine brown suit and white cotton shirt with a waistcoat of the same color as his trousers. His boots were highly polished soft black leather. When outside he wore a wide-brimmed beaver hat.

"Everyone has finished, but Mama told me I could keep you company. She said if it was all right with you, I could ask you all about New York City. Is that all right? Would you mind?"

"Well," he said teasing her, "I had hoped to read the Connecticut Courant while I munched on toast and sipped coffee." Susan's face fell in disappointment. Then he winked at her, "Sure, I'd love to tell you about New York. What do you want to know?"

"Let's sit here at the table," said Susan pulling out a chair for Mr. Honeywell. "I'll get you some coffee. Lottie'll make you toast."

"I can't make toast," said Lottie from the back kitchen. "I'm up to my elbows in dough. Edmond, make toast for Mr. Honeywell."

Edmond nodded and cut some bread. "Wait. I want to listen too," he said from the back kitchen.

Mr. Honeywell smoothed his napkin in his lap and peered into the kitchen at Edmond already kneeling in front of the fire with the bread.

Mr. Honeywell took a sip of his coffee and carefully set the cup into its saucer. "To begin with, New York City is a big city. It is very crowded and growing constantly. Years ago they took down the wall at Wall Street because of its growth." He spread some butter on the hot toasted bread that Edmond had just rushed to the table.

"Is it true people from all over the world have come to live there and everyone speaks a different language?" asked Susan.

"Almost," said Mr. Honeywell. "There are many languages spoken down there, but if a body wants to really get on in the city, he must speak at least some English."

"What was the wall at Wall Street?" asked Edmond, pulling up a chair. Charlotte paused at the doorway of the front kitchen with a dish towel in her hand. A smile crept across her face. *Those two*, she thought, *will end up in New York City some day, just you wait and see.*

"Wall Street is where the city built a wall all the way across the island to mark the northern most part of the city proper. Of course there was the small cluster of houses at Greenwich and up at Harlem Heights, but most everybody not on a farm lived below the wall. But," said Mr. Honeywell raising his finger for emphasis, "more people built houses north of the wall on the Bloomingdale Road."

Squire's Tavern Quarterly

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September 1, 2004.

The Colors of History

by Karen Ansaldi, BHS

It is often said that you can completely rejuvenate a home with a coat of fresh paint, and we've brought that old saw to life this quarter at the Squire's Tavern. With plastering and preparation finally complete, Peter Webster Painting, contractor of Cheshire, Connecticut, sent his detail painter, Leon, to finish the walls and trim inside the Tavern with historically accurate colors and finishes. Sherwin Williams Co. matched the colors that had been identified by historical paint color consultant Brian Powell. This effort has made a tremendous difference in the atmosphere within the building.

Front Parlor

In the front parlor, which once served as the building's primary gathering spot and taproom during Tavern days, the walls are a golden yellow and the trim is a peacock blue. Around the baseboard and across the lower edge of the doors is dark brown. While an area of the original stenciling has been left in the liquor keep area for display purposes, most of the stenciling in this room will be recreated under the direction of Germaine Lemieux according to the patterns and colors uncovered by Historical Society volunteers Linne and Walt Landgraf. Three period-style candle sconces have now been mounted along front parlor walls. These lights offer the look of historic lighting while taking advantage of

the modern safety and convenience of electric lighting.

Back Parlor

In the back parlor, where the ladies may have gathered or smaller groups of gentlemen may have held more private conversations in Tavern days, the walls are whitewashed and the trim is a lighter shade of the same blue used on the trim in the front parlor. The baseboard is red-brown, continuing across all wood trim elements and doors. No evidence of stenciling was found in this plainer room, so none will be added.

Front Kitchen

Adjacent to the front and back parlors is the front kitchen, where the walls are whitewashed and the trim is a deep shade of gray that appears taupe in some lights. A medium brown baseboard finishes the room. This room would have been the primary cooking and dining room for the Squire family in Tavern days. It contains the largest fireplace in the house, which still holds the crane once used to hold pots over the fire.

South Bedroom

Behind the front kitchen is the small south bedroom that is being furnished according to Bela Squire's probate list by Town Historian Doug Roberts. This room has whitewashed walls and dark blue trim.

Kitchen Stairway

The stairs from the front kitchen

to the second floor are trimmed in the same gray as the front kitchen, as is the central hallway on the second floor. Originally, a very narrow stairway located in approximately the same place would have been the family's main access to the second floor loft, where extra provisions would have been stored above the front kitchen.

Ballroom

The ballroom, the second most public room in the house during Tavern days, now again has walls of a salmon hue, and trim of the same light blue found in the back parlor. The baseboard trim encircles the room in red-brown. With the painting finished, Society volunteers hung the period-style candle sconce lights purchased and safely stowed away months ago. In this room, people from all walks of life once danced and socialized, and perhaps gathered for meetings, conducting town or Methodist church business.

2nd Floor North Bedrooms

The small bedrooms on the north side of the second floor are simply whitewashed. These rooms were probably used as sleeping quarters for passing travelers who could afford a 'private room', or by town paupers later on in the building's history.

Please join us for the annual meeting on September 10 to see the progress and experience the colors of history. ♠

NEW YORK: CONT. FROM P. 2

Broadway, one of the main streets, starts from the bowling green," Honeywell pointed to a bread crumb on the table as a reference point, "and, at first, extended north only as far as the wall." He drew an imaginary line indicating the place where the

wall once stood 150 years before. "And," he continued, "the Bloomingdale road ran south from the very northern part of Manhattan Island down to the wall. However, when the city expanded north along the Bloomingdale road, the road took on the name of Broadway. Today Broadway extends all the

way to what they call 14th Street."

Edmond looked at Mr. Honeywell credulously, "Fourteenth Street? What a funny name for a street – a number. What happened to First Street and Second Street...?"

"Oh, they're there all right. In

SUGAR MEADOW: CONT. FROM P. 1

of Barkhamsted. Eli Holcomb was also owner of the adjoining Lot 42 upstream on the east bank, the future site of Squire's Tavern. Ezra Weed retained the east bank and the island and bought part of Lot 42 upstream on the east bank from Eli Holcomb. Now Ezra Weed owned the island and land on the east bank up to Holcomb's boundary. This line still exists as part of the southern perimeter of Peoples State Forest. At the time of these sales, this part of the river valley was known as "Moose Plains."

During the next nine years, Holcomb sold his property to Daniel Bennett and Weed sold his lands to Jonas Weed, Jr.

In 1797, Eben Woodruff and Samuel Merlin of Farmington purchased both parts of the original Lot 41 from Daniel Bennett and Jonas Weed Jr. It is in J. Weed's deed that we find the first official mention of the island called "Sugar Meadow." Bennett's deed to Woodruff describes land to the west of "Sugar Meadow." It has been thought that the name "Sugar Meadow" referred either to the Native American or early settlers making maple sugar from sugar maple trees on the island. J. Weed retained ownership of the remaining part of Lot 42.

Woodruff and Merlin erected a sawmill and constructed a dam across the part of the Farmington River that flows between the island and the west bank, near present day 23 West River Road. By 1798 Woodruff had been joined in business by his brother-in-law Miles Curtis and the mill produced lumber until Woodruff's death in 1851.

Town stories recall that in the winters Woodruff used his first training as a harness maker to make shoes for the family and for the workmen cutting trees on the hills above the mill. The cliffs and woodlots above Pleasant Valley became known as "Woodruff Moun-

tain."

In the early part of the 1800s before his marriage, Woodruff boarded with the David Lee family living on the old Weed property on the east bank of the river. The family history records that Woodruff used a dugout canoe to ferry back and forth between the Lees and the mill. There are also family stories about Woodruff and Miles traveling down the Farmington in a dugout to visit Woodruff's parents in Farmington where he could always find a ready buyer for his canoe. They would walk back to the mill.

He used to join up with Asa Gilbert, who owned a sawmill on Morgan Brook and they would each drive a two-wheeled ox cart loaded with lumber to Hartford. This trip would take a full day and the better part of two nights. Eben and his wife Rhoda were among the founders of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Church and their home used to be located where Route 318 comes down to the bridge in front of the Pleasant Valley Store. The house burned in 1900.

In 1852 Albert Baker purchased the mill site including Sugar Island and constructed his sash and blind shop near Woodruff's sawmill. In 1855 Baker took down the old sawmill and replaced it with a new shop. Later in 1870 a 30 ft. by 50 ft., three-story high shop had been built on the site and large quantities of top quality white pine were converted into sash, blinds, and millwork. Around 1893 the shops, dam and waterworks were sold to Horace Dunbar, Sr. who continued the production of wood products until 1900. In 1900 the Serpentine Paint Company obtained ownership of the shops with the intention of making a fire proof paint from soapstone discovered near the junction of Fuller Road and East River Road. This company did not work out and the mills returned to the ownership of Dunbar.

The mills were taken down in the

1920s and the dam was removed when it became a liability. Local families remember skating on the pond and crossing to the island on the old wooden bridge at the dam site. Doris Dunbar recalls playing baseball in the island meadow during the 1940s. The Berniers used to pasture their cows in this meadow and cut hay in the fields behind their house at the foot of Woodruff Mountain. The Berniers were neighbors to the south of the Dunbars and lived in the old Albert Baker house, which was located on Eben Woodruff's original parcel.

Before the 1955 flood the flow of water in the river and the old mill raceway was less than it is today. This allowed the river and the raceway to freeze, making it possible to ice skate from the Dunbars to Youngsdale, the present site of the Barkhamsted Senior Center. The flood swept away most of the island's top soil and all but the largest trees. The Army Corps of Engineers changed the mill raceway and West River Road near the island after the flood. People remember swimming in the raceway and the Church Pool and they report that you knew when it was 4 p.m. because the trash from the Winsted morning dump started to float by. Doris talks about the wonderful grapes on the island.

Deed research reveals that the island was still called Sugar Meadow well in to the mid 1800s. The ownership of the island has remained in the Dunbar Family into 2004 and the island has returned to a forested state with many sugar maples.

During the first months of 2004 the Farmington River Watershed Association, Farmington River Coordinating Committee, and the Farmington Angler's Association have worked out an agreement with the Dunbar family to purchase

SUGAR MEADOW: CONT. FROM P. 4

the island. This in part was made possible by an anonymous donation through the FRWA. It will be administered as part of the Wild and Scenic River Corridor. This will ensure that Sugar Island will continue to be a pleasant focal point for the up stream view from the Pleasant Valley bridge. ♠

1825

The New York Stock Exchange opened and most of the securities traded were shares in canal, turnpike, mining, and gaslighting companies.

In October, the Erie Canal linked the Great Lakes with the Hudson River and the Atlantic. Gov. De Witt Clinton greeted the first canal boat on the \$8 million state-owned canal, which was 363 miles long. Along tow paths, mules pulled barges up and down its length at 1 mph. Products could now move from the Midwest to the Atlantic in 8-10 days, down from 20-30 days. Freight rates drop immediately from \$100 per ton to \$5 per ton. New York City became the Atlantic port for the Midwest. ♠

NEW YORK: CONT. FROM P. 3

fact, the city has laid out all its new streets in a grid." At this point Mr. Honeywell drew a grid with right-angled streets with his finger on the tablecloth. "They've drawn streets up to 155th. Someday they expect more than a million people to be living on Manhattan Island!"

"Do you know Miss Fanny Grace?" asked Susan. "She stayed here last year while on her way to New York City. She's famous."

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Honeywell taking his last bite of toast and carefully covering it with butter and blackberry jam, "I do know of her. She sang at the Park Theatre last spring, which my dear, is next to Broadway. Wonderful voice."

"Someday," said Susan getting up from the table, "I'm going to New

NEW PROJECTS BEGINNING IN THE FALL

by Linne Landgraf, BHS

The history of the Colony can be told through changes and events at Squire's Tavern over the past 250 years. The tales of people who lived here when the land was being cleared and the first farms were built, as well as documentary and archaeological research will be used to illustrate the beginning of our town and the settlement of our country.

Develop Display Concepts

We are moving onto the first step in this part of the project: to develop the rooms so you can walk through history, touch the tables and sit in the chairs and discover their stories.

Would you like to work with other BHS members to help create the story of the Tavern and Barkhamsted? Experience in education would be helpful but not required to take part in informal discussions on what information to present in each room.

We will work with a professional museum display consultant who has researched Connecticut taverns and produced the tavern signs display for the Connecticut Historical Society.

Take Part In Archaeology Dig and Artifact Analysis

Volunteers are needed to wash and sort artifacts that have already been recovered at the tavern in preparation for their analysis.

We also plan to put in some test pits and trenches in areas that may be disturbed by construction this fall. For the dig we will need folks to shovel and others to sift and look for pottery, nails, etc.

These are projects that middle school and older students can take part in as well as adults. If you're under 16 please, bring an adult.

If you can work on either of these projects, please call Walt Landgraf at 860-379-6118 or email at landlw@earthlink.net. ♠

York City. I want to walk down that Broadway and see all the shops and buy things I've never ever heard of before."

"That would be easy and you would shop in comfort as well. You see, the street has sidewalks of flagstone and each store has a large awning overhanging the sidewalk. So, if it is too hot, a person can simply walk in the shade of the awning and if it is raining, they can walk down the street without getting wet! And most stores," said Mr. Honeywell pushing his chair back and standing up, "have their wares out on the sidewalk so you don't even have to go inside to shop!"

"Oh, that sounds so wonderful. I'd walk and walk and walk until my shoes turned to dust," swooned Susan.

"No need, my little friend," said Mr. Honeywell, "you can hire a

hackney-coach and the driver will take you anywhere in the city you wish to go. It's like a coach for rent. You flag him from the sidewalk, get in and tell him where you want to go, and when you're there, you pay him his fee and then you're on your way."

"Susan," called her mother, "I think it's time for you to leave Mr. Honeywell to his business and for you to get started on the laundry."

"Coming Mama," said Susan. She looked at Mr. Honeywell, "Thanks for the talk. Perhaps we can hear more at suppertime. You'll be here at supper, won't you?"

"Yes, I will," replied Mr. Honeywell, giving his lips a final wipe with his napkin and setting it back on the table. "I won't be leaving until tomorrow. Perhaps I can tell you more at supper." ♠

Barkhamsted Historical Society News

Paul Hart, Editor

Founder of the Barkhamsted 4th of July Parade

by Phyllis Worth,
daughter of George & Dorothy Ackerly

George Asa Ackerly was born in Brooklyn, NY on October 13, 1897. He attended Boy's High School in Brooklyn and was active in the Janes Methodist Church. George attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut. He enjoyed playing the trumpet at street evangelistic meetings in New York City along with his three brothers.

George enlisted in the Armed Forces in 1918 just before the war ended. He attended Union Theological Seminary in NYC and Yale Divinity School in 1923. George was the student pastor in the Methodist Churches of Pleasant

Valley and Colebrook River, CT. He and Dorothy Eggleston were engaged in 1924. Dorothy prepared for missionary work by studying at Hartford Seminary. They were married August 14, 1926 and sailed for India a month later where they served as missionaries until 1932.

Throughout his ministry George was specially interested in preaching the Social Gospel. He was an activist for peace and social concerns—always reaching out in ways of helpfulness to others. He died March 6, 1972 at the age of 74 in Pleasant Valley Connecticut where he lived following retirement in 1965.

On a July 4th visit in the early 1950s he organized the neighborhood kids in the first Independence Day parade. ♠

Independence Day Parade

PHILADELPHIA, JULY 1776. Meeting in Philadelphia in early July 1776, the Continental Congress spent several days discussing and fine-tuning a draft of the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson. Late in the afternoon of July 4, the body voted to accept the document. That same day it was signed by 53 representatives of the 13 colonies, including four from Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams and Oliver Wolcott. The document was rushed to the shop of printer John Dunlop where the first copies were printed. Church bells rang throughout the city announcing this significant event, recognized as the birthday of our country.

Two hundred and twenty eight years later we will celebrate this great event with an Independence Day parade in Pleasant Valley on Monday, July 5. The parade sets-up at 10:00 a.m. and steps off about 10:30 on West River Road.

The Historical Society will participate in the parade by honoring two of the original parade founders, Margo Miller Fenn and Terry Montgomery and we hope to see you there for the fun. ♠

Elementary School Students Visit Old Schoolhouse

The Barkhamsted Elementary School has expanded its visits to the old schoolhouse located at Barkhamsted Center. In addition to visits by fifth grade students, starting this year third grade students are also stopping in to sample the classroom atmosphere of another era. The school is over 180 years old and was in use up to 1937.

BHS moved the building from its original location, on what is now the west shore of the Barkhamsted Reservoir, up the hill to a more accessible site in Barkhamsted Center. We are very pleased that the old school continues to provide a valuable educational experience to grade school students of today. ♠

BHS Annual Meeting and Program—September 10

Mark your calendars for the BHS annual meeting for all members to be held at the Squire's Tavern on Friday, September 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., the anniversary of the town's incorporation, September 10, 1779.

A short business meeting will bring you up to date on progress made during the year, and will

outline our plans for the future. The evening will feature a slide program on the restoration efforts at the Squire's Tavern, with photos documenting work done over the last four years. The Squire's Tavern project is currently our primary focus.

We are preserving and restoring the 200-year old building that at

one point was operated as a tavern in the early 1800s. Work began in the summer of 2000, and in 2001 the BHS leased the building from the State Department of Environmental Protection. Much progress has been made on the project—come and see for yourself! ♠

Barkhamsted Historical Society News

Doug Roberts Donates Items For Squire's Tavern

Town Historian and BHS board member Doug Roberts has been very generous with donations of time, expertise and historical items to the Historical Society over the years. Recently he has made another important donation of furniture and household items which will be displayed at the Squire's Tavern.

It is the goal of the BHS to furnish several rooms with period furniture and everyday articles that would have been used by the families occupying the building during the 19th century. With this in mind, Doug has donated many items from his private collection, some of which he has repaired and/or refinished. Some of the items he has given this spring include a period rope bed, wash stand, night stand, candle snuffer, candle sticks, powder horn, blanket chest, basin, jug, coal carrier, fire-place andirons, tongs and tavern table. These are a valuable addition to the furnishings of the Squire's Tavern. Thank you Doug! ♠

Flea Market Fundraising

Thanks to all the volunteers and attendees who helped make our May 22 flea market a success. With some hard work and decent weather (it was cloudy and cold but no rain) we were able to draw another big crowd to the Mallory Brook Plaza on Route 44. There were over 55 vendors selling everything from furniture to collectibles to antiques.

A successful flea market allows us to raise the funds necessary to carry on the work of the Historical Society. If you missed this one, then join us at our next flea market, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 12, 2004. ♠

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to send this copy of the Squire's Tavern Quarterly to BHS paid members and donors. Thank you very much for supporting our organization.

The membership year starts in September and we will include a membership envelope with the next Quarterly, which you should receive in early October. ♠

Hitchcock Chair Donations

Hitchcock Chair Company has made a major donation of over 60 items to the BHS collection and has contributed \$1,000 toward renovation work at the Squire's Tavern. The money will be used to help prepare a special "Hitchcock Room" devoted to the history of Lambert Hitchcock and the Hitchcock Chair Company.

Lambert Hitchcock arrived in what is now Riverton in 1816 and soon after produced chair parts and chairs with various partners for many years.

In 1946, Jack Kenny refurbished the old chair factory and launched the Hitchcock Chair Company. Now the Riverton factory is used as one of Hitchcock's retail stores.

BHS is looking forward to working with the Hitchcock Chair and company president Ron Coleman to preserve items relating to this rich history in our town.

The items donated to our collection include original Hitchcock chairs and articles that were associated with the Hitchcock Chair Company started by Jack Kenny in the 1940s, including photos, a wood graining kit, stencil sets, signs, books and pamphlets. We are very pleased to receive this important donation and thank Ron Coleman and Hitchcock Chair for their generosity. ♠

Coming Events

JULY 5TH OPEN HOUSE

BHS 'Parade Founders' car in the parade in Pleasant Valley; Squire's Tavern Open House following the parade until 1:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 10, FRIDAY

BHS Annual Meeting. 7:00 p.m. at the Tavern.

SEPTEMBER 12, SUNDAY

BHS Flea Market at Mallory Brook Plaza, Rt. 44.

Regular Meetings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

1st Mondays, 7:00 p.m. at the Tavern—all members are welcome.

July 6

August 2

September 10 - Annual Meeting
October 1

WEDNESDAY WORK GROUP

Every Wed. 9 a.m. 12 noon. ♠

Barkhamsted Historical Society

President	Walter Landgraf
Vice-President	Shirley Coffin
Secretary	Karen Ansaldi
Treasurer	George Terwilliger

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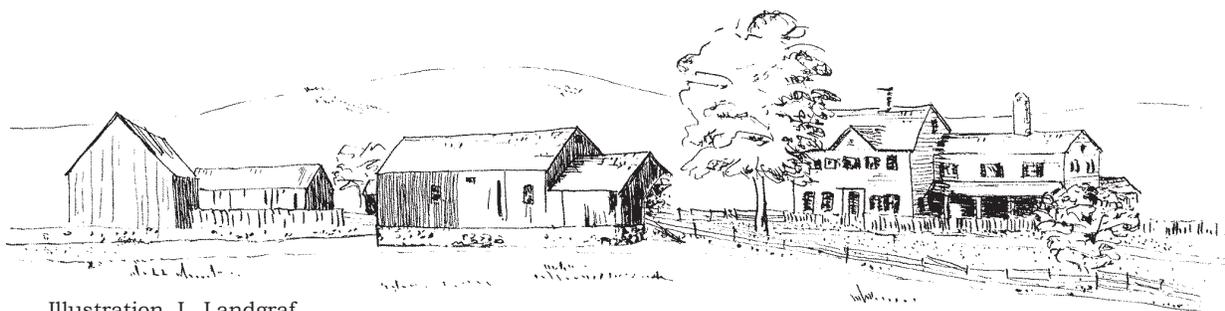
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The Squire's Tavern is located a mile north of the Pleasant Valley bridge at 100 East River Road.

Hours: To be determined, however volunteer workers are normally there Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m. to noon.

Annual membership, \$15.
Mail to: Sharon Neumann-Lynes,
Membership, BHS, P.O. Box 94, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063. ♠



Illustration, L. Landgraf

Squire's Tavern Quarterly
newsletter of the Barkhamsted Historical Society



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