

Squire's Tavern Quarterly

Barkhamsted Historical Society Newsletter

web site - barkhamstedhistory.us

December 2021

Movie Scene Shot in Barkhamsted

by Paul Hart

A big topic of conversation in Barkhamsted in October 2021 was the filming of a movie scene in town on West River Road. Residents became aware of the activity because the road had to be closed for two days to accomplish the work.

About 12 days before the road closure and the start of filming, residents received the following communication via e-mail from Barkhamsted Town Hall:

West River Road Closure—October 19th and 20th

From BH Phone Company: October 7, 2021.

Dear Residents,

BH Phone Company in association with Netflix is currently in production on a feature film titled MR HARRIGANS PHONE. The film is based on a Stephen King story of the same name in a collection of short stories titled "If It Bleeds". MR HARRIGANS PHONE is written and directed by John Lee Hancock (The Blind Side, The Highwaymen, and Saving Mr. Banks).

After an exhaustive search, we have found a perfect setting in Barkhamsted, CT to stage a number of scenes for the

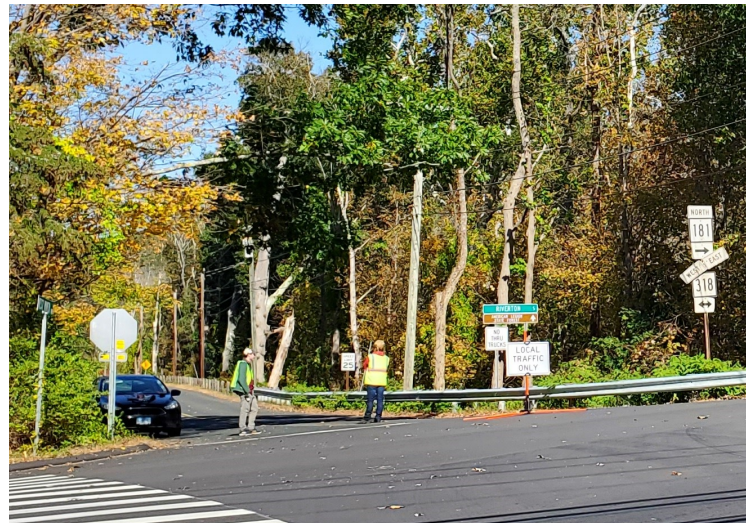


Photo above: Film production workers divert traffic from West River Road in Pleasant Valley for the filming of a movie scene.

film on WEST RIVER ROAD (between CT 20 and CT 318). The bucolic winding road will be a great addition to the visual fabric of our show and we are excited to be working with and in Barkhamsted.

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C. Albert Honold Family



Our Historical Society collection recently received a generous donation of items relating to the family of C. Albert Honold (the "C" is for "Christian"). Thanks so much to Courtney Anstett for these items. Courtney is a great granddaughter of Mr. Honold. The photo to the left is the Honold home circa 1900. It was located near the intersection of Route 318 and Route 44, on land that is now part of American Legion State Forest.

The Honolds came to Barkhamsted in 1892. Mr. Honold was a jeweler in Waterbury but he and wife Flora switched to farming in Barkhamsted.

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Movie shoot- continued from page 1...

The filming will take place during daylight hours on Tuesday, October 19th, and Wednesday October 20th, 2021, and will require traffic control and diversion on West River Road. Residents of West River Road, Barkhamsted will have unimpeded access to their respective homes throughout the filming. With the permission and guidance of the Barkhamsted Board of Selectmen, CT DOT, CT DEEP Parks and the local traffic authority we will be instituting a diversion for thru traffic from West River Road to East River Road during the approximate hours of 6:00 am and 7:00 pm on 10/19 and 10/20. Emergency vehicles will always have access and a "fire lane" will be maintained.

We understand that we are guests in your community and will be respectful of your town, residents and the environment in which we film. Our crews of union professionals pride themselves on working in a responsible manner. Please note that our industry has robust Covid-19 protocols as dictated by our "return to work" agreement which takes into account the changing landscape of the pandemic and Federal, State and local mandates.

Synopsis for the film:

Staged in 2007, at the onset of I-phones, "Mr. Harrigan's Phone" is a cautionary tale of technology, friendship, bullies, and retribution. Eccentric millionaire Mr. Harrigan retires in a small town in Maine. He meets young Craig reading scripture at church. With failing eyesight, he hires the boy to read to him. Over the years a friendship ensues.

With the proceeds from a winning lottery ticket from Harrigan, Craig buys him an I-phone which the old man is initially reluctant to accept, but comes to enjoy. When Mr. Harrigan dies, Craig sneaks the phone into his jacket before he is buried. One night, missing his friend, he leaves a voicemail. To his shock, he gets a text in return.

When Craig leaves a message for Mr. Harrigan about a bully, his tormentor is mysteriously found dead. Craig fearing that he has something to do with the kid's death, puts away the phone with Mr. Harrigan's number, switching to a newer model. But years later, when Craig actively

seeks out the old phone in order to use Mr. Harrigan's apparent power to enact revenge from the other side, a series of cryptic texts from Harrigan convince a shaken Craig to throw his old phone into the lake, and bid the old man a final farewell.

If you have specific needs or concerns, please contact our office at xxx xxx-xxxx and speak with a member of the Locations Department.

Regards, The Locations Department, Mr. Harrigan's Phone.

The production company, BH Phone Company, is based in Stamford, CT. It has seemed very diligent in addressing all



Photo above: the upper parking lot of the Matthies Grove section of Peoples Forest filled with production support vehicles and canopies.

the small details involved in the Barkhamsted filming. About a month prior to the shoot, the location manager contacted the Barkhamsted selectmen, the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) and other state and local entities that would be involved and worked with them up until the filming was done. Because of the impact of the operation, they acquired a special use permit from DEEP. The State actively encourages movie shoots in Connecticut and tries to assist production companies whenever possible.

Barkhamsted first selectman Don Stein said that the production company was great and they were totally cooperative on everything. Besides the selectmen, they worked with Peoples Forest ranger Jim Warner and Barkhamsted resident trooper Brett Atmore. The town was paid \$10,000 for their troubles. The money went to the town general fund. Rumor has it that the State DEEP also received funds.

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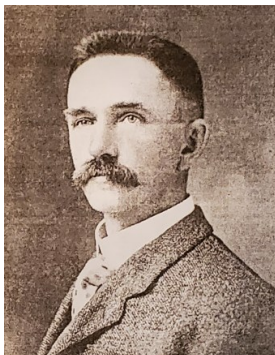
Honold family... continued from page 1.

Their dairy herd included several registered Jersey cows on the farm. Jersey cows are an excellent breed, producing a large quantity of high butterfat milk which was important in the days when many farm families were producing their own butter and cheese.

Mr. Honold was very active in town and state affairs, holding many positions including state representative, town probate judge, town auditor and registrar of voters. They had two children, Waldo and Velda. Courtney says that word has come down through the family that Albert was a great storyteller.

The Honold house was originally built about 1830 (possibly earlier) and also had a sawmill nearby on Morgan Brook. It is believed the sawmill was out of operation when the Honolds came.

Barkhamsted Historical Society is very excited to receive these items, especially the photo of the house. In the photo,



C. Albert Honold

Flora is the woman in the white apron and right next to her is an unidentified person, possibly her brother George. Albert is standing further to the left and the children (Waldo and Velda) are in the carriage. The house had four fireplaces on the center chimney, including a large cook fireplace with an oven.

C. Albert Honold died in 1935 at age 75. His daughter Velda (also a town probate judge) owned the home for many years. In 1998 the building burned. Flora Yorker, granddaughter of Albert, died as a result of the fire. Some of the farm had been sold off in 1992 and the main part of the farm was acquired by the State and added to American Legion State Forest. The Honold family was very active in town affairs and the old historic house overlooking the hay field is greatly missed. It is nice to have a nice photo of this home preserved in the Historical Society collection.

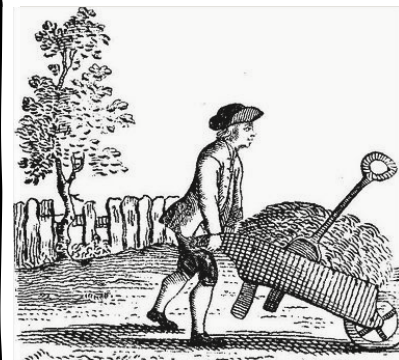


Doug Roberts Celebrates 97 Years!

Doug Roberts celebrated his 97th birthday recently (October 2) among many friends and relatives at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. Shown in the photo at left with Doug is his distant relative Shirley Moore, who also turned 97 (on October 7).

Doug has served many years as the town historian and in many roles at the Barkhamsted Historical Society. Doug has played a huge role in the restoration of Squire's Tavern. He worked on many aspects of that project and donated numerous items that are on display at the Tavern now.

Happy birthday Doug and Shirley!



A blast from the past...

November 9, 1811: *"Worked at highway today... some worked well and some others looked on very steadily."*

An entry from the William Taylor diary. He lived across the street from what is now the Pleasant Valley firehouse. The diary entry apparently refers to road improvements on the town road, probably near his house. At that time, residents were required to work to maintain local roads or to contribute funds or road materials for that purpose.

Movie Shoot... continued from page 2

The Austin Hawes campground in American Legion was used as their headquarters and for parking of the many vehicles and production equipment. Virtually the whole campground area was filled. Across the river at the upper end of the Matthies Grove section of Peoples Forest, the large parking lot was filled with workers' vehicles and campers. An impressive number of tractor trailers were also parked there. Jim Warner said that when the big trucks started coming in, they were unable to negotiate the main entrance to the Matthies area of Peoples Forest on East River Road, so his DEEP crew had to open up an old entrance and remove some posts so that the tractor trailer trucks could get in.

Production workers were tested for COVID every one to three days. To get test results back fast, the production company had a COVID test lab right on site. Also at the



Photo above: the car involved in the filming just before it was removed.

Peoples Forest parking lot were food facilities and the make-up and wardrobe trailers. Many shuttle buses transported workers involved in the shoot from Peoples Forest over to the location on West River Road. The film location was on the road just south of the Hawes Campground. Rumor had it that the workers' labor union was involved in last minute negotiations with the production company and that things were resolved just a few days before the shoot started.

Jim Warner said that there were no problems working with the production company. They bent over backwards to solve any issues. On the first day of the shoot, DEEP was scheduled to get delivery of a large log cabin kit that had to be unloaded at the campground. Arrangements were made to do this at 6:00 a.m. before the filming started.

The road closure also went smoothly. Workers blocked off West River Road in Riverton and in Pleasant Valley. Local residents, school buses and emergency vehicles were of course allowed to pass through. There was another set of check points that blocked all traffic just above and below



Photos above: two of the actors in the movie: Jaeden Martell ("Craig") at left and at right, Donald Sutherland ("Mr. Harrigan").

the film location. West River Road resident Ted Bachman said that there was excitement in the air during the shoot, even though no one witnessed the actual filming. With the road closed, Ted strolled right down the middle of the street without worries about traffic, something that reminded him of doing the same during the blizzard of 1978.

The movie scene that was filmed in Barkhamsted involved a car crash. It seems that the boy at the center of the story had a bad teacher who gave him a hard time. This teacher was involved in the car crash. A drone helped film the scene from above. How the production company picked West River Road in Barkhamsted for this shoot is not known. In the story, the car crash takes place in Vermont. Apparently the scenery here was favorable and perhaps the production company thought the logistics at this location would be easy to manage. There was plenty of space at the campground and at Peoples Forest. Also East River Road was a good detour route while West River Road was closed.

The two day shoot and the big splash of so many production workers was the talk of the town for a week or so in October. No wonder movies cost so much to produce! There was so much equipment and so many people involved that just this small piece of the movie must have cost well over \$1,000,000. The movie is for Netflix, and will star Donald Sutherland (the old guy) and Jaeden Martell (the kid). It is scheduled to be released sometime in late 2022. We look forward to seeing a piece of Barkhamsted in this movie thriller based on Stephen King's short story.

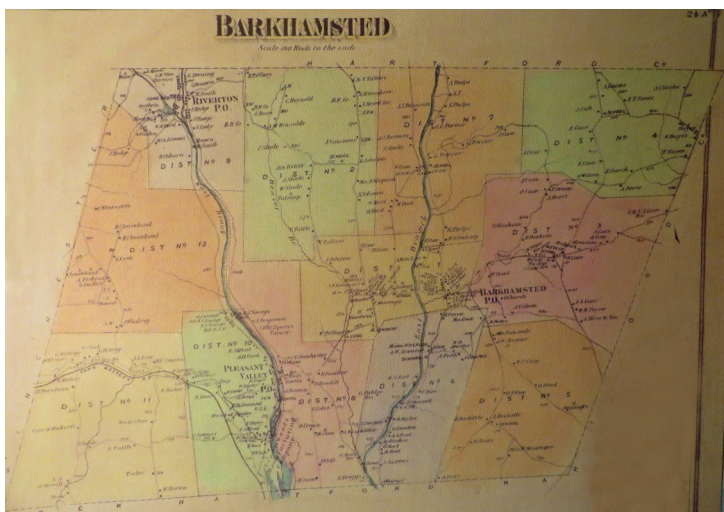
Last Minute Gift Shopping? We Have You Covered.

By the time you read this, your Christmas shopping is probably in full swing. Or perhaps you are looking for a gift for a birthday or some other occasion. At Squire's Tavern we have a selection of items that may just fit the bill: something related to the town of Barkhamsted that is just a little different from the usual gift. And your purchases help support the Barkhamsted Historical Society. Some of the items in our gift shop include:

- a variety of mugs with Barkhamsted scenes,
- trivets,
- refrigerator magnets,
- 1874 maps of Barkhamsted,
- prints of an 1836 woodcut view of Riverton,
- Barkhamsted Heritage book,
- Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry booklet,
- Legend of the Barkhamsted Lighthouse booklet by Ken Feder,
- "Witchcraft, Insanity and Murder: The Thomas Goss Story" by Mike Day,
- "Murder in Barkhamsted Hollow" by Mike Fox,
- "From Maspeth to Sugar Creek" by Sheryl Gunderman Robinson,
- postcards,
- old photos of scenes in Barkhamsted.



A more detailed look at several of our gift items offered at Squire's Tavern:



1874 Map of Barkhamsted

\$7.00 - A reproduction copy of the 1874 Beers map of Barkhamsted. This shows streets and many of the houses (with owner names) in town BEFORE the Saville Dam and Barkhamsted Reservoir.

The colorful sections on the map delineate the twelve school districts, and schoolhouse locations in each district are shown.

The map has been reprinted on nice heavy paper.



Barkhamsted Historic Scenes

We had artist renditions done of several historic scenes in Barkhamsted. These include Squire's Tavern, the Center schoolhouse, soldiers monument, Pleasant Valley Bridge and the Saville Dam gatehouse. These scenes are available on:

- \$10.00 ceramic mugs
- \$5.00 refrigerator magnets
- \$15.00 trivets

Historical Society News

Preservation Work at Merrill Tavern

Preservation work continues at Merrill Tavern. We recently took down the modern front porch which was channeling rain water into the wall framing of the main building (photo below, at left). After removing the porch, the exterior wall was patched up with clapboards (photo below). Volunteers also have worked on cleaning up the inside of Merrill Tavern, removing debris and flaking paint chips as well as some modern shelving (photo at right).



At left above: Bill Day and Charlie Watson patching the clapboard siding. At right: Noreen Watson cleaning inside Merrill Tavern.

Squire's Tavern Needs a New Roof

The Historical Society is finding out just how expensive it is to keep up an historic building like Squire's Tavern. We had saved up funds to cover a complete repainting of the exterior of the building; work was completed in late spring.



Right after that project was completed we made an unexpected discovery: the Squire's Tavern roof was leaking. The wood shingles on the Tavern were installed

in 2001 and we thought they would last awhile longer. But no. For our historic building, wood shingles are preferred. But when we got a cost estimate approaching \$60,000 for wood, we knew that asphalt shingles would have to be considered. With the blessing of the Preservation Connecticut "circuit rider" historic building expert, we decided to go with the lower cost alternative. Even this option is not cheap.

This unexpected cost is going to hit us hard, so we have been scrambling to apply for a variety of grants and funding. Hopefully we can pull together some financial help and get this job done in the next few months.

Annual Meeting Held in September

Barkhamsted Historical Society held its annual meeting September 11, but with a twist. It took place inside, at the Riverton Inn.

After a short business meeting and delicious light snacks served by the Inn staff, Mike Day presented an interesting slideshow on historic Riverton buildings.

Turnout for the meeting and program was excellent and a good time was had by all. Complimentary copies of a booklet on the Barkhamsted Lighthouse were provided to attendees, and a lucky person left with a door prize: a \$100 gift certificate to the Riverton Inn. Thanks to the Riverton Inn for their excellent job hosting our meeting and thanks to Mike Day for the excellent program.



Photo above: one of Mike Day's historic Riverton photos: the bridge over Sandy Brook near the Riverton Grange, circa 1930.

Historical Society Calendar



Squire's Tavern is open for our regular hours:

Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and
Wednesdays from 9:00 am to noon.

- ① **Saturday, December 12, 2021** - Christmas Open House at Squire's Tavern from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. See details below.
- ② **Friday, March 11, 2022** - "Memories of the '55 Flood" with Fred Fenn and friends. 7:00 pm at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments after the program.
- ③ **Friday, April 8, 2022** - Walt Woodard presents "Leaving Connecticut, Shaping America" covering the migration out of Connecticut from 1780 to 1830. 7:00 pm at the Barkhamsted Senior Center. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments after the program.



Squire's Tavern Christmas Open House

DON'T LET COVID SPOIL CHRISTMAS!!

Squire's Tavern will once again be decorated in old fashioned style. Come to our Christmas Open House on December 12th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm and we will help you get in the Holiday spirit.

Hot mulled cider and finger foods will be served and Ed Kostak will treat us to Christmas tunes on his dulcimer. Don't miss this event! Come and bring your family and friends!

Help Wanted

Barkhamsted Historical Society has an excellent crew of volunteers working on our many projects but we need more help! If you want to get involved, working with a friendly group on rewarding tasks, let us know!

We especially need help transcribing historic written documents including diaries and letters. If this is up your alley, we would appreciate your help.

Barkhamsted Historical Society

President - Noreen Watson
 Vice President - Paul Hart
 Secretary - Kristina Napolitano
 Treasurer - Ted Bachman
 Town Historian - Doug Roberts

Committee Chairs

Building & Grounds - Charles Watson
 Grounds Planning - Georgia Nash
 Collections - Jim Lussier
 Publicity - Ginny Apple
 Education & Research - Mike Day
 Finance - Ted Bachman
 Membership - Sharon Lynes
 Exhibits - Bonnie Boyle
 Docents - Cathy Connole
 Newsletter - Paul Hart

Trustees

Bill Day (2 years)
 Cathy Connole (2 yrs)
 Harriet Winchenbaugh
 (1 yr)

Telephone- (860) 738-2456

Mail- P. O. Box 94
 Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

E-mail- bhs@barkhamstedhistory.us

Web site- barkhamstedhistory.us

Squire's Tavern is located at 100 East River Road in Barkhamsted, one mile north of the Pleasant Valley bridge.

Squire's Tavern is open to the public on
 Wednesdays 9:00 am to noon and
 Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Barkhamsted Historical Society Membership:
 Seniors \$12, Individuals \$15, Family \$25

Mail to Sharon Lynes, BHS Membership,
 P.O. Box 94, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063
 or sign up and pay through our web site.

The Barkhamsted Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Barkhamsted history, helping people connect with past traditions and inspiring appreciation for our heritage to enrich lives and strengthen community.

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P.O. Box 94
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

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