

Squire's Tavern Quarterly

Barkhamsted Historical Society Newsletter

web site - barkhamstedhistory.us

June 2023

Linne Landgraf, Friend and Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Paul Hart

Our friend and dedicated Barkhamsted Historical Society supporter Linne Landgraf passed away on February 28, 2023. Linne was a devoted volunteer serving in many roles with us, including board member, collection chair, member of various committees and participation in many special projects and musical activities. Perhaps her most appreciated role was editing this newsletter for almost two decades. One of Linne's many skills was in graphic arts, and in 2001 she launched our "Quarterly Newsletter" using a clean and professional layout. She researched and wrote many articles for the newsletter and arranged all the content submitted by others.

Linne also organized and led our collection team for many years, working to properly preserve and catalog the numerous manuscripts, artifacts and relics relating to Barkhamsted history. This underappreciated job takes skill and dedication and we are so grateful for the long hours Linne worked on this critical task. She recruited a fine crew of helpers to assist in this work.

Besides graphic art skills Linne had several other talents which she happily offered to the Historical Society. She was an accomplished artist. Take a look at the drawing on

the last page of this newsletter.

This fine line drawing of Squire's Tavern and farm buildings is the BHS logo. When old time wall stenciling was discovered at the Tavern, Linne organized and led the crew that reproduced these stencils in the tavern room and ball room.

Linne helped paint and stencil the beautiful canvas floor cloth in our back parlor of the Tavern.

Linne shared her music skills, playing the fife in our "Spirit of '76" role in the Barkhamsted town parade on July 4. Linne's musical ensemble performed in many of the BHS musical programs and Tavern Night dances.

Thank you Linne Landgraf for being our friend and dedicated champion of the Barkhamsted Historical Society over all these years. Your love of life has been an inspiration to all of us.



Linne Landgraf (at right) and Sharon Lynes stenciling the tavern room at Squire's Tavern in 2004.

The Doug Roberts Barn Model



If you have visited Squire's Tavern recently you may have seen the large salt box doll house made by Doug Roberts. After constructing the doll house for his wife Janet many years ago, Doug set to work on another similar project: building a scale model of a barn. Bill and Missy Ballard of Riverton acquired that barn model from the Roberts estate. The Ballards have very graciously loaned the barn to the Barkhamsted Historical Society for a temporary display.

After many years of storage, the barn has seen tough times, so currently it is being repaired and cleaned up by Bonnie Reynolds. Bonnie and her husband Dean also put in many hours of labor working on the doll house.

Continued on page 2...

...Doug Roberts barn, continued from page 1.

Now they are taking on the barn project. When Bonnie and Dean are finished sprucing up the model barn, it will be put on display in our red barn next to Squire's Tavern.

The scale of these structures is so large (1 inch = 1 foot, we believe) that we just do not have the room to display them side by side. And we do not want to dismantle the barn to get it upstairs where the dollhouse currently resides. So when on display later this year, Doug's creation will be located in our red barn.

The dollhouse and barn certainly display the many skills of Doug Roberts, including an in-depth knowledge of post and beam construction and amazing attention to detail (if you visit to see the barn when we have it on display, see if you can find the owl perched on a beam). Many thanks to Bill and Missy Ballard for loaning us the barn for display and to Bonnie and Dean Reynolds for their valued assistance.



Photo above: Doug Roberts and his post and beam barn model - photo probably circa 1980.

Center Schoolhouse Shining Bright

Our Barkhamsted Center Schoolhouse has just received a new coat of paint and is looking great (see photo below). This building is one of six structures in the Barkhamsted Center Historic District, along with the church, parsonage, former town hall, Merrill Tavern and the Nathaniel Collins

home. It is nice to have the school looking great because the third graders of Barkhamsted Elementary School will be visiting in June. Also, we have the building open one day a month during the summer (see schedule on next page).



Come Visit Our Center Schoolhouse



Photo above: Barkhamsted Center Schoolhouse and class - circa 1911.

The Barkhamsted Historical Society's one-room schoolhouse, the old Center School on Center Hill Road (Rt. 181) in Barkhamsted, will be open to the public on the following dates during the summer of 2023:

Sunday, May 28, 1:00 – 4:00
Sunday, June 25, 1:00 – 4:00
Sunday, July 30, 1:00 – 4:00
Sunday, August 27, 1:00 – 4:00
Sunday, September 24, 1:00 – 4:00

Come and find out what school was like in “the old days.”

Ask questions, read the old books, review a high school entrance exam, try your hand at various toys and games, or do some arithmetic problems on a slate. All free of charge!

Children are especially invited.

BHS Receives Grant From Northwest CT Community Foundation



We are pleased to announce that Barkhamsted Historical Society has received a \$22,000 grant from the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund. These funds will be used in our Merrill Tavern preservation project, specifically for exterior repairs and painting. Some funds will be used for painting the Barkhamsted Center School. We very much appreciate this critical support toward our preservation efforts. Thank you NCCF. And thank you Doug and Jan Roberts.

Progress at Merrill Tavern

Work continues on our preservation efforts at Merrill Tavern: painting prep work has started and possibly by the time you read this, exterior painting will have been finished. We are also having the exterior of the nearby Center School painted.

Before painting starts, Tom Schroeder of Schroeder Builders (seen in photo at right in red suspenders), is completing clapboard and trim repairs and also inspection and repair of the sills and other framing portions of the Merrill Tavern.

Our goal is to preserve Merrill Tavern for at least another 207 years as a prominent member of the Barkhamsted Center Historic District. Much of the work being done at Merrill Tavern is made possible with funding from the Doug and Jan Roberts fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.



A blast from the past...

Winsted Citizen item from June 13, 1923:

The Congregational church in Riverton was filled at the closing exercises of the Barkhamsted public schools last evening. A pageant, "Spirit of America" was staged by the cooperative effort of the Riverton, Pleasant Valley, Center, North Hollow and Ratlum schools.

Five graduates, all from Riverton, received diplomas from C. Albert Honold, representing the town school committee.



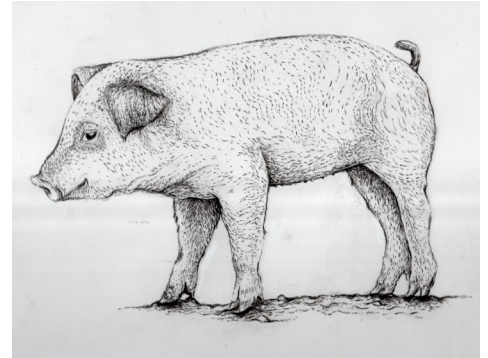
North Hollow School and class - circa 1920.

Historical Society News

BHS Pig Roast Set For August 19

Our annual pig roast has been scheduled for Saturday, August 19 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm... held outside at Squires Tavern. This very popular event has been a tough issue for us this year. Finding a caterer to do a pig roast had not been easy. We almost gave up, but finally we have someone who can do it.

Not surprisingly, the cost of putting on a pig roast keeps going up and we reluctantly have been forced to raise the ticket price to \$40 per person. To be assured of securing tickets, buy them **in advance** at Squire's Tavern during our regular open hours (Wednesdays 9:00 to noon and Sundays 1:00 to 4:00). You may be able to buy tickets "at the door" on the day of the event, but only if we have not sold out. Hope to see you there!



Never-Ending Maintenance and Upkeep



Our Historical Society volunteers are challenged with a never ending list of maintenance and upkeep items generated by three buildings now: Squire's Tavern, Merrill Tavern and the Center Schoolhouse. If you are a homeowner, you know what we mean.

Thank you to all our volunteers who rise to meet this challenge. Their many contributions of time and effort help us keep things going and looking nice, and we appreciate it.

Just one example is Mike Day in this photo at left, working in the Squire's Tavern herb garden with the spring cleanup task of pulling weeds (and earlier, refreshing the peastone walkways).

BHS Participates in Earth Day 2023

Barkhamsted Historical Society had a table at the town's Earth Day event in late April 2023 (photo at right). We were one of many organizations participating including the MDC water company, FALPS (Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forests) and Farmington River Watershed Association to name a few. The event was held at the pavilion in Peoples Forest.

The Historical Society table featured old photos relating to the Farmington River, especially locations on the east branch of the river, now under the waters of the Barkhamsted Reservoir.

People seemed to be in a buying mood as we had a good day selling our wares including mugs, books and maps.





Collection Corner - highlighting some historic items from our archives.

Payment Booklet for the Hitchcock Savings Bank and Building Association

Barkhamsted Historical Society is very fortunate to have received numerous documents and artifacts from the estate of Doug Roberts. Doug was our friend and charter member of BHS, and was Town Historian for many years. Of course, town history was very important to Doug. He collected pretty much anything relating to Barkhamsted. Many of these items are now part of our collection.

Not much is known about the Hitchcock Savings Bank. It is a safe bet it operated in Hitchcocksville, now known as Riverton. Hitchcocksville was the name of the village for many years, taken from Lambert Hitchcock's chair factory which produced thousands of chairs each year and employed many workers. The name was changed to Riverton about a decade after the entries in this booklet.

One piece of history that caught our eye is a payment booklet of the Hitchcock Savings Bank and Building Association. Perhaps these are payments for the purchase of stock in the Bank, it is not clear. Payments listed are by Elizabeth Alford and cover the years of 1853 and 1854.

| 1853 | | | | 1854 | | | | 18 | | | | 18 | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Date. | Installments. | Inter-est. | Treasurer. | Date. | Installments. | Inter-est. | Treasurer. | Date. | Installments. | Inter-est. | Treasurer. | Date. | Installments. | Inter-est. | Treasurer. |
| Feb. | 1. | | W. B. Ransom | Feb. | 1. | | W. B. Ransom | Feb. | 1. | | Cowles | Feb. | 1. | | |
| Mar. | 1. | | Do | Mar. | 1. | | Ransom | Mar. | 1. | | Cowles | Mar. | 1. | | |
| Apr. | 1. | | Do | Apr. | 1. | | Ransom | Apr. | 1. | | Cowles | Apr. | 1. | | |
| Val. of Stock. | 3 | 07 | | Val. of Stock. | 20 | 57 | | Val. of Stock. | 41 | 33 | | Val. of Stock. | | | |
| May | 1. | | W. B. Ransom | May | 1. | | Ransom | May | 1. | | Cowles | May | 1. | | |
| June | 1. | | Do | June | 1. | | Ransom | June | 1. | | Cowles | June | 1. | | |
| July | 1. | | Do | July | 1. | | Ransom | July | 1. | | Cowles | July | 1. | | |
| Val. of Stock. | 6 | 28 | | Val. of Stock. | 28 | 60 | | Val. of Stock. | 11 | 57 | | Val. of Stock. | | | |
| Aug. | 1. | | W. B. Ransom | Aug. | 1. | | Ransom | Aug. | 1. | | Cowles | Aug. | 1. | | |
| Sept. | 1. | | Ransom | Sept. | 1. | | Ransom | Sept. | 1. | | Cowles | Sept. | 1. | | |
| Oct. | 1. | | Ransom | Oct. | 1. | | Ransom | Oct. | 1. | | Cowles | Oct. | 1. | | |
| Val. of Stock. | 10 | 63 | | Val. of Stock. | 33 | 22 | | Val. of Stock. | 50 | 08 | | Val. of Stock. | | | |
| Nov. | 1. | | W. B. Ransom | Nov. | 1. | | Ransom | Nov. | 1. | | Cowles | Nov. | 1. | | |
| Dec. | 1. | | Ransom | Dec. | 1. | | Cowles | Dec. | 1. | | Cowles | Dec. | 1. | | |
| Jan. | 1. | | Ransom | Jan. | 1. | | Cowles | Jan. | 1. | | Cowles | Jan. | 1. | | |
| Val. of Stock. | | | | Val. of Stock. | 17 | 11 | | Val. of Stock. | 55 | 32 | | Val. of Stock. | | | |

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 **Friday, June 23 at 7:00 pm** – At the Senior Center. The 90th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps: Its History and Work in CT” with author and historian Marty Podskoch. Marty will give a slide show presentation the CCCs and its work in CT. The CCC was part of President Roosevelt’s “New Deal” to relieve the poverty and unemployment of the Depression. Many CCC camps were set up in Connecticut towns including Camp White right here in our town.

② **Saturday, August 19 5:00 to 7:00 pm** – Our annual pig roast outside at Squire’s Tavern (note the new time). Great food plus music by the Travelin’ Trout Band. \$40 per person. Buy tickets in advance at the Tavern during our regular hours or take a chance and buy them “at the door” IF we still have room.

③ **Saturday, September 9 2:00 pm** – BHS members: join us at our annual meeting at the Riverton Inn. Come enjoy appetizers/light refreshments and a special program (topic to be announced).



The Barkhamsted looking for volunteering this newsletter a member, and we thank you for that. If you would like to step it up a notch, we would be thrilled to have your help.

Historical Society is teers. If you are getting, you are probably

Our volunteers are highly paid: not in money, but in the satisfaction of helping to operate and maintain our schoolhouse and Squire’s Tavern and preserve past traditions and history of our town.

We can use help in a variety of positions including tour guide at Squire’s Tavern or the Center Schoolhouse, helping our collection crew catalog donated items and on our Wednesday morning volunteer crew doing light maintenance and special projects.

Can you give us a hand? For more information call us at (860) 738-2456 or at (860) 379-1861 or email us at: bhs@barkhamstedhistory.us

Barkhamsted Historical Society

President - Noreen Watson
Vice President - Paul Hart
Secretary - Kristina Napolitano
Treasurer - Ted Bachman

Committee Chairs

Building & Grounds - Charles Watson and Tom Andersen
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 (1 year more)
Cathy Connole (1 yr)
Harriet Winchenbaugh (3 yrs)

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

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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Barkhamsted Historical Society
P.O. Box 94
Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

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