PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 98, Portland, Connecticut 06480

PRESIDENT: Eleanor Crowther *VICE-PRESIDENT: Christine Sullivan*
SECRETARY: Ruth Freeburg *TREASURER: Charles Woltmann*
DIRECTORS: Richard Gildersleeve, Hazel Robinson, Robert McDougall
FINANCE DIRECTORS: Daniel Crowther, James Elder, Donald Goodrich

FALL, 1994 NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our conscientious volunteers have been busy even during the record-breaking heat of this past summer. Our thanks to the volunteers who represented us at the July Portland festival with a table of early American goodies; the Callander-house Committee members who have been researching historic house museums in Newington, Wallingford, Woodbus, Branford and Madison; Bob McDougall for advertising and overseeing the Historic Walk; a special thanks to one of our charter members, John Dillon, who identified the deterioration to the Civil War Monument at Bartlett Street and pursued its solution; and, Don Goodrich for obtaining one of only two grants made by the Connecticut Historical Commission for the procurement of conservator assessment of outdoor sculpture.

As you can see, a few hours of your time can make a difference in advancing the Society's purpose: to discover and collect our history and artifacts; to stimulate interest in our past; and, to foster the preservation of historic structures.

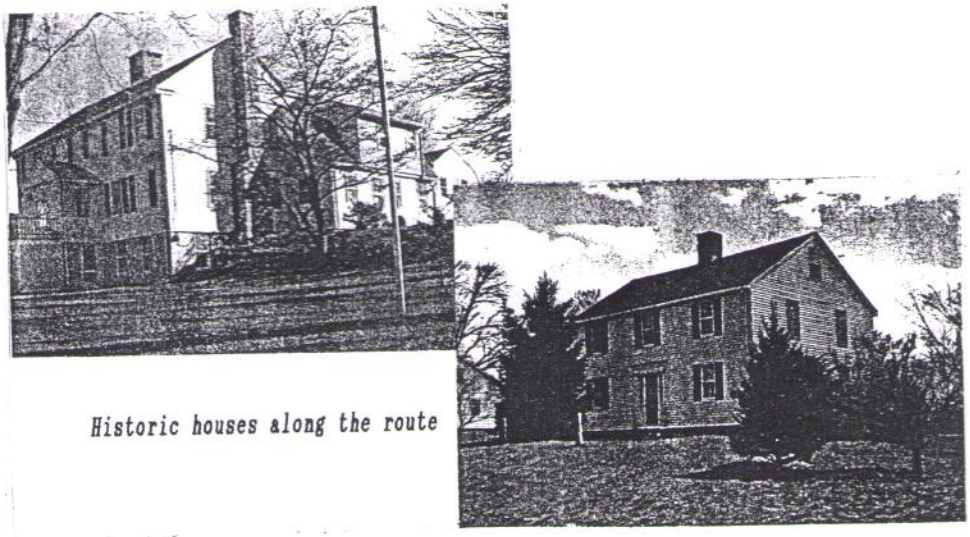
"VolkssPORTLAND" Update

An invitation to walk with a group by Bob McDougall

The Portland Year-Round Volksmarch has been well received by the Volkssporting community. Since January 1, the walk has attracted over 180 walkers from 20 states and Canada. The trail description which was developed with the assistance of Doris Sherrow has been highly praised, by well- traveled walkers, as one of the best in the country.

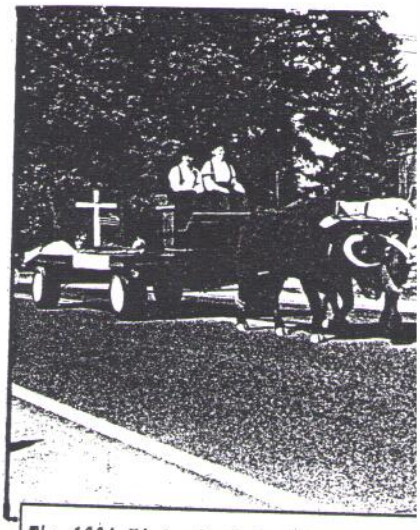
The walk starts and finishes at the DUNKIN' DONUTS on Main Street where the registration box can be found on the counter. The walk is free; however, a pewter medallion of the Town Seal is available for $6.00 to anyone who completes the 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) course.

Society and community members interested in walking with me are invited to join me on either Friday afternoon, September 30 at 4 pm or Saturday morning, October 1, at 9 am. I will be at the DUNKIN' DONUTS on Main Street at these times and plan to begin walking at quarter past the hour. Anyone interested in walking at these times, or in additional information may call me at 342-3062. Happy Trails!



Historic houses along the route

MUSEUM ROOM - *Pat Csere, 342-2168*



The 1994 Historical Society entry o
Day brings Portland's Town Seal t

NEW HOURS - Beginning October 1, the Museum in the Library will open Saturday mornings from 10 AM to Noon. Volunteers are needed. Anyone interested in answering questions about Portland, please apply. Comfortable working conditions and stimulating visitors.

NEW ACQUISITIONS - Several pickaxes from Middlesex Avenue houses have been given by Henry Deming of Glastonbury. The annual list of Museum Donors will appear in the next issue.

FALL DISPLAY - Vivian Dower

The fall display celebrates school days in old Portland with a showing of early school books, pictures and school equipment.

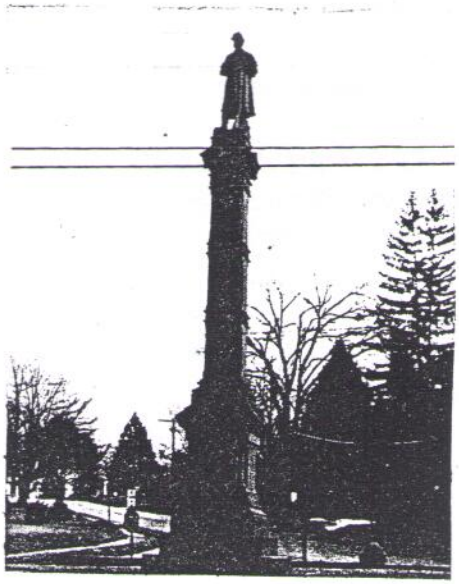
EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEEDED - Many historic museums visited this summer have education committees to plan and schedule the visits of school classes to their museums. We are sure there are members who like working with children who would be interested in volunteering a few hours for this activity. Call Eleanor Crowther, 342-2907.

CIVIL WAR MONUMENT PRESERVATION STATUS - *John Dillon*

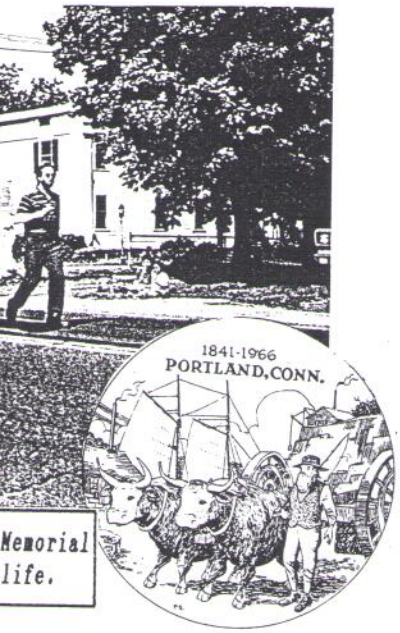
Because the Portland Civil War Monument is recognized by historians as one of the most important in Connecticut, the Town has been given a matching grant of $750 from the State Historical Commission to hire expert consultants to determine the extent of deterioration and to recommend corrective measures. Submittals from several conservators of outdoor sculpture have been received and a committee appointed to assess their credentials, and to recommend one of the firms to the Selectmen. The conservator's report will determine future actions.

When the monument is restored, we hope that the two hemispherical brownstone pieces taken from the base some years ago and now decorating the Town's Transfer Station will be replaced.

Members who want to understand the problem are encouraged to study the monument head with binoculars. The deterioration is readily visible. Anyone having questions should please call me.



Civil War Monument



**** 1995 CALENDAR COMMITTEE ****

Bob McDougall, Chairman; Coleen Brede, Herb Ellsworth, Mary Flood, Martha Johnson, Hazel Robinson, Pat Csere, and Pat Crowther, Doris Sherrow seek interesting old photos. Call Bob, 342-3062.

HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS - *Jim Sarbaugh*

DEMOLITION WATCH - Demolition or stabilization required by the Building Inspector of two barns on Main Street and Maple Avenue, for public safety reasons.

EXPANDING TOWN OFFICE SPACE -

1. The Selectmen have authorized the hiring of an architect to evaluate the findings of the Building Planning Advisory Committee to verify both space recommendations and costs. (See Committee Report in Library.)

2. Two alternative plans for offices in Buck Library are before the Selectmen: One uses movable partitions and refurbishment without architectural change.

   The second involves a major renovation of the Buck building - lowered ceilings, building permanent partitions, etc. - basically the plan publicly dismissed two years ago.

As 1995 is Buck Library's 100th birthday, we are sure that the current debate affecting this historic building will be followed with great interest by members of the Society.

**** MEMBERSHIP ****

In November, watch for messages from our new Membership Chairman, Sharon Bergman. Better still, sign-up for 1995 with Sharon at Annual Meeting.

**** VOLUNTEER NEEDED ****

Person with good penmanship to list Charter Donors in Callander House record book. Work at your own pace. Call Eleanor, 342-2907

**** WANTED ****

Photo of August, 1974 Society Float in Firemen's Parade depicting a boat and tobacco growing. Call Bob McDougall 342-3062

COMING ATTRACTIONS - *Regina Woltmann, 342-3092*

The Society meets every fourth Tuesday, (except in holiday months as noted), in the Mary Flood Room of the Library. The Museum Room is open for visitors prior to each meeting. Meeting time is 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated.

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Sept. 27 - Bruce Yenawine, Director of the Connecticut River Museum in Essex - *Early Settlements of Windsor, Wethersfield and Hartford.*

Oct. 25 - Arthur Liverant of Colchester - *Restoring an old home.*

Nov. 15 - 6 PM at Grange Hall - ANNUAL MEETING AND POT-LUCK SUPPER
Billy Dougal and Dick Anderson of Crooners Corner - *Songs from the Gay 90's to the 1940's.*

Dec. 13 - 7:30 PM at Senior Center - SPECIAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Jan. 24 - Jim Hallas, *Rivereast* Editor - discusses his new book on *WWII Marine Invasion of the Pacific Caroline Islands.*

NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis Frisbie*

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