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, Robert McDougall, Walter Dower
FINANCE DIRECTORS: Daniel Crowther, James Elder, Donald Goodrich

SPRING, 1995 NEWSLETTER

The Portland Historical Society is celebrating it's 21st birthday with a number of interesting projects expressing the Society's purpose - to discover and collect our history and artifacts; to stimulate interest in our past; and, to foster preservation of historic structures.

PORTLAND AND BROWNSTONE EXHIBIT - *Connecticut River Museum, Feb. 2 - June 11, 1995 Tuesday - Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM.*

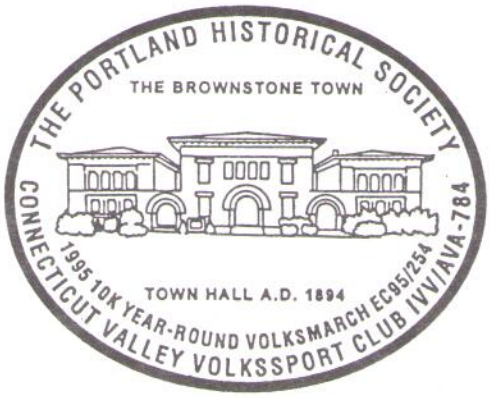
A special public exhibit entitled "*Portland and Brownstone - Portal to the Past*" is featured at the Connecticut River Museum at Steamboat Dock in Essex. The Guest Curator for the show, Alison Guinness, has conducted significant research into the Portland brownstone quarrying industry from its beginnings in the mid 19th century through its demise after the great floods of 1936. The Historical Society, the Town, and local residents have all loaned items to supplement the Connecticut River Museum's collection. The exhibit documents brownstone, from dinosaur footprints to the flourishing quarry operations and the stone's architectural importance nationally. We have arranged a special visit for Portland Historical Society members and friends as our April 28th meeting, for a tour guided by the Guest Curator, Alison Guinness. A special entrance fee of $2 has been arranged for our visit. Also be sure to see the St. Clements exhibit on the second floor.

MAKE A NOTE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING AT CT. RIVER MUSEUM TO SEE PORTLAND BROWNSTONE, APRIL 28 AT 7:30 PM.
Car pooling from the Portland Library can be arranged by calling Eleanor Crowther, 342-2907.

PORTLAND HERITAGE WEEK- APRIL 17-20 - *Pat Csere, Chairman*

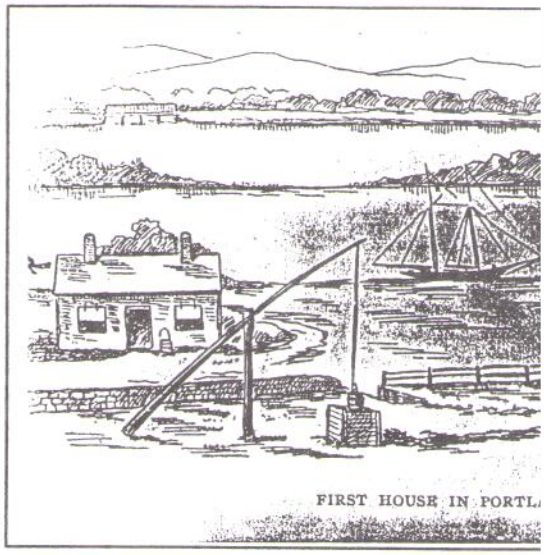
This week, (April 17-20), the Museum Room will be open every night from 6:30-8:30 in addition to our regular Saturday hours of 10 AM to 12 noon. This is a chance to browse through the Society's collections and reminisce with the guides. A special display created by Vivian Dower honors the 50th anniversary of Portland's contribution to World War II. It includes items and photos from the Civil War onward, including a new gift, some shell casings from a Civil War battlefield. Photo albums of the Town's special events and school photos are fun for children and grandchildren, to see that there was life in Portland before television. Call Pat, 342-2168, if you can give two hours one evening to act as a guide.

W.P.A. Mural



1995 Portland Volksmarch
by Bob McDougall

The 1995 Portland Year-Round Volksmarch, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Valley Volkssport club, has been underway for nearly three months now and has already attracted 20 walkers. There is a self registration point at the DUNKIN' DONUTS on Main Street where Trail Maps are available. The 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) trail includes Main Street, East Main Street, High Street and Indian Hill Avenue. The optional award for this year's event is a 2 1/2 inch pewter finish oval medallion featuring the Portland Town Hall (pictured above). **Call a friend and go for a walk!** For more information about the Portland walk or other walks in the area, you may call me at 342-3062.



J. Stancliff - Stone

NOTE: THE 1995 HERITAGE CALENDAR COMMITTEE is collecting old Portland pictures. Have you any photos you would like to loan for reproduction? Call John Dillon Jr. (342-2744) or John Dillion Sr. Among categories presently being considered: agriculture, natural beauty spots, individual businesses, (e.g. fireworks stands, the shoe store, blacksmith shops, wagon builders). Any further ideas?

HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS - *Jim Sarbaugh, Chairman*

Bianco Giollitti Architects have been engaged by the Town to analyze the report of the Town Building Planning Advisory Committee. In general, they have confirmed the recommendation to use both the Town Hall complex and Central School for municipal services. A formal presentation by the architectural firm will be made at the April 12 meeting of the Board of Selectmen in the Library.

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - 1995

Listed below is our current membership. If you are not listed, it's time to renew.
(REMEMBER: Life memberships are going up to $250 in 1996.)
Additions and corrections: Sharon Bergman, 342-4065.

LAURA E. ACKERMAN
WILLIAM ACKERMAN
ROBERT & LINDA AGOGLIATI
MR/MRS E. CURTIS AMBLER
ALAN & JOAN ANDERSON
LOUISE M. ANDERSON
MARION ANDERSON
MARJORIE B. ANDERSON
ANDERS F. C. ANDERSON FAMILY
JOHN V. ANDERSON FAMILY
GEORGE E. ANDERSON, JR. FAMILY
PATRICIA S. ARESCO
MARY JANE ARICO
MR/MRS EDWARD L. BAINES
THOMAS S. BARROWS & JUDY LANE
MR/MRS PAUL W. BARTALOTTA
GRACE C. BENOIT
MR/MRS FREDERICK BERGGREN
SHARON BERGMAN
EVERETT & MARJORIE BERNDTSON
LOIS BERNDTSON
MR. GERALD I. BINNINGTON JR.
RICHARD & JULIA BLAUVELT
BURTON A. BLUEMER
MARION W. BRAINERD
COLLEEN M. BREDE
KATHLEEN BREDE
JOHN J. BRENNAN
CHARLES & NANCY BRONSON
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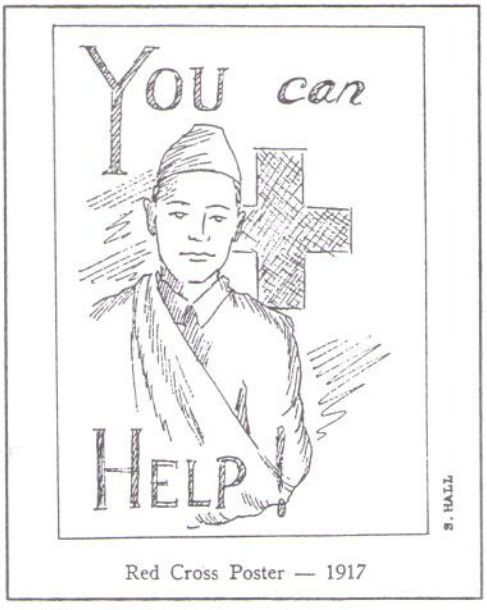
DR. GERALD F. BURKE
JOY C. BYLAN
MRS. RUTH R. CALLANDER
FRANCES B. CAMBRIA
ALLEN J.& MARY CARLSON
NANCY & LEE CARLSON
KAREN & TONY CASTAGNO FAMILY
DOROTHY CEULEMANS
HELEN F. CHALFANT
FRED & BARBARA CHAPMAN
MS. DUANE M. CHOWANIEC
BARBARA B. CLARK
MR/MRS JOHN F. CONKLIN
YVONNE COZZI
LUCILLE C. CRAMER
DR/MRS DANIEL F.S. CROWTHER
PAULINE P. CSERE
LINDA L. CUNNINGHAM
BETTY CURLEY
MICHAEL F. CURRAN FAMILY
DANIEL & JANALYN DAVIS
NORMA DeGRAFF
MR. SAM DEL RUSSO SR.
MR PAUL DES ROSIERS & FAMILY
EARLE & JEANNE DEVLIN
PHYLLIS DICKSON
JOHN & MAURA DILLON
MR. RICHARD J. DILLON FAMILY
FRAN DiNATALE
BESSIE B. DOWER
VIVIAN & WALTER DOWER
ISABEL DOWNING
SUSAN & FRANCIS DWYER
MARTIN & SHARON DYKAS
JIM & JUDI ELDER
HERBERT & FRANCES ELLSWORTH
LLOYD & EILEEN ERSKINE/WAYFARER KENL
FRANK & MARIA FAVALE
ELAINE FAZZINO
CLARENCE & MARY FERGUSON
ROSE G. FERGUSON
WAINO & LORETTA FILLBACK
HULDA FINKELSTEIN
MR JOHN B. FLANAGAN
JOHN E. FLYNN
MARSHALL V. FOGELMARK
RICHARD J. FOLEY FAMILY
JUNE B. FORELLA
JANE M. FOSTER
RUTH S. FREEBURG
MR/MRS WILLIAM B. FRISBIE
NAN & JOHN GASTLER
MYRNA G. GEIGES



Red Cross Poster — 1917

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ROBINSON & ARLINE GILBERT
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MRS. MARY A. GILDERSLEEVE
RICHARD O. GILDERSLEEVE
RICK,LYNN,BESS,ANDRW GILDERSLEEVE FAMILY
OLIVER DE P. GILDERSLEEVE, JR.
MR/MRS MICHAEL GIULIANO FAMILY
LAUREL GOODGION
FLORENCE W. GOODRICH
MARY LOU & RICHARD GOODRICH FAMILY
MR. JOHN F. GOTTA
LEO J. & PEARL L. GOUIN
RICHARD & JUDY GRAVES
RUTH,EDWARD& SHANNON GREAVES
CARL A. GROVER
RUTH J. GROVER
VIRGINIA S. GUILD
RANDY & JOAN GUILMETTE
EDWARD & ELEANOR HALE
MISS ELSIE M. HALE
MR/MRS ROBERT A. HALE
MR/MRS GEORGE W. HALE, III
MR/MRS RICHARD H. HALL
MRS. HELEN J. HANSON
MR. TERRENCE J. HETRICK
ANDREW J. HETZEL
MR. HAROLD W. HOLMES & MARJ.LOJESKI
E. KENNING & JOAN B. HUGHES
MR/MRS REGINALD HUMMEL
EDITH G. HYJEK
LORNA O. HYLAND
BARBARA C. IVES
RITA O. JACKSON
WARREN E. JACKSON
MRS. WILLIAM F. JARVIS
EARL & MARJORIE JOHNSON
GEORGE V. & CAROLYN JOHNSON
HAZEL S. JOHNSON
MR/MRS CHARLES B. JOHNSON
STU AND BEA JOHNSON
EVELYN M. JOHNSTONE
IVAR A. & CAROL K. JOZUS
ANNE & JOHN KAVANAUGH
RUTH L. KEANE
RICHARD & VIOLET KEENAN
MR/MRS DONALD B. KELSEY
MARIE KESER FAMILY
JOHN P. & HESSIE KLAUZENBERG
MR. PARIS J. KOLLIAS
MR. HAROLD L. KRIEGER
KAREN M. LABBADIA

more members. . . .

TONY & MARY LaBELLA
JANICE M. LACAILLADE
HAROLD & SUSAN LARSON
JOHN L.& PATRICIA M. LeSHANE
ELEANOR LEWIS
VIOLA H. LINDERME
MARTY LINEEN JR.
MR/MRS SALVATORE LOGANO FAMILY
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LINDA MANCHESTER
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LINDA & MARK MASLEY
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MR. ROBERT W. McDOUGALL
RUTH J. & JOHN W. McGOWAN
VIRGINIA S. McKEEN
DOROTHY H. McNULTY
MARY G. MOLESKY
WILLIAM R. MULLER
VIRGINIA R. NATALIE
DR/MRS LOUIS R. NEUMANN
BEVERLY B. NEWBERG
WILLIAM J. NOLAN
WALTER A. OLSEN
GRACE B. OLSON
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JOHN & DIANE OTTERBEIN
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MARY LOUISE RICE
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NORINNE & JOHN RUSSELL
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MR/MRS PETER P. SCIANNA
C. J. SERRA
MRS. ELAINE SIENA FAMILY
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ANN GILDERSLEEVE SLOAN
JACK & NANCY SNEIDER
JOAN J. SORENSON
ROBERT C. & SHERRY STANCLIFF
WARREN LLOYD STRICKLAND
JOHN M. SULLIVAN
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MR/MRS HENRY J. VALK
MAGDALENA W. WAGNER
MILDRED & MARTIN WEINER
NORMA WERDELIN
KENNETH E.& JEAN E. WHATMORE
MR/MRS GEORGE A. WILSON
ROBERT E. WINLER
CHARLES WOLTMANN
REGINA T. WOLTMANN
JOHN J & CATHERINE L ZAMPINI
NANCY CHILD ZIMMER

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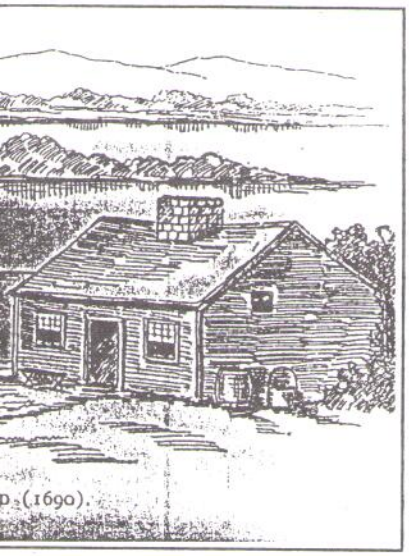
CIVIL WAR MONUMENT PRESERVATION UPDATE
- John Dillon Sr.

Don Goodrich is setting up meetings of the Monument Restoration Committee with local restorers to explore methods for carrying out the Conservator's recommendations. Watch your paper for further action.

* *MESHOMASIC FOREST VIDEO* *

A 30-minute history and beauty of Portland's 8000 acre State Forest - a neat Easter gift for history and nature lovers. Available at the Town Clerk's office and the Library desk for a $10 donation to the Society.



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* COLLECTOR PLATES FOR SALE *
EXCLUSIVELY TO MEMBERS

A limited edition, handsome, blue-gray stoneware 9-inch plate, attractively designed and incised "PORTLAND - 1841", available for a limited time at a special Historical Society price of $20 from Eleanor Crowther, 342-2907.

A GREAT GIFT IDEA!

ATTENTION GENEALOGISTS!

A photo album compiled by the late Dorothy Kelsey Robinson of all tombstones in Center Cemetery is available in the Museum Room.

CALLANDER HOUSE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Portland Remembered** - We always plan to do it, but never get around to it! Now, the committee has invented an easy do-it-yourself questionnaire for long- time residents, (or anyone wanting to participate), to begin recording anecdotal events of their lives. The questions are designed to stimulate ones memories and will result in a wonderful source of information for future generations. **Available soon!

Charcoal - V. Dower

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE COMMEMORATING THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF WWII

World War II Veterans who would like an oxen-drawn wagon ride up Main Street please volunteer to Chris Sullivan, 342-4105.

COMING ATTRACTIONS - *Regina Woltmann, 342-3092*

The Society meets every fourth Tuesday, (except in holiday months), in the Mary Flood Room of the Library, unless otherwise indicated. Meeting time is 7:30 PM. The Museum Room in the Library is open Saturdays 10 AM to Noon.

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April 25 - **Ct. River Museum - guided tour of *"Portland and Brownstone - Portal to the Past"* exhibit.**

May 23 - **Everett Berndtson - wheelwright - Video and talk on Carriages and Carriage-makers.**

June 27 - ANNUAL PICNIC - Connecticut Field Music - Authentically costumed Fife and Drum Corps playing accurate reproductions of 17th century marches, quick steps, and Irish songs and jigs.

NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis and Bill Frisbie*

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NEWSLETTER!