

# HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## JULY 2023

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**The month of July is named to honor Roman Dictator Julius Caesar (100 BC- 44 BC). Caesar helped develop the Julian calendar, precursor to the Gregorian calendar that we use today.**

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### **Federal Holiday**

Each year on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the United States observes a federal holiday in honor of the Declaration of Independence. The holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence document on July 4, 1776, by delegates from the 13 colonies existing at that time.

The Declaration of Independence was originally written by Thomas Jefferson, but Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, worked with Jefferson to make changes.

John Adams was the second president of the United States and a leader of the American Revolution that achieved independence from Great Britain.

Benjamin Franklin was a politician, writer, inventor and statesman.

Thomas Jefferson was a statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, philosopher and Founding Father. He was also the third president of the United States.

### **Declaration of Independence**

*The following is the well-known second paragraph of the U.S. Declaration of Independence.*

*It states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

*That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."*

**TRIVIA – LOCAL and OTHERWISE?”**

**A well-known anthem was used by British soldiers to taunt colonial militias during the early 1770s and later became an American battle song and the unofficial national anthem The anthem was “Yankee Doodle.”**

**Harwinton schools in poor condition (1846)**

An 1846 report on schools in Litchfield County noted that Harwinton had 11 school districts educating 285 students, ages 4 to 16. Of those, 178 attended school in the winter and 78 in the summer. There were 10 students who did not attend school in the summer or winter. It was noted that The general condition of schoolhouses and out buildings was noted as poor.”

The average monthly wage for teachers was \$13.20 for males and \$5.00 for females The only books allowed in the schools were those recommended by the school visiting committee.

**Harwinton Fair**

**The Harwinton Agricultural Society has sponsored the Harwinton Fair since 1853.**

HHS MEMBERSHIP: Would you like to join the Harwinton Historical Society? Dues are \$15 per year. Make checks payable to the Harwinton Historical Society and mail to Treasurer, PO Box 84, Harwinton, CT 06791.

**Visit [www.harwintonhistory.org](http://www.harwintonhistory.org)**

**ROARING 20s PROGRAM JULY 24th**

Greetings, HHS Members and Friends,

The HHS program committee is excited to have the Bowtie Historian return to Harwinton!

*The Roaring 20s: A Fascinating Decade of Jazz, Gangsters, Prohibition Presidential Scandals, Crossword Puzzles, Flappers & Tragedy*

**-Monday, July 24@6:30!**

**-Harwinton Public Library Community Room- Bentley Drive or ZOOM (Please register at [director@harwintonlibrary.org](mailto:director@harwintonlibrary.org) to receive the link.)**

--Co-sponsored by Harwinton Historical Society & Harwinton Public Library

--Historian Dr. Jason Scappaticci is *The Bowtie Historian*

*Join us for an evening of fun! Learn how modern society was affected by the great changes to America in the Roaring 20s!*

A gifted lecturer, Dr. Jason Scappaticci has a passion for history and enjoys sharing that passion with others. We welcome Jason back to Harwinton by popular request (*Mark Twain and the Supernatural* in 2022). Jason holds degrees in History and American Studies. He is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at Capital Community College.

**\*The program is free and open to the public.\***

We look forward to seeing you on July 24!

Bruce Burnett, Elaine Sederquist, and Marti Lecko

Harwinton Historical Society Program Committee



**HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, JIM BEMENT!**

James Bement, above center with cane, is pictured at Harwinton's Memorial Day ceremony on May 31, 2021.

A World War II Army veteran, Jim has been a regular at past veterans' events and an active supporter of the local American Legion Post. In the Army, Jim served in North Africa, Italy, and France. He and Grace Williams were married in 1949 and raised their family in Harwinton.

Grace passed in 2012.

On **July 23, 2023**, Jim will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

His address is Weingart Road., Harwinton 06791

Please consider wishing him a Happy Birthday and thanking him for his service to the town and country.