



THE HARWINTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 84 - Harwinton, CT 06791; website: HarwintonHistory.org; e-mail: harwhistsoc@gmail.com

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Dear Friends,

We hope that this correspondence finds you well and enjoying each day!

Learning about history allows us to understand the perspectives of others and to empathize with their struggles and triumphs. Each year Harwinton Historical Society's Annual Appeal has provided a base for launching our ongoing contributions to the community. Our mission is to preserve and share Harwinton's/America's rich history through community projects, collaborating with schools and local organizations, exhibits, programs, accessions, research, and publications. Your generosity supports our day-to-day operations and makes our work for our community possible.

In our 55th year, HHS is looking to not only continue with our current momentum, but to expand community involvement/positive impact in our historical town. Some of our contributions this year and a 2026 preview:

- **America 250-** At their June meeting the Harwinton Board of Selectman voted for HHS to take the lead for Harwinton's Celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country. The 250 Committee (HHS & community members) is planning exciting events throughout 2026. Recently a logo contest was held and an awesome logo adopted.
- **Order Harwinton 250 merchandise** featuring the exclusive logo at HarwintonGraphics.com (Stores tab) or in person- 15 Burlington Road; available ~Dec. 1; great holiday gifts! Order asap for delivery/pick-up by 12/25.
- **HarwintonHistory.org-** newly enhanced HHS **website** was launched. The popular site offers a wide spectrum of detailed information on Harwinton history and HHS Upcoming Events. Updated often!
- **Programs-** More than a dozen on a wide variety of historical topics were enjoyed by large numbers of attendees including *The Beginnings of the National Park Service* (co-sponsor Land Trust); *A Story in Stitches: 48 Years of Harwinton Woman's Club Quilts* in partnership with Harwinton Woman's Club & Library; & HCS student fieldtrips/hands-on lessons.
- **Self-Guided Cemetery Walk available!** Visit South Cemetery between sunrise and sunset to meet/revisit the 9 residents of the past portrayed at the last cemetery walk. Biographies of residents are available in the mailbox at the entrance. Informative and fun! A beautiful outdoor museum!
- **2026 Preview:** ***August- Author/Historian Rudnick-** Search for the Signers: Visiting the Graves of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence; ***October 2026 Cemetery Walk** will feature costumed portrayals of Harwinton Patriots/foundational residents. After months of research, interesting stories of historical facts and trivia set in a background of history of the era will be shared with awesome theatrical skills by community adults and students; ***January- Exhibit at the Library**
- **Cemetery Restoration Workshops** have brought respect to our founding residents interred in South Cemetery and will continue once warm weather returns. More than 150 gravestones that were toppled or leaning have been reset/repared; invasives removed, and more than 250 gravestones cleaned allowing inscriptions to be readable. Epitaphs at South Cemetery are being recorded- an important documentation before they are too worn to decipher. A map of Center Cemetery is nearly complete.
- **First District School** (1840 one-room school) and **The Barn Museum** (displaying farm and household items used in Harwinton) located on the grounds of the Harwinton Consolidated School offer a step back in time. Open Houses are posted on our website, and buildings are also open by appointment (harwhistsoc@gmail.com).
- We continue to pursue finding a home for HHS. A home for HHS is a resource that will make a lasting positive difference for our special community.

We'd love to have you join us for events, programs, and behind the scenes research and preparation. And, if you have ideas for projects we can support, we welcome your thoughts. (Program info & newsletters are e-mailed to our distribution list- please e-mail harwhistsoc@gmail.com if you'd like to be added.) **Please reach out by e-mail if we can help in any way.**

Your support will allow the preservation and sharing of history while maintaining our expenses including programs, rent, curator supplies, and insurance. We are so grateful for your participation in activities and monetary support! THANK YOU! Please take care. . . and we hope to see you soon!

Harwinton Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors

President: Marti Lecko, Vice-President: Elaine Sederquist, Treasurer: Harry Schuh, Secretary: Nancy Lyons. Directors: Bruce Burnett, Kristine David, Carol Kearns, Robert Lecko, Kevin Smail; Curator: Ann Harrington; Building Superintendent: Dennis Andrews; Immediate Past President: Susan McClen

****The Harwinton Historical Society is a 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. *A tax-smart option: If you are 70½+ you can make a **tax-free gift directly to HHS from your IRA** which will count toward your **RMD** (Required Minimum Distribution.) Also, please consider including The Harwinton Historical Society in your estate plans! Thank you!**