

# The Branford Historical Society

INVITES YOU TO VISIT  
*The Harrison House  
Museum & Barn*



**1724**

**124 Main Street  
Branford, Connecticut**



## The Branford Historical Society

124 Main Street  
Box 504  
Branford, Connecticut 06405

Call  
The Harrison House  
(203) 488-4828

Open June 1 to October 1  
2:00 to 5:00, Friday and Saturday  
and by appointment

Admission free. Donations suggested

### Volunteer Opportunities

- House/Grounds
- Hospitality
- Museum
- Acquisitions
- Harvest Festival
- Guides
- Holiday Party
- Membership
- Strawberry Festival

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Annual Dues

Contributing .....	\$50.00
Sustaining .....	25.00
Family .....	15.00
Individual .....	10.00
Donation .....	.....
Student .....	5.00

*Gifts of remembrance to our  
Memorial Fund are appreciated.  
Thank you for your support.*

# The Harrison House

Stepping into the Harrison House is like stepping into another world. The old wood of the walls, the hand-hewn oak corner posts, the



chamfered summer beams and exposed joists create an atmosphere of antiquity. The unique corner cupboard and huge hall fireplace are products of two hundred and fifty years ago.

The furnishings of four-poster and rope beds, the bedspread, made by a Linsley ancestor for her dowry, the seventeenth century chests of Branford origin, the beehive bake oven, warming pans, foot stoves and old china all lend the charm of the olden days.



## What the Society Does

### Programs

During the winter months a series of evening lectures are offered with refreshments served during a social hour. In December an open house is held for members and guests with decorations of Christmas greens, candlelight, and a wassail bowl.

### Trained Guides

The House is open from 2 to 5 Friday and Saturday, June 1 to October 1 and knowledgeable guides are on duty.

### School Children

Groups from the schools come by appointment and background information is offered to the schools.

### Exhibits

Changing exhibits are featured in the museum room and the leanto.

### Photographs

A large photographic collection is maintained. Additions are actively sought. Copies of pictures are available.

### Genealogies

Genealogical work is encouraged and a file is maintained of Branford families at The Blackstone Library.

### Publications

Several Branford residents have made us the recipients of their popular publications. They are for sale with the receipts going to the Society. Books on the early history of Branford and the Thimble Islands, as well as postcards, posters of local areas, maps and notecards are also offered for sale.

### Memorial Gifts

Gifts of remembrance on birthdays, anniversaries or in memory of loved ones are most welcome and are added to the Endowment Fund.

### Fund Raising

A strawberry shortcake festival in June has become traditional with the Society and, in recent years, has been held during the Branford Festival. Other fund raising may occur from time to time.

Built by Nathaniel Harrison in 1724 as a "two over two" house and occupied by his family and descendants until 1800, the house was then taken over by Linsleys who with their descendants lived here until 1938. In that year J. Frederick Kelly, prominent architectural historian, bought the Harrison House and painstakingly restored it to its original condition. The house is now owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) and is also a recorded property on The National Register of Historic Places.

One of the rooms in the Harrison House is set aside as a museum for Branford artifacts, memorabilia and archives. Branford families are encouraged to bring their ancestral records, products, pictures and collections for exhibits which are held periodically. The society is dedicated to discovering, preserving and showing Branford's heritage. Contributing a copy of your family's history and articles of historical value is encouraged.



The Branford Historical Society maintains The Harrison House and its barn set on two lovely acres of land. A fine herb and colonial garden is tended by the Branford Garden Club. We welcome new members who will share our effort and joy in keeping alive this symbol of Branford's past.