



ASPINOCK NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

Greetings

I am undertaking the task of producing a newsletter for the Aspinock Historical Society on a quarterly basis or when needed. There are a few details to iron out such as how to submit my files for review and editing if needed, since I use an Apple computer at home and do not have the Microsoft word programs that most other users have. Also how to format the newsletter to give it a professional look with photos, artwork and graphics. But these issues can be ironed out in time. Initially the newsletter will be emailed as text to members. Printed copies can be sent to those who request one.

Ken A. Evans, Aspinock member and volunteer

Come Visit Us

The Aspinock Historical Society Museum and Research Center is located on the 2nd floor of the Putnam Municipal Complex at 200 School St., Putnam, CT It is open Tue, Wed, Thur, 10 AM to 2 PM; and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 10 AM To Noon. Visit us to learn about Putnam's history through our displays and archives.

New Aspinock Officers

At the annual meeting of the Aspinock Historical Society on May 19, 2022 the following officers were nominated and approved.

President: John Miller, Vice President: Jeanne Benoit, Treasure: Joy Lizotte, Secretary: Kathleen Zamagni, Board of Directors at -large: Charles Lutzen, Terri Pearsall, Elaine Turner, and Past President William Pearsall

Committee Chairs: Pat Hedenberg, Boxcar Museum; and Fab Cutler, Archives. Both are on the Board by virtue of their Committee Chairmanship.

New Members 10/1/2021 to 4/30/2022

Branda Bernier, Carole Coutu, Paul Desautels, Maureen Herrera, Christina (Tina) LaBrash, Kenneth Longo, Dick Loomis, Charles Lutzen, Kevin and Linda Shaw, Cheryl Smith, John and Elaine Turner

A Message from Our President

I am extremely honored to serve as the incoming President of the Aspinock Historical Society (AHS). My Uncle Bob Miller was very active in AHS and also served as Putnam's Town Historian for many years; I am proud to continue his legacy as President. Our Society, soon celebrating our 50th Anniversary, will be busy continuing to staff the Boxcar Museum, making improvements at the Cady Copp Cottage, planning a 50th Anniversary Program and continuing our work to preserve the history of Putnam. Please visit us at our space on the second floor of The Putnam Municipal Complex to view the articles on display.

John P. Miller, President

Opportunity Openings

There is still room for a few more Greeters at the Aspinock Exhibit Hall in the Putnam Municipal Complex. The hours that we are open are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 AM to 2 PM, and the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 12 noon. Greeter shift hours are 10 AM to noon and 12 PM to 2 PM and/or Saturday. There will be someone available to train if needed. Contact Terri Pearsall if this is something that would interest you. Our email address is **historicalsocietyaspinock@gmail.com**



Boxcar Museum Has A Facebook Page!

The Boxcar Museum is now on Facebook. Check us out at Gertrude C. Warner Boxcar Children Museum to see all the latest news and developments regarding the Boxcar. Some interesting information is posted there, so feel free to share it online.

Volunteers Needed for the Boxcar Museum

Can you donate 2 1/2 hours of your time on a Saturday or Sunday to help keep the museum open May through October? You will partner with an experienced docent, (museum guide), for on the job training and work with a partner either once or twice a month, (your choice), thereafter. If interested, please Message on our Facebook page or contact Renee Boutin-Tsanjournes, aka "Hat", email hatwomanct@aol.com, or call her at 860-974-0325.

Visitors are coming from all over the USA and

foreign countries. During the past 3 months since the ribbon cutting on April 30 (see photos) the museum has had visitors from Tennessee, Nebraska, Michigan, Georgia, West Virginia, Hawaii, Florida, Vermont, Virginia, Ohio, California, North Carolina, Colorado,, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, lots of parts of Connecticut, and as far away as Algeria and Jordan. Renee is working on the August schedule, so let her know if you are interested in volunteering.



The Sheep Project

The Samuel Slater Museum in Webster, MA is placing sheep figures (similar to the popular calf figures some years ago) in surrounding towns. Putnam has chosen to be part of this project and has purchased one of the sheep. The Arts Council and the Aspinock Historical Society are working together to create our sheep. It will have representations on each side that reflect Putnam's part in the Industrial Revolution and especially the wool industry. Samuel Slater's brother-in-law was Smith Wilkinson, so we have a great connection to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and he had a mill in Putnam. Stay tuned for more information and the unveiling in the fall.
Jeanne Benoit, Vice President

The Cady-Copp Cottage Update

We are in the process of getting bids to complete the interior work at the cottage, located just off Liberty Highway on Putnam Heights. On an exciting note we just received a three volume inventory of the artifacts recovered during the 2005 dig by the Public Archeology Survey Team based in Storrs, CT. This group conducted a dig along the side the Cady-Copp cottage and uncovered thousands of "artifacts", everything from pins, nails, pipe stems, to pieces of broken pottery and glass, and much more. These artifacts are currently housed in 13 archival proof cartons at the Aspinock Historical Society Research Center.

We Have Published A Recent Book

"**A Stroll Thru Putnam**" depicting the old and present blocks and streets in Putnam is available at \$35 per book. We are working on another book "**Gone But Not Forgotten**" about Manohasset Village which was washed away in 1955 flood. The authors are Sandra Ames and Fab Cutler.

Submitting News

I encourage Aspinock members to submit news and information to be included in our quarterly newsletter. You can email me at **kaevans1969@sbcglobal.net** or leave material for me at the Aspinock Historical Society facility at 200 Providence St., Putnam.

A Little About Me

I was born and raised in Putnam and attended local schools. I graduated from Clark University in Worcester, MA with a BA degree. Following college I served for two years as a US Peace Corps Volunteer primary school teacher in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Later I worked as editor of the Windham County Observer newspaper, which I co-owned with my parents. We sold the paper and related printing business in 1980, and I began my career at the Shopper-Turnpike Corp., a stint that lasted 40 years. I retired from full-time employment there as production manager in 2012, but continued on a part-time basis for a few more years. I'm fully retired now and enjoy reading, acrylic painting and colored pencil drawing, walking and hiking in nature. I'm also a part-time trash compactor operator at my condo complex. I volunteer at the Aspinock Historical Society facility and at the Boxcar Museum.

Ken A. Evans