

The New Palmer Bidette ◊

FOR THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL AND THE PALMERS IN PARTICULAR

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NO. STONINGTON, CONN.

SUMMER 2007.

NO. 2 .

"Palmar Qui Meruit Ferat.

ANNUAL MEETING, AUG. 11

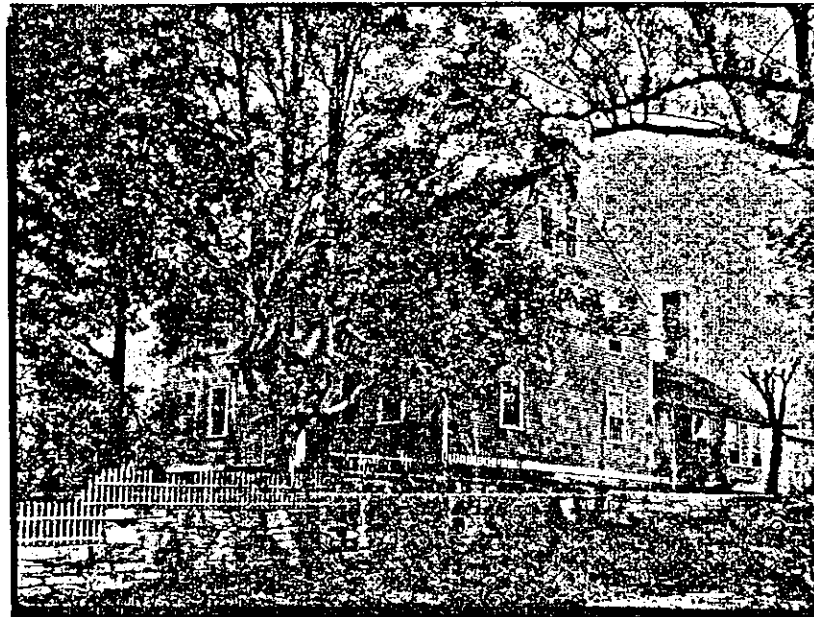
We of Pauchunganuc Farm are again able to invite all members of the Walter Palmer Society and, in fact, all descendants of Walter Palmer and friends to the farm at 812 Pendleton Hill Road (Route 49) for a family reunion Potluck starting at 11 A.M. Saturday, August 11th, 2007. We look forward to greeting you all.

Margaret Murtha, Gerard
Beekman Palmer, A.
Wright Palmer, Charles Edward
North, Jr., Anna Palmer North
Coit.

This is a potluck for those who can easily bring food. People from far away may contribute to the money jar to help with expenses.

The speaker will be Ms. Sarah Melcher of Torrington, CT, who has made an exhaustive study of the French and Indian War (1754-1763) in which just about all of us had ancestors involved. Her account uses the very words of participants. She wears a costume of the time.

Besides our meeting, visitors might like to explore this area from which very many Walter Palmer descendants came. Though increasingly urbanized, it still retains some of the landscapes, homes and scenes of an earlier day. Some of us are unhappy that the forest is obliterating the views of the sea but forest was here preventing sea views when the white man



came. Long looked upon as the poor relation of Stonington of which it was a part until just 200 years ago, North Stonington has come into its own as a place to live because of its beauty, a characteristic enhanced by the few (very few) dairy farms which still persist. Pauchunganuc contributes by renting about 43 acres to three farmers, one of whom, Ben Gallup, has a cornfield nearly a mile long on 49 in Voluntown. Another farming entity, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Niles Miner and daughters Pat and Linda rent the large field in back of the former barn site. Their Cool Breeze Farm, only five or so miles from Pauchunganuc, won a citation as the prettiest farm in Connecticut. All members of the

family are Walter Palmer descendants, but they are usually too busy to come to the reunions. You can easily visit their farm by going down or up 49 to where Puttner comes in on the east and Grindstone comes in on the west. Turn on Grindstone, bear left at the intersection Cool Breeze starts at a right-angle curve. If you take Puttner and turn right at the dead end you will come to the Palmer Farm, run by descendants of William who might be our distant relatives. The Beriah Lewis Farm next to Boom Bridge which takes you into Rhode Island has the most farm buildings of anyone. The Brown's lovely farm on Mystic Road grows turkeys. Mrs. Brown is a Palmer. So take a little tour.

Need we tell you about Mystic Seaport, Mystic Marinelife Aquarium, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center (where we have already had an annual meeting), the beautiful Westerly, RI, beaches and, not too far away, Old Sturbridge Village, Cape Cod or the cool breezes of the Maine shore?

Here is a small list of bed-and-breakfasts and hotels:

Antiques and Accommodations on Main St., North Stonington, 860-535-1736
Cedar Park Inn & Suites, 85 Norwich- Westerly Rd. North Stonington, 860-535-9075
Inn at Lower Farm, 119 Mystic Rd., North Stonington, 860-535-9075
Hilltop Inn, 373 Norwich-Westerly Rd., North Stonington, 860-535-0500
Stardust Motel, 544 Providence-New London Turnpike, North Stonington, 860-599-2261

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Walter Palmer Society Organization Officers' Duties, June 2007, by Col. Elmer Hall Palmer

President – A. Wright Palmer

Vice President – David Morley Rathbun

Preside in absence of president.
Assist Treasurer in investment of funds.

Secretary – Margaret McDonald Murtha

Keep records of all meetings of Society.
Send information to Web Master, pete@walterpalmer.com
Announcement of annual meeting time and place.
Reports of meetings>

Corresponding Secretary – Anna Palmer North Coit, annancoit@gmail.com

Provides information. Advises. Proofreads all material for publication..
Edits *Vidette*.

Treasurer – Marjorie Woodmansee Anderson

Collects all monies, including book orders.
Keeps financial records. Invests permanent funds.

Membership Chairman – Jody Ann Wren, jody.wren@pfizer.com

Keeps the membership list up to date. Sends letter of welcome to new members.
Assigns membership numbers. Engrosses membership certificates.

Registrar – Katharine Post Palmer Smith, ksmith@salisburyschool.com

Receives and keeps record of all mail. Forwards copy to proper office.
Checks applications before forwarding. Gives application forms and information to applicants.

Genealogist – Elmer Hall Palmer, elmer@walterpalmer.com

Receives and records all genealogical information. Mails genealogies on information from treasurer.

THE PETTICOAT

One of the treasures of Pauchunganuc Farm is a mustard-color callimanco petticoat, quilted all over, dating, we used to think, about 1785. We never knew who made it, nor about callimanco, nor how to find out about it. We did see a piece of callimanco on a bed in the Webb house in Wethersfield, but even they did not know how this shiny woolen was made.

Well, this very June, Susan P. Schoelner, Director of Museum Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford, phoned to ask whether Linda Baumgartner a researcher from Colonial Williamsburg could visit to research and study it. Could she ever?

The petticoat, 48 inches long, with a 24-inch waist and a 96-inch hem is very stiff. The callimanco is a slightly shiny, fine, flat-wove woolen homespun which seems to have some stiffener in it. It is backed by a coarser plaid in two pieces, much alike, of mustard, gray-blue and navy, and in between is a layer of wool. What is unusual about it is that the quilting, some as little as 1/4th inch apart, 16 backstitches to the inch, contains not only fruit and flowers, but animals – lion, tiger, pheasant, barn owl and turtle.

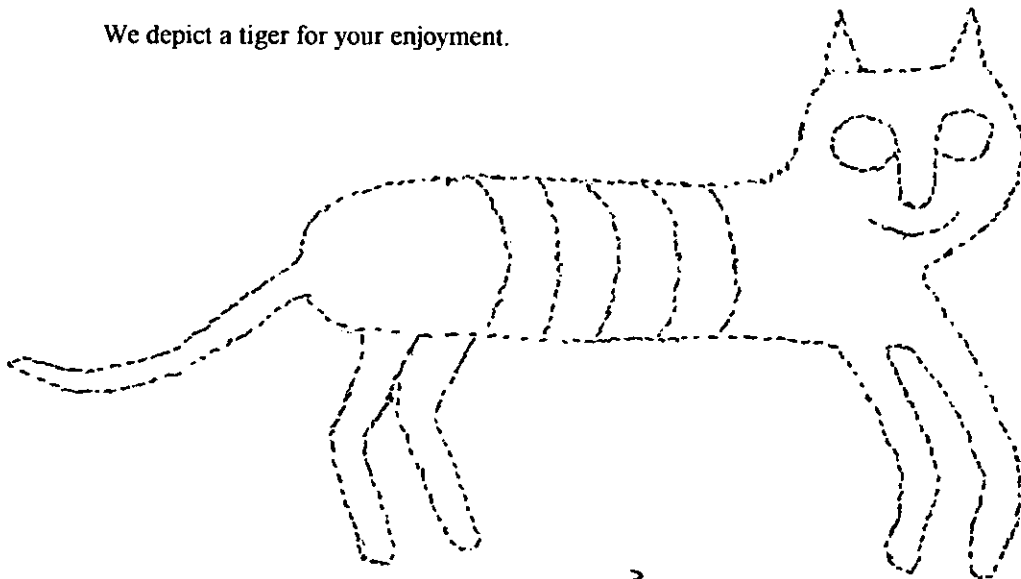
Linda came a few days later with husband, camera in hand, measuring tape, magnifier, magnifying eyeglasses, and several electronic devices, and Susan came down from Hartford. We were puffed up with importance and pride as they spent over an hour giving the petticoat the once- and twice-over.

Ms. Baumgartner has been researching these petticoats for some time. She has records and drawings made on the computer of about a dozen. In England she has found quilted petticoats, but nary a one had animals depicted. She (and Mrs. Schoelner agrees with her) has concluded that animals on petticoats are local to eastern, especially southeastern Connecticut. Both remarked that in discussing crafts one should not simply state that an item is "from Connecticut", for, in the early days with almost no transportation, design is not regional but very, very local. We in the North Stonington Historical Society find that you can easily tell chairs made in Groton from those made here, though we are but a dozen miles apart.

Linda immediately told us the waistband and button were not original, but replacements done in the 19th Century. (We asked ourselves, what would a 19th Century woman wear it for?) She also said that the date was not 1785 but nearer 1760. This drew in a different batch of possible makers and wearers, adding to the list of Walter Palmer and even Randall family members who could be connected to it.

The petticoat has been at the home of Anna Palmer North Coit in Clarks Falls, North Stonington, to prevent further mouse damage, of which it has a great deal. Susan Schoelner gently suggested that we give it to the Connecticut Historical Society Museum which could properly conserve and store it. Owners like the idea very much but wonder whether financially-strapped Pauchunganuc Farm can afford to give away anything like that right now. Both ladies plan to return and to visit Pauchunganuc.

We depict a tiger for your enjoyment.



Here is part of a letter Asenath Main Palmer wrote to her brother-in-law, Luther, in 1846. We wonder how she learned to write so well.

Asenath has returned to Illinois, we received a letter from her a few days since, they were all well and doing well, Henry is in Lake County Ind. Charles & Paul are in Michigan they have all got good homes and are doing well; we expect Charles & his wife to visit us next summer we have never seen his present wife, Luther is married and lives in Albany he married his wife there, he is in the Wholesale provision business in company with his brother in law, he came home last summer with his wife, on a visit we were all ^{much} very pleased with her, found her to be a very pious and good-hearted woman,

When you write to brother Hayes direct your letter to Panama Chautauque County N.Y. we have not heard from them since last fall, they were well then, Annis is with them and Susan is here, give my loves to ~~them~~ to all your family the Widow Pendleton and all other unquering friends, give my love to Aunt Sally Ray tell her, her mother called on me last fall and staid a short time we should like to know how sister Abigail Hall is - we shall expect a visit from you next summer without fail and dont forget to write from your affectionate Sister
Asenath Palmer

Luther S. Daily Palmer



Cady Kepler has sent us another great picture of Asenath Main Palmer (1789-1883). Her mother was Asenath Palmer Ray (WP 813B 6). The woman in the picture was married in 1803 to Charles Palmer (WP B328 B). These Palmers left for New York State in 1807 and made a success of their life there. After raising her own seven children, Asenath cared for several grandchildren. We gather from this likeness that she had had a stroke or two but was still lively.

Below is a picture of Charles and Asenath's seventh child, Luther M. Palmer (1816-1878), named for his Connecticut uncle. He became a commission merchant in Albany.

This is one of the families which originated from Pauchunganuc Farm

