

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The HSEH has been quiet recently due to the corona virus and its medical restraints. However, the Hockanum Library has been put on the list for repairs and renovations for use.

Steven Strange, President HSEH

CAP BADGE, 99th BATTALION (ESSEX) C.E.F.

While Karen Johnson, Tom Hogan, and Ruth Shapleigh-Brown were working on the Historical Society's Military Inventory last year, Karen found an old, unfamiliar medal (right). Some research on the internet led to the following information which we thought might be of interest on this Veterans' Day (November 11, 2020).

Ruthie sent this email: "In the HSEH collection is a "cap badge" for the 99th Battalion (Essex), C.E.F. This battalion was formed in the County of Essex in Ontario, Canada beginning in late December 1915. It was shipped to England in May 1916. Its men were absorbed into a replacement battalion from which they were then assigned as needed to other Canadian units fighting in France.

"C.E.F." stands for Canadian Expeditionary Force. The C.E.F. consisted of volunteers who served outside of Canadian territory during World War I. Most served in France.

"Here is the web address of a "yard long" of the Battalion in Canada just before they shipped out. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/20/Canadian_Expeditionary_Force%2C_99th_O.S. Battalion on%2C_Queens_Park%2C_London%2C_Ontario%2C_May_19%2C_1916. No. 498 %28HS85-10-2550%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/20/Canadian_Expeditionary_Force%2C_99th_O.S._Battalion%2C_Queens_Park%2C_London%2C_Ontario%2C_May_19%2C_1916._No._498_%28HS85-10-2550%29.jpg)

For those who do not use the internet and who would like to have some idea of the "yard long" we are inserting the following much reduced pictures. Stitched together these two halves form the "yard long" picture. The top picture is the left of the "yard long", the bottom picture is the right.

"Perhaps there is a Risley in this group!"



“The Battalion's motto is shown in Latin: Acta Non Verba (Action, not Words). The scroll at the bottom of the medal displays the words Canada, Essex, Overseas.

“At least a dozen East Hartford men enlisted in British or Canadian units during World War I. Of course, there were also Canadian veterans who moved to the U.S. after the war, so I can't say who the badge belonged to.”

PRESIDENT STEVEN STRANGE HAS NEW BOOK PUBLISHED

My book in Spanish, Antes de Jamestown, fue San Agustin de la Florida, has been published by the Academia norteamericana de la lengua espanola, of which I am a Miembro correpondiente. The book contains contracts and agreements between the Spanish Crown and the explorers, eyewitness testimonies of soldiers and friars, and historical selections of these expeditions from the several important Histories of the Indies published in Spain in the 16th century.

Steven Strange, President HSEH

AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING DAY¹



William Bradford, Governor of Plymouth Colony, had written to England verifying reports colonists had sent back home of their restored health, their successful harvest, the plentitude of fish, game, meal, and corn they now enjoyed after their first brutal and deadly winter of 1620-1621 in Plymouth. Governor Bradford was thankful for this bounty and proclaimed that all should

gather in November and hold “Thanksgiving to the Lord”. Colonists joined with friendly Native Americans at this days long celebration. Jennie Brownscombe’s 1914 well-known painting (above) portrays this Thanksgiving.

“Here was the start of the enduring sense, through war and peace, Depression and prosperity, that we in the land that became the United States of America have so much to be thankful for. The Continental Congress, for several Decembers in the 1700s, did proclaim a Thanksgiving Day, and George Washington did so in November 1789, but it was not until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that Abraham Lincoln declared an annual national observation, thanks primarily to a 15-year campaign for same waged by one Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book and author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."²

Historical Society of East Hartford

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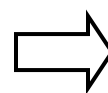
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indiv \$20, 1 address \$25, student \$10,
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

Deadline Jan Newsletter – *Jan 1 2021*



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

CANCELLED

*Due to federal, state and local
health concerns caused by the
continuing coronavirus
pandemic*

¹ NY Daily News, Editorial “A Nation Blessed: America’s Day of Thanks” Editorial, Nov 26, 2008.

² Ibid