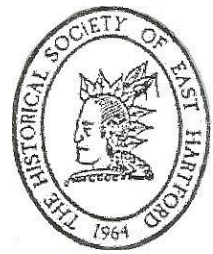


Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, May 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends and members of the Historical Society of East Hartford,

I trust you are all well, and have been vaccinated....at least one shot. Cooperation from all citizens is vital so we can get it under control. Vaccinations, social distancing, masks, and common sense are the ingredients to defeat it. Keep up the good work.

The Historical Society of East Hartford has not been able to conduct many activities because of the pandemic. Hopefully programs and meetings can become a reality by June.

I am still looking for people who wish to help with auditing our books, work on the Hockanum School project, and help out at the Brewer House.

I would like to have a Board meeting on May 19 at the Brewer House to discuss plans, proposals, and activities until the end of the current year. Please let me know if you can make this meeting, or a meeting in June, and please let me know of any suggestions or initiatives that should be placed in the agenda. Thanks.

Hopefully we can get together soon.

Stay well and prosper.

Steven Strange, President, HSEH
farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com, 860-528-4989

PROGRAMS

Historical Society Programs and Meetings

There will be no regular meeting or program this month at the East Hartford Public Library which only recently opened again after being closed for a year due to COVID-19. The executive board of the Historical Society will be meeting on May 19th to plan what future programs and events we might be able to offer our membership either at the Selden Brewer House or elsewhere this year. With the success of vaccinations, I really believe what most of the experts say in that the worst is behind us. We still need to remain cautious however, so do not retire those face masks anytime soon. **Stay safe.**

For any questions, please call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884.

Craig Johnson, Vice President / Program Chair

Upcoming Events for the Historical Society

The Connecticut Forest & Park Association Trails Day event will be held on Sunday, June 6th where the Historical Society has signed up to host a walk along the Connecticut River at Great River Park and the East Coast Greenway. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and I will be co-leaders. To join us, your advance registration is required. The maximum that can attend is 30 participants. Meet at the parking lot of the American Eagle Financial Credit Union main building at 333 East River Drive. This 2-hour, 2.5-mile educational walk on pavement is from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

The Annual Connecticut Open House Day will be on Saturday, June 12th. On this state-wide event for tourism, we plan to open the Huguenot House from 1:00 to 4:00 pm for tours. This will be our first public opening since 2019. We need vaccinated Historical Society volunteers to help greet visitors and show self-guided tours of the Blacksmith Shop and School House. Please consider helping us on that day.

For registration on the CFPA walk or to volunteer for Connecticut Open House Day call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884 and please leave a voice mail.

Craig Johnson, Vice President / Program Chair

FRAGMENTS OF A FAMILY LETTER FROM THE HSEH COLLECTIONS

Do You Recognize These People?

While Ruthie was working on some old, original papers at the Brewer House she came across this old letter... really turned out to be seven pages of a poem... obviously written by a mother.

She writes: "I assumed it to a Goodwin - as it was with some other pieces, one envelope marked E.O. Goodwin (who was it appears a town officer, and first Fire Chief in town).... there is no name to or from or by, or even a date on the poem sheets.

"I just checked the two books, Goodwin's and Paquette's and I can't find which Goodwin was a Dr. ... which according to the poem lines I copied - obviously "he" was. ... so I guess it's not an Edward afterall ??

"SO without knowing WHO exactly - I thought we could still put this into the newsletter to share - but also share that we are trying to figure out who wrote it. I believe it to be from the Goodwin family. Can anyone help?

"It appears to be part of a collection from Edward (Edmund) Goodwin and his wife. it's a seven-page poem about LIFE – that she obviously wrote in her later years.

"I think this is something that we might eventually do something with; perhaps publish it for sharing or a program later down the road. For now I'd like to share a couple of verses that jumped out at me with our members.

"(about the husband)

At least Old Yale did send him forth, too wise to be a Proctor

As he resolved he could not preach, to be the Village Doctor.

His mind of course to study best, to learn the healing art,

To understand the system well, in every sense and part.

"(the daughter - s)

The next a daughter as it seems, was added to the list-

Who is after years when called upon, was willing to assist,
In household matters, cook and wash, or juveniles attending
And Harriet learned to be kind and spin as well as do the mending

“When two more years had passed away, the eldest age was four,
Another daughter as it proved, was added to the store.
Althea her duty’s done and this a somewhat arduous task,
Saw the children all leave home, and she went too, at last.

“(Ending ... lines)

But here we are today, it is a happy meeting
Let us strive to happy be, and no one think of weeping
Hereafter let come what will, sickness grief or pain
We will be to each other, as links are to the chain. “

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, 860-643-5652
Director, HSEH
Connecticut Gravestone Network

NEWS BRIEF FROM SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Old East Hartford Colonial Starts New Life Welcoming Visitors to Savannah

We have learned of the removal of the old, uninhabited white colonial house which was located at approximately 215 High Street in East Hartford (near the Hockanum School) to its new location in Savannah, Georgia. It was purchased for the empty lot next to the lovely Printmaker’s Inn in Savannah and will add 5 guest rooms to that inn. It is now called the Hills-Galloway House. The Hills name refers to a distant connection between the present owner and the house’s original Connecticut owners. Most of this house dates from the 1740s but part of it has wood dating from the 1690s. This is intriguing as this earlier date makes part of this house older than the city of Savannah itself (founded in 1733). Also intriguing was the discovery on one wall, hidden under a covering, of a 6’ hand drawing of a scene from the French-Indian War (1754-1763). This in itself may be unique as no one, at least in Connecticut, had ever heard of anything like this.

Check the July 29, 2020 WTOC news to see photos of this house.

<https://www.wtoc.com/2020/07/29/connecticut-savannah-historic-home-moves-south/>

Historical Society of East Hartford

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Membership: 860-528-0716, Sept 1-Aug 31
indiv \$20, 1 address \$25, student \$10,
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

Deadline Sept Newsletter – *Aug 21, 2021*

MAY PROGRAM

CANCELLED

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