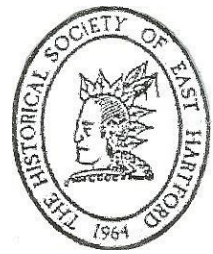


# Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, November 2021



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Brewer House Holiday Fest Social



The Historical Society of East Hartford, in cooperation with the East Hartford Holiday Fest; invites Society members and the public to a holiday open house social at the Brewer House, 165 Main Street, East Hartford, on December 5, 2021 from 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Come see the Victorian Christmas decorations and Christmas tree, historical displays, and enjoy the refreshments, comradery, and conversations with members and visitors. No reservations are required.

Additional Open House dates for viewing are December 4, 11 and 12 from 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

### Volunteers Needed to Decorate the Brewer House for Holiday Fest

Volunteers from the HSEH are needed to help decorate the Brewer House for the East Hartford Holiday Fest. Since the decoration process is time consuming, we will decorate this lovely home (constructed in 1833) on December 2 and 3, 2021. Please call Steven Strange, Society President, at 860-528-4989, and let him know that you would like to volunteer. Many hands make the work load lighter and faster.

Also, we will need members to provide refreshments for the Open House Holiday Fest Social on December 4, 2021. Please call Karen Johnson at 860-430-9618, and tell her what you will contribute. Finger sandwiches, tapas, fruit salad, chili, Swedish meatballs, stuffed breads, snacks, light desserts, beverages, etc. are possible suggestions. The last Holiday Fest Social in 2019 was a total success. Let's continue to make this event a part of the East Hartford Holiday Fest program.

*Steven Strange, President*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOVEMBER 17TH MEETING AT THE SELDEN BREWER HOUSE

Members are welcome to join us at our November 17th, 2021 Historical Society meeting at the Selden Brewer House starting at 7pm. Regular meetings at the Raymond Library where we can offer a guest speaker and program are still not permitted. I'm optimistic after talking with the head librarian that this moratorium will be lifted some time in 2022.

As Ruthie Brown mentioned in the last newsletter in September, we had one of the most generous donations ever made to our Historical Society this Summer. Before and after our meeting we would like to exhibit some of the

<sup>1</sup> clip art is from <https://publicdomainvectors.org/en/free-clipart/Santa-with-reindeer/78730.html>

items we received from the descendants of the Thomas Dowd family which also included the Mather and Williams families of East Hartford. You will see some well-preserved 19th century clothing, pages from an 1870 Town of East Hartford census, an original journal with notes on establishing the South Congregational Church of East Hartford and some other interesting pieces of East Hartford history.

The Selden Brewer House is located at 167 Main Street, East Hartford and parking is available in the front lot. For any questions, you can call me at 860-568-2884 and please leave a message. I will return your call.

*Craig Johnson, VP, Program Chair*

## **VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT WWI DOUGHBOY STATUE**

This item is copied from "The Gazette" Thursday, November 4, 2021 volume 136. no.44, page 8.

"The library, Historical Society of East Hartford, and the Rochambeau Elms VFW Post 2083, invite the public and veterans to join us in a Veterans' Day Remembrance and Wreath Laying Ceremony at the World War I Doughboy statue called 'Ready', on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 10:30 A.M. on the lawn of the East Hartford Public Library, 840 Main Street, East Hartford. The ceremony will include a recitation of the original 1892 Pledge of Allegiance as recited by those who went to war in 1918, a prayer, a recitation of "In Flanders Field", a reading of the names on the Doughboy Memorial, tolling of the First Congregational Church Bell, a moment of silence, and the laying of the wreath by Coronel Leslie Nieves, Connecticut National Guard, Veteran of the Iraq War, and Director of Residential Programs and Services for Veterans' Affairs for the State of Connecticut. Come and say thank you to all our veterans, past and present, and to those who are currently defending our constitutional republic."

*For more information, Steven Strange, President HSEH, 860-528-4989*

## **FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Martin Park Museum buildings are quiet once again for another off season and the only activity will be me stopping by once a week to check on phone messages and to be certain that all is well.

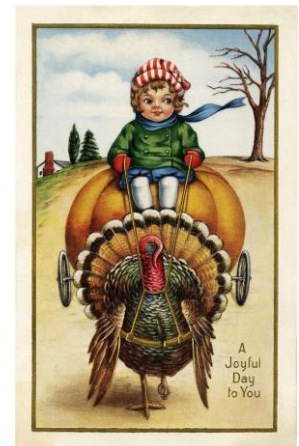
Soon after the September newsletter was released, we noted the passing of **Elizabeth (Betty) Squires**, a long-time member of our Historical Society. Into the 1990s, Betty was the primary caretaker of the Goodwin School House and the Burnham Blacksmith Shop. Most of the exhibits and displays that can be seen today were organized by Betty. This was especially true of the Blacksmith Shop that was moved to Martin Park during the 1980s. Being a long-time teacher with the East Hartford School System also helped out during the times when we offered classroom tours of the buildings. Betty was also co-chair of Connecticut's East Hartford section of the national Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary War Trail established in 2009. Her writings and help in the design of the East Hartford marker at the Raymond Library commemorate our town's link to the invaluable French help given our country in the Revolutionary War.

Another long-time member of the Historical Society who recently passed away at age 104 was **Josephine Wiley Sale**. Josephine attended many of our annual dinner meetings over the years and I remember her as a lover of Hartford history during her working career at the Hartford Public Library. Our condolences to both families of these dedicated ladies.

*Craig Johnson, Vice President*

# THANKSGIVING DAY WISHES TO LIGHTEN YOUR HEART

Early Postcards circa 1921



1-1 <https://thegraphicsfairy.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/White-Turkey-Vintage-Postcard-GraphicsFairy.jpg>

1-2 [public domain color vintage greeting thanksgiving 01 - Free Vintage Illustrations](#)

2-1 [Thanksgiving Postcard with Pumpkin and Turkey with boy on top image - Free stock photo - Public Domain photo - CC0 Images \(goodfreephotos.com\)](#)

2-2 <https://FreshVintagebyLisaS.com/Vintage-THANKSGIVING-Postcard-Printables>

2-3 [\(37\) Pinterest](#)

3-1 <https://creativepro.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/default/files/styles/article-full-column-width/public/05-FlickrGroup.jpg?itok=rIR9k0P5>

3-2 [Thanksgiving Greetings With Vintage Postcards - Free Downloads - ThirdShift Vintage Blog \(thirdshift3.com\)](#)

## TOWN NOTES FROM THE THOMAS DOWD FILES – 1/2

It's November and elections are a current topic. Below are some notes Ruthie sent us from the HSEH's newly inherited "Dowd Collection". Capt. Thomas Dowd was a Union CW soldier. After the war he became East Hartford town treasurer from 1865 serving 5 terms. He was also an assessor, tax collector and 1st registrar of voters created in 1868.

### Estimate of Town Expenses for 1872

State tax	\$3,361.93
County Tax	\$450.00
Military Commission	\$544.68
School expenses	\$5,224.07
TOTAL of ALL Expenses	\$23,553.33
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$32,143.77

Electors' meetings were held in March to make additions and Corrections to the list. In 1871 Thomas Dowd and E. S. Goodwin were the Registrars.

Names are listed by district they lived in and noted as to whether they qualify to vote or are still awaiting approval.

### Qualified to Vote in 1871

Surnames of East Hartford that have more than 10 names (all male of course) listed.

Brewer	32	Burnham	20	Forbes	21	Goodwin	11
Olmsted	19	Roberts	22	Risley	27	Vibert	11

The following are still on holding list for approval to be added:

Anderson—8	Beaumont—4	Bidwell—4	Comstock—6
Lester—9	Pitkin—7	Porter—5	Pratt—7
Treat—7			

One list of no definite date (early 1870's) shows 40 Republicans and 66 Democrats in East Hartford. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> 1870 is when the town adopted a Vote of the Town.

1873 list shows a total of 746 Voters with 53 to be made and 18 more to be approved by the end of March.

This is a list of names written on the back of a Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1872 – so it's assumed these were additions coming in for that year and listing those names that are legible as 34 Democrats:

Clarke Barrows	P. Foran	R. Roberts	G. Carney	M. C. Thompson
Andrew A. Perkins	Horace Thompson	John Porier	Joseph Carroll	William Daily
L.S. Richards	Dennis Quinn	Richard Welch	Giles Putnam	Fred Putnam
E. Chapin				
P.S. Ranney	J.H. Ranney	Fredrick Bragg	Charles E. Baker	J. Mackintosh
R. W. Thompson	James Risley	Henry Risley	Henry Cotton	Geo. W. Johnson Jr.
Warren Lincoln	P. Mcsolon	Philip McCormick	Frank Bragg	L.S. Munford

The first Split Ticket 1870



*For Selectmen,*

Ira W. Porter, Mahlon Forbes,  
William H. Ulrich.

*For Town Clerk and Registrar,*

Ephraim Rood.

*For Treasurer,*

William Hanmer.

*For School Fund Treasurer,*

Ezra E. Smith.

*For Constable and Collector,*

Lawrence V. Lester.

*For Constables,*

William C. Cowles, John F. Arnold,  
Charles Forbes, 2d, E. Hart Forbes.  
Z. Arthur Burnham, Henry Albro.

*For Grand Jurors,*

Edwin M. Roberts, North, Edwin H. Little,  
William H. Ulrich, Benjamin F. Wilcox,  
Samuel Douglass, Edwin Brewer.

*For School Visitors,*

John C. Bull, E. H. Little.

*For Assessors,*

Ezra E. Smith, Seth Risley,  
Giles Forbes.

*For Board of Relief,*

William Hanmer, Reuben A. Chapman,  
Jesse Judson.

*For Registrar of Electors,*

## MEMBERSHIP

To all those who are seeking new membership in the Historical Society of East Hartford please remember to send your membership form to the address at the bottom of this membership form. This is a P.O. Box intended for all checks being made out to the Society and retrieved by our Treasurer. Info is then passed on to me.

Thank you, Judith Hillmann, Membership

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – AUGUST 31, 2022

You may complete this form for your membership. The Historical Society depends on your membership to keep doing our community projects, sharing our rich history, and keeping our historical buildings open.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (default mail) \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL NEWS? Y\_\_N\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 / Individual \$25.00/One address  
\$10.00 / Student \$50.00/Patron \$250.00/Lifetime

Make a check for membership out to: **The Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc. (HSEH)**  
Mail check to: **Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc., Po Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166.**

#### Historical Society of East Hartford

**Mail:** PO Box 380166, E Hartford, CT, 06138-0166  
**Phone:** 860-528-0716  
**Email:** [webmaster@hseh.org](mailto:webmaster@hseh.org) put 'ehhs' on subject line  
**Web site:** <http://www.hseh.org>  
**Membership:** 860-528-0716, Sept 1-Aug 31  
indiv \$20, 1 address \$25, student \$10,  
patron \$50, lifetime \$250  
mail check, name, addr, email to PO Box above

**Deadline** Jan Newsletter – *Jan 1, 2022*

#### November 11 Veterans Day

**Date** – Thurs, Nov 11, 2021  
**Time** – 10:30 AM  
**Event** – Veterans' Day  
Remembrance and Wreath  
Laying Ceremony  
**Where** – Raymond Library,  
Doughboy Statue on lawn  
**All are welcome**

#### November 17, HSEH Program

**Date** – Wed, Nov 17, 2021  
**Time** – 7pm Meeting  
**Exhibit** – items from the recent  
Thomas Dowd donation to  
the HSEH; no fee  
**Where** – Selden Brewer House  
165 Main Street  
**Info** - Craig, 860-869-4642

#### December 5, Holiday Fest Open House

**Date** – Sun Dec 5, 2021, 11-3  
**All welcome**  
**Event** – enjoy Victorian Christmas decorations and tree,  
refreshments, comradery, and conversations with members  
**Where** – Selden Brewer House, 165 Main Street  
**Fee** – No fee  
**Info** – **Steven Strange** 860-528-4989, Sue Kies 860-761-4900  
**View Displays** – Dec 4, 11, 12, 1-4

