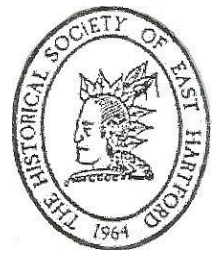


# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

## *Newsletter, May 2022*

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Members of the Historical Society of East Hartford

I trust that you are all well, and taking the necessary precautions to remain so.

Things have been moving along quite well with the HSEH:

- New plantings in front of the Brewer House will be done by Parks and Recreation, and the East Hartford Garden Club. I am sure they will do an outstanding job,
- The Brewer House now has furniture, area rugs, pictures from the Brewer family, and other decorative items. Looks very welcoming. The home is now coming alive and acquiring a soul. Please stop by on Tuesdays or Thursdays to see how lovely it is.
- We recently received original architectural blue prints (1928) of plans to add to the Brewer house, and to enhance its outside structure. Of course, the Crash of 1929 did not permit the plan to become a reality. We hope to display these blueprints inside the house during the dedication of the rear garden, and during the art show which will take place after the dedication ceremony on July 16, 2022. We hope to see you there. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.
- We should be receiving soon the framed portrait of Buena Crawford Brewer, the last Brewer by marriage to live in the house. I have donated a very ornate Victorian frame, Alan Brewer, grandson of Buena, donated a 1906/1907 photograph of her when she was 16 and recently married. It is being framed by a local framer on Church Street in East Hartford. He is doing the framing as a donation. The picture will be placed over the fireplace in the main living room in the house. In the dining room is the portrait of Selden Brewer. We will therefore have on display pictures of the first and last Brewers to live in the home.
- New carpeting will be installed on the stairs, and in the foyer. It is being donated by Home Depot of Glastonbury. We hope installation will be done by the end of May.
- I will be submitting to Parks and Recreation a list of needs, concerns, and repairs which need to be done at the Brewer House and the exterior of Hockanum School. The first floor contains tobacco equipment owned by Raymond Library. As soon as another site for this equipment can be found, we can develop a plan for the school to be used for public use and for the HSEH office. Mayor Walsh, several members of the Board, and I have come together to brain storm the future of 165 Main Street. Please support our goal to make 165 Main Street the gateway to the Historic District of East Hartford
- Christine Dolinski is organizing a fund raiser to help defray the cost of reupholstering some of the antique furniture we have that we want to display in the Brewer House. Please be as generous as you can to help us meet our objective.
- We have left up the Christmas tree in the Brewer House, and have decided that it will become a seasonal tree. It is currently covered with butterflies, birds, and dragonflies. Looks great!
- A new laptop computer has been purchased. We need to have access to the Internet. Any ideas of how we can get this service at a reasonable cost?

- Karen Johnson is planning a hat show at the Brewer House in September. More details to follow, so stay tuned.
- We are looking for docents to help with tours at Martin Park during the summer. If you or a member of your family would like to volunteer and be trained to be docents, please contact Craig Johnson or Judy Hillmann.
- We have acquired some grant money thanks to the efforts of our vice president Craig Johnson.

We would like to have more members be involved in our activities, and suggest ideas for fundraisers and/or projects. Please find some time to devote to the success and sustainability of our organization.

Please contact me or any member of the Board with your concerns, ideas, suggestions, plans to volunteer, etc.

Best wishes for good health, prosperity, and progress....

*Steven Strange*

*President, HSEH*

*Member, Historic District Commission*

### IN MEMORIAM

The East Hartford Historical Society and all of its members would like to extend our sympathies to the family of **Charles S. Beebe**. Charles was a member and lived in Mystic, Ct. He was 90 years old. He passed away on April 14, 2022. Rest In Peace, Charles, you will be missed.

### MAY 18TH PROGRAM ON SGT. HEMAN BAKER'S E. HARTFORD GRAVESITE



**Herman Baker gravestone picture from Tom Hogan, Ruth Shapleigh-Brown.**

The Historical Society is very pleased to once again offer programs at the East Hartford Public Library. Please join us in Meeting Room #1 on Wednesday, May 18th at 6:00 pm for a Revolutionary War program on a soldier who was released from captivity in New York only to succumb to the dreaded smallpox during his return home. Researcher and member Thomas Hogan will talk about the events that resulted in Sgt. Baker's capture by the British in 1776, his arduous attempt to make it home in 1777, but ending at his final resting place by Willow Brook. Tom will also tell us about a second soldier who has long been unknown, buried close by in an unmarked grave. After many hours of research, we now have clues to his actual identity. You should not want to miss this program of local historic interest. Following a short 6:00 pm business meeting, Tom's program will start at 6:30 sharp and last just over an hour. There is plenty of parking in the back of the Library at 840 Main Street, East Hartford.

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

*Craig Johnson, Vice President / Program Chair*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sunday, June 5 starting at 2:00 pm in Great River Park

The Historical Society is once again hosting a Connecticut Forest & Park Association Trails Day educational walk along the Connecticut River. We will travel south along Great River Park Trail and continue on the East Coast Greenway to the site of the Colt Ferry. Ruth Shapleigh-Brown and I will be co-leaders. Your advance registration is required. We will meet at the parking lot of the American Eagle Financial Credit Union building at 333 East River Drive. This 2-hour, 2.5-mile walk on level pavement is from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Heavy rain cancels.

- Saturday, June 11 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in Martin Park

This year's annual Connecticut Open House Day event will be on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at our museum in Martin Park. On this state-wide event for tourism, we plan to open the Huguenot House from 1:00 to 4:00 pm for guided tours. We also need Historical Society volunteers to help greet visitors and explain self-guided tours of the Blacksmith Shop and School House. Please consider helping us on that day.

For any questions, please call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884 and please leave a voice mail.

### 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, mail to PO Box above

**Deadline** September Newsletter – August 21, 2022

**Photo:** Heman Gravesite 2009, Wm Knose



### May Program

Date: **Wed, May 18, 2022**

Program: **Sgt Heman Baker's EH Gravesite**

Speaker: **Thomas Hogan.**

**Researcher and Member**

Where: **Raymond Library**

Address: **840 Main St**

Time **business: 6.00 pm**

Time **program: 6:30 pm sharp**

Fee: **none**

Info: **Craig, 860-568-2884**