

Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, September 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My sincere hope is that this newsletter finds all our members safe and recovering from the hurricane. Many of you, I expect, are still attempting to dig out from the aftermath of Irene. As New Englanders prepared for the worst and hunkered down while the storm passed, it seems that Mother Nature had more in store for us than just wind and rain. She was particularly unkind to Vermont, where I understand, in addition to many personal crises, there was historical damage and several old covered bridges washed completely away in the flooding that followed.

The September Annual Dinner will be served from the newly renovated kitchen at the First Congregational Church. Becker's Catering has a slightly different, but equally delicious, menu this year. We will dispense with the formal reading of the minutes and the Treasurer's report so that our members and guests can enjoy their dinners at their leisure and spend more time socializing. Written copies will be provided.

After experiencing several problems beyond the committee's control, the Podunk Rendezvous was postponed until May of 2012. We may get to move the event back to Martin Park, a change that allows us the use of our facilities and more time to solidify our plans.

On October 8-9th there will be a Revolutionary War Re-enactment at the Nathan Hale Homestead in Coventry, CT.

The Library of Congress Gateway to Knowledge Traveling Exhibition is coming to East Hartford on Friday, September 9th and Saturday, the 10th from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The Historical Society has been invited by the Library Director, Pat Jones to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony 9:00 AM & 10:00 AM. Ceremonies will begin at 9:45 AM

I'm looking forward to seeing you 6:00pm at the September 21th meeting; we have another great program.

Bette Daraskevich, President

“HAUNTED”

"Haunted" was a June presentation offered to the Historical Society by the Research Team of the East Coast Paranormals based out of Rhode Island.

Hosted by Vice-President, Craig Johnson, at the Community Cultural Center, the visuals and EVP findings of picked up by super-sensitive electronic equipment during three visits offered an event unlike our usual historical talks. Work related sawing and hammering by our noisy resident ghost, "Bennie" provided much of the evening's entertainment. Children's voices were heard from inside the schoolhouse. And, male voices emanate from different sections of the Huguenot House, some in response to questions from the visiting paranormals. The paranormals raffled off a midnight 'crawl' at Martin Park to several lucky attendees who had a close-up look at their methods of ghost-hunting. An intriguing program for the public and our members.

Alas, no sightings of our lovely, "Blue Lady", who remains an elusive figure. Although, this summer, one Burnside Avenue local reported seeing a figure walk across the second floor, west bedroom carrying a candle. The observer had walked up to the park to escort her children home after dark and witnessed a figure pass by the two upper windows!

Martin Preservation Park remains a 'hot spot' with New England paranormals. On Saturday, September 3, the Warwick Rhode Island Ghost Investigators were on hand at the Huguenot House to do some research. On September 17 the Ghost Hunters of Connecticut, out of Tolland, will also be coming to the Park. Our docents are

going to need some additional 'sitters' to open, close and stay with these groups for a few hours, as our site gets more paranormal traffic than most other haunted venues, because our ghosts are not shy!

Bette Daraskevich, President

HUGUENOT HOUSE ENDS ANOTHER SEASON OF SUNDAY OPENINGS

The Makens Bemont House (also known as the Huguenot House) had another busy summer season come to an end this weekend. Thanks to our loyal volunteers, we were able to open almost every Sunday between Memorial Day and Labor Day. A special thank you goes to member **Jessica Wysocki** who volunteered her time on all Sunday afternoons that we were open in 2011. Jessica also beautified the museum grounds by replacing the weeds with some lovely flowers and is now creating a new brochure to be ready before the start of the 2012 season.

Craig Johnson

INFORMATION ON THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Historical Society will be held on Wednesday evening, September 21, 2011 at the First Congregational Church of East Hartford. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will start promptly at 6:30. It is to be catered again this year by Becker's Catering. Those who attended last year's dinner remember what a tasty dinner Becker's served. A short business meeting will follow the dinner after which Mr. Tom Delucco will speak on American provincial corps in the Revolution.

The reservation for the annual dinner meeting must be received by Saturday, September 17, 2011 using the required reservation form enclosed at the end of the newsletter. The cost will be \$18 per person for members and \$20 for guests of members.

Anyone wishing not to attend dinner but would like to see the program, you can arrive at 7:30 p.m. There is no cost. There is plenty of free parking available in the back of the church. Call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884 for more information or questions.

Craig Johnson

Becker's Catering

HSEH Annual Dinner Meeting

September 21st 2011

First Congregational Church East Hartford

White and Dark Meat Roasted Turkey

Baked Ham

Roasted potatoes

Green Beans with Shallot Butter

New England Apple Sausage Cranberry Stuffing

Tossed Salad with Italian Vinaigrette

Rolls with Butter

Bottled Water, Tea, Coffee

Pumpkin Pie with Fresh Whipped Cream

DINNER PROGRAM TO FEATURE TOM DELUCCO OF BUTLER'S RANGERS

For the Annual Dinner program the Historical Society is happy to present Revolutionary War re-enactor Tom DeLucco of Butler's Rangers who will give an informative program on colonialists who took up arms against

their countryman to form companies of provincial corps during the war of American Independence. You will understand how they lived and fought during the tumultuous days of the American Revolution, which some historians consider to be our first great “Civil War” between patriots who favored separation from the home land and those who considered themselves to be loyal subjects to the King of Great Britain.

MEMBERSHIP

We had a great loss on June 21 when **Judge John Brennan**, the true founder of our group, passed away at the age of 94. His knowledge and love of East Hartford will be sorely missed

Thank you to all the members of the Historical Society who have supported us over the years.

As a result of the high cost of photocopying and postage, we can no longer mail the newsletter to addresses that have not paid their dues in over two years. To receive future newsletters, please complete and mail the membership renewal form that is in the newsletter as we would really love to have you back. We have a great website, www.hseh.org and excellent newsletters and excellent programs. All this takes money. We know the present financial climate is not the best, but we trust that the relatively small amount we ask from you is something that you can sacrifice for the good of East Hartford as it is so important to have a group such as ours in any town. Dues are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for more than one person at the same address. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 860-568-7305 or email me at epda23@aol.com.

Eileen Driscoll, Membership Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

East Hartford Historical Society: August 2011

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for 2011-2012:

President:	Bette Daraskevich
Vice President:	Craig Johnson
Recording/Corresponding Secretary:	Eileen Driscoll
Treasurer:	Roy Spiller
Historian/Antiquarian:	Jeff Cummings
Director:	Judy Hillman
4 year:	
2 year:	Steve Hudak

Gerry Rozie will remain on as **Director for 3 more years**

Dan Russell will remain on as **Director for 1 more year**

We thank all of the slate for so graciously being willing to serve the society—especially Roy Spiller and Steve Hudak who volunteered to do so.

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on September 21st and, of course, nominations from the floor will be accepted.

The Nominating Committee:

Eileen Driscoll
Judy Hillman
Gerry Rozie
Betty Russell, Chair
Edie Sylvester.

Betty Russell, Chair

MARCHERS RE-ENACTED THE FRENCH ARMY'S 1781 VISIT

In June 1781 General Rochambeau's French army left Rhode Island and crossed Connecticut to meet General Washington's American army in New York. From there the two armies marched together approximately 400 miles to Yorktown, Virginia and the battle that decided our independence. The route they followed (Rhode Island to Yorktown) is today called the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route – National Historic Trail, the



The Marchers Freedom Team 1 at the Huguenot House in Martin Park.

W3R-NHT. This is one of our country's newest historic trails.

On Thursday June 23, 2011 a group of young AmeriCorps people and one of their W3R-NHT guides - dressed as Revolutionary War French and American soldiers - walked down Silver Lane from Manchester to the Connecticut River. The steady, soaking, summer rain didn't deter them. These re-enactors, named The Marchers, Freedom Team 1, were following the footsteps of the old French army through East Hartford. They were publicizing the W3R-NHT. Bill Doak helped them by putting an article on them and their efforts prominently on page 1 of *The Gazette* on June 23. As they marched down Silver Lane, drivers recognized them and honked their car horns to greet them. Bill also put an eye-catching photo of the Marchers at the Rochambeau Elms VFW Post on page 1 of the June 30th paper. By then Freedom Team 1 had moved on but their story here continued.

When they walked into town, re-enactor David Loda was with them. He had guided them from Bolton and would continue to walk with them to the river. Near the Manchester town line Bette Daraskevich, Officer DeMain of the Police Department, and Bill and I greeted them. Bette, as President of the Historical Society, welcomed them in the name of the Society. We offered them refreshments they heartily enjoyed: bottles of water, Gatorade, some orange slices and Bette's especially welcome offering, a bowl of apples.

Like the old French army The Marchers camped here. They stayed in Martin Park the nights of June 23 and 24. That Thursday evening the Historical Society gave them a dinner under the large pavilion in Martin Park. The soaking rain continued. But the food was good and plentiful. The Society provided so much – ham, macaroni and cheese, herbed carrots, salad, rolls, desserts, hot and cold drinks, etc – that the re-enactors had enough for another meal. And Mary Johnson offered them her homemade blueberry muffins for their breakfast. Many, many thanks to those who donated food and financial help – Betty Daraskevich, Eileen Driscoll, Judy Hillmann, Craig and Mary Johnson, Betty and Bill Knose, Ben and Lynn Menillo, Betty and Dan Russell, Betty Squires. Thanks also to those who came and shared the meal with them.

Shortly before they came here we learned that the grants they had been expecting had not come through. This economy is hard on almost everyone. They were traveling on extremely limited funds. The Historical Society's meal(s), the Rochambeau Elms VFW Post's meal on Friday night, the town Parks & Rec Department's permission to camp in Martin Park at no cost, free showers at the fire department, and the protection of the police department all helped them on their stay here at minimal cost.

Their walk ended in New York. There are two other similar groups, The Marchers, Freedom Teams 2 and 3, continuing the journey this summer to Yorktown, Virginia to publicize the W3R-NHT. To learn more about them follow their facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/TheMarchers?sk=wall&filter=1>.

We who met them and the Historical Society wish The Marchers, Freedom Team 1 well on their future endeavors: Dave Fagerberg, Operations Manager; Damon Rodnac, Program Manager; Laura Mack, Team Leader; and members Ella Chamlers, Daniel Clesowich, Benton Holmes, David Pergamit, and Amanda Skalicky.

Betty Knose

CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT to be continued

HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION



This lovely English teapot, probably from the mid 19th century, was likely once part of a set with matching sugar bowl, creamer and dessert plates. It is white and is made of soft porcelain paste. The design is pink lusterware with the color being more purple than pink. The flowers on the left and right sides of the leaf (on the center of both sides of the pot) and the flower in the center of the lid below the knob (on both sides) are an orange-red color. On the bottom is a 'gold' hand painted '30'. This would be some factory number, perhaps the 30th one of the day or ? Tea has heavily stained the interior of the teapot. Craquelure has also allowed some staining on the surface of the pot, again perhaps by tea. While lovely the pot is not perfect. There is a hair line crack at the base under the spout, a stress fracture on the front of the high portion of the lid holder, and small amounts of glaze are missing from two spots: the bottom of the design to the left of the handle near the corner and around that corner near the flower. Winters Associates recommends that the teapot be cleaned only with water, perhaps using a damp cloth. And it should never be lifted by the handle or the neck, only raised from the base. The measure is a cm ruler.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE
Traveling Exhibition



Is Rolling into
East Hartford, CT

At
East Hartford
Public Library
840 Main Street
East Hartford, CT 06108

September 9 & 10, 2011

Hosted by

EAST HARTFORD
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Hours 10 AM – 6 PM

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. The Library seeks to spark imagination and creativity and to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its magnificent collections, programs and exhibitions.



The exhibition outlines the history of the Library, Thomas Jefferson's role in re-establishing the Library after the burning of the U.S. Capitol in 1814, and his classification system of Memory, Reason, and Imagination. These three categories define the organization of the content inside the exhibition.

The exhibition features facsimiles of selected Library treasures such as the 1507 Waldseemüller Map (the first document to use the word "America"); the 1455 Gutenberg Bible; the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, in Thomas Jefferson's hand with editing by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams; the 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spider-Man to the world; the handwritten manuscript to jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton's "Frog-i-More Rag"; and Walt Whitman's poem "Leaves of Grass."



The exhibit and its national tour are made possible by the generous support of the Rapoport family. Bernie and Audre Rapoport are founding members of the James Madison Council, the Library's private-sector advisory group.

The Historical Society has been invited by Library Director, Pat Jones, to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the **Library of Congress exhibit**

Raymond Library
Friday, September 9th
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM.
Ceremonies will begin at 9:45 AM.



SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM FORM

Reservation Must be Received by Sept, 17, 2011

\$18.00 for members, \$20.00 for guests

NAME: _____ \$ _____

NAME: _____ \$ _____

TOTAL: _____ \$ _____

Make a check for the dinner reservation out to: **The Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc.**
Mail check to: **Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc., Po Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166**

MEMBERSHIP DUES, SEPT 1, 2011 – AUG 31, 2012

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ EMAIL NEWSLETTER? Y ___ N ___

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ \$15.00 / Individual or \$20.00 / All at one address or
\$10.00 / Student

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

Historical Society of East Hartford

PO Box 380166
East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

Phone: 860-568-5188

Email: hseh@hseh.org, eknose@aol.com

Web site: <http://www.hseh.org>

Genealogy Web Sites: What's Hot, What's Not!

CT Society of Genealogy Presentation
Carol Whitmer, CSG Treasurer

Sept 17, 2011
1:30pm

CSG Library
175 Maple St
East Hartford, CT, 06118

FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Pre-register:
call 860-569-0002
or email csginc@csginc.org



Annual Dinner & Program

Date	Wed evening, Sept 21, 2011
Place	First Congregational Church
Dinner	Doors open 6:00pm; dinner 6:30pm
Program	After 7:30pm