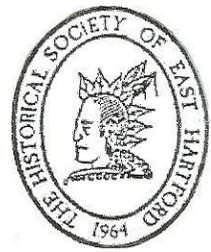


# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

*Newsletter, September 2012*



---

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The September Annual Meeting brings to an end my two-year tenure as your President. These years have been very busy and while I take my leave as your spokesperson, I am remaining on the Executive Board to serve the Historical Society in other capacities. I will look back on my term with appreciation for our loyal members, and with the satisfaction of knowing that our Executive Board served with steadfast dedication to achieving the goals of the Historical Society that moved me to accept the office. None of the progress made these past two years would have been possible without the hard work of those who are truly involved, who took the challenge to heart, remembered why they joined, and really put in the time to make a difference. Thank you - all of you, for your support.

Bette Daraskevich, President

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Once again the wheel of the year has turned. It is time for each of us, as single individuals (\$15) or as part of a household with more than one person at the same address (\$20), to renew our membership in the Historical Society of East Hartford. We were founded in 1964 which means we are near to a half century old. We have at least one member, Jeffrey Cummings - our Antiquarian Historian, who was a member when our organization was first formed. We are a great group and we continue to help preserve and appreciate our town's history. I am very proud to be a 40 year resident of East Hartford and HSEH was the first organization I ever joined when I moved here after Allan and I were married. In fact, I was actually young when I joined! I urge you to send your dues in and if you want to add a few dollars to your dues, that would make us that much stronger. History is all we have when we look back on our lives and the times we have lived in. Keep the Historical Society of East Hartford on the map. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 860-568-7305 or email me at epda23@aol.com.

And - we would like to welcome a new member for this new dues year - **Leonard D. Tolisano of Avon** has joined. Welcome, Leonard, and thank you for your support.

Eileen Driscoll, Membership

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S LOSSES**

The Society deeply regrets the passing of two of its members, **Mary Guminiak**, who died April 28, 2012, and **Cathy Sullivan**, who died June 4, 2012. Cathy is the sister of member Mary Johnson, Craig's wife. We offer their families and friends our deep condolences.

## **HUGUENOT HOUSE ENDS ANOTHER SEASON OF SUNDAY OPENINGS**

The Huguenot House had another busy summer season come to an end in August. Thanks to our loyal volunteers, we were able to stay open every Sunday during June, July and August. Special recognition goes to member **Jessica Wysocki** who volunteered on most Sunday afternoons and who designed a new one-page folded brochure about our museum buildings at Martin Park. Thank you Jessica!

# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER MEETING & PROGRAM

## Dinner

The reservation for the annual dinner meeting must be received by Saturday, September 15, 2012 using the required reservation form enclosed in the newsletter. The cost will be \$18 per person for members and \$20 for guests of members. A menu is included. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner starts promptly at 6:30. Anyone wishing not to attend the dinner but would like to see the program, can arrive after 7:30 p.m. 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.

## Program to Feature Historian and Musician Rick Spencer

The Historical Society is happy to present for your entertainment musician Rick Spencer who will perform a selection of songs from the Civil War era. Rick, who is from the Norwich area, is known internationally for his work as a historian, researcher, singer, songwriter and performer of music in the American folk tradition. As a staff musician at Mystic Seaport, he became part of an internationally renowned sea music quartet known as "Forebitter." As a soloist, Rick sings and accompanies himself on a variety of instruments including guitar, five-string banjo, mandolin and more. For over 25 years he has performed at venues which include folk festivals, museums, historical societies, schools, libraries, pubs and other locations. C Johnson

## Becker's Catering

HSEH Annual Dinner Meeting

September 19th 2012

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

## US CONGRESSMAN JOHN LARSON HONORED FOR WORK ON W3R-NHT<sup>1</sup>

On Saturday June 2, three members of this Historical Society - Betty Squires and Betty Knose, co-chair of the 2005 installation of CT's Washington-Rochambeau marker in front of the Raymond Library, and Craig Johnson, Vice-President of the HSEH - drove out to Bolton High School to attend a ceremony honoring US Representative John Larson for his years of work for the W3R. The W3R is the route that today follows the approximately 600 mile march of General Rochambeau's French army from RI, across CT (and down Silver Lane) to NY where it joined General Washington's American army. From NY the two armies marched



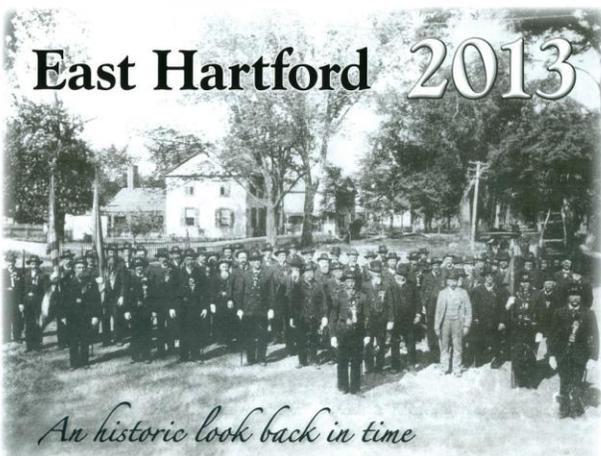
<sup>1</sup> Photo of US Representative John Larson is from "John B. Larson", [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_B.\\_Larson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_B._Larson).

together to Yorktown, VA. There in October, 1781 the French and Americans armies fought side by side, defeated General Cornwallis and his British army, and earned our independence. As least since the 1920s attempts had been made to recognize the history of the route and to mark what remains of the route and what remains along the route both in CT and nationally. But it was the work done by US Representative Larson that led to the national historic trail designation for the W3R. In 2000 he sponsored a bill requiring the National Park Service to perform a study to determine whether there was sufficient historical significance for designating the W3R a National Historic Trail. President Clinton signed that bill into law later that year and a multiyear historical survey of the various states along the W3R began. The historical significance and integrity of the W3R was recognized and in 2009 President Obama signed into law the Public Land Management Act which includes recognition of the W3R-NHT as a National Historic Trail under the administration of the National Park Service<sup>2</sup>.

A good number of us were at Bolton to watch as Representative Larson was honored with ‘ John Larson Day’ by CT Governor Dannel Malloy; presented with a US Senate citation by US Senator Richard Blumenthal; given a Souvenir Français Commemorative Medallion, by the VP for New England of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc., Colonel Serge Gabriel; given a CT Legislature citation, by Representative Pamela Sawyer and Senator Steve Cassano; heard CT Legislator Gary LeBeau tell the old East Hartford legend of Silver Lane’s being named for the payment in silver to the French troops there. And more. After the presentations and speeches and sampling an enjoyable buffet we listened to an interesting presentation by Dr. Robert Selig, recognized historical expert on the W3R. Dr. Selig, dressed in a W3R French army uniform, portrayed Grenadier Gabel of the French army. The Grenadier spoke of his thoughts as he marched with General Rochambeau across CT. One in particular he mentioned was published in gazettes both here and in France. The Grenadier declined the offer of Bolton’s Rev. Colton to adopt his (Gabel’s) young 4 year old daughter as his own. It was refused even though the reverend had offered Gabel quite a large sum of money. The final event was a Libation Ceremony performed by Commander Sal Tarantino and Sheldon’s Horse, Second Continental Light Dragoons. It was a simple ceremony to honor veterans. Its history dates back to Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. It is said that George Washington performed it. At Bolton Commander Tarantino invited all veterans there to join his dragoons in sharing a drink of Madeira, George Washington’s favorite. Some Madeira had been purposely set aside and after the dragoons and the veterans had finished, this extra Madeira was poured on the ground in honor of the military dead.

## 2012-2013 FUNDRAISER

**Keep track of important birthdays and events on your custom, 12-month East Hartford, Connecticut Wall Calendar!**



This year the Historical Society is offering a 2013 wall calendar as a fundraiser to offset our operating expenses. Thirteen black and white reproductions of vintage East Hartford, taken from our own Historical Society’s photographic collections, are included. Twelve months of detailed captions, holidays and events written by our Town Historian and Society member, Ray Johnson, accompany pictures of townspeople and places from years gone by. The photographs date from the mid 1800’s to early 1900’s; most have never been viewed outside of our archives.

Each page measures 8.5” x 11”; or 11” x 17” when hung on a wall. This calendar was printed and assembled by Brescia’s Printing Services of East Hartford with the guidance of Roy Spiller, our HSEH Treasurer. Sales to the general public will

kick off at the East Hartford Historical Society’s booth during the Civil War Sesquicentennial Event scheduled for September 29-30, 2012 at Wickham Park. Calendars will also be available to the public at various locations in town after October 1st, until our supplies are exhausted. Cost per calendar is \$12.00.

<sup>2</sup> Visit the webpage of the W3R-NHT at <http://www.nps.gov/waro/index.htm>.

## CONNECTICUT TO ARMS: 1862

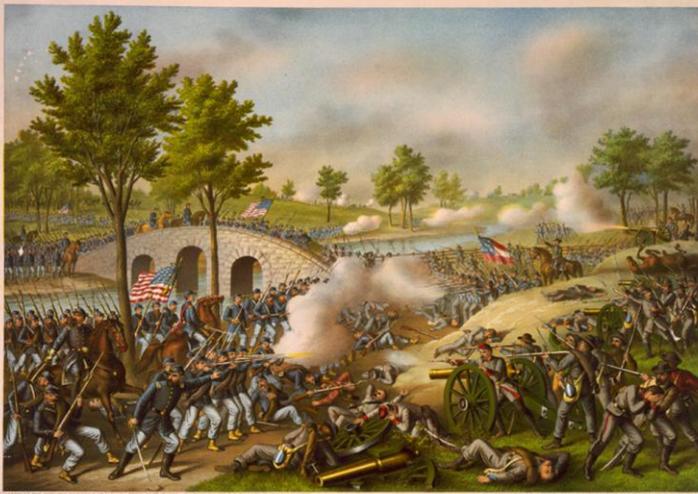
### Wickham Park Civil War Reenactment

As first announced in the March Newsletter, the largest Civil War Encampment and Reenactment to be held in our State during 2012 is coming to Manchester's Wickham Park on Saturday September 29 and Sunday September 30. The event is presented by the Connecticut Civil War Commemoration Committee and the Wickham Park Foundation. The East Hartford Historical Society will have a table at this event along with many other organizations. Over 600 Union, Confederate and Civilian re-enactors will be participating and two very impressive battle reenactments are scheduled, the Battle of Antietam on Saturday and the Battle of Fredericksburg on Sunday.

#### Volunteers Needed at Booth

At our September annual meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet for members who can help out at our booth. This is a tremendous opportunity to promote our Historical Society. Many thousands of visitors from around Connecticut and neighboring states are expected to attend this free event. Craig Johnson

**CITIZENS OF CONNECTICUT TO ARMS!!**  
*The Turning Point of the War has arrived*



**THE BATTLE OF ANTIETAM**

**Civil War Encampment and Daily Battle Reenactments**

An Experience for the whole Family. History at its best.

**Experience the action up close**

- Over 500 Reenactors
- Load & Fire Competition
- The Boom of Cannons
- Guest Speakers
- Refreshments
- Plenty of Parking

**WICKHAM PARK**  
Manchester, CT  
September 29 - 30, 2012  
Sat & Sun, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

[www.ccsu.edu/civilwar](http://www.ccsu.edu/civilwar)



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Historical Society of East Hartford Executive Board 2012 - 2013

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers:

<b>President:</b>	Craig Johnson
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bette Daraskevich
<b>Recording/Corresponding Secretary:</b>	Eileen Driscoll
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Roy Spiller
<b>Historian/Antiquarian:</b>	Jeff Cummings
<b>Director:</b>	
4 year:	Dan Russell
3 year:	Judy Hillman
2 year:	Gerry Rozie

The position of **1 year Director** is vacated with the resignation of Steve Hudak. Steve is selling his home here in East Hartford and will be retiring to his beach house in Westbrook, CT. We wish Steve the very best on his retirement and hope he enjoys 'living the life of Reilly' at the shore. Steve volunteered to fill in a two year Director's vacancy in 2010. His counsel will be sorely missed.

We thank all of the slate for their past services and their continued willingness to serve the society.

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on September 19st. According to Robert's Rules of Order, nominations from the floor will be accepted.

### CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, FEB 1862 – APRIL 1862<sup>3</sup>

- Feb 3, 1862 Abraham Lincoln politely refuses an offer of elephants from the King of Siam: he writes this climate does not favor the animal; also, steam is more effective for transportation
- Feb 6, 1862 Fort Henry on the Tennessee River falls to Union Admiral Foote's gunboats before US Grant's troops can reach the battle; opens the Tennessee River to Union traffic from KY into northern AL
- Feb 8, 1862 Confederate Roanoke Island off North Carolina's eastern shore is taken by amphibious forces under Union Gen Burnside; the Union blockade of the south tightens
- Feb 11, 1862 Secretary of War Stanton militarizes the railroads to ensure the "safe and speedy transport" of men and supplies; his original 7 militarized miles will grow to over 2,000; he also militarizes the telegraph
- Feb 12-16, 1862 Fort Donelson on TN's Cumberland River, 12 miles from Fort Henry, repels Foote's gunboats, surrenders "unconditionally" with its 12,000 men to US Grant; idolizing north names the general "Unconditional Surrender" Grant; western TN is now open to the Union into the deep south
- Feb 20, 1862 Lincoln's son, 11 year old Willie, dies of typhoid fever; his parents and brother Tad are inconsolable
- Feb 21, 1862 Union defeat at Valverde, NM; Confederate campaign to reach CA continues
- Feb 22, 1862 Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as permanent President of the Confederate States of America; Union successes in the west cause low morale in the South; Davis asks for resolve in the struggle
- Feb 25, 1862 Nashville, state capital and important industrial center in north central TN, falls to Union Gen Buell
- Feb 25, 1862 Lincoln signs the Legal Tender Act; is the 1<sup>st</sup> successful US paper money system; 150 million in notes, "greenbacks", are not secured by specie; Act is questioned but the treasury is almost empty
- Feb 27, 1862 Confederacy authorizes Davis to suspend the writ of habeas corpus where there is "danger of attack"; he also suspends it in cities in danger of internal collapse due to crime
- Mar 7-8, 1862 Battle of Pea Ridge, northwest AK; Confederates soundly defeated in attempt to reenter MO
- Mar 8, 1862 Gen McClellan reduced from Commander in Chief to Commander of the Army of the Potomac
- Mar 8, 1862 At Hampton Roads, VA the southern ironclad, *CSS Virginia* (formerly *USS Merrimac*) wrecks havoc on Federal, wooden, blockading ships; wooden warships are no match for ironclads
- Mar 8, 1862 At Hampton Roads the Federal naval forces' alarm is tempered somewhat by the night arrival of the Union's innovative, ironclad *Monitor*
- Mar 9, 1862 The *Virginia* and the *Monitor* battle for 4 hours at Hampton Roads; this 1st battle between ironclad warships is indecisive, but the *Monitor* does protect the Union fleet from further destruction<sup>4</sup>
- Mar 13, 1862 US article of war forbids, under penalty of court martial, officers' returning slaves to their masters
- Mar 14, 1862 Union Gen Burnside captures the important railroad depot at New Bern, NC
- Mar 14, 1862 Kady Brownell, accompanying the 5<sup>th</sup> RI at New Bern, drags her wounded husband from the fight, helps other wounded; one of perhaps 400-600 such women who will accompany armies in this war
- Mar 17, 1862 Gen McClellan's 100,000 man Army of the Potomac moves by land and sea to Fort Monroe in southeast VA; the 1862 Peninsula Campaign to take Richmond has begun (Camp Mar 17-Jun 1)

---

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/10/29/opinion/20101029-civil-war.html>; see also The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY; 2011.

<sup>4</sup> "...the nature of naval warfare had changed forever. Within days of reading the dispatches from Hampton Roads, the Royal Navy, the preeminent naval force in the world, issued orders to build no more wooden ships." Clancy, Paul, Ironclad the Epic Battle, Calamitous Loss, and Historic recovery of the USS Monitor, Camden, Maine: International Marine / McGraw-Hill, 2006, pg 94.

- Mar 23, 1862 Gen Jackson's renowned Shenandoah Valley Campaign starts; with boldness, unpredictability, and speed his 18,000 men will divert 50,000 Union soldiers from McClellan (Camp Mar 23 – Jun 9)
- Mar 30, 1862 In Burnside's NC, V Colyer becomes Superintendent of the Poor; soon reports on the successes of black volunteers in getting important information from 30-300 miles within the Confederacy
- Mar 31, 1862 Confederate War Department discharges a group of Dunkers and Mennonites from bearing arms and violating their religious beliefs; in all other matters they agree to follow Confederate & VA law
- Apr 3, 1862 With Grant's success in the west, Jackson's loss at Kernstown in the Shenandoah Valley, the start of the campaign for Richmond US Secretary of War Stanton closes recruiting posts; has sufficient men
- Apr 5, 1862 In the east Gen McClellan starts the siege of Yorktown; Gen Magruder's 17,000 men hold the city
- Apr 6-7, 1862 At Shiloh, TN Grant defeats the Confederates; Union holds western and central TN; 24% casualty rate (24,000 killed, wounded, missing) horrifies the country<sup>5</sup>; Grant is now criticized
- Apr 8, 1862 Island number 10, 10<sup>th</sup> island from the meeting of the Ohio & Mississippi Rivers, surrenders to Union Gen Pope; opens Mississippi south to 40 river miles north of Memphis; Pope is new hero
- Apr 11, 1862 Union's new, powerful rifled cannon take Fort Pulaski near Savannah; the fort was almost impregnable against smoothbores; Confederacy loses Savannah as a port for blockade runners
- Apr 16, 1862 Confederacy passes 1<sup>st</sup> general military draft in the country; it is short of men and arms
- Apr 16, 1862 Lincoln signs bill freeing DC slaves; offers masters \$300 each; provides money for their colonization
- Apr 22, 1862 Herman Haupt appointed chief of construction/transportation of US military railroads; will be very effective; is said of his men "Yankees can build bridges faster than the Rebs can burn them down"
- Apr 18, 1862 Medical seniority in the army medical bureau is suspended; young, progressive Henry Hammond is named surgeon general; effectiveness, efficiency of medical care will improve
- Apr 18, 1862 Admiral Farragut starts 5 day mortar bombardment of Forts Jackson and St Philip perhaps 75 miles south of New Orleans; Union plan is to control the Mississippi River and to split the Confederacy
- Apr 24, 1862 Admiral Farragut, impatient with the bombardment, directs a predawn advance of his fleet through the heavy gun and artillery fire from these forts on opposite sides of the Mississippi<sup>6</sup>
- Apr 25, 1862 Fleet reaches New Orleans; Gen Lovell's small force leaves; mayor will not surrender; 2 Union naval officers raise the Stars & Stripes over city hall; South's largest city has fallen; the South is stunned
- Apr 29, 1862 Union Gen Butler's 18,000 men occupy New Orleans
- Apr 29, 1862 Timothy Webster, Union spy, one of Pinkerton's best, is hanged in Richmond; first spy hanged in the war

<sup>5</sup> Foote, Shelby *The Civil War A Narrative*, 3 vols, New York: Random House, 1958. Excellent 3 volumes on the Civil War.

<sup>6</sup> Henry Howard Brownell, born in Providence in 1820, came to East Hartford to be educated first at the Academy in East Hartford and then at Trinity College, where his uncle Bishop Brownell presided. He taught for a time, practiced law, spent time in travel and study, wrote and published some poetry and history. But it was in the Civil War that his poetry became well-known. He wrote "General Orders", a rhymed version of Admiral Farragut's orders to his fleet before New Orleans. This work caught the admiral's attention. The two began a correspondence and Farragut appointed him an ensign on his flagship, the USS Hartford. Brownell served as his private secretary. He would become friends with the admiral and even travel with him to Europe after the war. All his life he remained a bachelor. He died of cancer shortly after the war in 1872 and is buried in East Hartford's Center Cemetery.

Before the war Brownell was relatively unknown. But during the Civil War his war poems caught the public's imagination and they became among the most popular. Two in particular brought him fame "The River Fight", telling of the 1862 advance of Farragut's fleet past Forts Jackson and St Philip and up the Mississippi to New Orleans, and "The Bay Fight" an account of Farragut's 1864 Battle of Mobile Bay. During this fight Brownell was with Farragut on the USS Hartford. It is said that as he stood on deck in the middle of the fighting he wrote stanzas for "The Bay Fight". He was so well known in those years that his contemporary the famed writer Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. called him "Our Battle Laureate". Today he is relatively unknown.

Check these links for information on HH Brownell:

<http://www.bartleby.com/226/1703.html>, [http://www.poetry-archive.com/b/brownell\\_henry\\_howard.html](http://www.poetry-archive.com/b/brownell_henry_howard.html),  
<http://myweb.wvnet.edu/~jelkins/lp-2001/brownell.html>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Howard\\_Brownell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Howard_Brownell)

Also read Mary Dowden's article in the Nov 2001 HSEH Newsletter on HH Brownell and his militant marching words "Old John Brown lies a-moldering in the grave... Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! His soul is marching on!"

"The River Fight" can be found at <http://www.bartleby.com/270/13/469.html>

## SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 ANNUAL DINNER & PROGRAM FORM

Reservation Must be Received by Sept, 15, 2012

\$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, 2012 – AUG 31, 2013

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

Mail: PO Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

Phone: 860-568-5188, Email: [hseh@hseh.org](mailto:hseh@hseh.org), [eknose@aol.com](mailto:eknose@aol.com)

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

Nov Newsletter Deadline: Oct 24, 2012



### Sept Dinner/Program

Date: Wednesday, Sept 19

Time: doors open 6pm

Where: First Cong. Church

Program: Rick Spencer

## **FRIENDS OF CENTER CEMETERY - 2012 LANTERN TOUR**

**Saturday - October 13th -6:30 pm at Center Cemetery on Main St., East Hartford.**

**Admission is \$10.00 at the entrance . (raindate if needed will be Oct. 14th)**

**Parking is available behind the Save a Lot store.**

**Tours will be leaving at 15 minute intervals and go until we are out of customers.**

Join us for an evening walk through East Hartford's history as some spirits from days gone by come out to share their stories with you. Each year we add some new stations; this year you'll meet Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Cowles two widows looking for names of the loved ones who were killed in the Civil War, our famous Captain/Privateer Gideon Olmsted from the Revolutionary days and his later descendant Lt. Roger W. Olmsted who fought in Iowa Jima, the famous painter Henry Ahl and what of the little Mead boy? Whether you join us on our walk because of pride or curiosity we promise to have something for everyone.

While you're waiting for the next tour refreshments and entertainment will be provided as in a Palm Reading, gravestone art, mugs, pins, stickers and more. We will also have a professional Tarot card reading station for a donation to which a portion of the proceeds will go to help FCC.

All together we have 10+ stories to share with you on this eve of celebrating OUR history.

Friends of Center Cemetery (FCC) was started back in the 1980's and has been devoted to keeping our East Hartford history alive and keeping our cemetery in a respectable condition. FCC members believe that our cemeteries should be visited and a tribute paid to those that went before us; those that spent their lives working to make our world a better place. For FCC to continue doing its work we need your support. Our membership has sadly been deteriorating over the last few years. If you have family or ancestors interred in at Center Cemetery we are asking you to please consider becoming a member. A single membership for one year is only \$15.00 annually and can be sent to: Friends of Center Cemetery, 70 Canterbury St., East Hartford, Ct. 06118. Save the stamp and drop it off in our mailbox at the South Senior Center!

If you have any questions please contact Ruthie S. Brown at 860-643-5652, OR visit us on facebook



## **FRIENDS OF CENTER CEMETERY - 2012 LANTERN TOUR**

**Saturday - October 13th -6:30 pm at Center Cemetery on Main St., East Hartford.**

**Admission is \$10.00 at the entrance . (raindate if needed will be Oct. 14th)**

**Parking is available behind the Save a Lot store.**

**Tours will be leaving at 15 minute intervals and go until we are out of customers.**

**Questions? Please contact Ruthie S. Brown at 860-643-5652, OR visit us on facebook.**