

Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, January 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Year 2013 has arrived! We survived the Mayan “end of days” and are attempting to dodge the fiscal cliff. I trust that all Historical Society members had a very safe and wonderful holiday season spending time with family and loved ones. The unimaginable tragedy that took place in Newtown last month saddened us deeply. All of us extend our deepest sympathy to the families who lost so much. In our own membership, we are saddened by the loss of long-time member **Richard “Dick” Ranney**.

Our November meeting at the Raymond Library Community Room featured guest speaker Dan DeLuca who gave us a fascinating program on the Old Leather Man. Because of the renovation starting this year at the Library and the decision to use the meeting room as temporary storage, our January program has to be moved to the Selden Brewer House. The cozy interior of the Brewer House will become our primary meeting and program location during the next two years. We know that seating capacity and parking lot spaces are limited. More on the January 16th program can be found in the Newsletter.

We had a reserved table at the Unique Christmas Fair located at the South End Senior Center on December 8 and 9. The first day was very successful in the way of sales. We passed out membership applications and brochures about our museums at Martin Park. We also sold some of our 2013 calendars. Not too many of the calendars remain unsold. As we head into 2013, I am optimistic that our membership will improve. If you have not renewed yet for this year, please, please, send in your dues.

Antiquarian-Historian Jeff Cummings has notified us that members Tim and Rose Moynihan have donated to the Historical Society a 100 year old wind-up victrola made by the Victor Talking Machine Company of Camden NJ. For now, the victrola has been placed in the Piano Room corner of the Selden Brewer House just to the right of Mr. Brewer's portrait over the fireplace. Please stop by and check it out when attending our meeting and program. Happy New Year and we'll see you on January 16th. Craig Johnson, President

THE PITKIN GLASSWORKS 1783-1830

January Program to be Held at the Selden Brewer House

In 1783, Connecticut's General Assembly granted Captain Richard Pitkin and his sons a 25-year monopoly on manufacturing glass, as recompense for providing gun powder at a loss to the Connecticut Revolution. The East Hartford Glass Works – later known as the Pitkin Glass Works, the first successful glass factory in Connecticut, was built in Manchester (then the Orford Parish of East Hartford) on the Pitkin farm, located on the corner of Putnam and Parker Streets. Remaining in operation until about 1830, the factory produced hand-blown commercial products consisting of snuffboxes, inkwells, globular bottles and tableware. The Pitkin colors are yellow-amber, olive-amber, olive-yellow, yellow-olive, olive-green, yellow-green and a bluish to deep green. These are the New England "earthy" tones, adopted and carried on in future Connecticut glasshouses and were considered to be of the best color and design in the country. Rare today, Pitkin flasks have brought tens of thousands of dollars at auctions.

We will be welcoming the President of the Museum of Connecticut Glass, Noël E. Tomás of Glastonbury - collector, writer, appraiser, USAFR (Retired), State of CT (Retired), and our speaker on antique Pitkin glassware, to

our January meeting. A short business meeting precedes his presentation. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited.

Please join us for this first meeting of the New Year at the Selden Brewer House, 167 Main Street, on January 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Note the change in location for our regular meeting. In preparation for their relocation to the Cultural Center, the Raymond Library has closed our normal meeting space, the downstairs Lion's Meeting Room, to make room for initial storage. Regular and handicapped parking are available in the front lot at the Selden Brewer House or park on Naubuc Avenue. Bette Daraskevich, Program

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT WICKHAM PARK CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT



Manning the Historical Society of East Hartford's booth at the September 29-30, 2012 reenactment are (left to right) Vice-President Bette Daraskevich, member Connie Walker, and President Craig Johnson. Of special interest in the Society's display was the large number of 1960s era Civil War cards and, on loan to the Society for this event, an invitation to a Gettysburg veteran to attend that battle's 75th anniversary reunion. For more see the Society's Nov 2012 newsletter.

This large reenactment of the 1862 battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg was the 2nd event marking the 150th anniversary of the Civil War sponsored by the CT Civil War Commemoration Committee, www.ccsu.edu/civilwar.

CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, JULY 1862¹

- July 1, 1862 Peninsula: Union army is at Malvern Hill a few miles north of Harrison's Landing; its expert artillery disables Confed artillery, destroys attacking Confed infantry; is aided by gunboats; 8000 casualties
- July 1, 1862 Lincoln signs Pacific Railroad Act: grants land, issues bonds to corporations to build railroad from the MO River (where eastern lines end) to the Pacific; done in 1869; transcontinental travel possible
- July 1, 1862 US Internal Revenue Act of 1862 becomes law; new, broad based taxes will cover about 1/4 of the war's cost; many taxes will be short lived but Bureau of Internal Revenue will remain
- July 1, 1862 Lincoln signs Morrill Act prohibiting polygamy in Utah and other US territories; part of Republican Party platform; his policy will be "let sleeping dogs lie"
- July 2, 1862 Peninsula Campaign ends: Army of the Potomac reaches Harrison's Landing; south is exuberant; north is devastated
- July 2, 1862 Lincoln calls for 300,000 3-year volunteers, mainly infantry; CT's quota is 7,145, will form the 14th - 21st CT Vol Infantry regiments
- July 2, 1862 To check loyalties Lincoln signs the Ironclad Test Oath: gov't officials to swear they never carried arms against the US and will "support and defend the Constitution"; declared unconstitutional, 1867

¹ See <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/10/29/opinion/20101029-civil-war.html>.

The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY; 2011.
The Civil War Chart, Contributing Writers Martha Graham, George Skoch; Consultant William C. Davis, Publications International Limited, Lincolnwood, IL., 60646.

- July 2, 1862 Lincoln signs the Morrill Land-Grant College Act; gov't funding is given loyal states to form colleges teaching engineering, agriculture, military tactics; among colleges formed are UCONN Cornell, MIT
- July 3, 1862 In Dept of West TN guerrillas plague Gen Grant: he orders irregulars not be treated as pows when caught, southern sympathizers' property be seized to pay for any nearby US property destroyed
- July 4, 1862 Boston's Discharged Soldiers' Home opens for honorably discharged soldiers needing help health wise or in reentering the community; in 1 year will be found much too small and inadequate
- July 4, 1862 Dr Letterman is new Army of the Potomac medical director; finds army in poor health; will develop system to improve soldiers' care, hospitals; will be known as father of modern battlefield medicine
- July 8, 1862 Lincoln visits McClellan and Army of the Potomac at Harrison's Landing; will not answer McClellan's unsolicited letter on conduct of the war
- July 9, 1862 Lincoln visits the Monitor; ex-slave Josiah Carter works in kitchen (see May 16, 1862); one of first of 200,000 black men to enlist; evidence suggests that Lincoln meets him and talks of him to others
- July 11, 1862 Lincoln promotes Gen Halleck to Gen-in-Chief of US land forces, position last held by Gen McClellan; Gen Grant will succeed Halleck in charge of the Dept of the Mississippi
- July 12, 1862 Lincoln meets privately with loyal border states' representatives; he offers a plan for compensation for slaves freed by any loyal state
- July 13, 1862 Lincoln privately tells Sec'ties of State & Navy, Seward and Welles, he will issue an emancipation proclamation for all slaves in the Confed'acy; this, he says, is a military necessity to win the war
- July 13, 1862 TN: Gen Forrest's cavalry (Confed) captures Gen Crittenden's 1,000 man force and \$1,000,000 in supplies at Mufreesboro; Gen Forrest will continue to disrupt middle TN through the month
- July 13, 1862 KY: Col Morgan's 3 week cavalry raid (Confed) raises fears of southern uprisings in KY and in OH
- July 14, 1862 Majority of border states' representatives reject Lincoln's offer of the 12th; they write that any move against slavery is unconstitutional (i.e. states control property issues)
- July 14, 1862 Lincoln sends compensated emancipation bill to Congress; it is not acted on
- July 14, 1862 Senate votes to accept VA's western breakaway counties as state of WV; official on June 20, 1863
- July 14, 1862 Lincoln establishes the Federal Pension System for men disabled in war and for widows and children of men killed in war; retroactive to March 1, 1861
- July 15, 1862 CSS Arkansas, Confed ironclad ram, steams past 30 anchored Union vessels to safety at Vicksburg; at night Farragut's ships run past Vicksburg to destroy the ram; they fail; Welles & Navy mortified
- July 15, 1862 Cincinnati, OH: white men riot in black sections of city: blacks are preferred to whites as steamboat workers due to their lower wages
- July 17, 1862 2nd Confiscation Act passes: slaves of insurrection supporters freed when they come under Union control, President may employ blacks to suppress the rebellion, US will help them emigrate
- July 17, 1862 Militia Act of 1862: President authorized to accept blacks into US service for any labor, or military or naval service for which they are fit; black soldiers' monthly pay \$10-\$3 for clothes, whites \$13
- July 20, 1862 US Gen Sherman in command at Memphis; agitated by flow from Memphis of cotton north and funds, salt south; writes US control of Mississippi River "is an enormous advantage to our enemy"
- July 22, 1862 Prisoner of war exchange cartel: provides for quick exchange of prisoners between north and south; will break down in late spring of 1863 over handling of northern black soldiers
- July 22, 1862 Lincoln reads draft of preliminary emancipation proclamation to his cabinet; reaction is mixed; Sec'ty of State Seward advises waiting for a "substantial military victory" before issuing it
- July 23, 1862 South starts invasion of KY through eastern TN; hopes to bring KY into the Confed
- July 23, 1862 Gen Bragg begins largest Confed rail movement of the war; sends 30,000 troops 776 roundabout rail miles from Tupelo, MS to Chattanooga, TN; direct Memphis to Charleston line in Federal hands²
- July 28, 1862 Lincoln answers letter against Union policies in LA: "...would you prosecute it ...with squirts charged with rose water? I shall do all I can to save the government, ...I shall do nothing in malice"
- July 29, 1862 Ship Enrica leaves Liverpool hours before it is to be impounded by the British; will be renamed the Alabama and will become the most famous Confed commerce raider of the war

² <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/perryville/perryville-history-articles/general-braggs-impossible.html>. "General Bragg's Impossible Dream: Take Kentucky"

A Friendly Reminder



Please renew your HSEH membership now
to support our
guest speakers & programs open to the public,
preservation of East Hartford's antiques,
newsletter

Fern Strong,
Membership Chairman

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: 860-528-0716, **Email:** hseh@hseh.org, eknose@aol.com

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

Deadline March Newsletter - March 1, 2013



January Program

Date: Wednesday, Jan 16

Time: 7pm

Where: Brewer House

Program: Pitkin Glass