

# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

## *Newsletter, January 2014*



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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope that all Historical Society members and their families had a very safe and wonderful holiday season. Keeping with my own holiday tradition, my shopping was done on Christmas Eve where amazingly, everything I searched for was found. It's actually safer than doing late internet orders with promised delivery dates that might not live up to expectations. 2014 is suddenly upon us. Not being a big enthusiast of the winter season, I'm hoping for milder than average winter temperatures to save on heating. On average, to keep our house warm and comfortable during the coldest part of winter we need about two tons of coal to get us through.

That said, had I lived in this area during colonial times, the winter seasons were brutally cold with only the wood in the home fireplace to stay warm. Every winter the Connecticut River usually froze over. When the ice was thick enough the river could flood and sometimes change course when the ice broke up. The most remembered course change was in the 1690's when the river once flowed northeast from the port of Wethersfield and then turned south along Naubuc Avenue where Keeney Cove is today in East Hartford. After the river straightened along its present day course, the great deep-water port of Wethersfield became a shallow cove and Hartford became the new deep-water port city. The valuable agricultural land of Old Wethersfield was shifted east of the river, and even today in the south meadows of East Hartford there's a triangular section of land that still belongs to Wethersfield.

The cozy interior of the Selden Brewer House will be our primary meeting and program location during the next two years while the Raymond Library is closed for renovations. Because of the uncertainty of the winter season, our January program is the one most prone to cancellation because of snowy or icy conditions. Just a reminder that in the event of a cancellation, an announcement will be made on local television stations where a notice will appear on the bottom of the TV screen.

Happy New Year and we'll see you on January 15th.

*Craig Johnson, President*

### **HSEH VINTAGE FASHION SHOW, COLLECTIONS QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

#### **January 15 Program of HSEH**

While some members availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the November program we gave at the East Hartford Woman's Club and others viewed the results online at Channel 5, I was informed that the quality of the audio shown in the CPTV video was very poor. We were also told that the in-house loud speaking system at the South Congregational Church worked fine for the audience. One question asked of the committee was, 'Does the Historical Society own these artifacts?' And, surprisingly, it appears that not only is the public unaware of what contributions have been made to the Society over the years, but some of our members are unacquainted with the contents of the collections as well.

Betty Russell and I still have our scripts from that evening and will repeat the performance we gave in November for our January 15th meeting. This would be a good opportunity for the membership to evaluate the use of the collections and perhaps offer us more ideas for exhibiting them to the public. We received some great feedback from the Woman's Club – some thought it was one of their better programs and we were awarded a \$50.00 check for the Society.

This program will be presented on Wednesday evening January 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Selden Brewer House, 167 Main St, East Hartford. The public is welcome. There is no charge for this presentation. Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the lot in front of the Brewer House and on the street.

*Bette Daraskavich,  
VP, Programs*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL THANKS

We want to thank everyone who has renewed his membership. A special thanks to those who have done so at the Patron level. The support of our membership is critical to our mission of preserving and promoting the history of East Hartford. We can't do it with out YOU!

If anyone wants a membership card, please email me. We would be happy to help you keep track of renewal dates, etc.

Thanks again.

*Fern Strong, Membership  
redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com*

## 'CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT' TO BE CONTINUED

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### Historical Society of East Hartford

**Mail:** PO Box 380166, E Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

**Phone:** 860-528-0716

**Email:** hseh@hseh.org, webmaster@hseh.org

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

**Membership** 860-290-1869

indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,  
patron \$50

**Deadline March Newsletter – Feb 28, 2014**



### January Program

**Program:** HSEH Vintage  
Fashions, Collections  
Questions/Answers

**Date:** Wed, Jan 15

**Time:** 7pm

**Where:** Brewer House