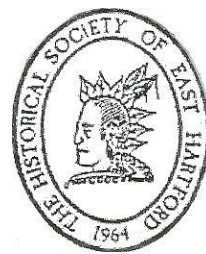


# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

*Newsletter, January 2015*



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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year! Each January 1<sup>st</sup> brings a sense of a new beginning and an end to the old problems. Our sources tell us that the addition to the Raymond Library will be ready this spring and various parts of the facility open to the public. Dealing with the cramped quarters at meetings in the Selden Brewer House for the past year +, we are all looking forward to a new beginning in the redesigned, spacious facility. We are excitedly looking forward to the re-opening and a return to downtown

While I was working at the Town Hall in November during the election, I noticed that the walls of the old Courthouse (i.e., the Conference Room on the second floor) are now ringed with framed sketches of East Hartford done by Richard Welling (1926-2009). The room has since been renamed 'The Welling Room'. Welling is best known for his prints and drawings of Hartford County, and more intimately - several of our town's historical buildings. The Richard Welling Collection at the Connecticut Historical Society is especially rich in such works, but also includes substantial numbers of prints, drawings, and photographs of other towns in Connecticut, as well as elsewhere in New England and the United States. It also includes ephemera, manuscripts, and artifacts relating to the artist, such as his drawing implements and the hard hat he wore when drawing at construction sites. Consisting of over 5000 items - the contents of the artist's studio at the time of his death, the collection was donated to the Connecticut Historical Society by the Welling family in 2011-2014. An exhibition of his work is ongoing at the Society in Hartford through March 14, 2015. The Connecticut Historical Society is located in the West End of Hartford, at the corner of Elizabeth Street and Asylum Avenue. There is ample free parking available behind the building, in the Asylum Street lot. One-day admission prices: \$8 Adults, \$6 Seniors (65 and over), \$4 Students (with valid college ID) and Youths (6-17). If you can't gain an entry into our own Welling Collection, you might want to visit the originals at the CHS; the museum is open Tuesday-Friday: 12:00-5:00 pm and Saturday: 9:00 am-5:00 pm.

We have a newer color printer (a freebie!) at the Selden Brewer House; our old one was becoming too temperamental and required much coaxing to work properly. Every addition to the collection requires a written acquisition outline to be stored with the item for proper identification. The original is stored on the computer and that brings me to our next dilemma: we are also facing the expectation of an upgrade to our PastPerfect computer software for the collections; it has been almost four years since the last update, Version 4, was available. The sooner that happens, the less expensive it will be.

Shipwreck discoveries are not unusual, but one located here in the Connecticut River!!! Our program for the January meeting will explore our own local shipwreck off the river banks at Great River Park with East Hartford Policeman and diving instructor, Woody Tinsley. Don't miss it, whether you are interested in scuba diving or old shipwrecks, it will be interesting. Be with us on January 21st at the Selden Brewer House on Main Street. A short business meeting will begin at 7:00 pm followed by refreshments and our program. We look forward to having you join us.

Bette Daraskevich, President

## **JAN 21<sup>st</sup> PROGRAM ON EAST HARTFORD CREST POLICE DIVE TEAM**

The Historical Society is proud to present as its guest speaker Officer Woodrow Tinsley who will give a talk on the East Hartford CREST Police Dive Team. Officer Tinsley overviews this special team under the field operations bureau of the Police Department and he'll also talk about an interesting find the Dive Team explored this past summer in the Connecticut River. Just off the East Hartford shoreline along Great River Park there sits partially buried in the mud a sunken 85-foot long schooner. Although quite a few people knew about the shipwreck,

there are many different opinions on how and when it wound up on the river bottom. The Dive Team did a number of exploratory dives and even brought up some interesting artifacts.

Besides his duties with the East Hartford Police Department, Woody Tinsley is a certified dive instructor and operates New England Ski and Scuba in Vernon. Following a short 7:00pm business meeting, the Wednesday, January 21st program will be held at the Selden Brewer House, 167 Main Street, East Hartford and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the front lot.

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

Craig Johnson, Vice President / Program Chair

## WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Enjoy the following wordsearch puzzle. Its topic is French General Rochambeau's visits to East Hartford in 1781 and 1782 and is based on Betty Squires' 2005 booklet "When the French Army Came to East Hartford". The booklet is on <http://www.hseh.org/programs.htm#pgmW3R>, "When the French Army Came to East Hartford"

The puzzle and solution were created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com. Note that each letter in the puzzle can appear in only one word.

### Rochambeau & East Hartford

Since 1775 Americans had been fighting to make their country independent of Great Britain and its king, George III. Needing men and supplies the Americans sought the help of the French. In 1780 King Louis XVI of France sent General Comte de Rochambeau with a small army to aid General Washington and the Americans in their war. GREATBRITAIN, FRANCE, ROCHAMBEAU

In July 1780 General Rochambeau arrived in Rhode Island with an army of 5,000. RHODEISLAND

He camped in Newport in the winter of 1780-1781; his cavalry under the Duc de Lauzun wintered in Lebanon, CT. DELAUZUN, CAVALRY, LEBANON

During this time Rochambeau made trips to Wethersfield to discuss plans with General Washington. WETHERSFIELD, WASHINGTON

In May 1781 the French army left Newport and crossed northern Connecticut to meet Washington's army in White Plains, NY. There the two generals would decide whether to attack Yorktown. WHITEPLAINS

When they came through East Hartford Rochambeau's regiments arrived (and left) on different days so as not to over burden the small town with too many men at one time and to let their artillery and baggage catch up with them. Between June 22, 1781 and June 27, 1781 the French regiments arrived and camped in the meadows near the CT River and at the western end of Silver Lane near Main St. A boulder stands at 201 Silver Lane commemorating their camps here. BOULDER

In East Hartford Rochambeau stayed at Squire Elisha Pitkin's large house. It has since been moved to the southern part of this state. SQUIREPITKIN

The Pitkin house stood near the Old Meeting House. The Meeting House temporarily served as the army's hospital. It no longer exists. A commemorative boulder now marks its location at the present corner of Pitkin and Main Streets. OLDMEETINGHOUSE, HOSPITAL

French army officers stayed at private and public houses.

Stories have been handed down of the enjoyable dances, parties, and barbecues held at that time with the people of this area. DANCES

A number of legends have also come down the years. One local legend says that French coins were stored at Timothy Forbes' house. When the army moved west, Timothy Forbes was paid to drive one of the army wagons to NY. TIMOTHYFORBES

Another local legend claims that the troops were paid in coin by their quartermaster at the Warren Farm house on Silver Lane. This house stood just west of the route 84 overpass. Some say Silver Lane got its name from the payment of the French troops here. While there is no record of any payment to troops here, Rochambeau expert Dr Selig does say the troops were in East Hartford within the window of time when they would have been paid. WARREN, SILVERLANE

While they were here local tradition says the troops spent money for small items like pies and having their clothes mended. PIES

Another story is of the tasty yellow and green apples enjoyed by the soldiers here. The troops named them “Belle Bonne”, meaning attractive and good. This name later was shortened to “Bounders”. BOUNDERSAPPLES

Yet another legend says that the first Catholic Mass said in CT was celebrated here. MASS

In crossing the CT River from East Hartford to Hartford ferries had to be used as there were no bridges. There were 4 ferries, 2 large and 2 small. The boats were flat bottomed with low freeboards and propelled by oars. A larger ferry could carry 2 wagons and a number of horses. A smaller one could carry about 9 horses. To speed up the crossing boats were procured from various sources up and down the river. It took about a half hour to cross the river. Many boats kept the crossing moving at a good pace. CTRIVER, HARTFORD, FERRIES

Rochambeau’s army crossed the state and met Washington’s army in NY. The two armies then traveled south together to Yorktown, VA. With the southern American forces and Adm DeGrasse’s large French fleet they defeated British General Cornwallis at Yorktown and effectively won the Revolution. YORKTOWN, ADMDEGRASSE, CORNWALLIS, REVOLUTION.

In the fall of 1782 the French army once again traveled through CT and East Hartford on its way to Boston to sail to the Caribbean. It is interesting to note that French General de Chastelleux met his escort at the East Hartford/Hartford ferry, the 1<sup>st</sup> Rhode Island Cavalry, a black unit. CHASTELLEUX, BLACKRICAVALRY

### Puzzle

B S M L T U L L B Q H X X T F C O N M Z E K R C G R C E W H Y N C W D  
 Q O R W H A A G C U U D I K E G Q Y D Z C D S J Y Q K C R T D I Q A A  
 S X U U F T C V I E Y M D A R B G B E B N Z Z N C X J C H T N K W S D  
 P E Y L I N W H L E O W D W R U M B R O A U S P N X L E O O I T J H M  
 W Z L P D A Q L F T C A E V I T Q V T M R I M V U H G T O S A I E I D  
 U H S P R E E B H N V Q H Q E F O O A A F U G E C C Z D C V T P W N E  
 R O I R P T R Y F L X G N R S O L D M E E T I N G H O U S E I E R G G  
 H O E T S A F W E T H E R S F I E L D N N U Z U A L E D R D R R H T R  
 C N C A E O S S H G F M Q P S D Y D M J O Z L M A I Q E N A B I O O A  
 C O H H R P O R E Y U A T I I M R O X S Y I K Z B L V S A N T U D N S  
 M C R B A Z L X E I F S T O L D Z O R M U N T R X I E U D C A Q E G S  
 I Y E N Z M C A V D P S M N V E X T F K R E R U R I I B O E E S I C E  
 U S N X W E B O I P N V F I E T J D H T T W X T L U S A W S R C S L V  
 L M H S W A G E A N W U V O R Y V Y L T R O C E V O F L L E G X L P K  
 B F A K S N L G A D S J O I L W O J P O G A W N W R V N Y B B N A Q C  
 A Y W E O G N L V U Y E R B A Y R L A V A C H N X M L E L X M R N J P  
 N Q M S B P E F I B D Z O D N D T D R U D I N G Z J Q E R M X C D X F  
 I L K L T D W X B S H K Q G E U X D Y N L Q I V M Z D H U H Z V F E Z  
 V A F Q W I M S F R L V A E G T P P W B L A C K R I C A V A L R Y N U  
 V X H X Q O P L N T G W O A J N O N A B E L V C K L K E Y X W K S L S

ADMDEGRASSE

BLACKRICAVALRY

BOULDER

BOUNDERSAPPLES

CAVALRY

CHASTELLEUX

CORNWALLIS

CTRIVER

DANCES

DELAUZUN

FERRIES

FRANCE

GREATBRITAIN

HARTFORD

HOSPITAL

LEBANON

MASS

OLDMEETINGHOUSE

PIES

REVOLUTION

RHODEISLAND

ROCHAMBEAU

SILVERLANE

SQUIREPITKIN

TIMOTHYFORBES

WARREN

WASHINGTON

WETHERSFIELD

WHITEPLAINS

YORKTOWN

## Solution

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B + + + + + L + + + X + T F + + + + + E + + + + + + + + + + N + W +
+ O + + + + A + + + U + I + E + + + + + C + + + + + + + + + + I + A A
S + U + + T + + + E + M + + R + + + + + N + + + + + + + + + + N K + S D
+ E + L I + W + L + O + + + R + + + + + A + + + + + + + + + + I T + H M
W + L P D A + L + T + + + + I + + + + + R + + + + + + + + + + A I + I D
+ H S P R E E + H + + + + + E + + + + + F + + + + + + + + + + T P + N E
R O I R P T R Y + + + + + S O L D M E E T I N G H O U S E I E R G G
H O E T S A F W E T H E R S F I E L D N N U Z U A L E D R D R R H T R
C N C A E O S S + + + M + + S D Y + + + O + + + + + + E + A B I O O A
+ O H H R P + R E + + A + + I + R O + + + I + + + + V + + N T U D N S
+ C R B A + L + E I + S + + L + + O R + + + T + + I + + + C A Q E + S
+ + E N + M + A + D P S + + V + + + F K + + + U R + + + + E E S I + E
+ S + + W + B + I + N + + + E + + + + T T + + T L + + + + S R + S + +
+ + + + + A + E + N + U + + R + + + + + R O C + + O + + + + G + L + +
+ + + + + + L + A + S + O + L + + + + + + A W + + + V + + + + + A + +
+ + + + + + + L + U + + + B A Y R L A V A C H N + + + E + + + + N + +
+ + + + + + + + I + + + + + N + + + + + + + + + + + + R + + + D + +
+ + + + + + + + + S + + + + E + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + B L A C K R I C A V A L R Y + +
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(Over, Down, Direction)

(Over, Down, Direction)

(Over, Down, Direction)

ADMDEGRASSE (35, 2, S)  
 BLACKRICAVALRY (20, 19, E)  
 BOULDER (1, 1, SE)  
 BOUNDERSAPPLES (14, 16, NW)  
 CAVALRY (22, 16, W)  
 CHASTELLEUX (2, 11, NE)  
 CORNWALLIS (1, 9, SE)  
 CTRIVER (23, 14, NE)  
 DANCES (30, 8, S)  
 DELAUZUN (28, 8, W)

FERRIES (15, 1, S)  
 FRANCE (21, 6, N)  
 GREATBRITAIN (31, 14, N)  
 HARTFORD (23, 16, NW)  
 HOSPITAL (1, 8, NE)  
 LEBANON (22, 20, W)  
 MASS (12, 9, S)  
 OLDMEETINGHOUSE (16, 7, E)  
 PIES (11, 12, NW)  
 REVOLUTION (29, 17, NW)

RHODEISLAND (33, 7, S)  
 ROCHAMBEAU (1, 7, SE)  
 SILVERLANE (15, 9, S)  
 SQUIREPITKIN (32, 12, N)  
 TIMOTHYFORBES (14, 1, SW)  
 WARREN (7, 4, SW)  
 WASHINGTON (34, 1, S)  
 WETHERSFIELD (8, 8, E)  
 WHITEPLAINS (1, 5, SE)  
 YORKTOWN (17, 9, SE)

### Historical Society of East Hartford

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 indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,  
 patron \$50  
**Deadline Mar Newsletter – Feb 28, 2015**



### January Program

**Date:** Wed, Jan 21, 2015  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Program:** EH CREST Police  
 Dive Team  
**Where:** Brewer House  
**Fee:** No cost  
**Info:** Craig, 860-568-2884