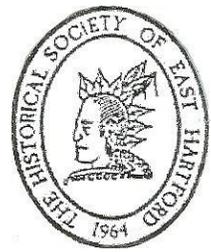


# *Historical Society of East Hartford*

*Newsletter, May 2015*



---

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

There's Good News and there's Even Better News....firstly, Spring has finally arrived! It still might snow in northern areas of New England, but those 70 degree temperatures we were promised for our neck of the woods are finally here. Hallelujah!

The second best thing is that Connecticut legislators restored 95% of the funding for cultural non-profit entities; much of which preserves the rich history of this state. Without this funding many organizations would not survive. Bi-partisan voting from our General Assembly Appropriations Committee gave back the bulk of these monies that the governor's budget deleted for the next two years. While they can bicker over the many bills that wind up on their desks and differ about the funds to support them, this legislature had their act and their heads together to restore what makes Connecticut a place of arts, heritage and culture. Next time you run into one of those 'congress critters' from our state capital, please remember to thank them. It was a magnanimous gesture that our state, especially our state tourism, could ill afford to lose.

Here's a new thing: The Town of East Hartford has started a Museum Pass Program listed under the Raymond Library portion of its website, open only to East Hartford residents with a library card: [www.easthartfordct.gov/library](http://www.easthartfordct.gov/library). Scroll down and click on the link to reserve tickets at a reduced rate or for free. There are several sites listed here in Connecticut and a few in Massachusetts worth visiting. Check it out!

We plan to participate in Connecticut Trails Day once again. Our tour will take place on Saturday, June 6th and Craig Johnson has his crew ready to do a walk of the East Hartford Mills with running dialogue of this interesting era of our town history.

The water is turned on at the Huguenot House and the ole' brooms and vacuum will be warming up for the annual cleaning in preparation for our Opening Day on Saturday, June 13th and for our Sunday summertime visitors. I will pass around a sign-up sheet at the May meeting for those who will be available to escort visitors around the Martin Park Complex on tours. Any member who wishes to learn how these tours are conducted should drop by some Sunday and tag along with us as we walk and talk people through the facilities. Many visitors have no idea how people really lived in the 17th century.

See you at the regular business meeting on Wednesday, May 21st at the Selden Brewer House at 7:00 pm. Our Program Chair, Craig Johnson has a great program planned.

*Bette Daraskevich, President*

## **MAY 20<sup>th</sup> PROGRAM BY CAROLYN STEARNS, STORYTELLER**

The Historical Society is pleased to have back storyteller Carolyn Stearns of Storrs, CT. Carolyn belongs to the National Storytelling Network and she will enlighten us with the traditional art of storytelling, bringing history back to life. Included in her presentation will be excerpts from her acclaimed program on George Henry Story who was the artist who painted President Abraham Lincoln. Carolyn last visited with us in 2009, doing a storytelling program at the Raymond Library. She is the daughter of Herman and Jessie Marshall. For those of you who go way back with the Historical Society, the Marshalls were close friends with Doris Suessman and Herman Marshall was the head restoration consultant for the Huguenot House during the late 1970's and early 1980's after it was relocated to Martin Park.

Following a short 7:00pm business meeting, the Wednesday, May 20th 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*

## HUGUENOT HOUSE 2015 SEASON SCHEDULE

After a brutal winter, the museum buildings at Martin Park are welcoming the onset of nice spring weather. The grand re-opening for tours will occur on Connecticut Open House Day, Saturday, June 13 from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. Because of the state publicity, this is also our busiest day for tours so please consider signing up to help out. During the summer season, we will be open Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 starting on July 12 going through August 30th. We will not open during the Independence Day and Labor Day holiday weekends. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the May meeting, so please check your calendars beforehand so that you can be prepared to add your names and telephone numbers. To keep our buildings open for tours we need your help, thank you.

*Craig Johnson*

## CENTER CEMETERY IN THE SPRING TIME

Spring is finally here and I hope you will consider a visit and a walk through Center Cemetery on Main St and look for the new flowers that our friends group has planted there. In the fall of 2013 Karen Johnson donated a hardy supply of day lilies, which we planted around the Pitkin crypt and along the building line of the store on the north side. This past fall we planted dozens of daffodils along the main roadway to right of the entrance. This is the first installation of what we expect to more of this fall. If anyone has any to donate please let us know.

The planting of the daffodils started as a vision that President Ray Tubbs had, “wouldn’t it look nice to have a line of daffodils on each side of the roadway, winding up to highlight our Civil War monument. Most of what this small group has been able to accomplish in recent years is thanks to Ray and his diligent work to make the most of what we have while we still can. Last year we were also able to have Abigail Pitkin’s stone repaired as well as five table stones righted and stabilized.

On a walk through you can also look for the 3 dozen new sign posts that mark some of our historic gravesites. This is the beginning of our new venture into the future; a Pod Cast walking tour, something will soon be a tour that is interactive with a Smartphone. We would love to hear your comments and remarks on these additions.

Perhaps you’ll come visit us on May 23rd and be a part of our efforts to promote our history and spruce things up a bit.

For those willing to donate some time to our cause we will doing work accordingly as clean and reset fallen or leaning gravestones and again for those new to this venue we are glad to invite you in to learn the proper and low tech methods to restoring respect to an old burying ground.

Visit us on facebook –Friends of Center Cemetery East Hartford

Twitter acct- [Twitter.com/Fcentercemetery](https://twitter.com/Fcentercemetery)

Or email Friends of Center Cemetery directly at [fcentercemetery@gmail.com](mailto:fcentercemetery@gmail.com)

For more information contact Ruthie Brown at 860 643-5652 or [ctgravelady@cox.net](mailto:ctgravelady@cox.net)

Cemetery Activity Day

Saturday, May 23rd 2015 10am to 3 pm.

Sponsored by Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc.

Clipping, Cleaning, Caring about our history and more

Center Cemetery, 944 Main St., East Hartford, CT

For those visiting for the first time the cemetery is across the street from Walgreens on Main St. located between Governor’s St. and Connecticut Blvd.

Parking is available behind the Save A Lot store adjacent to cemetery.

## JOSEPH O. GOODWIN’S “NOTES FROM MY JOURNALS” Part 3

Over the years Joseph Olcott Goodwin (b: 1843– d: 1923, life-time resident of East Hartford, Town Clerk for many years, now resting in Center Cemetery) kept several journals. From these he excerpted notes into one thin journal now the property of the Historical Society of East Hartford. Aspects of his life in this thin journal are the source of “Notes From My Journals”.

This is the third installment and conclusion of “Notes From My Journals”. Part 1 was printed in the November 2014 Historical Society newsletter and part 2 in the March 2015 newsletter. *Bette Daraskевич, President*

## “Notes From My Journals” Joseph O. Goodwin 1882 – Oct 1890 The Mature Years

**1882** In Rosenwald’s warehouse for months, shipping and sampling. May 14, 1882 – Samuel’s boy born, he is named Edward. June 26<sup>th</sup> I read paper on the History of Center Burying Ground. Did a synopsis of the record of the Building Committee at the dedication of the Raymond Receiving Vault. September – Hattie and I on Raymond Excursion to White Mountains. In November, I had the house painted. In December, I receive an offer to be a correspondent for the Manchester Herald...I decline.

**1883** Still working at Rosenfeld’s. In March, I complete the E.W. Hayden land sale. In May, Hattie is so run-down I hire a girl (Mary White) for the house. We go ‘yachting’ on the ‘Storm King’ from New London to Martha’s Vineyard for a week. Expenses: \$38.17. In October, I take Hattie to Boston and to Newport. The Cemetery Committee goes to October Town Meeting asking for fuller powers...granted. In November I am made Treasurer of the Village Improvement Society<sup>22</sup> and as such, hold \$1000.00 given by A.C. Raymond as a park fund. Met with the trustees of Mr. Raymond’s Library Fund, now \$17,000.00. Have a touch of sciatica.

**January 1884** As Town Clerk, I revised the indexes of land records for previous year. Still in care of Rosenfeld’s warehouse. In May, submitted a short story to Youth’s Companion<sup>23</sup> – ‘A Runaway’ (Locomotive). Accepted for \$30.00. The Raymond Library Fund handed over to the trustees. Drew up a petition for the Hartford and Wethersfield Horse Cars<sup>24</sup> to run over here. July 25<sup>th</sup>, Hattie’s father, Ralph Gilbert Spencer died. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, an earthquake shook the house<sup>25</sup>. Drew several wills. Put a partition around the furnace. Christmas tree at EOG’s with family. Selected grand Juror in a murder case!

**January 1, 1885** Raymond Library first started. SOG and I get books of old library. Select books for the new library in Hartford library. In April, made up Mrs. Spencer’s administration of Ralph Spencer’s will. Hattie inherits \$5,000.00. May: Try to ride a Star Bicycle<sup>26</sup> belonging to our neighbor. Taking riding lessons in Hartford in July. Buy one in August for \$125.00 Put on performance of ‘Our Folks’ drama in aid of Library; acting as stage manager only. August: Hattie and I take a trip to Watch Hill. In September I join a bicycle club. Some long trips. Worked with the Agent on a State map for \$600.00. Alone, I advocated for a High School, and it was voted in! In November, A. E. Kilbourne<sup>27</sup> and I took our wives to Boston. In December, helped move ‘Raymond Library’ to Wells Hall from the parsonage. Family celebrates Christmas at our house.

**January 4, 1886** Chosen Chair for the High School Committee. Moved Town Records to Wells Hall. In June, examination for new high school. Re-elected Town Clerk in October. September 10<sup>th</sup> - a cyclone<sup>28</sup> hit down in Burnside. September 26<sup>th</sup> – our son, Ralph Edward Goodwin is born. Bicycle is a great convenience. Writing ‘locals’ for the (East Hartford)Gazette. Now Chairman for High School Committee. Spent Thanksgiving with Hattie’s mother, Mrs. Spencer. Spent Christmas at Mother’s.

**January 1, 1887** Revised land indexes as usual. Assist in getting a Probate District in town. Sold the Town Clerk’s office bldg for \$25.00 to brother, Samuel. Garvan’s Block, opposite us, burned down. April: Trustee for James Bulkeley estate. June – measles in the family! July: chosen member of Conn. Historical Society. Bike trip in October to Rocky Hill. All summer, copying from Cemetery stones for Town Records. December, I sat for a photograph for Hattie.

**January, 1888** Did a little work for Rosenwald’s. The Hayden property tenants are poor and slow to pay. Feb. 16: Hattie’s mother dies; I’m appointed administrator. March 9<sup>th</sup>: Jessie fell and broke her collarbone. Now write for the Gazette, 3 half days per week Salary: \$3.00. We took in ‘Lottie’, Mrs. Spencer’s mare. To Mystic in June with CT Historical Society. Also, making a tally of travel over Hartford Bridge. June 12<sup>th</sup>, took the girls to their first circus. Helped Town to put up street signs. Mabel has pneumonia. Mrs. Spencer’s estate distributed; Hattie’s share \$9,735.73.

**January 1889** Drew up several wills this year. In March, I testify before Legislative Committee for EH Town School system. March 19, 1889 was the Raymond Library dedication. Install drive well in our cellar. In October, I

draw up the copy used for Town Bonds. We extend the veranda around the house and a put new window in the dining room.

**January 1890** Drew up tax liens for Selectmen. March: Ongoing Water District controversy; I am on the committee. Drew draft copy for Town Bonds - \$27,000.00 and for Hartford Bridge Bonds - \$39,600.00.

May – accepted 1<sup>st</sup> commission as Notary Public. June: to Plymouth with CT Historical Society. Doing genealogical searches for Hattie’s lines and mine. August 24, 1890 – First Horse Cars from Hartford!<sup>29</sup>

**October** – Hattie sick; Pearl Spencer comes for a long visit. I take up Revolutionary Record of our town.

(Joseph O. Goodwin’s writing ends abruptly here with a note to himself: ‘Finish 1890’, but the journal pages following are empty of words. Joseph died at the age of 80, 33 years later....From The Hartford Courant," March 9, 1923: "The funeral of Town Clerk, Joseph O. Goodwin, will be held at his residence on Main Street on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. . . ." His whole life was spent living in the center of East Hartford and it was filled with close family ties that included both his and Hattie’s relatives. Educated mainly in town and searching in his youth for purpose, his commitment became one of dedicated service to East Hartford. Wherever his talents were useful, he stepped in to fill a role: as the Town Clerk, a Legislator, School Visitor, Notary Public, Registrar, School Board Secretary, Trustee for Raymond Library, Asst. Post Master, Treasurer of Village Improvement, Town Auditor, author, husband and father. And, from his journal notes, it isn’t difficult to see how he became more than just a name on school building – he was a notable town institution....**Conclusion of "Notes From My Journals" ...**

**Notes:**

<sup>22</sup> The Village Improvement Society, funded in Mr. Raymond's will, takes care of the library grounds, with help of the East Hartford Park Department. The society and the company have the same membership. Both groups meet once a year to consider improvements, depending on what funds are available from the original trust.

<sup>23</sup> ‘The Youth's Companion’ (1827–1929), known in later years as simply ‘The Companion—For All the Family’, was an American [children's magazine](#) that existed for over one hundred years until it finally merged with ‘[The American Boy](#)’ in 1929.

<sup>24</sup> The Hartford and Wethersfield Railroad originated in 1863, with horse-drawn cars riding over steel rails, carrying passengers along Hartford’s Main Street and Wethersfield Avenue. In 1888, Hartford commuters and city-goers zipped down Wethersfield Avenue in Car No. 50, horseless for the first time, the electric power provided by the Hartford Light & Power Company.

<sup>25</sup> This historic 5.5 magnitude earthquake originated near NYC and sent violent tremors from southern Maine to Virginia. Chimneys were knocked down and walls were cracked in several States.

<sup>26</sup> The American Star Bicycle was invented in 1880 by G. W. Pressey and manufactured by the [H. B. Smith Machine Company](#) in [New Jersey](#). It was characterized by a small wheel in front to avoid the problem of tipping forward inherent in [high wheelers](#) with the larger front wheel.

<sup>27</sup> Alfred E Kilbourne b:1848 d:1912 in East Hartford. Farmer. Married Eliza Hills. Deacon at Ist Congregational Church.

<sup>28</sup> About 7 o'clock in the evening, a cyclone whipped through the edge of Burnside. Its course, was mostly through woods, where it cut a path an eighth of a mile wide. It wrecked the barn of Mahlon Forbes, unroofed his house, and then passed up over the nearby houses to the NE.

<sup>29</sup> In 1891 the town of East Hartford voted against the electric trolley cars, but they came to town anyway in 1892.

**Sources: ‘East Hartford, Its History and Tradition’ by Joseph O Goodwin; ‘Historical Gazeteer of the United States’ by Paul T Hellman; Wikipedia, Connecticut History.org and Ancestry.com**

## **CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, MAY 31, 1864 – AUG 5, 1864<sup>1</sup>**

May 31, 1864 OC, VA: Cold Harbor: Union cavalry takes, holds the crossroads here, about 10 mi from Richmond; both sides race to this area, dig in

---

<sup>1</sup> [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.

- Jun 1, 1864 OC, VA: Cold Harbor<sup>2</sup>: late in day Union forces attack, fail to break through Lee's lines to get between Lee, Richmond; Union casualties 2,200, Confed 1,800
- Jun 1, 1864 AC: Union Gen Sherman sends Gen Sturgis, 8,100 troops to northeast MS to keep Confed Gen Forrest, 10,000 cavalry from disturbing Sherman's lifeline, the Nashville & Chattanooga RR
- Jun 2, 1864 OC, VA: Cold Harbor: forced night march brings exhausted Union reinforcements to Meade; Grant postpones day's attack; Lee gets reinforcements from Bermuda Hundred, Shenandoah
- Jun 3, 1864 OC, VA: Cold Harbor: early am massive Union assault fails; in 1st hour Union casualties total in the thousands; Grant will always regret this assault as nothing was gained for such a heavy loss
- Jun 4-12, 1864 OC, VA: Cold Harbor: 9 days of trench warfare, sharpshooters, artillery; Grant delays seeking truce to help wounded between lines in hot sun, (would admit he lost); many die; press criticizes Grant
- Jun 6, 1864 AC: Sherman's plan to divert Gen Forrest from railroads works; Confed Gen Forrest removed from planned railroad disruption, sent to MS to find, stop Union Gen Sturgis
- Jun 7, 1864 OC, VA: Gen Grant sends 9,000 cavalry, Gen Sheridan to destroy VA Central RR supply line, if possible join Gen Hunter in Charlottesville; hopes to divert interest from his OC's next steps
- Jun 8, 1864 MD: Baltimore: 25 states' nominate Lincoln to run for President from Republican Party (this year called the National Union Party to attract war Democrats); replace VP Hamlin with TN's Johnson
- Jun 10, 1864 AC, Brice's Crossroads, MS: Confed Gen Forrest trounces Gen Sturgis; fleeing Federals saved from disaster, allowed to escape by 3 black regiments holding back Confeds
- Jun 10, 1864 N Atlantic: Confed Capt Raphael Semmes brings his famed commerce raider, *CSS Alabama*, into English channel for needed refitting in France; has taken 65 Union vessels
- Jun 11-12, 1864 OC, Trevilian Station, VA: in war's bloodiest cavalry battle Confed Gen Wade Hampton's 6,000 cavalry defeat Gen Sheridan and end his raid; Sheridan withdraws toward Cold Harbor
- Jun 11-12, 1864 VA: Shenandoah Valley: Harassed by guerillas, hungry due to stolen supply wagons, angry Union troops forage, burn VMI, VA Gov's home; Lee sends Gen Early, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps ANV to stop them
- Jun 12, 1864 OC, VA: Grant moves south from Cold Harbor, skirts Richmond, will cross James River, take or lay siege to Petersburg & its supply lines into Richmond; isolate city, force Lee into open fight
- Jun 12-14, 1864 OC, VA: Grant's engineers build 2100' pontoon bridge over the James, largest such bridge in world before WWII; his army takes 2 days to cross it
- Jun 14, 1864 N Atlantic: Cherbourg, France: *CSS Alabama* has arrived for refitting, finds it must first deal with pursuing Federal ship *USS Kearsarge*, readies for battle
- Jun 15, 1864 DC: 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to Constitution, abolishing slavery, has passed Senate, falls 13 votes short in House; equal pay bill for black soldiers, free on April 19, 1861, passes; efforts go on for all blacks
- Jun 15, 1864 VA: Petersburg<sup>3</sup>: Union forces attack small number Confeds at Petersburg; after weeks of constant fighting forces are exhausted; attack is delayed and fails; casualties in thousands
- Jun 15-18, 1864 VA: Petersburg: Union assaults fail; Gen Lee sends reinforcements to city; Petersburg, railroad hub 25mi from Richmond, will be besieged
- Jun 16, 1864 Phil, PA: At Sanitary Fair, Lincoln responds to question on when the war will end; says the war was begun to restore the national authority over the whole nation; if it takes 3 more years we will go on
- Jun 17, 1864 DC: Washington arsenal explodes killing 21 workers, most women
- Jun 18, 1864 VA: Lynchburg: Union Gen Hunter feels Confeds too strong, withdraws; Confed Gen Early pursues, will push him out of the Shenandoah Valley, and open a way into the north
- May 4 - Jun 18, 1864 OC<sup>4</sup>, VA: 40,000-65000 Union casualties since May 4; men are exhausted; enlistments end, men do not reenlist; North war weary, strongly desires peace
- May 4 - Jun 18, 1864 OC, VA: perhaps 35,000 Confed casualties since May 4 (percent of Confed forces approx equal to Union's)
- Jun 19, 1864 Cherbourg, France: civilians on cliffs watch *USS Kearsarge*, *CSS Alabama* battle in open sea; *Alabama* is critically damaged; Capt Semmes surrenders to save his wounded; *Alabama* sinks

<sup>2</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Cold\\_Harbor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cold_Harbor) Battle of Cold Harbor

<sup>3</sup><http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/petersburg/petersburg-history-articles/petersburgcalkins.html> "Petersburg The Wearing Down of Lee's Army

<sup>4</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overland\\_Campaign#Trevilian\\_Station\\_.28June\\_11.E2.80.9312.29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overland_Campaign#Trevilian_Station_.28June_11.E2.80.9312.29) 'Overland Campaign'

- Jun 22, 1864 VA: Petersburg: Union forces fail to capture Weldon railroad into Petersburg; but extend their siege lines; Lincoln is impressed with Grant's calm confidence at City Point meeting (10 mi ne Petersburg)
- Jun 23, 1864 VA: Shenandoah Valley: Confed Gen Early's men march down the Valley toward the Potomac River and the North; troops are hungry, cry for bread as officers go by, but march on
- Jun 25, 1864 VA: Petersburg: with approval of Gen Burnside, Lt Col Pleasants & men of 48 Pa VI, miners, start digging tunnel to go under Confed lines
- Jun 27, 1864 AC: GA: Kennesaw Mtn: 30 mi from Atlanta Gen Sherman tries to force Gen Johnston to fight, sends men uphill in 100 deg heat against Johnston; is repulsed; South is jubilant, North frustrated
- Jun 27, 1864 DC: Sec'try Treasury, Chase, nominates unqualified friend, M Field, for treasurer of NY despite Lincoln's request for a qualified nomination; Chase fills posts with cronies as he seeks presidency
- Jun 28, 1864 DC: Lincoln signs Congressional legislation repealing the Fugitive Slave Act
- Jun 28, 1864 DC: Lincoln refuses Chase's nomination, requests another name, bruises Chase's substantial ego
- Jun 29, 1864 DC: to validate his position in cabinet Chase offers his resignation to Lincoln; this is his 3<sup>rd</sup> offer; weary of Chase's machinations, Lincoln accepts it the next day
- Jul 1, 1864 DC: Lincoln's replacement for Field, Rep Senator Wm Pitt Fessenden Chairman of Senate Finance Committee, is confirmed
- Jul 1, 1864 DC: Wade-Davis Bill with conditions for seceded states' rejoining Union passes Congress; Lincoln will pocket veto the bill as too retaliatory; rift between Lincoln & Radical Repubs widens
- Jul 4, 1864 DC: Lincoln signs into law repeal of certain provisions of 1863 Enrollment (Draft) Act, including paying of \$300 commutation fee to replace being drafted
- Jul 4, 1864 DC: Congress passes Pension Act of 1864; among other provisions it gives some compensation to those blinded or losing both arms, both legs in service
- Jul 4, 1864 VA: Richmond: names of more than 600 recaptured slaves printed; owners can reclaim them
- Jul 4, 1864 WV: Harpers Ferry: Gen Early's Confeds heading north take heights around town, eat Federals' July 4th dinner; cross Potomac into MD; MD, NY, PA militia called to fight this 3<sup>rd</sup> northern invasion
- Jul 5, 1864 TN: LaGrange: Union Gen Smith starts out to end Confed Gen Forrest's serious threat to Gen Sherman's supply lines even "...if [as Sherman says] it costs 10,000 lives and breaks the Treasury"<sup>5</sup>
- Jul 5, 1864 Canada: US peace advocate Jewett invites powerful acquaintance Horace Greeley to meet Confed peace ambassadors; claims they can complete peace agreement; Greeley doubts this, notifies Lincoln
- Jul 8, 1864 GA: Roswell: Union Gen Sherman burns cotton, textile mills; under neutral French flag they send rope, tent cloth, uniform material to Confed army; 400 female mill workers & others sent to IN
- Jul 9, 1864 AC, Atlanta: Sherman pushes Johnston to within 4 mi of downtown Atlanta; says way is hard, area is one vast fort; exodus from city starts; Pres Davis advised to replace Johnston, he is not aggressive
- Jul 9, 1864 MD, near Frederick: Early continues toward DC; destroys Postmaster General Blair's house, others
- Jul 10, 1864 DC: Pres Lincoln rides through city in open carriage with Sec'try of War Stanton to quell panic as Early approaches; spirits rise, citizens flock to wharves to cheer arrival of 6<sup>th</sup> Corps from Petersburg
- Jul 11-12, 1864 DC: Gen Early attacks Ft Stevens, 5 mi from White house; Lincoln watches fighting from defenses; called a damn fool & warned to get down by future Supreme Court Justice Holmes
- Jul 14, 1864 MS: Tupelo: Union Gen Smith stops Forrest from cutting Sherman's supply line for the time
- Jul 17, 1864 AC, GA: Confed Pres Davis replaces Gen Johnston with Gen Hood: to Davis, Johnston has not stopped Sherman, and probably cannot; Sherman is pleased, wants to fight in the open; Hood will
- Jul 18, 1864 DC: Lincoln calls for 500,000 men; unpopular as Early has reached into DC, Grant seems stalemated in VA, Sherman's progress is slow in GA; Lincoln's election prospects do not look good
- Jul 18, 1864 Canada: Niagara Falls: Greeley starts peace talks with Confed ambassadors; Lincoln will continue if ambassadors guarantee integrity of entire nation, end of slavery; they can't; talks end
- Jul 20, 1864 AC, GA: Peachtree Creek: 19,000 Confeds, from Hood's army, vigorously attack 21,000 Federals of Gen Thomas' Army of the Cumberland; attack fails; casualties 4,800 Confeds, 1,700 Federals
- Jul 22, 1864 AC, GA: Atlanta: 3mi from city Hood attacks Gen McPherson's Army of the TN; fierce fighting leaves Federals victorious; casualties 8,000 Confeds, Federals 3,700 including Gen McPherson

---

<sup>5</sup> The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 196

- Jul 23, 1864 VA: Petersburg: Lieut Col Pleasants and the miners of the 48 PA VI finish their tunnel; it ends under Confed lines; 525ft tunnel with 2 side galleries will be filled with 25 lb kegs of gunpowder
- Jul 24, 1864 VA: near Winchester: Confed Gen Early has eluded federal pursuers from DC, defeats Federals at 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Kernstown; reopens lower Shenandoah Valley; again heads north to the Potomac River
- Jul 28, 1864 AC, GA: Ezra Church: Union forces fail to take, cut Atlanta's last rr supply line; Confederates lose 5,000, Federals 562; casualties since 20<sup>th</sup> have weakened Hood, force him onto the defensive
- Jul 30, 1864 PA: Chambersburg: citizens refuse to pay \$100,000 in gold or \$500,000 in paper to Gen Early's Confederates for destruction in Shenandoah; his forces burn 400 buildings, leave 300 families homeless
- Jul 30, 1864 After Chambersburg: Gen Grant forms Gen Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah: destroy Early: so destroy the Shenandoah (supplies Gen Lee, etc) that birds flying over it will have to bring their food
- Jul 30, 1864 VA: Petersburg: Pleasants' 4 tons of powder explode under Confed defenses; form 170' long crater; Federals go in, trapped, hit by murderous Confed fire; to Grant it's the saddest affair he's seen<sup>6,7</sup>
- Aug 1, 1864 VA, Richmond: Pres Davis' power to suspend habeas corpus expires; will not be reinstated
- Aug 4, 1864 VA, Richmond: *London Times* reports city calm despite warring armies nearby; faith is in 'Saint Lee'
- Aug 5, 1864 AL, Mobile Bay: Union Admiral Farragut leads fleet through minefield (torpedoes), past forts guarding Mobile Bay; takes Mobile Bay, closes last major port on Gulf<sup>8</sup>; city will fall at end of war<sup>9</sup>

## HENRY HOWARD BROWNELL<sup>10</sup>, 1820 – 1872

### Some Notes From Mary Dowden

In 2001 Society member Mary Dowden shared with us some of her research on East Hartford's lawyer, teacher, traveler, poet and Civil War ensign Henry Howard Brownell. In particular she mentioned Brownell's connection with Rear Admiral Farragut and his flagship *Hartford* at Mobile Bay in August 1864.

“If Hartford's Harriet Beecher Stowe was “the little lady who started the war”, East Hartford's Henry Howard Brownell was the man who gave its cause a militant marching rhythm:

Old John Brown lies a-mouldering in the grave.../ Glory, Glory,  
Hallelujah! / His soul is Marching On!

...

“All but forgotten today, Henry Howard Brownell was titled by Oliver Wendell Holmes ‘the Battle Laureate’. And Dr. Holmes knew stirring poetry: his own call to arms: “Aye, tear her tattered ensign down, long has it waved...” saved Old Ironsides and gave rise to the American preservation movement.”

“The Brownells, and Henry's mother's family, the DeWolfes, were prominent Rhode Islanders, indeed, Henry and his four brothers were born in Providence. However the boys came to Connecticut to be educated, first at the famous – and co-ed – Academy in East Hartford, than at Hartford's Trinity College where their uncle, Bishop Brownell, presided. (The Academy building in East Hartford later became Wells Hall, our first town hall, and still exists [as the

Board of Education building]... on Main Street).”

“After a year as a school teacher in Mobile, Alabama, where he was to return in 1864 in a very different role, he returned to East Hartford to practice law. Actually he spent most of the time in study and travel, pursuing his interest in poetry, publishing much of his florid verse in the *Hartford Courant*.”

“Then came the firing on Fort Sumter, and Henry found his “sea legs” so to speak. After penning “General Orders”, a verse transcription of Farragut's orders to his fleet at the war's beginning; he began a correspondence

<sup>6</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_the\\_Crater](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Crater) “Battle of the Crater”; <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/the-crater.html> “The Crater”

<sup>7</sup> *The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War*, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 201

<sup>8</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Mobile\\_Bay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Mobile_Bay), [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Farragut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Farragut)

<sup>9</sup> <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/damn-the-torpedoes-2/?r=0>

<sup>10</sup> Henry Howard Brownell image is from *The Connecticut Quarterly*, Vol III, January-December, 1897, Hartford, CT., pg. 455.



HENRY HOWARD BROWNELL

with David Farragut, who was to be promoted to our country's first admiral. Farragut appointed him an acting ensign on his flagship, *Hartford*, and made Brownell his private secretary. It was from the deck of the *Hartford* that Brownell witnessed the Civil War's most important naval action [the Battle of Mobile Bay] – actually penning some stanzas of his poem about the engagement as the *Hartford* battled the *Tennessee*<sup>11,12</sup> in August of 1864. When he writes “Dreadful gobbet and shred that a minute ago were men”<sup>13</sup>, he truly was expressing his knowledge of the horrors, valor, and glory of war.”

“Unfortunately, what he didn't know were brevity and economy of phrase. Writing ninety-odd verse poems, whether describing the Battle of Mobile Bay or eulogizing Abraham Lincoln, does not ensure literary immortality.”<sup>14</sup>

“He died of cancer – of the cheek – in 1872, a lifelong bachelor, and is buried here beside the monument to his brother Charles Melville, lost in the mad Victorian quest for the source of the Nile and buried in Africa. Another brother, Charles DeWolfe Brownell, was a renowned artist, but spent most of his productive years in New York City, only returning to East Hartford for brief visits. Admiral Farragut's widow and daughter were prominent mourners at his funeral. Incidentally, the Brownell house became a hotel toward the end of the century [19<sup>th</sup>] and is now the Main Hardware store near the intersection of Main Street and Burnside Avenue, Route 44.”

“Finally, it must be confessed, Henry Howard Brownell intended his poem to be sung to the “Hallelujah Chorus” – and it was a parody of this poem, sung to a much simpler tune that Julia Ward Howe heard the 16<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts singing as they marched through Washington D.C. and which inspired her to compose “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”.

“But Henry probably was pleased after all he titled his poem “Words That Can be Sung” and observed “If people will sing about Old John Brown there is no reason why they shouldn't have words with a little meaning and rhythm in them”.

## 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:** 860-528-0716, [redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com](mailto:redbarnrugs2@yahoo.com)  
indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,  
patron \$50

**Deadline Sept Newsletter – Aug 26, 2015**



## May Program

**Date:** Wed, May 20, 2015

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Program:** Carolyn Stearns,  
Storyteller

**Where:** Brewer House

**Fee:** No cost

**Info:** Craig, 860-568-2884

<sup>11</sup> The *Hartford*, USN Rear Admiral Farragut's flagship, *Hartford*, was a wooden hulled screw sloop-of-war. He had with him 12 wooden ships, 2 gunboats, 4 ironclad monitors and 5,500 men. The *Tennessee* was CSN Admiral Buchanan's flagship. It was considered one of the most powerful ironclads afloat and was charged with defending Mobile Bay. In total he had 3 gunboats, 1 ironclad, 1500 men.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.bartleby.com/371/401.html> Read Brownell's "The Bay Fight" at Mobile Bay. Henry Howard Brownell writes in lines 136-148 "Then, in that deadly track, / A little the ships held back, / Closing up in their stations;— / There are minutes that fix the fate / Of battles and of nations, / (Christening the generations) / When valor were all too late, / If a moment's doubt be harbored;— / From the main-top, bold and brief, / Came the word of our grand old chief,— / "Go on!"—'twas all he said, — / Our helm was put to starboard, / And the *Hartford* passed ahead. / ...". The *Hartford* would lead the fleet past the stopped *Brooklyn*, the guns of Forts Morgan and Gaines, through the mine field guarding Mobile Bay and into the bay. Only one ship, the powerful Union monitor *Tecumseh*, was destroyed by a mine. The remainder followed the *Hartford* into the bay to meet, fight, and incapacitate the *Tennessee*. The last major port on the Gulf would now be closed to commerce..

There is a long standing tradition that Farragut replied "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" when faced with the question of whether to send the *Hartford* and his ships through the mine field. Brownell who was with him on the *Hartford* quotes "Go on!" as Farragut's answer. See [http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/damn-the-torpedoes-/?\\_r=0](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/06/damn-the-torpedoes-/?_r=0) "Damn the Torpedoes!" NY Times "Opinionator".

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.bartleby.com/371/401.html> "The Bay Fight", Henry Howard Brownell, lines 230-231

<sup>14</sup>To read some of Brownell's work try <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=moa;idno=ABE8085> Publication Info: *War-lyrics and other poems by Henry Howard Brownell*, Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Library, 2005. Print source: *War-lyrics and other poems.: By Henry Howard Brownell*. Brownell, Henry Howard, 1820-1872, Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1866. Brownell's book is dedicated to his friend Admiral Farragut.