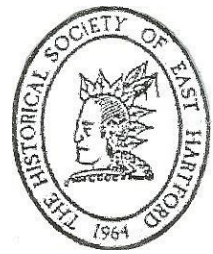


Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, September 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of the Historical Society of East Hartford:

I trust that you all are well, and doing what you can to help control the spread of COVID. The old adage "In unity there is strength" is the motto that serves best in times such as these.

Just some reminders for the membership:

Please make sure that you pay your dues at the beginning of the fiscal year which begins on September 1 of each year. Also please update your address, phone number, and email address to facilitate communication between the HSEH and its membership. A membership form can be found below in this newsletter.

Please join us at our annual meeting scheduled in September. Please check newsletter and the EHHS website for date, time and place.

We are currently looking for members who would like to work on a committee to help restore the old Hockanum School for public use. It will be an expensive endeavor to save it, but such an endeavor is for the public good. We would hate to see it face the wrecking ball. Please contact me if you can lend a hand. Doing things alone is time consuming, and dialogue tends to formulate new ideas and strategies.

We are looking for members to help with tasks at the Brewer House. Your talents and time will be put to good use.

We are planning on a wreath laying and small ceremony at the Ready Doughboy in front of Raymond Library, in November, hopefully on November 11. I am hoping to make this an annual event. Please come and join us, and look for details in our newsletter, the East Hartford Gazette, the Library and Town Web sites.

The survival of an organization depends on active and new members. Please encourage others to join us.

Please feel free to contact me when you have suggestions, comments, or concerns that we can mutually address.

Please stay safe, be well, and continue to prosper.

Steven Strange, President, HSEH
farfagliabutterfly@yahoo.com, 860-528-4989

HSEH ANNUAL MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021, AT THE HILLSTOWN GRANGE

The September 15th, 2021 Historical Society annual meeting will be held at the Hillstown Grange. At previous annual meetings held at the Congregational Church, we always enjoyed a catered buffet dinner that was paid for by

you, our membership. This time, the cost is on us. Because of COVID, we could not deliver any programs or guest speakers during the 2020-2021 year. We value our loyal members and thank you for staying with us. Food will be served starting at 6 pm followed by a short business meeting and election of officers and directors for 2021-2022. Lasagna and potato & egg salad will come from Becker's Catering.

We will not be having a formal guest speaker but Ruthie Brown has offered to present us with an update on some interesting topics from the Connecticut Gravestone Network. We sincerely hope to once again make available our free programs at the Raymond Library maybe starting in November. A full return to normalcy however is dependent on the pandemic. Although we have an indoor mask mandate in East Hartford, we all have concerns about the expanding variants of the coronavirus, whether or not herd immunity will ever be achieved through more vaccinations and the future role of how booster shots factor in. Time will tell.

Craig Johnson, Vice-President, HSEH

NOMINATIONS

The following are the slate of Officers and Directors for the 2021-2022 Historical Society of East Hartford:

President: Steven Strange
Vice President: Craig Johnson
Secretary: Eileen Driscoll
Treasurer: Joyce Yoo

Directors:

4 Year: Ruthie Brown
3 Year: Frank Forest
2 Year: Vicki Hart
1 Year: Jeff Cummings

According to Robert's Rules of Order, there can be nominations from the floor. Therefore, in the absence of an actual floor vote, please mail us your nomination if different from above. All the above Officers, Directors and Standing Committee Chairpersons are much appreciated for their continued loyalty in serving the Society.

Karen Johnson, Collection & Nominations

THE HSEH MUSEUM BUILDINGS AT MARTIN PARK

This year our historical buildings at Martin Park were open to the public on Connecticut Open House Day (June 12th) and most Sunday afternoons during July and August. Because of COVID-19 we had to stay closed all last summer. Vaccinated members of the Historical Society made the 2021 re-opening possible by volunteering their time and welcoming visitors in taking tours. I would especially like to thank the following individuals who helped us on multiple occasions: Ruthie Brown, Karen Johnson, Jeff Cummings, Wayne Skidgel, Judy Hillman and Vicki Hart. We also want to thank members Gary Roy and Marianne Mihalyo for displaying their traveling World War II Museum during our June opening and on the final Sunday opening in August.

The Historical Society is still in touch with Paul O'Sullivan, the Grants Manager of the Town, who helped us on grants for a conditions assessment study on the Makens Bemont House and the Goodwin Schoolhouse. Last year we were unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from Preservation Connecticut. The Schoolhouse is in real bad need of a roof replacement and because water has been found inside, we have placed a tarp over the damaged roof to at least

get us through the off season. The Huguenot House could also use some repair work on the side boards and a new coat of paint. More updates on this will follow.

Craig Johnson, Vice-President, HSEH

HSEH RECEIVES GENEROUS GIFT OF CAPTAIN THOMAS DOWD ITEMS

The East Hartford Historical Society this past month received a very generous gift of goods that relate to Captain Thomas Dowd of the late 1800's who lived in the Willow Brook area. Craig responded to a call received from a family descendant who was visiting her parents homestead in South Windsor, near the East Hartford town line. As her parents had passed some time ago, she had come up from Tennessee to clean out their house. She and her husband were very much aware of the ties they had to the local history, esp. that of East Hartford. Mr. Dowd served as the pay agent for East Hartford soldiers in the Civil War. He also was instrumental in raising money for the Civil War monument in Center Cemetery. Thomas was involved in the establishment of the South Church in Hockanum as well as on the committee for the Hockanum Cemetery and Treasurer of the Town of East Hartford for many years. Ruthie and Craig were rather taken back at the condition and quality of some of the items. They were able to get Wayne Skidgel and his truck and another friend to help bring the 4 trunks of books and goods over to the Brewer House for sorting and inventorying.

As Ruthie goes through things, she is finding more and more valuable tidbits of history she wishes to share with the membership. In October we will be sharing some family information and connections and in November some more political reminders of how things were in the past. So, stay tuned as we learn more and share these treasured belongings with the membership.

Ruthie Brown, Director

MEMBERSHIP DUES: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 – AUGUST 31, 2022

Annual memberships are now due; please mail them to the address below

Once again it is time to renew our memberships. The Historical Society depends on your membership to keep doing our community projects, sharing our rich history, and keeping our historical buildings open.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY,STATE,ZIP _____

EMAIL (default mail) _____ MAIL NEWS? Y__N__

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ \$20.00 / Individual \$25.00/One address
\$10.00 / Student \$50.00/Patron \$250.00/Lifetime

Make a check for membership out to: **The Historical Society of East Hartford, Inc. (HSEH)**
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, E Hartford, CT, 06138-0166

Phone: 860-528-0716

Email: webmaster@hseh.org put 'ehhs' on subject line

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

Membership: 860-528-0716, Sept 1-Aug 31
indiv \$20, 1 address \$25, student \$10,
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

Deadline Nov Newsletter – *Oct 31, 2021*

Sept Dinner/Program

Date - Wed, Sept 15, 2021

Dinner - 6:00 pm

Meal - Becker's Catering

Program – **Ruth Shapleigh Brown**

'Topics from the Connecticut

Gravestone Network'

Where – Hillstown Grange

Address - 617 Hills Street

Fee – No fee

Info - Craig, 860-869-4642
