



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 2 No. 3

Spring 2010

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Calendar of Events

All our programs are open to the public.

Wed., May 5 • 7 pm
“Doubleday Didn’t Do It: a History of Baseball before 1860”

Presentation after the Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper

Sat., May 15 • 12pm
Opening Weekend For the Historic Sites around the Green

Including a Cupcake Contest at the Lebanon Historical Society. Special events and activities at many of the sites—please visit our web site for more information
www.historyoflebanon.org

Sat., May 29 • 10am
Memorial Day Parade
Museum open from 10am to 4pm

Sun., June 6
CT Trails Day
“Revolutionary Tastings”
at all Lebanon museum sites

Sat., June 12 • 11:00am
Memorial Service for Hugh Trumbull Adams
Followed by the unveiling of a memorial plaque
Held at the First Congregational Church of Lebanon

More events listed on page 4



Join us !

Call to Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Lebanon Historical Society Museum

You are cordially invited to the
44th Annual Meeting
and Potluck Supper of the
Lebanon Historical Society, Inc.
Please bring a dish to share
and we will provide the coffee and punch.

At the business meeting, members will hear reports, vote on a change in the Bylaws and elect members of the Board of Trustees. Further information is included in this newsletter

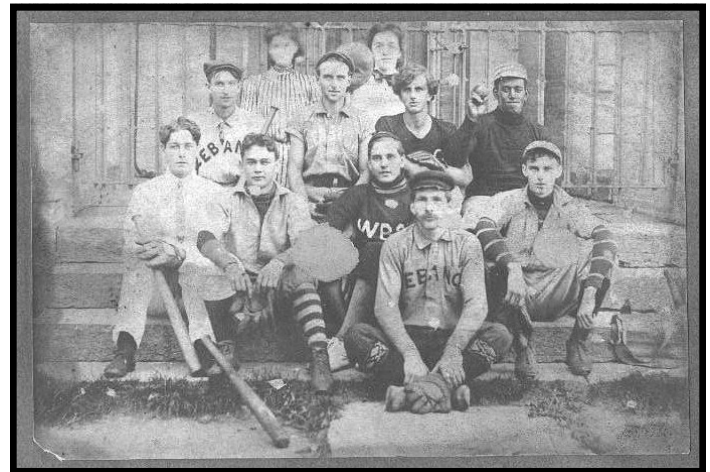


We look forward to seeing you there! - LHS Board of Trustees

Play Ball:

Abner Doubleday and the History of Baseball

Everyone “knows” that Abner Doubleday of Cooperstown, NY “invented” baseball. But did he? Many local folks “know” that Abner Doubleday had a Lebanon connection. But did he? Separating fact from myth, historian Tom Kelleher will investigate the true history of America’s favorite pastime when he presents “Doubleday Didn’t Do It: the History of Baseball before 1860” at the Lebanon Historical Society’s annual meeting on May 5, 2010.



Unidentified baseball team from Lebanon
LHS Collection

The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. with the traditional potluck supper followed by a brief business meeting. Kelleher’s talk will begin about 7:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

Continued on page 6

**The mission
of the
Lebanon Historical
Society**

The mission of the Society is to preserve and to interpret all aspects of the history of Lebanon, Connecticut from its earliest inhabitants to the present day, with a special emphasis on the role of Lebanon in the American Revolution.

Board of Trustees

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Ed Tollmann

Vice President

Glenn Pianka

Treasurer

Rob Slate

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Alicia Wayland

Buildings & Grounds

Jim Mello

Community Events

Keith LaPorte

Collections

Brian Bartizek

Development

Gisele Russo

Education

Sara Cross

Exhibitions

Margaret McCaw

Finance

Connie Berglund

Membership

Jan Grigas

Nominating

Al Vertefeuille

Personnel

Betty Forrest

Publications

Jacy Worth

Member-at-large

Linda Heatherly

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Archie Andrews III

Director

Donna Baron

From the President

Ed Tollmann

Gisele Russo and I have been working on the Annual Appeal. As funds come in I'm sending thank you letters and keeping up with how we're doing. I'm very pleased to see the generosity of our members. It tells me that we're all very dedicated to preserving Lebanon history. The LHS is the keeper of history, the town Visitor Center, we educate Lebanon school groups, and answer requests for historical information and requests for genealogy research. All this is done with no expense to the town. If you haven't responded to our Annual Appeal please consider doing so today. We still have a budget gap to close. Our museum is a very active place – ask your friends and neighbors to stop by and see what they're missing.

This spring is going to be a very busy one. Relocation of the Buckingham Library (Pastor's study) to the museum grounds, a major renovation to correct a leak in the boiler room, a permanent fix to the gravel in the driveway and lighting for the parking lot. These projects will keep many of us very busy.

I hope to see you all at our annual meeting. I'd love to have the largest attendance ever. We have a lot to report. *See you there.*

**Welcome to our
Newest Members**

Bob & Sandie Chalifoux

Bylaws Change Affects Collections Policy

At the annual meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, members will be asked to consider and act on a change in the Bylaws. At present, the Collections Committee makes recommendations, for Board approval, on the accessioning, exchange, purchase and de-accessioning of collection objects. This is a time-consuming procedure, resulting in delays of several months before a final decision is rendered by the Board and a donation or purchase can then be completed by the Collections Committee. The proposed change in the Bylaws would allow the Collections Committee to approve the accessioning, exchange, and purchase of collection objects, provided the vote is unanimous. If the vote is not unanimous, the final decision will be made by the Board of Trustees. The Board will retain final approval of de-accessioning items on recommendation of the Collections Committee.

The proposed changes are highlighted in bold:

Article VII Committees 2. Collections Committee

The Collections Committee shall advise the Board on matters of collection policy and collection care of all the Collections maintained by the Society and periodically review the Collections Policy. **It shall have the authority to approve the accessioning, exchange, and purchase of collection objects, provided the vote is unanimous. If the vote is not unanimous, the final decision will be made by the Board. The Board will retain final approval of de-accessioning items on the recommendation of the Collections Committee.**

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for Board vacancies and officers to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting on Wednesday, May 5 2010

Officers

President-- Ed Tollmann

Vice President—Glenn Pianka

Secretary—Sandie Chalifoux

Treasurer—Rob Slate

Trustees-Chairmen

of Standing Committees

Buildings and Grounds—Jim Mello

Collections—Brian Bartizek

Education—Sara Cross

Exhibitions—Maggie McCaw

Nominating—Al Vertefeuille

Publications—Jacy Worth

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Collections care and growth have been one focus of activity for the last year. Collections manager Sarah Griswold, volunteer intern Angela Cardinal, and long-time volunteer Marty Kendall have worked hard to improve record keeping and artifact storage. So much progress has been made! Temperature and relative humidity are monitored weekly, a cataloging backlog has been completed and storage areas have been cleaned and reorganized. We have begun a process of community outreach as we seek suggestions for ways to encourage future donations to the library, archives, and artifact collections.

Just as we reach this exciting point, the Connecticut Humanities Council grant that has funded Sarah's position is ending and Angie has been offered a small stipend to work at another historical society. Marty is still generously offering her time and staff will step in to pick up the slack, but we really need your help. Would you be interested in serving on the collections committee? This group meets about once a month and reviews all proposed donations to determine which objects will become part of the LHS collections. They also set up policies and procedure that guide how we care for collections and work with the community at large to locate appropriate archival materials and artifacts.

Perhaps being more hands-on is a better match for your interests. Collections volunteers are needed to catalog, clean, and organize a wide variety of materials. We would like to turn the carriage shed into an exhibit of agricultural objects and someone needs to keep our computer database up-to-date. We will happily find a task that meets your interests and to provide training.

More hands definitely make lighter work and with projects like stabilizing the Beaumont House, moving the Buckingham Library, providing hands-on programs for children and adults and just keeping the facility looking its best, we can use many hands. Whether you have a few hours each month or just a day-off to contribute, everyone is welcome. Please call or stop by to let us know how you'd like to help.

Send us your recipes

For our Heritage Cookbook

We are in the process of collecting recipes that have become traditions in local families.

Each recipe will include a family photo and a story about the original cook or family traditions or reminiscence about how the recipe was prepared or served.

Contact us & we'll get an entry form to you.

History Trivia Answer:

1670

Contact Us:

The Lebanon Historical Society
856 Trumbull Hwy
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

860-642-6579

museum@
historyoflebanon.org

www.
historyoflebanon.org

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Library & Research Center

Wed. and Sat. only
12pm to 4pm
or by appointment.

If you are online don't forget to take a peak at our new website www.historyoflebanon.org and let us know what you think!

LEBANON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

Home About Us Contact Us Membership & Support Museum Shop Sitemap

Welcome to the Lebanon Historical Society Website!

Calendar of Events Collections & Exhibits

Genealogy & Research Education Museum Shop



**In 2010 Lebanon
celebrates the 300th
anniversary of
Governor Jonathan
Trumbull's
(1710-1785) birth.**

The museums and historic sites around the Green will host special Trumbull events throughout the spring, summer and fall. **For more information visit the calendar of events at our web site**



**Sat., July 10 • 10am
Second Saturday**

Special Events at the Lebanon Historical Society include: Model-T Club rides around the green, and assorted demonstrations and activities.

**Sat., Sept 25 • 9am -3pm
Annual Antiques Show**

**Sat. & Sun., Oct 1 & 2
Living History Encampment
on the Green**

**Sat., Oct 9
CTDAR Birthday party
Sheldon's Light Horse and
theatrical presentation at the
Gov Trumbull House**

WALKTOBER Events

Sat., Oct 9: Trumbull Cemetery Walk
Sat., Oct 16: Village Hill Walk also *Rails to Trails* 15 mi Bike Ride
Sat., Oct 23: 5 Mile Rock

Annual Update—Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee Jim Mello, Chair

What we've accomplished this year: Replacement of locks with touch keypads installed on main entrance; Professional carpet cleaning completed; Most of clapboard siding on west side of Beaumont house removed due to moisture /insect problems and replaced with weather barrier; Electric line installed to Beaumont House to provide power; Oil burner cleaned and serviced; Water filter replaced; Spotlight bulbs replaced on the annex building; Replacement of slats on the park bench in progress; Sunflower "garden" cleaned; Patio tables, chairs, and umbrellas, as well as wooden cows put into winter storage; Crumbling stonewall in danger of collapse shored up; Partitions in "hands-on room" removed; Nine-year-old phone system serviced to be fully functional; Manually operated door bells installed at main entrance; Contracted repairs made to ceiling around fireplace and picture window that were the result of water damage; Additional resealing of chimney area; Energy audit completed by Advanced Energy Systems. LHS members did the majority of the work completed this year.

Their generous contributions of time, talent, and dedication are greatly appreciated. When possible, tradesmen from Lebanon were contracted to complete more complex projects.

Collections Committee Brian Bartizek, Chair

With the support of a Connecticut Humanities Council grant, the Historical Society hired Sarah Griswold as collections manager for a year. Sarah has worked with staff and the Collections Committee (Brian Bartizek, Glenn Pianka, Marty Kendall and Harry Eck) to improve our policies and procedures. Regular monitoring of temperature and relative humidity has resumed and archives storage has been reorganized. Sarah has also been able to help Marty with creating curatorial records and clearing up some long term cataloging backlogs. Their work has made it possible for us to be selected for a federally funded state-wide archives assessment program and to be approved for borrowing artifacts from the Connecticut Historical Society. The grant funded project has also included public information sessions with tours of our archives and objects storage and conversations with participants about collections growth as well as exhibit and program goals.

Community Events Committee Keith LaPorte, Chair

The Community Events Committee would like to quickly run through the past year. Successful events were sponsored and well received including being awarded Best Themed Float in the Memorial Day parade, Second Saturday, a nearly perfect Antiques Show, Antiques Appraisal Day and the always popular December tree lighting and chorus sing.

The a cappella ensemble known as "Take Note" performed at the First Congregational Church on March 28 at 3:00 p.m. A reception followed the concert. This concert was held to benefit the relocation of the Buckingham Library. Thank you to all who attended.

Thank you for making the Historical Society a vibrant part of our community. Community Events Committee: Keith LaPorte, Chairman, Mary Lou Beckwith, Suzanne Yeo and Linda Long

Development Committee Gisele Russo, Chair

In addition to the Annual Appeal this committee has taken steps to identify other forms of development opportunities for the Lebanon Historical Society. A representative of 'Leave a Legacy Connecticut' was brought in to speak to the board and shared facilitation strategies for assisting members in the living will and other like processes. Additionally, we're exploring other avenues to identify benefactor sources.

Events supporting this cause are currently in the planning stages. This committee seeks additional members at this time.

Education Committee Sara Cross, Chair

This committee is responsible for planning programs for all ages at the Lebanon Historical Society and the past year has been a very busy one. Although the number of visiting school groups was down slightly, museum staff ran a very successful series of childrens programs over the summer. Participants explored ways to unlock history's mysteries through maps, archaeology, and stone.

The Society offered a wide range of adult programs from talks on doing genealogy and hands-on workshops about preserving family heirlooms to hearth cooking demonstrations and fireside chats about farming in Lebanon and the Lutheran Church in Village Hill. Program planning for next year is underway. If you have specific programs to suggest, ideas you'd like us to explore or can help with refreshments please contact the museum staff.

Exhibition Committee Margaret McCaw, Chair

2009-2010 has been a busy year for exhibits at the Historical Society with four exhibits in the multi-purpose room, exhibits installed in the main hall and reception area, and two in the changing exhibit gallery. Community displays in the meeting room have included St. Francis Church, Lebanon veterans, toy trains and the recently installed exhibit about Village Hill and the Lutheran Church. Our inaugural long-term exhibit "Turning the Soil" has been recreated in the hallway as an introduction to Lebanon history.

During the summer 2009, The Last Green Valley needed to close its Sturbridge installation of "For the Common Good," an exhibit about town commons and greens. These colorful and informative panels were offered on loan to LHS and have been installed in the space adjacent to the office. Last May, photographs, documents and artifacts related to the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department were loaned to the Society for "Loyal to their Duty," an exhibit honoring the service and achievements of this important community organization. Betsy Fox, a long-time advisor to LHS, was hired to research and plan our 2010 exhibit "Jonathan Trumbull: A Merchant Struggling for Success."

Finance Committee Connie Berglund, Chair

The Finance Committee works with the Treasurer and Committee Chairs to implement the budget presented at the Society's annual meeting. Currently, members are developing the 2010-2011 budget.

Membership Committee Jan Grigas, Chair

For the last year, the membership committee has been actively recruiting new members and encouraging membership renewals. Our town-wide membership campaign encouraged 53 individuals and families to join the Historical Society. Kirsten Westbrook has joined the committee and devoted many hours to unscrambling old membership records. As a result of her efforts, the Membership Committee was able to host a successful thank-you luncheon for long-time members. Good food and great conversation flowed as about forty of our most dedicated members and a group of hard-working volunteers gathered for homemade beef stew and desserts. The Committee looks forward to hosting similar events in the future.

Publications Committee Jacy Worth, Chair

We are very proud of *Provisions* and have been delighted to receive compliments regarding content and appearance. Our committee meets monthly in the process of planning each issue. We have a dedicated and inspired group including Donna Baron, Alicia Wayland, Gisele Russo and myself. Gracie Sayles is invaluable putting it all together once the articles and information are collected and getting it to print on time. She has a great deal to do with the look of the newsletter as well. Gracie and Alicia

Open invitation to all Lebanon Historical Society members to join a committee and be a part of a team actively preserving and promoting the history of Lebanon

We are looking for members to join the committees listed below but if you have an interest in joining any of our committees, please contact us at 860-642-6579 or email us at museum@historyoflebanon.org

Exhibit Committee

Meets as needed to plan and install exhibits. Individual members may also help with research.

Collections

Committee Meets monthly for about an hour to review items for acceptance into our collection and monitor the preservation of our current collection.

Education Committee

Meets monthly to plan programs and events for the upcoming year and provide hospitality for those attending.

Membership Committee

Meets as needed to oversee and serve our current membership and to promote and encourage new membership.

A Good Read

“Lebanon in the American Revolution”

A master narrative that tells the story of Lebanon and its people throughout eight years of war will help develop new interpretations and exhibits at the War Office.

The narrative will also help the other museum sites around the Green develop their own special focus out of the overall story.

The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Lebanon Historical Society commissioned historian Barnet Schecter to synthesize the many different original and secondary sources into a single narrative about the war.

Schecter is the author of *The Battle of New York: The City at the Heart of the American Revolution* and *The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America* and the co-author of *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*.

The narrative is available to read on a non-circulating CD at the Jonathan Trumbull Library and the LHS Museum.

The project was funded by grants from the Connecticut Humanities Council.

Committee Reports continued

Lamb work together in sorting and bulk mailing the final product. We are continuously in search of interesting stories relating to Lebanon's rich history.

The committee welcomes contributions and ideas from our readers. We've added a new column, featuring volunteers who have contributed over the years to the LHS. It's been a pleasure interviewing these volunteers and we hope that you have enjoyed reading a bit about their lives and involvement in the Society. *Provisions* is growing and we have many ideas for future issues, but we also encourage your suggestions. We welcome sponsors, as contributions help defray the cost of producing a quality newsletter.

The committee supports our library and gift shop and we take responsibility for the reprinting of literature when the need arises. We recently reprinted several copies of the Milne book on Lebanon's history. We currently have a working committee, headed by Claire Krause, working on collecting recipes from local families to compile a heritage cookbook. I thank my committee members and Gracie Sayles and Alicia Lamb for their time and effort in producing our newsletter.

We thank you the readers for your support and hope you continue to enjoy reading *Provisions*.

Nominating Committee Al Vertefeulle, Chair

Vacant positions on the Board were filled with some excellent new members:

Jim Mello Chairs the Buildings and Grounds Committee

Brian Bartizek has moved from Buildings and Grounds to Collections Chair

Gisele Russo now Chairs the Development Committee

Connie Berglund Chairs the Finance Committee

Jacy Worth Chairs the Publications Committee

Linda Heatherly was appointed as a new Trustee-at-Large and is working with the Finance Committee.

The Nominating Committee also developed a new Board Manual which is now in the hands of all Board members.

Play Ball: Abner Doubleday and the History of Baseball

Continued from page 1

A long time costumed interpreter and researcher at Old Sturbridge Village,

Kelleher has focused

his work on every-day life of the early 1800s.

His interest in baseball grew out of children's programs on the

museum common including rounders, an early form of the familiar game.

During his talk the audience will learn about "base ball" during the American Revolution and the baseball playing tradition in England going back to at least the 1740s.

As to Abner Doubleday's Lebanon connection – that's true. His

grandfather, another Abner Doubleday (1757-1812), did grow up in Lebanon on

his father Elisha's farm.

After serving in the American Revolution, Abner moved to New York State in 1785. By 1800

Abner had moved to what

is now Cooperstown, NY where in 1819 his son Congressman Ulysses Freeman Doubleday and his wife Hester Donnelly had a son whom they named Abner.

This Abner did grow up to attend West Point and became a general during the Civil War. As to how the younger Abner was connected to baseball, join us on May 5 and find out.

The ongoing story of the Wyoming Massacre

Martha Kendall

Continuation from insert pg 2

In 1781 Elisha Jr. enlisted from Lebanon, serving in the Continental Army for about a year in various places in New York. His father had already gone back to Connecticut. Consequently they took no part in the most serious of the confrontations with the Pennsylvanians, who, following the exodus of the Westmorelanders after the battle, reasserted their claims to the Valley. The last Pennamite War ensued. Pennsylvania lost no time in requesting a settlement of the rivaling claims to Wyoming. A court decision decreed that the land was to belong to Pennsylvania, whereupon Pennsylvania pronounced its own decree, that the Connecticut families should relinquish their claims and move to the western part of the state. Westmorelanders were arrested, many were again driven out. To defend their claims, Westmorelanders formed their own army, and again reclaimed their lands. The claims and counterclaims were not settled until 1808, when Connecticut landowners were permitted to keep their properties.

Elisha Jr. and his brothers Ichabod and Eleazer returned to their father's Wilkes-Barre property in 1786, their father followed in 1787. Elisha Sr. died there in 1804. Elisha Jr. married Anna Hurlburt, a Westmorelander, and had 10 children. He died there in 1845.

The Aftermath

Martha Kendall

Yet another settlement massacre occurred at Cherry Valley in New York, this one led by Walter Butler, the son of Major John Butler, and another some-time resident of Lebanon, Joseph Brant. Brant was a full blooded Mohawk Indian, intelligent enough for his sister's English husband to send him, with some other young Mohawks, to Eleazer Wheelock's Moors Charity School for Indians in Lebanon. Brant withdrew from the school during the French and Indian War, and later, as a Mohawk member of the Iroquois Confederacy, became the Confederacy's war chief. He also became a Captain in the British army, commanding Indians loyal to Britain, leading raids on settlements in New York, Pennsylvania and westward. Raids into the Wyoming Valley still continued.

Following the devastating British and Indian raids on the Wyoming and Cherry Valleys and numerous other settlements, Washington was determined to put a stop to them.

Three divisions were ordered to invade the Six Nations and destroy their villages and crops. From August through September of 1779 Major

General John Sullivan, with Brigadier General James Clinton, conducted a campaign out from the Wyoming Valley, up the Susquehanna River into the Six Nations territories. A battle with Butler and Brant occurred at Newtown (present day Elmira, New York) with Sullivan and Clinton's joined forces winning decisively.

Following the battle the Americans methodically did as they were ordered--summer crops of vegetables and fields of corn and wheat were first gathered for supplies, the remainders destroyed, villages completely burned all up and down the Susquehanna and into the area around lakes Cayuga and Seneca.

The histories agree that the Confederacy, though defeated, was still powerful enough to continue frontier raids, but were never again the cohesive force they had been for over 100 years. The histories also tell of hundreds, if not thousands, of peaceful Indians who died of starvation that following winter of 1779.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Marty Kendall for skillfully organizing the complex facts of the Wyoming story into a compelling narrative for our readers.

Exhibit News

Next in our Lebanon church series

Gemeinschaft: Church and Community in Village Hill

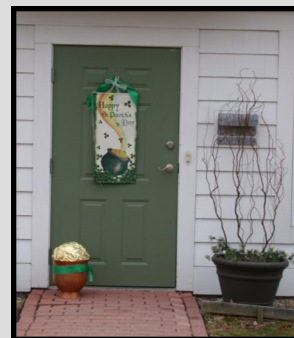
A lively exhibit exploring the closely knit community of Village Hill united by their language, their Lutheran faith and shared agricultural traditions

Jonathan Trumbull: A Merchant Struggling for Success

A celebration of Jonathan Trumbull... with a twist!

We've created a lively & fun new exhibit exposing the trials and tribulations of Jonathan Trumbull as a business man.

Peppered with interactive games, this exhibit encourages you to test your own skills and fortune as an 18th century character!



**Many thanks to
Megan Klein
for livening up the
museum's exterior with
wonderful door decor!**

The Mohegan Road, later route 32 between Norwich and New London, was laid out in what year?

History Trivia Question:

860-642-6579
please contact us
PROVISIONS
Lebanon

If you are interested in
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Museum & Visitor Center
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

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Every day, people from all walks of life make gifts to charity through their wills, making a tremendous difference in the world they leave behind. If you are interested in leaving a legacy of your own, please visit www.leavealegacyct.org or contact the Lebanon Historical Society.

Join Us for the
Lebanon Historical
Society's
44th
Annual Meeting
& Pot Luck Supper

Wednesday,
May 5, 2010,
at 6:00 p.m.

Lebanon Historical
Society Museum

Bring a dish to share
Coffee & punch provided

Play Ball
Abner
Doubleday
and the History of Baseball



Tom Kelleher, Presenter
Wed., May 5 at 7pm
following the annual
meeting and pot luck

Open to the public



Programs, exhibitions & services of the Lebanon Historical Society are made possible in part by a generous grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council.