



Lebanon Provisions

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 1

Fall
2009

Calendar of Events

All our programs are
open to the public.

Sun., Nov. 1 at 2pm "At the Beaumont House Hearth"

Cooking & herbal remedies
with Sara Cross

Sun., Nov. 15 1-4pm Antiques Appraisal Day

1 item \$3 or 4 items \$10
Auctioneer E. S. Eldridge
and area antique dealers
are the volunteer
appraisers

Sun., Nov. 22 at 2 pm "Defining Farming Traditions"

A conversation
moderated by Katie Lamb

Sun., Dec. 6 at 6 pm Community Tree Lighting

Cookies & cider served
Train display opening!

Sun., Dec. 13 at 2pm Members

Holiday Party
Potluck & B.Y.O.B

The Samuel Beaumont House & William Beaumont Birthplace

Alicia Wayland & Donna Baron

Lebanon's sons
and daughters
often left their
eastern
Connecticut
homes to find
their futures
elsewhere.

William
Beaumont is
better known
than many of
these emigrants
because as a
young surgeon he
had the opportunity to study one
man's digestive system and then
publish his findings to worldwide
acclaim. In 1970, a group of doctors
from the Beaumont Medical Club at
the Yale Medical School sought a way
to honor Dr. Beaumont and his
scientific accomplishments. They
decided to undertake preservation of
Beaumont's childhood home.

Deed research combined with local
traditions led the club members to a
house on Village Hill. Its attribution as
the Beaumont house they were
hunting for was confirmed by using a
1770-72 map which shows the Beeman
(a frequent alternative spelling of
Beaumont) house four miles and fifty-
nine rods from the meetinghouse in
the center of town.

The club formed the Beaumont
Homestead Preservation Trust as a
separate nonprofit entity to raise funds
for the purchase and restoration of
the house. The trust purchased the
house in 1973 and made plans to move



The Samuel Beaumont House in Village Hill before it was
moved to the green

it to a more central location on the
green when the Connecticut DAR,
owners of the Governor Jonathan
Trumbull House, offered a site on
their property behind the governor's
house.

Adding to the history of the house is
the story of Samuel Beaumont,
William's father, and his service during
the American Revolution. In 1775,
Samuel, with other militia men from
Lebanon, responded to the Lexington
alarm and joined the newly formed
American army outside Boston. In
1778, he served as a sergeant in
Captain Tilden's company of
McLellen's State Regiment. Following
his military service, Samuel returned
to Lebanon and his life as a farmer. He
may also have earned extra income as
a cooper (his 1814 probate inventory
includes a set of cooper's tools).

The house in which Samuel and
Lucretia Abel Beaumont raised nine
children was typical for a middling
farmer and his family. The one and a

Continued on page 7

**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.

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Donna Baron

From the President

Ed Tollmann

I'm happy to report that our 43rd Annual Antiques Show went very well. We had wonderful weather and many dedicated volunteers. Joyce Okonuk and Brian Bartizek had some anxious moments as 20 or more dealers registered at the last minute. They both did a great job accommodating the 95+ dealers. Visiting with many of the dealers I heard nothing but good comments. Most dealers look forward to the Lebanon show. The overall effort of all our volunteers never ceases to amaze me. Keith LaPorte, our committee chairman, had things very well organized. Everyone from Joyce and Brian arranging the dealers, the set up and breakdown crew, Jim Donnelly and Tim Smith getting donuts and coffee ready for dealers, the kitchen and outside crew, gate keepers and Betty Forrest and Giselle Russo and Donna Baron manning our LHS booth. Everyone does their job and the day ends up being a great success.

Thanks to John and Marty Kendall, our hallway has been transformed into a Lebanon time line using parts of our "Turning the Soil" exhibit. Visitors can now view Lebanon history through the years.

If you haven't been in for a while, please stop by and see what's new. I know you'll be pleased.

On September 15th we did an outreach program for the senior center. Our program was the Lebanon Quiz Show. About 60 seniors stayed after lunch and all seemed to enjoy the show. By having outreach programs we can take the LHS mission to others who may not ordinarily come to the museum. If anyone knows of a group looking for a Lebanon program, let Donna know and we can arrange it.

I want to welcome Jim Mello as our new buildings and grounds chairman and Linda Heatherly as a member-at-large. Brian Bartizek has taken over as Collections Chairman.

I have to say that we have one of the best Boards ever. It is very gratifying to work with such a wonderful group.

Please feel free to all me any time with any concerns or suggestions you may have. My phone number is 423-9444.

The Buckingham Library (Pastor study) is scheduled to be moved to the LHS grounds in the spring of 2010. Recently the sills were found to be rotted and will be replaced this fall. The site will have to be excavated and then the building will be moved.

The south wall at the Beaumont House is in terrible condition. The plywood siding is rotted right through to the plaster wall inside. Hopefully it won't be wet too far up. We are going to strip the clapboards off this fall and cover with Tyvek until spring. Then we'll decide how to proceed.



In Memoriam

*Mr. Hugh Trumbull Adams passed away on Friday, Oct. 16, 2009.
His manifold contributions to preserving and enhancing our town's unique historical heritage and his generous support for the Lebanon Historical Society are legacies for the ages that will be cherished and enjoyed for generations to come.
We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.*

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Summer 2009 is over and most of us recall lots of rain but very little summery weather. Our sunflower garden thrived; the large bright yellow blossom brightened the front of the Museum for weeks in late August and September. Our Second Saturday programs succeeded in attracting new visitors and the children's programs "Unlocking History's Mysteries" brought eager young learners despite alternating rain and oppressive heat.

Cooler weather, blue skies and bright-colored leaves remind us that fall has once again blown into Lebanon. At the Historical Society this means new exhibits, new programs, and new plans. Many of you have expressed a concern that there was not an exhibit describing the history of Lebanon anywhere in the Museum. You were right and this was a problem especially for out-of-town visitors. In late August, volunteers John and Marty Kendall began (re)installing "Turning the Soil: the Land and People of Lebanon" in the main hallway. This award-winning exhibit tells Lebanon's story from the retreat of the glaciers into the mid-twentieth century in a series of colorful interpretive panels that many of you may recall. Please come to see it and plan to bring your friends and family.

When you come you can also visit "For the Common Good," a loan exhibit provided by The Last Green Valley. The exhibit was developed in conjunction with their study of town commons and greens in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor. When its original venue was no longer available, the Lebanon Historical Society became the second host site. Lebanon's Green is, of course, featured.

Our holiday exhibit this year will feature toy trains and we invite members to loan samples from their childhood train sets. Please give the museum a call and let us know what you have. We'd love to find early wooden train sets or a collection of Thomas the Tank Engine trains as well as Lionel, Bachman or Aristo-Craft. This exhibit will open during the Christmas Tree Lighting and remain in place into January 2010.

There is a busy calendar of programs and events this fall and winter. All these dates are included on our new WEB SITE. If you have not visited www.historyoflebanon.org recently, please do so. While there are still a few bugs to work out and lots more information to add, we think that the colorful and easy to use site will keep you informed and attract lots of attention. If you have suggestions for new information to include, please let me know. In fact, please take a few moments to complete the short members' survey included in this issue of *Lebanon Provisions*. The Board and staff want to learn how we can serve your needs and interests better. To do that, we need to know what your needs and interests are. This is an easy way for you to help shape the future of your Historical Society.

Patron

Carol & Bernard Gauvin, Jr.
Anne Dudar
William & Judith Rose

**Welcome to
all our
new members!**

Family

The Turner Family
The Green Family
Mark & Angel Evans
Jonathan M. & Dorene H. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard King

Individual

Jim McCaw
Stella Ann Chabot
Lynne Skead
Linda Geer Heatherly

Senior

Lillian M. Kablik
John & Dawn Drum
Richard Kane
T.A. & Janice Palmer
Peg Jusyk
G. Costa
Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Saar
Andrea Stannard
Jeffry & Lou Stober
Serge Gabriel
Anabeth Murphy



Our Board and staff are a knowledgeable group of people and most us like to talk (maybe too much).

If you are a member of an organization that is looking for a different kind of program, LHS might be able to help.

Contact the Museum at 860-642-6579 or museum@historyoflebanon.org for more information.

History Trivia Answer:

Six and a half hours

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.

Exhibit News

What's Up?

The Veterans display will be coming down mid November and a Toy Trains display will be up just in time for the tree lighting on December 6.

"Turning the Soil:

The Land and People of

Lebanon" has been

reinstalled in the hallway.

Town Greens traveling exhibit is up in our extended gift shop.

Lebanon Volunteer Fire

Department exhibit is up until

mid January when it will be replaced by an exhibit about

Jonathan Trumbull as a merchant.

Build the Newcomb Chest Fund

Goal \$15,000

\$14,000

\$13,000

\$12,000

\$11,000

\$10,000

\$9,000

\$8,000

\$7,000

\$6,000

\$5,000

\$4,000

\$3,000

\$2,000

\$1,000

Through your
generosity we've
raised **\$3,625.00**
so far!

Standing the test of time: the story of the Grange Hall

Alicia Wayland

Note: The summer 2009 issue of Provisions included the transcription of a talk presented by Mrs. O. D. Fuller on the 30th anniversary of the Lebanon Grange in 1914. In response to the interest generated by that article, here is a more complete history of the building.

The building historically known as the Grange Hall was built in 1885 by the Grange Hall Company on a lot purchased from Asher P. and Annie E. Smith. This lot abuts the home lot of the Smiths who lived in the house known as Redwood.

The Grange movement, formally known as the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, began in 1867 as a national association of farmers to advocate issues important to agriculture. The Lebanon Grange, Patrons of Husbandry #21 was organized March 31, 1884, the third Grange established in Connecticut.

The following August, Grange members drew up the Grange Hall Company Articles of Association to establish and locate in Lebanon "a Hall and Store for the social and business purposes of the Lebanon Grange." Although signed August 26, 1884, the document was not filed with the Town Clerk until February 5, 1885, one week before the deed to purchase the lot was signed with the Smiths. The deed states that the lot is "to be used for a site for a building used for 'Grange' purposes, containing a Hall, a Reading Room and a Store."

Members had collected enough money

from the sale of shares in the company to erect this impressive building, which soon became a focal point for many community activities. Upstairs was a large auditorium with a stage where many public entertainments and lectures took place. It was also used as



a basketball court and for school graduations. The building had a library and reading room.

The store was on the ground floor but operating the cooperative store became a burden to members. In 1892 the Grange leased the store to Wilbur L. L. Spencer, who ran a very successful mercantile business in the hall. Eventually Spencer gave up the lease to concentrate on his grain and feed business.

Various renters then operated the store, including William A. Pultz. The Grange Hall Company sold the building to Pultz in 1930. Pultz was appointed postmaster Nov. 1, 1929, serving until 1945. The Leonard's Bridge post office was closed in 1931, the rural routes were changed, and the Lebanon post office was moved to this store.

In 1945 Pultz sold the store to Edward Maloney, who assumed charge as postmaster until Vincent Kelley assumed charge on Oct. 1, 1946.

Continued on page 7

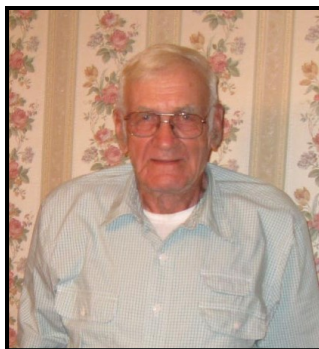
LHS Volunteers—A Continuing Series

Gisele Russo

Our featured volunteer for this issue of *Provisions* is former Lebanon Historical Society president Howard Wayland. Jacy Worth and I enjoyed the opportunity to sit with him and discover the interesting journey which led him to Lebanon and to our Historical Society.

Howard hails from Brookville, PA where as a boy he attended a one-room school house from 2nd through 8th grade (he skipped 1st grade). At the age of 19 he took over the responsibilities of running the family farm. After several years of farming he grew curious about the world beyond the farm's stone walls and joined the Army, serving as an MP. Once discharged from the service, he entered Penn State University and received an Electrical Engineering degree. Howard then took a job with Boeing Aircraft in Seattle. It was there he met his wife and life-long companion, Alicia. He was reassigned to New Orleans where he worked on the propulsion loading system, fuel density and engine cut-off system of the Saturn 5 booster rocket that sent Neil Armstrong to the moon. While in New Orleans, hurricane Betsy struck and the work was slowing down with Boeing so Howard and Alicia with their son Joe, headed north. Electric Boat in Groton was his next place of employment. Howard's first project at EB kept him involved with NASA as he worked on aligning navigational systems for Apollo tracking ships. They had two more children, Karen and Charles, while living first in North Stonington and then Preston. Because of their deep interest in all things historical, the couple bought a house with an antiques shop in Norwichtown, a place rich in New England history. They brought their wares to the Lebanon Antiques Show in 1976. There Alicia learned of the old Clark farm, which was for sale on West Town St. An offer was made and accepted and they've lived on this farm ever since. The house was originally built for Dr. Charles Sweet, circa 1860, and maintaining it has been a labor of love for the Waylands. Their children were instrumental in getting Howard back into farming with 4H animal projects.

Currently, Joe is a partner in a NYC law firm, Karen is the energy policy adviser to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in



Howard Wayland

Washington, D.C., and Charles works with troubled youth in Montana. There are four grandsons (with a fifth on the way) who enjoy their visits to the farm. Howard has 40 Herefords on the farm, and he can be seen haying on the green and carting silage to the cows. He told us that he took a 40-year break from farming and now he's back enjoying it, "it's good therapy."

Howard has an extensive history of volunteerism. Beginning with the Lebanon Historical Society his critical thinking skills and ability to repair just about anything led him to chair the former Historic Buildings Committee (currently Buildings and Grounds) for a number of years. During this time he, along with Jim McCaw, orchestrated and moved the Broom Shop on skids from the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. house to its current location on the museum's grounds. He has been involved in maintenance and programming at the Beaumont House along with John Kendall, Brian Bartizek, and the buildings committee, sealing the roof and repairing siding. Howard is most proud of the fact that he "stayed with it" as he faced projects on the new buildings such as: concrete work for drainage around the museum and an apron in front of the accessory building, creating a dirt pan on the chimney to catch effluent and prevent staining, and installing a 12 volt lighting system. He gives credit to those whom he worked with in accomplishing these tasks. He is currently the museum's security point of contact and with his military background proudly tends to our American flag. Howard served an

Continued on page 7

"Preserving Your Family Heirlooms at Home" Hands-on Workshops

*Especially for
LHS members*

Starting this January, Lebanon Historical Society staff (and colleagues) will be offering a series of new hands-on workshops. Each Saturday morning session will focus on a different kind of family heirloom: papers, photographs & albums, framed art, scrap-booking for posterity, textiles and clothing, furniture, metals, etc.

Each program will start with a description of how to best care for these artifacts in a home setting.

Handouts will provide guidelines and lists of recommended preservation materials. Participants will be encouraged to bring examples from home and will have a chance to begin the preservation process under the guidance of our speakers.

Specific topics, dates, and times will be determined later in the fall. Please watch for further information. Registration will be limited to accommodate the hands-on nature of the workshops.

A Good Read

that you can find
in libraries or
buy in our gift shop

Isaac Fitch of Lebanon, Connecticut Master Joiner, 1734-1791

by William L. Warren

Isaac Fitch could turn his hand at most anything, from making furniture to repairing mill wheels, to building ships.

During the Revolution he even made gun stocks.

But he was also the designer and builder of Redwood in Lebanon in 1778-79 and the New London County Courthouse in 1784, two architectural gems in the state's historic landscape.

In this brief biography, William Warren brings to life this masterful but little-known craftsman and the 18th-century town where he lived and worked.

A hearty and heartfelt **tāput ni**

(Mohegan for "thank you")
to all the volunteers
at this year's
successful

Antique Show.

It really does take a village.

We hope to see
everybody next year.

~The Community
Events Committee

From the Collections

Donna Baron

In the years after the Civil War, farming remained the primary "business" in Lebanon. Growing mill towns and near-by cities provided a steady market for Lebanon-produced butter, cheese, eggs, and fruit. This summer volunteer Marty Kendall discovered an artifact which reveals much about this market-farming era.

The circular piece of cotton has a draw string around the edge and is stenciled "From Asher L. Smith, Lebanon, CT." An attached tag identifies it as a "fruit basket cover." In this small, rather ordinary object stories of the Smith family, the Lebanon Farmers Club, the Grange, and Redwood are brought together.

Asher L(add) Smith bought Redwood in 1840 from Jonathan George Washington Trumbull, youngest son of David Trumbull for whom the house was built in 1778-79. Smith and his son Asher P(ratt) Smith identified themselves as fruit growers and advertised that



Apples, Peaches and Strawberries will be furnished in their season: also **Peaches and Tomatoes** any time during the winter months, *preserved perfectly fresh.*
The Pure Juice of the Grape, 'well refined,' with no Alcohol added, for Medical and Church purposes will be offered according to the laws of the State.

In 1856 Asher L. Smith published an homage to farming and the agricultural way of life titled *How to get rich; or a key to honest wealth. Being a practical guide to business success.* The 1860 census shows Asher P. Smith, farmer, as head of household, his wife Amera, and children Anna B. and Llewellyn P. Asher L. Smith (only 56 years old) still lived in the house with his wife Wealthy, but called himself "gentleman" not "farmer." A servant and farm laborer also lived at Redwood.

On March 8, 1861, *The Willimantic Journal* described a meeting of the Lebanon Farmers' Club held at Asher L. Smith's home where land drainage was the topic of discussion. The meeting ended with refreshments including oysters, cakes of various kinds, and coffee "the richest we ever tasted." The journalist continues "Mr. Smith is noted far and near for raising all the varieties of fruit of the most superior nature...His preserved peaches, which are unsurpassed in flavor and quality, received marked attention."

The Lebanon Farmers' Club was short-lived, operating from 1860 to 1863. In 1884, Lebanon farmers formed a new organization to promote their interests – the Grange. Again, the Smith family assumed a leading role. Asher P. Smith was the first Master. Between 1878 and 1885, Smith sold five building lots along the Trumbull Highway and West Town Street, all land that early photographs show was part of the Redwood orchards. The last lot was purchased in 1885 by the Grange Hall Company.

The fruit-raising Smith family owned Redwood for just a century, leaving behind only a trace of their many farming enterprises. A few newspaper articles and advertisements, a label or two on boxes or jugs, and a fruit basket cover. Given the fragility of the fabric, it is amazing that the cover survived at all, let alone stayed in Lebanon to be recognized more than 150 years later.

Volunteers

Continued from page 5

unprecedented five years as the Lebanon Historical Society's president during which time he developed a warm friendship with Mr. Hugh Trumbull Adams.

Within the Lebanon community he serves on the Conservation Commission and he chairs the Cemetery Commission, overseeing the 17 cemeteries in town. When asked about his hobbies he enjoys wood turning and

has had his work displayed at the Jonathan Trumbull Library Equinox exhibits. He quickly adds, "There doesn't seem to be much time for that lately," no need to wonder why!

We thank Howard Wayland for his knowledge and expertise in maintaining the Lebanon Historical Society's buildings as well as for his years of leadership on the board of directors.

The Grange

Continued from page 4

When Kelley assumed charge, he moved the post office to Main's General Store, which was located on the site of the present town library.

In 1944 the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department purchased its first fire engine. The department rented the basement garage under the store from Bill Pultz for \$15 a month to house the fire engine where it would not freeze. The garage under the store was used until the first fire house was completed in 1947.

Store owners in recent years include Albert Pierz, Edward and Christine Clark, and Jack Peltó who sold the building to Colleen C. Bradley. Long known as the Lebanon Green Store, the name was changed to the Lebanon Green Market in 1997 when Jeff Sirois leased the store and changed the name. The upper story is a rental apartment. For nearly 125 years the sturdy building built by local farmers has been a vibrant part of the Lebanon community.

Samuel Beaumont House

Continued from page 1

half stories (today often called Cape Cod style) included five rooms on the first floor and an enclosed loft for sleeping and storage under the eaves. When the house was moved from Village Hill, it was oriented facing west as it did in its original location. Today, visitors enter from the rear into the kitchen with a buttery to the north and a small bedroom to the south. The buttery with the dairying equipment listed in the probate inventory suggest that Lucretia and her daughters contributed their dairy skills to the family income.

When entering the front door, a small hallway provides access to a parlor on the north and a large first floor bedroom in the southwest corner. At least one of the seven bedsteads in the inventory was in the front bedroom.

When plans to move the house were completed, Leon Lewis of Norwich was hired to undertake the work. By

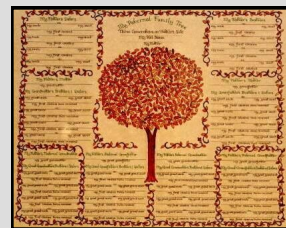
December 1974, the house was disassembled, and reconstruction at its new site began the following spring. During this work, Mr. Lewis found boards with sawyer's marks "S Beaman" confirming the connection with Samuel Beaumont and his family.

A common practice during the 1970s was to reconstruct walls with building paper between two layers of plywood. Another layer of building paper and then clapboards finished the exterior. The interior has lathe and plaster attached to the plywood so it is a solid wall with no room to breath. Unfortunately, this caused extreme condensation of moisture that has led to rotted wood inside the walls.

The Building and Grounds Committee is working to find the best solution to this problem. We will keep you updated on their progress.

New Additions To Our Gift Shop

Arriving Soon!
New Lebanon mugs,
trivets, cards & ornaments!



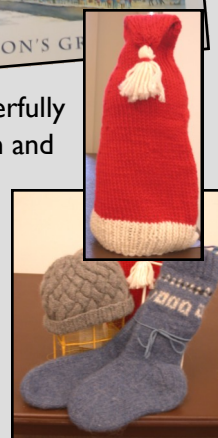
Family Tree Posters,
Sealing Wax &
Stamping Kits and
Connecticut Explored
magazine.

Also now featuring
"Lebanon Made" items
from local crafters
such as lovely framed
Scherenschnitte scenes,

Lebanon
Tree
Lighting
cards
and
some



wonderfully
warm and
wooly
knit
hats,
gloves
and
socks.



Always a great idea:
a gift membership
to the
Lebanon
Historical Society!



In the early 19th century, what was the average time it took the mail stagecoach to travel from Norwich to Hartford? Look inside for the answer.

History Trivia Question:

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1



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Provisions
Lebanon
please contact us
642-6579

*If you are interested in
sponsoring
the next issue of*

Sponsorship reminder

Lebanon Historical Society
Museum & Visitor Center
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

Antiques Appraisal Day Sunday, Nov. 15

1pm—4pm

1 item \$3 or 4 items for \$10

Auctioneer E. S. Eldridge and area antique dealers are the volunteer appraisers

**Bring your
treasures!**

At the
Lebanon Historical Society Museum

On the historic Lebanon Green
856 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon

For information call 860-642-6579



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