“Be Prepared” & “Do a Good Turn Daily”

By Donna Baron

In the late 1800s many separate organizations for boys were created around the world. Drawing on this trend and his personal experience in military scouting, British Lieutenant General Robert Baden-Powell held the first Boy Scouting encampment in 1907.

A year later, Baden-Powell published *Scouting for Boys* (considered the first Boy Scout Handbook). The movement grew rapidly and in 1909, 10,000 boys from around the world attended the first Scout rally at the Crystal Palace in London.

Inspired by Baden-Powell’s work in England, American William Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in February 1910. Later that year thirty-four representatives of existing boys’ organizations met in New York City to set up a national headquarters and develop organizational plans. In 1911 BSA adopted the Scout Oath, Scout Law, badges and fundamental policies. A year later the first Eagle Scout rank was awarded and Boys’ Life became the official BSA magazine.

Boy Scouts of America has a founding legend that is partly myth. According to tradition William Boyce was inspired to found BSA because of an encounter in London with a young man who helped provide directions. When offered a tip, the youngster declined saying he was a Boy Scout and just doing his daily good turn. Boyce felt that this Scout, who never identified himself, represented the true spirit of Scouting.

Scouting in Lebanon began about 1934 when Reverend Howard Champe, who had started a troop in Hebron some years before, founded Troop 58 so his own son could be a Scout. In 1937 the fledgling troop traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the first National Boy Scout Jamboree.

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From the President
Ed Tollmann

Summer has passed and winter is coming soon. The momentum at the museum is still building. Our Boy Scout display is in place and looks great thanks to staff and volunteer Marty Kendall. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts kicked off with a reception and a panel discussion on October 24th.

A wine tasting event (Evening at the Museum) was very successful in September and raised much needed funds. Everyone had a wonderful time. I’m sure next year the event will be even more successful.

Our annual Antiques Show was also a great success. Without our many volunteers and fantastic staff both events would not have been as successful. It always amazes me how the antiques show comes together. All our volunteers know what to do and the day always ends up a great success.

Donna has been soliciting more schools to visit Lebanon and has been very successful. I was at the museum during one of the visits of a class from Lyman Memorial. It was great to see how quickly the group felt at home at the museum. The class wanted to do some volunteer work at the museum and they have returned once and cleaned and organized our Visitor Center. There have been more than 80 pupils visiting at one time.

It was decided at our last Board of Directors meeting to fill the last spot on the board which is a member-at-large spot and have that member oversee the Beaumont House. Dee Kroupa and John Kendall have been very loyal keeping the house open for visitors. The Board felt it’s time they became more involved with getting docents and keeping the house up. The south wall that has been plagued with water damage will be replaced this fall. Many thanks to Dee and John for all their help with the Beaumont House.

We have a fantastic Board of Directors, they are a group the whole historical society can be proud of. My thanks to our Board, our staff and our dedicated volunteers. Without all of you, we would not be reaching our goals for the LHS. I have never had the feeling of satisfaction with other organizations I’ve been part of as I have with LHS. Thank you all.
Director’s Message
Donna Baron

October is both American Archives Month and National Family History Month, a logical combination since most genealogical research (family history) depends on the contents of archives. The Lebanon Historical Society observed these two celebrations with Carol Whitmer’s talk on October 27 about the pros and cons of using the Internet for genealogical research. Helping members and visitors with family research, however, is an almost daily activity for museum staff and volunteers.

Answering genealogical inquiries was one of the first activities of the Lebanon Historical Society. Our files include letters written in the 1960s in response to correspondents trying to trace Lebanon ancestors. As plans for our current building progressed in the mid 1990s, a genealogy library was always part of the design. Family history researchers are still the largest part of our out-of-state visitors. Some folks just call and ask for help because tradition says an ancestor came from Lebanon. Many more find us first on the Internet.

Our web site www.historyoflebanon.org has an entire section on genealogical research with a long list of the resources available. For many years our wonderful volunteer genealogist Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine has been transcribing all kinds of public and church records and creating alphabetical indexes and data bases that greatly simplify searching for information about individuals and families. Her work has been supplemented with Matt Keagle’s data bases of men from Lebanon who served in the American Revolution. In addition, the library holds printed, microfilmed, or digitized copies of many original manuscript records including deeds, probate dockets and censuses. All of these, plus our subscriptions to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register and Heritage Quest, published family histories, and our own family history files are available to our library patrons.

If you come to do research, you will probably work with staff member Grace Sayles or volunteer Marty Kendall. If I am very lucky, they will be busy and I will be able to help. (I love family history research and welcome every chance I can get to become involved.) If you complete our online research request form, you may begin working with Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine who is a top notch genealogist as well as a patient and thorough records transcriber. One of the benefits of your membership is that genealogical services are often free or discounted.

Please take advantage of this member benefit. Although our collection focuses on Lebanon and the neighboring towns, we can often provide suggestions for research online or in other communities. Our collection cannot be checked out, but we have lots of resources that can help students of all levels with school projects. And, if you have Lebanon ancestors, this is the “go-to” to begin your family history exploration.
Patriotism, Food and Monuments
Become a History Mystery

By Alicia Wayland

Patriotism and food production were strongly intertwined in Lebanon during World War II. An article in the Hartford Courant on Sept. 14, 1942, describes in detail a ceremony and large rally planned for the following Sunday, Sept. 20.

The program included the unveiling of an Honor Roll on the Green that listed the men in the armed forces and a parade celebrating the town’s commitment to agriculture.

The rally was part of the national “Food for Freedom” program started by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ag department workers around the country promoted increased food production to aid the war effort by staging special events like the rally in Lebanon.

All the Lebanon men and women who served in World War II are listed on the permanent monument erected at the east end of the driveway into Town Hall. There are four women and 130 men on the list. Seven of the young men were killed in action.

The monument also includes a list of the Lebanon men who fought in World War I. One Lebanon soldier was killed in that war.

How the permanent monument came about remains something of a mystery. At a town meeting on March 7, 1949, residents approved a motion “that the Town appropriate $600.00 towards the creation of the Memorial to the Veterans of World Wars One and

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The young sailor is Wilfred Chalifoux.
Photo courtesy of Helen Krause

Officials in the parade included military, educational, agricultural and state defense officials, joining with Lebanon’s citizens to pledge their agricultural strength to victory.

The rally was part of the national “Food for Freedom” program started by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ag department workers around the country promoted increased food production to aid the war effort by staging special events like the rally in Lebanon.

According to the Courant, Lebanon was the leading milk producer in the state, making daily shipments to major cities like Norwich, New Haven and Providence. It was also second in the state with the number of acres harvested. According to a follow-up article in the Courant, dated Sept. 20, 1942, it rained the day of the rally but “practically every resident of Lebanon who was able took part in the town’s ‘Food for Freedom’ rally.”

The unveiling of the Honor Roll was an ecumenical ceremony with Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant clergy participating. The 70 men in the services who are listed represent only the men called up in the first draft in 1941. Some of the 1941 draftees were deferred because they worked in defense industries. They were called up in the second draft in 1943.

You can always visit our website www.historyoflebanon.org to see a list of our current events and programs.
Farming with Horsepower

By Marie Reynolds

Until the late 1930s and early 1940s many farmers used draft horses to perform their daily chores. The farmer depended on the horses to provide the power for moving equipment and tilling the fields. The horses were hitched to the equipment using leather harnesses and were controlled using a bridle and reins as well as voice commands.

The harnesses in this photo were found at Oak Leaf Dairy in a barn attic during renovation project in the summer of 2010. Stephen and Anna Kurcinik purchased Oak Leaf Dairy in 1922 where they raised their family, Stephen, Joseph, Kalmon, Helen and Emil. This farming family used horse power to clear the land and take in the harvest. The leathers, hames and traces in these photos were used on Tom and Dick, the last team of horses at Oak Leaf Dairy. Tom and Dick were used for plowing the fields in preparation for planting vegetable crops. They were also used for mowing, raking and taking in the hay. When the vegetable crops were harvested, the horses pulled a buckboard to Willimantic to deliver the produce to local markets. The horse drawn buckboard was also used for shopping trips and taking Anna to the American Thread Company where she worked for many years. Oak Leaf Dairy, located on Bogg Lane in Lebanon, is owned and operated by Mark and Jackie Reynolds, who are fourth generation family members.

State Historian Walter Woodward is coming to Lebanon

By the 1760s, Lebanon residents (like folks from towns around the colony) began leaving and moving north and west. For almost a century thousands of families left economic uncertainty at home for the greener pastures they hoped to find in Pennsylvania, Vermont, New York and the Western Reserve of Ohio. Dr. Woodward will explore how these emigrants transferred Connecticut culture and values to new parts of America and how they influenced the development of the new nation.

Walter W. Woodward is Connecticut’s fifth State Historian and an assistant professor of history at the University of Connecticut. A scholar of early American and Atlantic world history, he has recently published a book, Prospero’s America: John Winthrop Jr., Alchemy and the Creation of New England Culture 1606-1676. Before becoming a historian Woodward was an Emmy-winning country music composer and a Clio-winning advertising person.

Tony Brooks, director of the Luzerne County Historical Society (LCHS) which is located in the Wyoming River Valley in northeast Pennsylvania will also be in Lebanon on November 14. Following Dr. Woodward’s talk, Mr. Brooks will briefly describe the collections at LCHS and the community’s roots in eastern Connecticut.

LAST CHANCE,
TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to share a taste of your family’s heritage.


Reconnect with your heritage by writing your recipe and include a family photo or a special memory of your family making or enjoying your favorite dish. The Historical Society will create a book of these Heritage recipes for purchase.

We have received many delicious recipes from "soup to nuts" but would like to include more. All Lebanon residents and former residents are invited to contribute.

To get your recipe form just contact the museum 860-642-6579 or Claire Krause 860-423-0468. Forms are available at the museum and senior center.
Thank You

to all of our
Antiques Show
volunteers and
all of our friends
behind the scenes.

Each year we bring
the show together
in a seamless way,
creating a Lebanon
tradition.

The Lebanon
Historical Society
looks forward to
next year's
45th Annual
Outdoor
Antiques Show.
The sum of the parts
equals the whole.

Again thanks
&Tallyho!
Keith LaPorte,
Community Events
Chair

The Antiques Show
is always held the last
Saturday in September
so mark your calendar
and tell your friends!

LHS Featured Volunteers - Marge & Bill Jahoda

By Jacy Worth

Our featured volunteers are
Marge and Bill Jahoda, who
recently welcomed me in to their
lovely home in the woods for an
interview. I spent the afternoon
listening to wonderful stories of
their history together and of the
productive lives they have led.
Their home reflects the depth of
their accomplishments. It is filled
with artifacts from their travels
and Bill's research; there is even a
picture of a paramecium, named
for Bill, by a former student,
hanging on the wall. Photos of
nature and of their cherished
family are all around. Trophies
from Marge's days of playing
tennis as well as awards for their many
accomplishments are proudly displayed.
These are well-deserved accolades for a
couple who have devoted a great deal
of time to their community as well
as to conservation and land preservation.

Bill was born in New York City in 1917,
but his family moved to Fairfield in 1920.
This is where his appreciation of the
outdoors developed as he spent much
of his time at local estuaries and enjoying
the woods in the area. He served in the
Civilian Conservation Corps after high
school and then earned a degree in
forestry at the University of New
Hampshire. He met Marge, who was
the sister of a classmate, while they were
both studying at UNH. Bill entered the
Air Force during the Second World War.
He received his wings at Parks Air College
in St. Louis, then went to Tucson, Arizona,
to be trained as a B-17 bomber pilot. He
persuaded Marge to fly out to Tucson and
they were married in the University of
Arizona chapel in 1942. The couple had
their first son, John, in Texas during Bill's
work as an aviation instructor, prior to his
being sent abroad. After his deployment
Marge went back to New Hampshire with
their son and Bill was sent overseas to
India and Burma where he flew supplies
and fuel over the "Hump" from India to
Kunming, China. He used a 4 engine
transport aircraft. He served for several
years, ending up as a Lt. Colonel and
receiving two Air Medals and the
Distinguished Flying Cross. Bill earned a
BS and MS in forestry from UNH. After
the war, he was released from active duty
and obtained his PhD in biology from
Ohio State University. The Jahoas'
daughter Judy was born while they lived
in Ohio. Bill became a biological science

Continued on next page
professor at New Paltz State Teacher’s College in NY and their third child, Janet, was born. When the Korean War began he was recalled to active duty with the Air Force. Bill was assigned to UConn’s ROTC as Professor of Air Science and Tactics. This is what brought the Jahodas to Lebanon. They consider themselves so fortunate to have found such a wonderful place to live. Lebanon was a small rural community back then, very much like the town in New Hampshire where Marge grew up. Everyone knew their neighbors and always helped out when necessary. The move took place in 1951. Their house was just a cottage then. Bill added rooms and received much advice from Bill Buckley regarding plumbing. They raised their 4 children in this home, their youngest son, Jim, was born at this time. Like their parents, the children developed a great appreciation for nature on the property. Bill planted many trees on what was open land when they purchased the property.

Marge (Johnson) was born in 1921. She hails from Pittsburg NH and grew up on the family farm in a rural community. She has an extensive New England family tree with German, Irish and English roots. Marge’s parents met in Pittsburg NH, where her mother worked for 35 yrs in a general store owned by Frank Baldwin. She was the town clerk and notary public as well. Marge’s father ran the family farm. Marge took commercial courses in high school and had initial plans to become a career woman. After graduation Marge was offered a job in a bank but her Mother encouraged her to go on to college. She spent three years at the University of New Hampshire, then life took over with marriage and four children and the Jahoda motto, “family first.” Marge was able to continue her schooling when, in 1958, Bill’s mother came to live with them, and helped with the children.

Marge obtained her teaching degree from Willimantic State Teacher’s College and taught at the Lebanon Elementary School prior to her retirement.

After UConn, Bill became a biology professor at Eastern CT State University until he retired at fifty-five. He wanted to devote more time to his many interests, including photography. An enthusiastic photographer, Bill did work in both still photos and in cinematography. His still photos were marketed by Photo Researchers. As a cinematographer, he produced Nature’s Ways, Coral World of Bermuda and Bermuda, Land and Sea, and lectured internationally, on the Audubon Wildlife Films lecture circuit.

Marge in colonial dress

The Crucial Resource
By Nancy Newhall
From This Is The American Earth

Of all resources, the most crucial is man’s spirit. Not dulled, nor lulled, supine, secure, replete, does man create but out of stern challenge, in sharp excitement, with a burning joy.

Man is the hunter still, though his quarry be a hope, a mystery, a dream, from what immortal hungers, what sudden sight of the unknown, surges that desire?

What flint of fact, what kindling light of art or far horizon, ignites that spark?
What cry, what music, what strange beauty, strikes that resonance?
On these hangs the future of the world.

We are all learning lost, all music stilled, man, if these resources still remained to him could again hear singing in himself And rebuild anew the habitations of his thought.

Tenderly now, let all men turn to the earth!

Continued on next page
Featured Volunteer continued

Continued from previous page

Once retired, and with the children on their own, Marge and Bill found more time to get involved in community activities. Their good friend Dolle Fischer enticed them to join the Lebanon Historical Society. Together they were responsible for the Lebanon Historical Society's Yearbook publications from 1984 until 1993. Marge became the Chair of the Publications Committee. Bill contributed much of the artwork for the publications. In 1986 the committee published a book written by George McLean Milne, titled *Lebanon: three centuries in a Connecticut hilltop town*. The book included a collaboration of sources within the community contributing to the research of the final product. This book still stands as an accurate account of the town's development.

In discussing the rediscovery of a local landmark, Bill asked that I note that Teddy and George Randall had an idea of the location of Five Mile Rock. With Rev. Milne and the Jahodas, they went searching for it. By accident they came upon the location when Bill spilled some powdered chalk which brought out the rock's inscriptions. This discovery is featured in the book. Five Mile Rock is one of the most ancient landmarks in Lebanon, dating back to 1705. A book signing took place after publication and was hosted at the Governor's mansion by Mrs. O'Neill. Mrs. O'Neill, Rev. Milne, Dolle Fischer, Edith Prague and Marge and Bill were present. This was a great highlight for the committee. They also published small booklets such as “Touring with Henry” and “Recollections.” The Jahodas wanted to point out the lovely illustrations by Billy Dougal in “Recollections”. These books are still available in the gift shop at the museum. The Jahodas were awarded the Lebanon Historical Society's Second Annual "Volunteer of the Year Award" in 1994. While involved in the Society they enjoyed volunteering at the antiques show, putting on educational programs and fundraising with bake sales. Marge was a docent for a period of time. They truly “had fun” during this period of their lives. They are generously handing over years of published material to the Lebanon Historical Society.
Johoda continued
Continued from previous page
Historical Society to archive.
Along with their many years of involvement and contributions to the Historical Society, the Jahodas have served their community as volunteers and our town is a better place for their efforts. Bill (along with Russell Tollmann) was a Boy Scout leader and Marge a den mother for many years. They are remembered fondly by those boys who were lucky enough to have been Scouts at that time. Marge served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and also was responsible for typing state regulations regarding recycling, an important subject to these conservation-minded people. Bill and Marge were Deacons at the First Congregational Church and were also very involved with the completion of the Rails to Trails project. Marge told me that their love of hiking prompted them
they received the American Forest Foundation, National Conservation Forestry award. This award was for enrollment of their 400 acres in New Hampshire called the Johnson Memorial Forest, in the Forest Legacy Program. This is a land conservation program which is so important to the Jahodas.
This is just a small slice of a very rich and rewarding life this unique couple continues to lead. They feel fortunate to be able to remain in their own home with their family’s assistance. John, Judy, Janet and Jim have given them seven grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren who bring them great pride and joy. The Jahodas feel so fortunate to have had a very fulfilling life and many dear friends in Lebanon.
I thank them for the opportunity of spending time with them. The Lebanon Historical Society is so appreciative to Marge and Bill for their many years of service to the organization as well as the community.

Don’t miss out on our continuing and very popular series of Preservation Workshops

Saturday, January 15
10:00am - 12:00pm
Textiles: Clothing & Household Items
Lebanon Historical Society director Donna Baron will demonstrate common problems created when storing heirloom textiles (from wedding dresses to crocheted doilies) and explain simple at-home solutions and remedies. Registrants are invited to bring one heirloom to discuss with the group.
Registration Required

Saturday, February 12
10:00am - 12:00pm
Metals: Silver, Pewter Copper, Brass & Iron
Many families have inherited metal artifacts and then struggle with issues about cleaning, polishing, and storing. Donna Baron will lead a workshop investigating the causes of corrosion, products to clean and protect and effective storage techniques. Participants may bring one item for specific care advice.
Registration Required

Galapagos Islands and Bermuda. The family enjoyed skiing both cross country and downhill with their children amongst many other outdoor activities. Marge reminisces of the many wild animals they rescued and nurtured back to health and the interesting 'items’ she’d discover from the woods in her children's rooms. Marge also loves her flower gardens and for years provided the Historical Society with table arrangements for our annual meeting. She was quite an athlete and played tennis until just a few years ago. Bill proudly produced a photo of her with her high school basketball team! Last year they were taken by their family to Washington, D.C. where they received the American Forest Foundation, National Conservation Forestry award. This award was for enrollment of their 400 acres in New Hampshire called the Johnson Memorial Forest, in the Forest Legacy Program. This is a land conservation program which is so important to the Jahodas.
“Be Prepared” & “Do a Good Turn Daily”

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Scout Jamboree.
John Champe recalls an early service project burning tent caterpillar nests and the challenge of mastering fire-starting skills. During its 76-year history, Troop 58 has been sponsored by the First Congregational Church and has expanded to include Cub Scout Pack 58.

In 1985, a second troop formed in Lebanon to provide boys with a choice when selecting their path through Scouting. Troop 180 is sponsored by American Legion Post 180 and started with equipment from Troop 158 (a short-lived Lebanon troop) and the Willimantic Fire Department Troop 1440. Troop activities have focused on camping, outdoor skills and confidence building. The troop takes great pride in having many of its former members now in active military service or now serving as fire department members.

Lebanon’s first Boy Scouts recall attending Camp Quinebaug in Preston during the 1930s and 1940s. Early photographs and movies show boys swimming and boating in the lake. In 1964, Troop 58 headed north to Ashford, Connecticut to spend a week at a new and as yet unnamed Scout camp. Known then as “Ashford 1”, this facility has been the regular summer camp for Troop 58 ever since. The facility was named June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation in 1966. Troop 180 has been to Camp Webster and now uses Camp Yagoo in Rhode Island.

Each year boys and leaders from Lebanon pack their gear and head to summer camp. Everyone bunks in canvas tents on wooden platforms and many meals are served in the mess hall. Swimming, boating, marksmanship and Scout skills are part of every day. Scouts work on merit badges, skill awards and generally have a great time. Evening campfires with skits and music and morning and evening flag ceremonies are still part of the daily tradition.

Lebanon Scouts have also participated in regional camporees and national jamborees. At least twice, in 1986 and Continued on next page
Patriotism, Food and Monuments Become a History Mystery

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Two.” This was a time when Selectmen and other agencies did not have to keep minutes of their meetings so there is no town record to show how the idea came about and who carried it out. However, in the Town Reports for the year ending August 20, 1949, there is a record of checks paid during that fiscal year. In the month of April, it is recorded “paid Order No. 5803 American Legion, appropriation $600.00.” This is the only $600.00 check made out in that fiscal year so it appears that the Legion was responsible for the erection of the monument.

American Legion Post 180 was organized in September of 1948. Unfortunately, their early records have been lost so there is no way to record and salute the members who may have instigated and carried out the erection of that beautiful monument to Lebanon’s veterans.

Thanks to Gary Littlefield, who sent us the Courant article from Sept. 20, 1942, that started us off on this hunt. If anyone has any information about the monument, we would appreciate hearing from you.

“Be Prepared” & “Do a Good Turn Daily”

Continued from previous page

2006, Boy Scouts from Lebanon have traveled to the BSA high adventure facility in northern New Mexico. Founded in 1938, Philmont Scout Ranch has welcomed more than 930,000 campers who hike, camp and master skills in its 214 square miles in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Lebanon boys and leaders participated in the trek, a program that lasts 10 days and covers from 50 to 103 miles of trail. Each group or “crew” plans its own route, backpacks its gear and food, and visits established camp sites. During the trek boys receive training in adventure skills like rock climbing, spelunking, and horse-back riding. Crews also learn about the traditions of Native Americans and skills such as black powder musketry, advanced archery and advanced woodcraft.

In the late 1940s and 1950s Lebanon residents presented an elaborate historical pageant on the Green to dramatize the many significant contributions the town had made during the American Revolution. The Boy Scouts participated for at least eight years (1948-1956) by holding a “Pilgrimage and Camporee.” In 1951, more than 1,050 Scouts attended. They camped on the Green and participated in the parade and demonstrations which included ox teams, fife and drum bands and military units. The Boy Scout event was sponsored by the Lebanon Foundation, Inc. and included Governor John Lodge presenting awards for essays and troop attendance.

For more than fifty years Lebanon boys have grown up as Boy Scouts, challenging themselves to learn and master new skills. Today, computers and technology are as much a part of the program as woodcrafts and camping. Even with all the many other activities and distractions Troops 58 and 180 and Pack 58 continue to be an important part of life in Lebanon.
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.leavelegacyct.org or contact the Lebanon Historical Society.

**Include charities in your estate planning**
And make a difference in the lives that follow.

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**History Trivia Question:**

What was the name of Windsor’s original stockade settlement, built in the 1630s?

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**Sunday November 14th at 2:00 pm**

**Greener Pastures**

**Connecticut’s Western Settlements**

Talk given by State Historian

**Walter Woodward**