



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 6 No. 1

Fall
2013

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

Sunday, October 27
2pm-4pm

Build a Bird Feeder

Family craft program
Assemble and decorate a feeder
for native song birds that
winter in Connecticut.

For children grades
1 through 5 with an adult.
Advance registration required
\$5 per child, adults free.

Children must be
accompanied by an adult.

Refreshments served.

Register by calling 860-642-6579
or email:
museum@historyoflebanon.org

Sunday, November 17
2pm to 4pm

Norwich Arms

Norwich Civil War muskets &
the politics that brought Union
contracts to Norwich.

*A program by Ed Tollmann
sponsored by the Guns of Norwich*

Refreshments served

Members free, non-members \$2

Sunday, December 1
Back by popular demand

Family Holiday Spray Making

Two sessions

1:30pm or 2:30pm

Pre-registration recommended.

\$5 materials fee for everyone

Member families free,
non-members \$3 per spray.

More Events on Page 5 ➤

"Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home" Lebanon and the Civil War

By Donna Baron

The Lebanon Historical Society's newest exhibit "*Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home*" *Lebanon and the Civil War* opened on Friday September 13th to the sounds of banjo and guitar, and the singing of familiar patriotic and campfire songs. Culminating a year-and-a-half of research and several months of gallery preparation and installation, this exhibit explores Lebanon of the 1860s and the ways residents responded in defense of the Union.

Folk musician Tom Callinan reminded guests at the opening that during the 1860s no one referred to the "Civil War." In Lebanon, folks spoke of the "war to save the Union" or the "War against Southern secession." Lebanon residents largely supported the Union cause, President Lincoln and Governor Buckingham. The exhibit introduces these connections before detailing aspects of town government, agriculture and industry at the beginning of the War. Historic documents demonstrate the ways daily life was impacted by having almost 200 young men serving in the military and leaving behind families and jobs.

Marianne Freschlin's mural of the steamboat wharf and Norwich harbor



Mural of the steamboat wharf and Norwich harbor.



Tom Callinan

Continued on page 9

**The mission
of the
Lebanon Historical
Society**

*To encourage a sense
of community, the
Lebanon Historical
Society connects
residents and visitors
with the people, places,
objects and stories
of the Town's past.*

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Museum Director

Donna Baron

From the President

Glenn Pianka

In my extremely busy life, I often wonder how it all gets done. That is also what I was thinking when I addressed the Annual Meeting in May knowing all that needed to be done and that I would also be relying on others to help whittle down the long list.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I can say the following:

- 1) The Mc Bride house is demolished and the site is cleaned thanks to a most generous donation of services by Keith Wentworth of Wentworth Septic Services and his equipment operators, Dick Strenkowski and Larry Mather
 - 2) There is rye grass planted there
 - 3) There is a stone well cover (recently donated) that is now on site
 - 4) The grass was mowed weekly at the Mc Bride site all summer long
 - 5) I watched all of the functions of getting the Civil War exhibit prepared----that went on for numerous WEEKS prior to opening on September 13th
 - 6) The Beaumont House was emptied of its contents in preparation of the move
 - 7) The Beaumont House chimney was taken down to the roof also in preparation of the move
 - 8) Several meetings were needed on site with utilities and our site engineer
 - 9) The "Donation Walkway" has had numerous new stones installed
 - 10) The State Troubadour sang his heart out at one of our programs
 - 11) The annual Antiques Show went smoothly on a "Top Ten" day-----I KNOW that it took more than ten days to make that all come together
 - 12) Evening At The Museum was a most successful and memorable event----I KNOW that it took more than ten days to make that all come together
- I KNOW also that I've forgotten to mention some things. I KNOW that YOU KNOW that I KNOW what you have done and are doing for our wonderful society. You are one of the others (a whittler if I may) that I have relied on to come so far in such a short time. I humbly thank each and every one of you from the simple membership level, to the donation level, to the persons of hands-on action level.
- While compiling this collection of thoughts I couldn't help but to think of John Kendall's passing. It is indelible in my mind how tenacious he and his wife Marty were in repairing and restoring the windows of the Pastor's Library last year. This one thing stands out to me, but I KNOW that over the years, their volunteerism to the Lebanon Historical Society has been a model of service. In the memorial service held for him, he was eulogized by many friends and family and the main message that I heard over and over was exactly what I have just expressed. God bless our volunteers -----especially you John Kendall-----an LHS "Whittler In The First Degree."



Left: Keith Wentworth, Right: Dick Strenkowski

Director's Message

Donna Baron

StEPS (the Standards and Excellence Program) was created by the American Association for State and Local History as a way for heritage organizations around the country to improve and standardize their operations. Since January 2012, the Lebanon Historical Society has participated in StEPS-CT sponsored by Connecticut Humanities and the Connecticut League of History Organizations. Over the last twenty months the Board and staff have worked on Mission, Vision and Governance; Audience; Management; Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Collections Stewardship. We are just starting our last unit – Interpretation.

For each unit, I have attended full and half day workshops, brought back information and recommendations to the Board, asked the Board to review and approve numerous policies and standards, and included the Board or Board Committees in conversations with our project mentors. During this time we have worked closely with sister organizations to share ideas and improve our operations. Our colleagues have included the American Clock and Watch Museum and the Wintonbury (Bloomfield), Farmington and Canton Historical Societies. We've also worked with nearby organizations including the Windham Textile Museum, Blue Slope Country Museum, and Leffingwell House Museum.

Our last unit started in late September. "Interpretation" as defined in the StEPS workbook is "(1) A communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meaning inherent in the resource. (2) The use of cultural, artistic, and scientific resources such as collections to illuminate the past." As Dick Pierce, president of the Wintonbury Historical Society commented, that's a real mouthful, but the focus is on connections between audiences and resources (the Historical Society).

For the next several months, we will be looking carefully at the stories we tell and the ways we tell them. As we complete the Pastor's Library furnishings plan and look to a plan to furnish the Beaumont House on its new site, the timing for this unit is fortunate. The Board and the Collections, Exhibits and Historic Structures Committees will all be involved. Your questions and suggestions are welcome. Please contact any of the Board members or me with your ideas.



A glimpse at our 4th annual
An Evening at the Museum
fundraising event.

WELCOME

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

~ Senior ~

Mary Hornish of Madison
Myrtle Houle of Lebanon
Joan Janus of Lebanon
Shelley Rodriguez of Griswold
Arthur & Linda Wallace
of Lebanon

~ Student ~

Daniel Dudar of Lebanon

History Trivia Answer:
Six.

Giles Bensen

1864 in the 31st CT Colored
Infantry Company D.

George H. Blake

1864 in the 31st CT Colored
Infantry Company C.

Edmond/

Edmund B. Hewitt

1864 in the 29th CT Colored
Infantry, Company E.

Austin W. Seymour

1863 in the 29th CT Colored
Infantry Regiment.

John Taylor

1864 in the 29th CT
Colored Infantry Regiment
Company A.

Joseph White

1864 in the 30th CT
Colored Infantry Regiment
Company A, and 31st CT
Colored Infantry Regiment
Company B

Contact Us:

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Historical Society
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P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

860-642-6579

[museum@
historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)
[www.
historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

**Library & Research
Center** by appointment.

Jonathan Trumbull Junior House Repairs

The Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House, located at 780 Trumbull Highway, has been closed for renovations and repairs throughout the 2013 season. The house is owned by the Town of Lebanon. A Historic Structure Report and Conditions Assessment was received from Paul B. Bailey Architect, LLC in February 2012. The report showed that critical issues of preservation, safety and accessibility needed to be addressed as soon as possible.

The Town applied to the Hugh Leander Adams, Mary Trumbull Adams, and Hugh Trumbull Adams Town Memorial Fund for a grant to fund Phase I of the repairs. This included removing and replacing all the foundation sills, removal and replacement of remaining portion of the original first floor framing in historically correct detail, complete renovation of the crawl space in the ell where the Welcome Room is located and a new public entry and ADA compliant ramp. The Town Memorial Fund is administered by Deutsche Bank. We are grateful to the trustees for the grant that funded Phase I of the renovations. The Town is now applying for a grant to conduct Phase 2 of the renovations next year. These are less extensive repairs and it is hoped the house can be open for the 2014 season.

Bonesetter Sweet

By Alicia Wayland

Although Charles “Bonesetter” Sweet (1810-1896) of Lebanon was not a graduate of a recognized medical school, the title of “doctor” was bestowed on him by public recognition of certain laymen with a particular skill as apothecaries, midwives or bonesetters. By the mid-19th century, the increasingly professionalized medical field with rigorous training and technical standards had effectively driven most apothecaries and midwives from medical practice.

Not so with the bonesetters, however. It was not until the discovery of X-rays in 1895 and the development of the specialty of orthopedics that bonesetters began to disappear. But until then, bonesetters filled a void with their skill in setting broken and dislocated bones.

And this was a skill, not just a “gift.” Bonesetters had hands-on training from a young age, usually with a family member. Charles Sweet learned his skill from his father, Benoni Sweet, who moved to Lebanon from Kingston, Rhode Island, in 1793. Sweets came early to Salem, Massachusetts, and followed Roger Williams to Rhode Island where Williams founded a new colony of “dissidents” in 1637. Each generation had at least one Sweet practicing bonesetting. With the arrival of Benoni and his wife Sarah Champion in Lebanon, the Sweet clan divided into two separate lines, one in Rhode Island and one in Connecticut.

Benoni and Sarah had ten children, of whom at least four learned the practice of bonesetting. Benoni Junior practiced in Guilford, Stephen

practiced in Franklin, and a sister, Sally, practiced for a time in Willimantic. Charles appears to have been the most well-known. In addition to his practice in Lebanon, he established offices in Hartford, Norwich, and Springfield, Massachusetts, which he visited periodically.

In 1850, Charles Sweet purchased three separate parcels from the heirs of Gurdon Robinson. One was the store on the green where the library now stands. This is where Sweet opened an office where he could treat patients with steam heat. The front of the building he rented to George Spencer to use as a store. The second parcel he purchased was a lot on the corner of what are now Routes 87 (Trumbull Highway) and 207 (Exeter Road) where there was a two-story dwelling house and some outbuildings. In October 1853, Dr. Sweet rented this house to George Spencer, who was to improve the dwelling house “as a boarding house for the patients or persons under the care of said Sweet and said Sweet agrees to furnish as many Boarders as he can.”

The third parcel Sweet purchased in 1850 was an eight-acre parcel separated from the house on the corner by the



Alden Tavern. The only building listed on the deed was a “barn.” Sometime after this purchase, Dr. Sweet built the blue

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Featured Volunteer Ellen Lathrop

By Betty Forrest

Ellen Lathrop's volunteer activities began in 1951, soon after she came to live in Lebanon. At that time there was no Lebanon Historical Society.

Nevertheless, Lebanon history has been a factor in Ellen's life to a great extent. She and her late husband, Clayton, lived in a house dated 1725. She was asked to participate in

the Lebanon Pageant early in the 1950s. This event was about Lebanon during the Revolutionary days and it was held in connection with the Boy Scout Jamborees on the Green. Her job, assisted by two children, was to hold up signs depicting what was happening during the pageant. In addition, she was involved in the

Lebanon Guild of Arts and Crafts. One of the activities of this organization was to stage plays which were performed at the Lebanon Elementary School. Besides helping to choose the plays that were to be performed, Ellen did set designs and costumes.

Prior to the establishment of the Lebanon Historical Society, Ellen had been approached by Carolyn Wentworth to join a group to protect the present state of the Green and to include people who were interested in "everything Lebanon." The first talks were casual and informal. Conversation centered on what it would look like to preserve things around the Green. Ellen was a charter member of the Lebanon Historical Society, organized in 1965 and she served on the Board for many years. Meetings were first held in the Town Hall, and then they were moved to the

Community Center. That venue continued until the present Historical Society building was constructed.

One of her activities was membership chairperson.

The LHS Antique Show held in September was first called a Tag Sale on the Green. Ellen helped to "man" an information booth about the Historical

Society. Because this booth was placed in a low spot, she remembers standing in very wet grass doling out information. These activities served as fund-raisers. These monies were used to build the present LHS. Ellen served on this building committee.

Ellen was on the building committee with Ed Tollmann who was chairperson for fundraising. He asked for ideas on ways to raise

money. She thought that the front of the building looked unfinished and that it needed a good strong entrance, and that a brick walkway would fit the bill. So she, along with Ed Tollmann and Jim Donnelly, worked on this project which involved selling personally engraved bricks for \$100 each. A considerable amount of money was raised for the bricks, sidewalk maintenance, and for purchasing items for LHS collections. This is an effort that makes her very proud.

Ellen remembers working at the Beaumont House as a docent with Arlene McCaw. When it was needed, she worked at the Trumbull House as a docent as well. She also was a greeter at many programs and events at the museum, an activity that she thoroughly enjoyed. When Ellen was on the original



Continued on page 9

Calendar of Events

**Saturday, December 7
6pm to 8pm**

Tree Lighting Open House

Our galleries will be open, carolers will be singing, kids will be crafting and we will be serving gingersnaps cookies and mulling cider over the fire.

Stop in to warm up and visit for a while.

**Sunday, December 8
2pm**

Mystic Seaport on the road **History of Christmas in New England**

From the letters & diaries of sea captains families
Refreshments served
Members free, non-members
Adults \$2,
children under 10 free

**Sunday, January 12
2pm to 4pm**
Notable & Notorious

A program about historically interesting people from the Quinebaug & Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor
Presented by TLGV
Members free,
non-members \$2

**Sunday, February 9
6pm to 8pm**

Make a Valentine

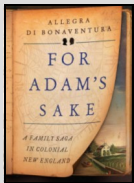
Kids of all ages are invited to create and decorate paper valentines
\$2 materials fee for all
Members free,
non-members \$2

**For information on our programs,
call 860-642-6579**

**Or visit our website at
www.historyoflebanon.org**

A Good Read

By Donna Baron



For Adam's Sake, A Family Saga in Colonial New England

By Allegra DiBonaventura

Set in New London during the late 17th and early 18th century, this readable history is as the subtitle states a "family saga."

Though Adam Jackson, an enslaved African American is a primary character, he is also the link that forges the Hempstead, Rogers, Livingston, Winthrop and Jackson families into an interconnected chain.

Joshua Hempstead, whose diary provided an important primary source for this book, was a prosperous craftsman and town leader. John Rogers was a dissident landowner and farmer.

The Livingstons and Winthrops were apparently wealthy merchants and traders, while the Jacksons were mixed race slaves and freed men. Together their stories provide an intriguing insight into early English settlement in New London.

Well researched and amply footnoted, *For Adam's Sake* is filled with details enough for any social historian. The great plot of intrigue and misadventure will engage anyone who enjoys a good tale set in an exotic place – in this case New London over 300 years ago.



General Donations:

Rick Kane
Anne Leiber
Ronald Lake
Sally Stark Seal
Rajean's Gifts & Antiques
Bob Capps
Pat & Sean McCarthy
Gen. Humphrey's Branch SAR
Phillip & Pam Handfield
Mary Lilly
Joyce Burdick
Lydia & Peter Myers
Charles & Teresa Grant
CT Sons of the American Revolution
Beverly York
Anonymous

Evening at the Museum-2013

Jane Crannick
Russell & Jonica Blakeslee
Marlene Wilkinson
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Lester E. & Phyllis M. Foster Foundation

Publications

Ed Tollmann

Beyond our annual appeal there are many ways in which members and non-members alike show their support by directing their donations to particular funds.

We would like to acknowledge their contributions over the past year.

John Kendall Memorial Fund

SAR Governor Huntington Branch
John & Mary Meli
Lucille & Ed Thoma
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Jeanne Kangas
Ann Carmel
Beulah Baumen
Mary Hornish
Villchur Foundation
Marion Driscoll

What are we raising on the Lebanon Green

By Glenn Pianka

A few weeks ago we saw the centuries old practice of raising, cutting and baling the hay along the Lebanon Green. Folks were also perplexed to see the razing of a centuries old house next door to the Lebanon Historical Society Museum. The large sky blue house with its "gingerbread" trim was known by many different names: the Smith house, the McBride place, the House By The Side Of The Road, and most famously, The Dr. "Bonesetter" Sweet house.

The circa 1850 house and property was purchased by the Lebanon Historical Society Board of Trustees and through generous funding from the Adams Family Town Trust. Prior to purchase, the house was closely scrutinized for restoration possibilities but was found to have been remodeled, and adaptively reconfigured so many times, that only a few minor original details were left. The entire sill structure of the house was in need of serious repairs, and the inherent high water table of the Lebanon Green location only complicated the situation.

Beginning in 1964, the Beaumont Medical Club at Yale University had the vision to purchase, dismantle and reconstruct the birthplace dwelling house of Dr. William Beaumont from its original location on Village Hill Road to a location to the rear of the Governor Trumbull house, yet another house that had been moved from its original site at the corner of Rt. 207 some years prior. That property belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) who were gracious enough to share the visions of conservation and preservation. It took quite a few years but the medical club was finally able to fulfill their goal of relocating and restoring the house between 1973 and 1976. In 1980, the Beaumont Medical Club turned over ownership of the house to the Lebanon Historical Society.

Fast forward to 1995 and 1996----- the Lebanon Historical Society sets forth to build a museum. One of the original footprints submitted included moving the Dr. Beaumont house across the green onto LHS property to become the "anchor" building for the complex that you now see. Cost considerations at the time would not allow that to occur so the main building at the museum instead emulates the outline of the Beaumont House, and the house remained on DAR property.

The acquisition of the McBride property, as it is most commonly known by Lebanonites, opened yet another historical door and opportunity for the visionary Board of Trustees.

As a historical society it was agonizing to grapple with the notion of demolishing a historic house to make way for a historic house, but careful analysis produced the proposal to raze the McBride house to be able to relocate the Dr. Beaumont house to the site-----ironically replacing a doctors house with a doctors house, simultaneously solving the decades old problem of the Dr. Beaumont house not being on LHS property.

While the McBride/Dr. Sweet house was being razed some eyebrows were also raised. Keeping with local tradition and contemporary issues, the Lebanon Pranksters emerged once again and erected signs on the site leading some to believe that a McDonalds restaurant would soon be coming. Local officials and the social media were abuzz with inquiries and commentary. Pertinent items were saved from the McBride/Sweet house for the historical society collection. The physical move of the Dr. Beaumont house is scheduled for November promising to be quite a sight....stay tuned, and as radio broadcaster Paul Harvey used to say, "Now you know the rest of the story— Good Day".

What's in a Name

by Alicia Wayland

Writing in *Recollections of Lebanon's Past*, a booklet published by the Lebanon Historical Society in 1993, Delton Briggs recalls that Smith Road was named for a black family by the name of Smith who lived on the dirt road in the early 20th century.

Smith Road, the town's only designated Scenic Road, is still unpaved, as it has been for generations.

Old deeds sometimes refer to the road as Mill Road, since it led downhill from Exeter Road (Route 207) to the mills at the corner of Goshen Hill Road and what is now Smith Road.



In the 19th century, Lebanon saw an influx of settlers from Rhode Island. The great-grandfather of Delton Briggs was one of these settlers, arriving from Rhode Island in 1830, at the age of 17.

He worked on several farms before purchasing land for his own farm on the street that would become known as Briggs Road.

The Civil War Scene from Hawaii

By Alicia Wayland

How did Americans living abroad find out about the outbreak of the Civil War? How did news of the homefront and the battlefields reach these transplanted citizens?

The first transatlantic telegraph cable to Europe was laid in 1858. It received a jubilant reception all over Europe when Queen Victoria sent the first successful message over the cable to President James Buchanan. Unfortunately, the cable broke within a few weeks and was not successfully relaid until 1866, after the war. News had to come by long voyages by ship.

The transpacific telegraph cable to Hawaii did not begin service until 1902. However, the transcontinental telegraph line was completed to San Francisco in 1861. The West Coast could receive news as fast as

telegraphers could send it. Newspapers on board ships could reach the islands in the Pacific Ocean faster than those rounding Cape Horn from the East Coast.

Most of the missionaries stationed in the Sandwich Islands, as Hawaii was called at that time, were from the East Coast and relied on long letters and news

packets from friends and family members at home to keep them up to date on family and political news.

Among these was Dr. Charles Hinckley Wetmore, born in Lebanon in 1820 on what is now West Green Farm (the Preli family farm) on West Town Street. Charles studied medicine at the Berkshire Medical Institute in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, where he met

and married Lucy Sheldon Taylor. After graduation he practiced medicine for a short time in Pittsfield, then answered the call for a physician missionary from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Charles and Lucy Wetmore left Boston for the Sandwich Islands on October 16, 1848, on a voyage of 146 days. They were stationed at Hilo where Charles worked as a physician and missionary. He was released from the A.B.C.F.M. in 1855, when he took charge of the United States Hospital for Seamen in Hilo. The couple later opened a very successful drugstore in Hilo.

Many of the letters exchanged between the Hawaiian Wetmores and their stateside family members have been preserved. Extracts from several of these letters give a picture of how some of the overseas Americans felt about the war news. After receiving letters and papers, Lucy Wetmore wrote this to her sister Fanny on April 26, 1861:

"...we sat up until one o'clock reading...We read President Lincoln's message through the night. Isn't it excellent? So full of thought and firm purpose to do what he considers right."

Charles's strong feelings about the Civil War come through in this letter he wrote to his sister Kate on September 26, 1861:

"Our island Steamer came into port last evening with an American mail. We had previously heard of the defeat of the regulars at Bull's Run. We were expecting to hear that more battles had been fought but all that we hear by this last mail is that a Southern privateer has been captured and sunk...I do hope that this war will teach them [Southerners] to respect the North hereafter...But there is another more important thing I wish to

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Charles Hinckley Wetmore and Lucy Sheldon Taylor Wetmore
Daguerreotype 1848



The village of Hilo, 1854



Wetmore house in Hilo



Former Wetmore house
in Lebanon, currently the
Preli Farm

Lebanon and the Civil War

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highlights one end of the exhibit. Lebanon men left for the front on the "City of Norwich" and sister ships. Farm products and the handiwork of Lebanon's soldiers' aid groups also headed down river from Norwich to Army camps in Maryland, Virginia and further south and west.

Lebanon's Civil War soldiers tell their own stories through letters, diaries and objects. Wagoner William Wetmore, infantrymen Charles Francis Geer and William Huntington, and Lieutenant Frederick Schalk are featured but the lives of many soldiers are described.

The Historical Society would like to thank the Community Advisory Committee for their help in conceiving of this exhibit; Alicia

Wayland, Rick Kane and Harold Geer for sharing their research; and all the many hard-working volunteers who prepped walls, painted, moved heavy objects and otherwise made the exhibit possible. Special thanks to the donors and lenders whose generosity provided many of the objects and documents on view: Boyd Geer, Harold Geer, Gary Geer, Brian Bartizek, Harry Eck, Glenn Pianka, Dan Moore and The Connecticut Historical Society.

Exhibit News

"Doctors of Lebanon"

Medical equipment is always fascinating.

The "Doctors of Lebanon" display will be completed later this fall, but we invite you to view these intriguing artifacts at any time at the museum.



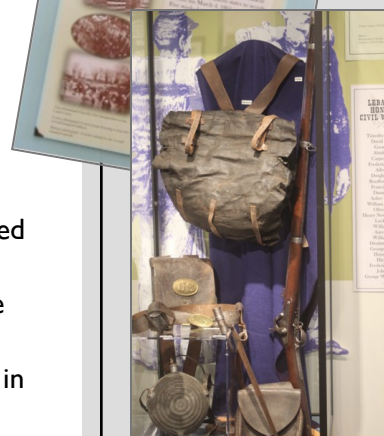
Ellen Lathrop

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Trumbull Jr. House restoration committee, she was able to use some of her past G. Fox and Company connections from when she worked there in the public relations department and as a personal shopper to contact a person who specialized in window treatments and drapes.

Ellen notes that she has always enjoyed her life, enjoyed what she did, and that she has "never worked a day in her life!"

The Lebanon Historical Society and Lebanon, in general, have been very fortunate in receiving the time, talents and dedication of Ellen Lathrop. She has been the embodiment of a volunteer...performing services willingly and without pay.



Sweet Collection

In 1997, Dr. Elliott B. Sweet donated to the Lebanon Historical Society a collection of his ancestor's medical implements and the tools used to make these.

Dr. Sweet was an orthopedic surgeon and great-grandson of Lebanon's "bonesetter" Charles Sweet.

Proud of his family's tradition of medically treating broken and diseased bones, Dr. Sweet wanted the wooden splints and draw shaves to return to the town where they were used.

The collection includes splints used for different parts of the body: wrists and lower arms and lower legs mostly.

Each wooden splint was individually shaped with drawknives for specific patients.

The splints were then padded with felt. The collection includes unpadded and padded splints as well as drawknives.

There are also handbills promoting Dr. Sweet's patent medicines and medicine bottles. Items from the Sweet collection are currently on exhibit in the Museum meeting room.



Highlight from the Collection

By Dan Moore, Collections Committee Chair

Thanks to the generosity of Jack Haley of Briggs Road, the Historical Society collections now include the well stone from the District 3 (Briggs Road) school house on Babcock Hill. Through the nineteenth century Lebanon reorganized school districts as population varied. Each district had its own one-room school house. In 1919, the Board of Education partially consolidated schools from fourteen to nine. District schools routinely had privies, but did not always have their own wells. Former students can recall collecting buckets of water at nearby farms. Although the Briggs Road school house

eventually burned, some foundation stones and the well stone were pushed to the edge of the property.

Mr. Haley now owns this land and contacted the Historical Society about donating the well stone because he wants to preserve the stone in



Lebanon. His timing could not have been better. There are two wells on the 844 Trumbull Highway property where the Historical Society plans to move the Beaumont House. While the original well stone for one well survives, the stone for the other well does not. Thanks to Mr. Haley, the Briggs Road school house well stone can be used for its original purpose in a new location.

Bonesetter Sweet

Continued from page 4

house that was recently purchased by the Lebanon Historical Society. The badly deteriorated house was taken down and this parcel will become the site of the Beaumont Homestead, owned by the Society and currently located behind the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House.

Of the Sweet legacy to the history of health care, it should be noted that two of Dr. Charles Sweet's sons became bonesetters. Charles Junior practiced with his father in Lebanon. His brother

John H.T. Sweet opened his office in Hartford where he practiced for 80 years. Two of their sons would become M.D.s after successfully completing medical school. Charles Junior's son Wallace graduated from Yale University School of Medicine. John H.T. Sweet Junior graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine. The two cousins practiced orthopedic surgery together in Hartford until Wallace died young from appendicitis in 1930. John H.T. Sweet Junior was the father of Elliott Sweet, M.D., the tenth and last generation of the Sweets to treat bone injuries. Dr. Elliott Sweet's only child did not choose medicine as a career.

The Civil War Scene from Hawaii

Continued from page 8

see effected, viz: the abolition of Slavery, either by immediate or gradual emancipation."

On Christmas day, 1861, Lucy Wetmore writes to her sister Fanny, recounting the war news received in the latest mail delivery and then says "I believe we feel quite as deep an interest in the war as you do and it is the case with all Americans [in Hawaii]. Only two are rabid secessionists; one is a Mr. Chamberlain from Alabama and the other, Major Miller, our U.S.A. Consul. They have very little intercourse with the rest of us now."

In another letter to Fanny dated January 19, 1863, Lucy tells how the war has a direct effect on the Wetmores. The inventory of clothing and goods sent to Charles and Lucy by Fanny is anxiously awaited. Lucy has made two pairs of pants for Charles but it is very difficult sewing for her. She worries that "...the pirate [ship] Alabama, which has made such havoc among our shipping, may get our box and the doctor's medicine but we hope not. It would be a great

disappointment to us." She then describes the war effort being made by Americans in Hawaii: ladies putting up a box of lint and bandages for the wounded, with a large bundle of old cloth, and continues with the news that "A Union association has been formed here to which my husband has given one hundred dollars and twenty -five pounds of Guava jelly."

The saddest letter is the one Lucy wrote of the reaction to the news of Lincoln's assassination: "...The news reached us just at night. Mr. Gulick of Kau sent my husband a California paper containing the news." The neighbors came to hear it read, then it was saved to pass on the next day. "What a dark and mysterious Providence is this which clothes a nation in mourning. I believe a man has never died who is so sincerely, deeply and extensively mourned as Lincoln. His name stands high on the scroll of worthies, I fear we shall not look upon his like again."

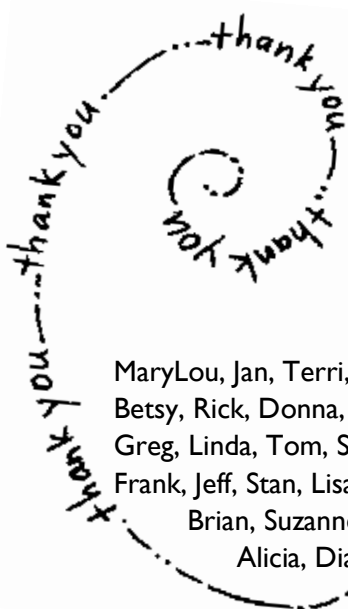
Geer family organ restoration

Last June as the exhibit about music in Lebanon closed, Rich Calusine of Church Instrument Contractors of Ellington picked up the parlor organ (featured in the Fall 2011 issue of *Provisions*). In late August, the organ was returned after being carefully restored to playable condition. A series of detailed reports and photographs document the careful handcraftsmanship and ingenuity that Rich brought to this project. The organ is now on exhibit in the large meeting room and planning is underway for a concert and, perhaps, a



Top: Reinstalling cleaned and de-scratched keys

Right: signature & date under two keys



Volunteerism is what makes a community thrive. The Lebanon Historical Society is moving into a pronounced period of activity and accomplishment. The annual Antiques Show continues to serve as a hub of Lebanon activity for the last Saturday in September. The usual suspects and some interwoven new ones, realize the success of this tradition. The faces and names grow into a familiar camaraderie.

Thank you all. *Let's play it again Sam!* Tallyho! - Keith LaPorte

MaryLou, Jan, Terri, Rebecca, Emily, Craig, Nathan, Cody, Mark, Christian, Alan, Dennis, Connie, Alan, John, Betsy, Rick, Donna, Gracie, Alicia, Joe, Ryan, John, Emery, Brian, Dale, Cheryl, Al, Jim, Tim, Donna, Walter, Greg, Linda, Tom, Svea, Todd, Cheryl, Cathy, Brendan, Hillary, Cathy, Jim, Dave, Stella, John, Nina, Mary, Frank, Jeff, Stan, Lisa, Nancy, Kathy, Bethany, Tim, Ed, Jesse, Tim, Mark, Phil, Pam, Kal, Jody, Howard, Brian, Suzanne, Joyce, Tim, Bob, Bill, Pat, Rob, Glenn, Cora, Jonica, Rose, Ann, Priscilla, Linda, Deb, Alicia, Diane, Maureen, Marge, Edna, Sylvia, Judy, Helen, Kim, Sue, Judy, and Lori.

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History Trivia Question: *How many "men of color" listed Lebanon as their home town when they enlisted in the Union army?*
Turn to page 3 for the answer

**Sunday, November 17
2pm to 4pm
Norwich Arms**

Norwich Civil War muskets &
the politics that brought Union
contracts to Norwich.

*A program by Ed Tollmann
sponsored by the Guns of Norwich
Refreshments served
Members free, non-members \$2*

**Saturday, December 7
6pm to 8pm
Tree Lighting Open House**

Our galleries will be open,
carolers will be singing,
kids will be crafting
and we will be serving molasses cookies
and mulling cider over the fire.
Stop in to warm up and visit for a while.

Sunday, December 1
Back by popular demand
Family Holiday Spray Making
Two sessions 1:30pm or 2:30pm
Pre-registration recommended.
\$5 materials fee for everyone
Member families free,
non-members \$3 per spray.

**Sunday, December 8
2pm
History of Christmas in
New England**

Mystic Seaport on the road
From the letters & diaries of sea
captains' families
Refreshments served
Members free,
non-members Adults \$2,
children under 10 free