



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 7 No. 1

Fall/Winter
2014-2015

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

Sunday, November 2
2pm
New England's
Other Witch Hunt

Presented by State Historian,
Walt Woodward who will speak
about the history of witch trials
& convictions in Connecticut.

Free program
Refreshments served



Saturday, November 8
12pm to 4pm
Quilt-A-Block Workshop

Traditional piecing pattern
for beginner & experienced
quilters. \$20 per person, per kit.

Kit includes pattern,
fabric & instruction.
Ages 14 and older.
Space is limited.

Pre-registration required

Register by contacting the
Historical Society
Additional materials/supplies are
available at an additional cost.
Program held at Stitch Chicks,
43 Manning Road, Franklin
Sunday, November 30



1:30pm or 2:30pm
Holiday Door Spray-making
Workshop

Fun for the whole family.
Choose one of two sessions.
Materials fee is \$5 per spray.

Non-members pay
an additional \$3.

Pre-registration
required

More Events on Page 4

Lebanon's James Clark

By Donna Baron

On June 17, 1825,
James Clark of
Lebanon attended
the ceremonial
corner stone laying
for the Bunker Hill
Monument. He had
been on that same
hill exactly fifty years
earlier as part of the
American army trying
to hold the heights
against a British
attack. Family
tradition asserts that
the Marquis de
Lafayette, who
attended the
ceremony, personally
greeted the elderly
former militia man.

A year later, Clark
died in Lebanon, the
oldest man then living
in town.

James Clark was born on September 15,
1730, the youngest son of Moses and
Elizabeth (Huntington) Clark. Moses
was living in Lebanon by 1705 and
married Elizabeth Huntington in
February 1709/10. Moses' "new"
house, now probably the oldest in
Lebanon, still stands on Madley Road,
surrounded by the land that Moses and
James Clark farmed. James was only
nineteen when his father died and was
buried in the Trumbull Cemetery.



Clark House, Lebanon's oldest known surviving house

***"To my son James I Give and bequeath my
new dwelling house a barn and all the Lott
whereon I now Live and also my goat
paster or Lott of Twenty Three acres in
back of Capt Trumble and Benj^m Brewster's
Land in hog plain..."***

In his Will, written a few weeks before
his death, Moses wrote:

"To my son James I Give and bequeath
my new dwelling house a barn and all
the Lott whereon I now Live and also
my goat paster or Lott of Twenty
Three acres in back of Capt Trumble
and Benj^m Brewster's Land in hog
plain..."

On January 20, 1757, when he was
twenty-seven, James Clark married

Continued on page 10

**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.*

Board of Trustees

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Museum Director

Donna Baron

From the President

Glenn Pianka

In my opinion, good stewardship not only entails dealing with the day to day operations of an organization, such as our historical society, but to develop individual members into board members who can and will one day take the reins or utilize their life skills to enhance our mission as a board or a committee member. You will have to read further in this issue to see who we have most recently featured as a valued member (hint: Jacy). We have a Nominating Committee who may one day approach you to ask you to serve as a board member. If that is too time consuming, then we would be happy for you to ask any one of us how to assist any one of the many committees which keep this organization moving forward.

As part of my stewardship as President, it has been of paramount importance to me to insure the long term viability of this organization. Being the ultra-conservative that I am, finances are at the top of my list. Starting last spring, our Finance Committee has been charged with researching our relative position, first by going to New York to personally meet with the administrators of the Adams Family Trust, and second, to re-examine the various investment vehicles currently being employed. Hugh Trumbull Adams personally managed those portfolios until the time of his death. Our examination found that closer oversight and improvement were needed so we recently re-developed a relationship with our investment house which should yield improved results. The Finance Committee deserves a round of applause for their work and I would like to personally recognize Vice President Rick Kane for his diligence in preparing valuable documents for us to better communicate our needs.

Civil War exhibit earns praise

The Spring 2014 edition of *Connecticut History Review*, the journal of ASCH (the Association for the Study of Connecticut History) includes a four page review of *Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home: Lebanon during the Civil War*. Reviewer Danielle M. Johnson from the New England Carousel Museum in Bristol, CT, walks her readers through the exhibit highlighting details she found especially interesting.

"The primary theme of the exhibition is to demonstrate that Lebanon's citizens did whatever was needed in order to aid the Union cause," Ms Johnson states as she looks carefully at the sections on agriculture and manufacturing before moving on to the work of Lebanon's ladies. *"The Lebanon home front support is brilliantly expressed through hands-on materials, photographs, reproductions, and historic objects."*

Ms. Johnson goes on to comment about the wharf and mural before focusing on the

wall describing Lebanon's soldiers and their experiences. In reviewing the biographical displays about William

Wetmore and William Huntington she comments, *"by connecting these men's stories with their personal effects, a visitor can connect to the personal side of the war."* The review concludes: *"As the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War continues, people want to know about the individuals that sacrificed everything. We want to know about what it was like from those who fought but also how it affected those at home. The Lebanon Historical Society does a fabulous job capturing many aspects of the Civil War. We always hear about the national implications but the local issues are just as important."*



Director's Message

Donna Baron

At the Lebanon Historical Society Museum we are always trying to find new ways to better serve our visitors and patrons. One way we do this is by expanding our genealogical resources.

To make these improvements we benefit from the hard work and creativity of Lindy Brunkhorst Olewine, our volunteer genealogist. Lindy answers most of the information requests that come in by mail or email. In the process of hunting through all kinds of primary sources, she has the imagination to see ways that searchable, alphabetical indexes could make

the tasks easier. Lindy also has the patience and skill to create those indexes as Excel spreadsheets.

Over many years, Lindy has researched hundreds of Lebanon individuals and families. Each of her profiles has been saved as a digital Word document. These are not static files. As she finds new information, Lindy updates her original papers so we have the best and most accurate versions of her research



Lindy Brunkhorst Olewine

at our fingertips. Museum patrons are always impressed with the quality and quantity of Lindy's work.

As much as we depend on Lindy's efforts, we do have other resources for expanding genealogical services. Thanks to the Slate Genealogy Fund, we are able to purchase new publications and subscriptions. Often our patrons send us copies of their research after their project is completed. These are added to the family reference files with notations about the donors.

Recently, we made a larger and somewhat different addition to the genealogy center. Thanks to a grant from the Hugh Leander Adams, Mary Trumbull Adams and Hugh Trumbull Adams Lebanon Town Memorial Fund, we have replaced our twenty-year-old ark of a microfilm reader-printer, with a new state-of-the-art replacement. Our new Scan Pro 2000 microfilm reader-printer-scanner makes our collection of microfilms far easier to use.

Our collection includes Lebanon records including land and probate estate documents, town clerks' and selectmen's accounts and vital records. We also have microfilms of some historical newspapers from this part of Connecticut as well as miscellaneous other documents. The new equipment will make providing access to these resources far easier.

If you would like to make arrangement to view any of these microfilms, please contact the Museum by phone or email to schedule an appointment. Space limitations and demands on staff time mean that we cannot accommodate same-day requests. We will gladly work with you to find a mutually convenient time for your project.

WELCOME

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Patron Membership

James & Tracy
Kelley-Gillespie, Lebanon

Joe & LeAnn Thibeault,
Lebanon

Family Membership

Paul & Vicki Duff,
Lebanon

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Individual Membership

Kathleen Majchier,
Lebanon

Senior Membership

Louise Leake, Norwich

Cheryl Z. Udin, Bolton

Ruth Celotto, Ledyard

Doreen Breen,
West Haven

Mary Cole, Livonia, NY

History Trivia Answer:

In the 1890s, George E. Martin was living in the house that later became the Baptist Church parsonage at 15 West Town Street. He manufactured a cough syrup called "Gem Cough Remedy." The name of the cough syrup came from the acronym formed by his initials, GEM. The nickname for the house comes from the cough syrup name.

Contact Us:

The Lebanon
Historical Society
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** by appointment.

Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

**Sunday, December 7
6pm-8pm**

Lebanon Tree Lighting Open House

View our exhibits, enjoy mulled
cider and gingersnaps along with
holiday crafts & music.
Tour the Pastor's Library



**Sunday, December 14
2pm**

A Civil War Christmas

Illustrated talk
by Donna Baron about how
Civil War soldiers and their
families observed Christmas.

Members free,
non-members \$2.
Refreshments Served.

2015 Calendar Dates

Annual Meeting Sun. May 3
Second Saturday Sat. June 13
An Evening at the Museum
Sat. July 18
49th Annual Antiques Show
Sat. September 26

Pigeon Swamp Road

By Rick Kane

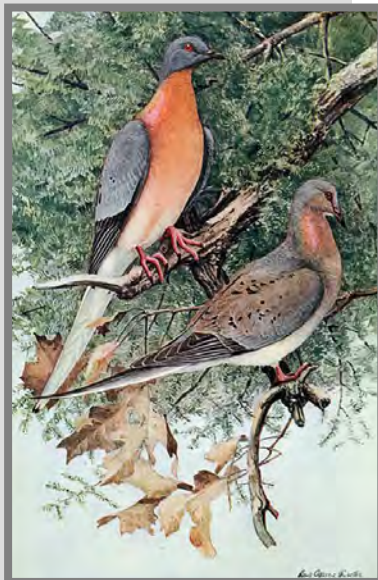
As we continue to discover the origin of
road names in Lebanon, we are really
trying to get to the story behind the name.
A very good example is Pigeon Swamp
Road, clearly named for the fact that it
runs alongside Pigeon Swamp, which is
located within the area between Babcock
Hill Road and Kick Hill Road. But the story
is in the name of the swamp.

The preserve was donated to Joshua's
Trust by the Little Family Partnership. Drs.
Mervyn and Olga Little practiced many
years in the Willimantic area. The
partnership includes their children, a
daughter, Elizabeth Rowlands and a son,
Dr. George Little, a professor at Mary
Hitchcock School of Medicine at
Dartmouth, and three grandchildren.

The preserve, located in both Lebanon
and South Windham, contains a variety of
habitats including a long shoreline on 23-
acre Big Pond, two brooks, a swamp and
a large marsh, as well as deciduous woods
and former fields, now being cleared of
unwanted vegetation by Trust volunteers

to establish an early successional habitat.
Pigeon Swamp, because it is 150 ft. above
the Shetucket River, has by way of its
outlet brook, powered a variety of
business enterprises along its length. The
major one was the Smith and Winchester
Mill, originally started as the Phelps and
Spafford machine shop in 1829, in South
Windham. Smith and Winchester
manufactured the Fourdrinier machine,
which produced a continuous roll of paper.
Originally designed and built in France, this
machine was the first papermaking machine
produced in the United States. Smith and
Winchester sold these machines all over
the world for many years. Big Pond dam
was constructed in 1872 by Smith and
Winchester to provide a constant supply
of water for power to run the mill. In
1877, an additional pond, Spencer Pond,
was built for the same purpose.

A much smaller and earlier enterprise, on
the Lebanon side, was a grist mill on
Pigeon Swamp Brook on land now owned
by the trust. The mill was run by Elijah
Babcock probably for fifty years from 1777
-1827. Stonework from this mill is still seen
where the Pigeon Swamp Brook enters Big
Pond. Elijah Babcock also built the house,
the foundation of which is still present, a
short distance up the hill from the mill site.
His spinster daughter, Amelia, one of
several children, lived there for many
years. Later the house burned, when it was
owned and lived in by a member of the
Branch family, descendants of Elijah. Elijah
also apparently built a low dam upstream,
behind which was Beaver Pond (now a
marsh). Sluiceways are still present in
which water was brought to the grist mill
from Beaver Pond. Much additional
historical and natural history information,
some of which is available in the trust
office, has been gathered by Mrs. Ruth
Ridgeway, who lived on Pigeon Swamp Rd.



Passenger pigeon (Ectopistes migratorius)

This now-extinct native North
American bird once lived in
enormous migratory flocks.
Biologists estimate that 3 to 5
billion passenger pigeons lived in
the modern continental United
States when Europeans arrived.
By the end of the 19th century
most of these birds had been
eliminated through hunting and
habitat destruction. The last
passenger pigeon, Martha, died
at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.
Once found across most of North
America east of the Rockies,
passenger pigeons lived in

deciduous forests eating beech nuts, acorns and other mast.
Their preferred winter roosting sites were large swamps, especially
those with alder trees. These pigeons were an important food source
and they were over-hunted with shot guns, nets, and burning down
of trees with nests.

*Pigeon Swamp write up extracted from the "Joshua's
Tract Walk Book" fourth edition published by the
Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust
copyright 2005, pages 188-190.*

Featured Volunteer Jacy Worth

By Sandie Chalifoux

Jacy Worth, always with a smile, is our featured volunteer for the Fall/Winter edition of *Provisions*.

Jacy was chairman of the Publications Committee for many years, and was instrumental in the Lebanon Historical Society Museum being awarded **first place** in the 2014 – New England Museum Association Publication Awards Program.

Jacy and her husband Jim moved to Lebanon in 1988. Jim had been hired to teach Vocational Agriculture at Lyman Memorial Jr/Sr High School. Jim and Jacy met when they were students at UCONN, both graduated in 1982 with BS degrees in Animal Science. After having their children Jacy returned to Three Rivers Community College's Nursing Program and graduated in 1998. Today, Jacy is employed at Windham Hospital in Willimantic, Connecticut. She is a nurse in the Cardiac Diagnostic Department, Rehab, Heart Failure and Resource Center. Jim is principal at Plainfield High School.

Wondering how Jacy became involved with the Historical Society? She was sitting on the museum's front wall watching the Memorial Day parade when Ed Tollmann sat next to her. During their conversation, Jacy ask if there was something she could do to help at the museum. He recruited her to serve on a new Curbside Appeal Committee, a group of non-members working to reach out to the community and make the museum more appealing to townspeople. Jacy soon became a member of the Historical Society and was asked to serve as Publications Chair.

When Jacy became chairman, the Publications Committee included Sally Whipple, Alicia Wayland, Giselle Russo and Gracie Sayles. Lindy J. Brunkhorst Olewine and Marty Kendall were contributors but not members of the committee. This group of women worked tirelessly to revamp the layout, spending hours discussing format. Gracie and Jacy met and anguished over the

design to come up with the new format. Recruiting non-committee authors was a priority as was finding a way to finance the cost of printing, mailing, etc. There also was a contest to rename the publication. *Provisions* was chosen as the new title. In 2008, the whole format was changed to what we now see, when we all receive the quarterly editions of *Provisions*. Distribution also increased, delivering copies to the library, schools and town hall so the community would be aware of all the activities at the museum, and read about the interesting people that could very well be their neighbors.

In 2014, the Publications Committee consisted of Jacy Worth, Chairman, Alicia Wayland, and Betty Forrest. Gracie Sayles, employed for the past 14 years at the museum, is in charge of design layout, production and is an all-around indispensable "workaholic." Alicia Lamb does proofing, submits reports and mails the final product. Donna Baron, Museum Director, is supportive of committee's suggestions, by writing articles and provides input regarding content and proofing. Alicia Wayland writes articles and does essential actual proofing. No doubt about it, this is a group effort.

Jacy on her involvement at the museum: *"I am so very glad that I took the challenge to become a member of the LHS. I have really enjoyed my time on the Lebanon Historical Society Board as well as being the Publications Chair. The board and staff at the museum work in harmony to provide the town and members of the Society with an ever changing, well organized lively, and comprehensive museum, housing Lebanon's rich history. Working with the Publications committee was wonderful and I enjoyed preparing and writing interviews with the fascinating persons in Lebanon."*

The Lebanon Historical Society thanks Jacy for her endless enthusiasm and dedication to *Provisions*.



Jacy Worth

Lebanon PROVISIONS wins regional award

NEMA (New England Museum Association) presented its 2014 first place recognition for newsletters created by organizations with budgets under \$500,000 to the Lebanon Historical Society.

Project director Jacy Worth and in-house designer Grace Sayles were recognized for their leadership in producing four 2013 editions of *Provisions*.

As a regional museum organization, NEMA "inspires and connects people engaged with the museum field, ...and empowers museums to sustain themselves as essential to their communities."

Each year, NEMA invites nominations of outstanding publications in ten categories from institutions of all sizes around the northeast. Entries are evaluated in two budget classes so that large museums do not have too many advantages.

The Historical Society and the *Provisions* Publication Committee can take great pride in this accomplishment.

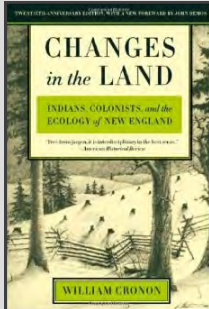
A Good Read

By Donna Baron

*Changes in the Land:
Indians, Colonists and the
Ecology of New England*

By William Cronin

Letting
crisp fall
weather
tempt
you
outside
for a
hike in
the
woods
may



lead you to wonder about the people who once hunted or farmed the land you are walking. Eastern Connecticut's forests and swamps are man-made landscapes created by Native Americans before European settlers arrived and by successive generations of farmers and business since. This story of resource manipulation is at the heart of William Cronin's *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England*.

First published in 1983, when ecology was an emerging science and environmental history was a new concept, Cronin's book was the first to explore the impact of both native and colonial people on the places they lived. His story-telling skill effectively compares and contrasts the very different ways these societies exploited and cared for the woods, fields and waterways around them. When the weather becomes too cold or wet for woodland treks, *Changes in the Land* may help stave off cabin fever.

"An Evening at the Museum"

By Sandie Chalifoux

A special night transpired at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum on July 19, 2014. One hundred forty-six people attended the wine and beer tasting



event held under the tents on a wonderful "perfect weather" evening on the grounds of the museum. The trio "Sequel," provided the music for the night. Wine

and beer samples were offered, hors d'oeuvres, buffet and delicious desserts were served to all attending. One of the highlights of the night was the announcement by Rick Kane of the winners of the 'silent auction'. Everyone attending commented on what a wonderful night it was!!!

If you missed this year's event, please

plan to attend next year. Hope to see you!! The Committee, pictured below, left to right, Donna Baron, Linda Heatherly, Sandie Chalifoux, co-chair Suzanne Yeo, Gracie Sayles, co-chair Connie Berglund and Alicia Lamb.



Frank and Mary Roderiguez enjoying dinner



Enjoy a Warm Fall Day



The next time you stop in the museum you will pass this lovely painting that adorns the hallway. Titled “ Warm Fall Day,” this oil painting was a gift of Bozrah artist, Trent Young. If the scene seems a little familiar to you that is because it is a view of the Wayland barn and barnyard at 105 West Town Street, Lebanon, CT. The two-story barn replaced a 19th-century barn that was destroyed by the 1938 hurricane. The first floor was built into the side of the hill and used to house dairy cows. The framework is made of oak harvested from trees growing on the farm, which contained more than 80 acres at that time, extending across Pease Brook and beyond Barker Road.

To EVERYONE

who made our 48th Annual Antiques Show a great success



And TALLYHO!– Keith LaPorte

Our wish list is shrinking

thanks to
MaryLou Beckwith for
providing us with large zip
lock bags and to
Kathy Chesmer for
a china tea set.

We are still in need of:
table cloths & napkins for
our Ladies' Tea Party

China teapot or two

Simple umbrella stand

100% cotton cloths

If you are interested in
donating any of these items
just give us a call at
860-642-6579



**A special
Happy Birthday
wish to
Harold Greenberg
who turned
100 years old
on October 23!**



Expand your knowledge of Lebanon's history by adding some of these books to your own library.

- *History of Windham County, v. 1*, by Ellen Larned, reprint
- *Dr. William Beaumont*, by Keith R. Widder
- *Lebanon, Three Centuries in a Connecticut Hilltop Town*, by George Milne
- *Lebanon, Images of America Series*, Arcadia Publishing, by Alicia Wayland, Ed Tollmann & Claire Krause
- *Hussars in Lebanon!*, by Robert A. Selig
- *En Avant with our French Allies*, by Robert A. Selig et al
- *Around the Lebanon Green*, by Alicia Wayland, Photographs by Grant Huntington
- *Lebanon Recalled*, by John Sutherland
- *Connecticut Signer: William Williams*, by Bruce P. Stark

These books and more are available in our gift shop.

Stop in or call for prices.



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.

Additional Annual Appeal Donations

Kenneth & Gretchen Lathrop
Dave Nichols

General Donations:

Anonymous
Carol Black
Dale Cloud
James & Betty Forrest
Maurice & Paula Hebb
William Kingsley
Ronald Lake
Mary Lilly
Sylvia J. Lunden
Lance Magnuson
Todd & Cheryl Matthewson
Robin & Mariele McBride
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St. Mary-St. Joseph School
Sally S. Seal
Cheryl Udin
Jan Vanwoerkom
Marlene Wilkinson

Publications Donations

Midge Misbach
Ed Tollmann

Genealogy Research Donations

Eric Christensen
Laura Stinson

Evening at the Museum-2014

Pierre & Sandy Belisle
Joan Fazzino
Patricia & Guy Hansen
Shane & Alice Kuzel
Laurie & Gregg LaMarre
Maureen McCall
Steve & Joan Merritt
Craig & Mary Randall
David & Suzanne Yeo

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Martha Kendall
Bryan Nesteriak
Joyce Reynolds Okonuk

Slate Genealogy Fund

Rob Slate

McCaw Library Fund

Robert & Margaret McCaw

Buckingham Library Fund

Larry & Connie Berglund

Veterans: Part II

By Ed Tollmann

Bill Jahoda was a pilot who flew 30 or more flights over the 'hump' in China. Just thinking about that is unbelievable to think that that was one of the most dangerous places to fly over. Interviewing Ernie Watras who grew up in Lebanon and went to Lyman High School talked of flying the 'hump'. One night they were flying back over and he had taken on a new officer who told him to fly a certain way and they said no, we never fly the same way back, you've got to fly alternate routes all the time to confuse the enemy. They flew the way he wanted them to and they got hit and they went down and the pilot and copilot were killed and the remaining crew bailed out and I always remember him saying when you were a pilot or a navigator on a plane all they told you was how to pull the ripcord on the parachute, you had about 4 hours of training. It wasn't like a paratrooper where you would actually jump and jump and get the feel of it. He said it was dark and he landed pretty hard and the one thing he could remember his instructor telling him that in the dark do not move an inch, just stay still until daylight and he kept thinking that over and over again but he said he wanted so much to stand up and get moving and find his way around, but it was so dark he couldn't see and he sat there until daylight. When the sun came up, he looked over and there was about an 80 foot drop about two feet away from where he was sitting. He always said if he hadn't listened to that instructor he probably would have gotten up and walked off that cliff and it would have been the end of him. He and his companions were picked up by Chinese men that were scouting the area for Americans that were shot down. The United States had guaranteed them money plus a college education if they were successful in getting American airmen out of the jungle to safety. I believe Ernie said it took six weeks or so to get out of the jungle, but these two Chinese men did bring them out of the jungle alive. They had some real close calls. One part of his story was after the war was over, he went to college out west some place and one morning it was raining and he put his flight jacket on and went to class with that. For about a month and a half he had been sitting next to an Asian man and they chit-chatted a little bit but the morning he wore his flight

The first half of this article appeared in the Summer 2014 issue of Provisions

jacket in and the man looked at him and said "I brought you out of the jungle" so one of the men that brought Ernie Watras to safety was sitting next to him in college. He kept in touch with him and he had become a professor at a university and he has since lost track of him. As these interviews went on, it got more emotional for me. Dolle Fischer talked about being in Berlin right after the war was over, tying strings to each other and flashlights and went down in Hitler's bunker. She described the bunker as being much larger than she thought it would be. They were in Berlin to catalogue all the art treasures that Hitler had stolen from other countries and to make sure they were returned to those countries. Another WWII veteran, John Musial, who grew up in Lebanon was in the Navy in the Pacific on the USS Iowa. His 17 year old brother Tony was in England. The last letter that John got from him was written a few days before 4th of July and he said something is building up but nobody knows what it is and I think we're going to have one of the biggest 4th of Julys we have ever had. Of course he was talking about Normandy and unfortunately Tony was in the 3rd wave going into Normandy and was killed. A number of veterans pointed out to me a lot of men died by drowning before getting to the beach because the landing craft let them off too soon, the water was deep and they had 100-125 lbs. on their back and could not stay afloat and drowned. So some of the tragic things that happened are all recorded in these interviews. With John Musial it was 2 months before he received correspondence from his sister that his brother had been killed. Like he said, there you are out in the Pacific floating on a battleship and you get the news your brother is dead and your mother is distraught and there is nothing you can do. He said he got so depressed he had a terrible, terrible time. These interviews brought so much home to me about WWII. We got into the Korean War the same way. Joe Russo talked about his experiences in Korea and how he left CT as a kid and suddenly put into a situation



Veterans Oral History Project with Jim Motyka

**Stanley Baran
Kenneth Benson
Edward Bigenski
Frederick Buckley
Ernest Brisson
Eugene Brisson
Joseph Brisson
John Champe
Dorothea Fischer
Elmer Fischer
Morgan
Himmelstein
Dr. William Jahoda
Norman Kuzel
Sebastien LaBella
Jean Lafontaine
James Mello
John Musial
Joseph Russo
Robert Slate
Ernest Watras**



**If you would like
to see one of
these video
oral histories
please contact
us at
860-642-6579**

Continued on page 11

Just a little bit more
about James
Clark's Company



Organized under the militia act of 1739, the Twelfth Regiment included the men of Lebanon, Colchester, Hebron and East Haddam.

In 1776, the new state of Connecticut reorganized its militia leaving Hebron and Lebanon in the Twelfth and moving the other towns to the newly formed Twenty-fifth Regiment.



In May 1775, Connecticut created eight State Regiments which were adopted as part of the Continental Army in July 1775 and entirely disbanded in December 1775 and reorganized for the 1776 campaign as Continental Regiments of Foot.

In 1777, these units were incorporated in the Continental Line and remained active until the end of the war.



Lebanon's James Clark

Continued from page 1

twenty-two year old Ann Gray, the daughter of Simeon and Ann (Hyde) Gray. Simeon Gray, a tavern keeper, had died in 1742 when his daughter was only seven. Two years later, his widow married Adonijah Fitch who moved his family to New London.



Etching of James Clark at age 95

According to gravestone inscriptions, James and Ann (Gray) Clark had two children: James born around 1757 and Ann born around 1761. Their daughter died, age three, in 1764, but their son lived to marry and have children. Ann (Gray) Clark died sometime between her daughter's birth and 1767 when the first of James' children by his second wife Keziah was born.

Gravestones reveal that James and Keziah Clark had at least five children: Anne (died September 18, 1791, age 24), Augustus (drowned January 20, 1781, age 14), Ernest (died September 21, 1775 age 2), Molindy (died September 19, 1775, age 4) and Wealthy (died September 18, 1775, age 6). Keziah, consort of Colonel

James Clark, died age sixty-two, in January 1799.

As James Clark farmed and started his family, he became active in town affairs, serving as Surveyor of Highways and Grand Juror. In May 1772, he was elected Captain of the First Company of the Twelfth Regiment of the Connecticut colonial militia.

Clark was still serving in this capacity in April 1775 when he commanded a company responding to the alarm at Lexington, Massachusetts. He fought in the "Battle of Bunker Hill," an event he often described in detail to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Although discharged in December 1775, Clark reenlisted the next year. While he was stationed outside Boston, his three youngest children died within a few days of one another.

In 1776, Clark was appointed the captain of the 1st Company of Colonel Sage's State Battalion of the Wadsworth Brigade, serving in the area around New York City. The 1st Company participated in the battles of Harlem Heights and White Plains. In December 1776, Clark was promoted to major of the 12th Regiment of Militia.

On September 26, 1782 Captain Ludwig von Closen, an Aide-de-camp to General Rochambeau, rode through eastern Connecticut on his way to Boston. He wrote in his journal about riding with Clark.

"From Coventry I rode to Ashford. I found myself in Killingly. I had the honor to be led there by an honorable militia Colonel, Mr [James] Clark, who, with some excellent horses, guided me skillfully.

The more I praised his country...the more he pulled his turned-down hat over his great white wool wig, which had a little queue and 3 curls; then, with a "Go on my good creature, t'is for the common best!" he spurred his horse on again..."

Following the end of hostilities, James Clark returned to Lebanon where he resumed farming and continued his involvement with town affairs. In January 1787, town clerk William Williams wrote about a group of dissidents led by Oliver Huntington and Major James Clark who had petitioned for a town meeting "to remake a Comte [committee] to Correspond abt [about] Grevances [grievances], demolish lawyers, enlarge ye power of Justices, & create a new mode of Administering Justice." The People were "stirred up" and "the selectmen were all turned out at the late town meeting."

Clark's son James died in August 1790. The next year his widow, Anne Lyman Clark, petitioned the Connecticut General Assembly to allow her father-in-law to settle his debt with her late husband's estate by completing the transfer of land and the building of a house for herself and her two children. In 1902, one of Colonel James Clark's

great granddaughters recalled speaking with an elderly Lebanon resident who indicated that she remembered the Colonel well. "I can see him now just how he looked, riding fast and very erect. He often passed our house in going to visit his daughter-in law..."

James Clark died December 29, 1826 having out-lived all his children and both his wives. He was witness to and a leader in the effort that saw the birth of the United States and watched as his new nation found its way through its early years. The epitaph on his gravestone in the Trumbull Cemetery recalls

*"He was a soldier
of the Revolution and
dared to lead where any
dared to follow.*

*The battles of Bunker Hill,
Harlem Heights and White
Plains witnessed his personal
bravery, and his devotion to the
cause of his country. He here in
death rests from his labors."*

Note: This article benefited from the research notes of Alicia Wayland and Matt Keagle. The article, with footnotes, may be consulted at the Lebanon Historical Society.

Veterans part II

Continued from page 9

where people are shooting at you and getting trapped in situations. Once we got into Vietnam, Ken Benson who was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, talked about his experiences with Napalm and things that were done because it was your duty to do it and you did it. Rob Slate talks about the plane that he flew as a pilot refueling planes. One Vietnam veteran said when he came home he hung his uniform up in a closet and just went on with life. The

Vietnam veterans did not get the welcoming home that they should have. These veterans' stories will be in the Library of Congress permanently. In closing, I urge anyone who has an afternoon free to please come to the Museum and ask any of the staff to get one of the DVDs out and view them. They are wonderful DVDs and these are interviews you'll never hear anywhere else.

Exhibit News

Current Exhibits Include:

"Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home"

Lebanon and the Civil War

"Moving Beaumont"

"Lebanon Doctors"

November Only

Collectors Case Display

"Netsuke" &

"Carved Objects"

December - January

Collectors Case Display

"Toys" &

"Postcard Greetings"

"Walk Through Lebanon's History"

"Explore Revolutionary Lebanon"

Our hands-on history room for kids of all ages



WE ARE ON THE LOOK-OUT!



For a 1930s Radio to borrow for a month or two.

Any condition will work.

Also **Lebanon School-related objects or photos** for our next major exhibit.

If you have something interesting, let us know.



History Trivia Question: How did the Baptist Church parsonage, located at 15 West Town Street, get the nickname "Gem Cottage"? See page 3 for the answer!

Don't forget to mark these dates in your calendar!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 2PM

NEW ENGLAND'S OTHER WITCH HUNT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 12PM – 4PM

QUILT-A-BLOCK WORKSHOP*

PROGRAM NOT HELD ON SITE
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 1:30PM & 2:30PM (TWO SESSIONS)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

HOLIDAY DOOR SPRAY-MAKING WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 6PM – 8PM

LEBANON TREE LIGHTING OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 2PM

A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS

See front page and page 4 for program details or visit our website at www.historyoflebanon.org

*Events and programs are held at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum & grounds unless otherwise noted