



# Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 7 No. 4

Fall  
2015

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

## Calendar Of Events

*All programs are open to the public*

**Saturday, September 26**  
**9am– 3pm**

**“49th Annual  
Antiques Show”  
on the Lebanon Green**  
Held rain or shine  
**\$5 admission**  
Free parking  
Refreshments available  
for purchase all day

### **WALKTOBER WALK**

**Saturday, Oct. 3**  
**10am**

#### **“Up Commons Hill”**

Led by Mark Lang  
and Keith LaPorte  
Meet at Liberty Hill  
Cemetery across from the  
Log Cabin Restaurant  
where parking is available.  
*Sponsored by the  
Lebanon History Museums  
860-642-6579.*

### **WALKTOBER WALK**

**Wednesday, Oct. 7 &  
Monday, Oct. 12**  
**11am**

#### **“Air Line Trail Lore in Lebanon ”**

Pine St., Lebanon  
*Sponsored by the  
CT Eastern Railroad Museum  
860-617-3308*

### **WALKTOBER WALK**

**Monday, Oct. 12**  
**1pm**

#### **“Tour the Firearm Factories of Norwich ”**

Led by Ed Tollmann, Dave Oat  
& Burton Jernstrom  
*Sponsored by the Guns of Norwich  
Historical Society*

**More Events on Pages 4 & 5**

## High Winds—High Hopes



Left: First church  
showing damage on  
North and East walls.

Below: The church  
parsonage.

Below: “Robinson’s  
House on Post Hill,”  
possibly located  
on Rt. 66 near  
Hebron line.

Bottom: Everett  
Hewitt’s Barn.

Early in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 21, 1938 a large, fast-moving Category 3 hurricane crossed Long Island and tore into a rain-soaked Connecticut. As it raced up the Connecticut River Valley, the winds to its east created a wide swath of destruction.

These photographs, copied from an album that John Champe loaned to the Historical Society for the display about the First Congregational Church, were taken by Reverend Howard Champe to document the scope of damage in Lebanon. In addition to toppling the steeple and destroying the brick church, the storm uprooted trees, tore off barn roofs and collapsed numerous farm buildings. In Lebanon, as elsewhere in



eastern Connecticut, the clean-up took weeks and rebuilding took years. Hugh Trumbull Adams recalled during a 1996 interview that his mother (Mary Trumbull Adams) had discovered and fallen in love with “unspoiled Lebanon” while driving about the state from her summer home on Fenwick Point. She happily responded to Reverend Champe’s funding raising campaign to restore the brick church, beginning a tradition of philanthropy that has meant a brighter future for the town.



**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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Donna Baron

**From the President**

Glenn Pianka

It's way too hot to write lengthy reports. It's also way too hot to expect that you might even read this.....put two more ice cubes in that drink and give it a try.....

The **Evening At The Museum** event was another huge success. Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> was precarious in regards to the weather (turned out fine) and a sold-out crowd adorned our grounds with great fellowship and generous bidding on our silent auction. Great planning, great food, great drink and great camaraderie combined to inspire me to challenge our membership, staff and those in attendance to focus on next year when we hope to raise the bar ( got your attention?) to celebrate the **HUGE MILESTONE** of the **50-year anniversary** of our organization.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those charter members and all of the members and friends of the Lebanon Historical Society since who have kept the momentum going.



Joyce Okonuk & Jennie Brewster with Joyce Hofmann



Phil & Pam Handfield



Mike Brennan & Kim Pochius

## Director's Message

Donna Baron

What I love most about collections cataloging and collections research, is the same thing that makes progress on these important chores very difficult for me. I am too easily distracted. While going through files to find images of the impact the 1938 hurricane had on Lebanon, I spotted a hand-written description of early manufacturers in Lebanon. It was written in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by a 96-year-old man about his childhood. Of course I had to read and then, having read it, I needed to transcribe it so other people could read it too. Then I still needed to look for those photos.

Cataloging the set of chairs described in the "From the Collections" article in this issue of *Lebanon Provisions* meant, not only intriguing genealogical research leading back to some of Lebanon's earliest families, but to a nineteenth-century account book of the man who probably originally bought the chairs. So, I had to at least glance through the account book, which is a fascinating document. So many details about laying out roads, repairing bridges, dividing up land for estates. And a cottage industry that I'd never imagined in Civil War era Lebanon.

These kinds of things happen every time I begin to catalog a new collections acquisition, go looking for something in the archives or get involved in a genealogical research project. I feel like a detective and a neighborhood busybody and I'm reminded just why I love local community history. If getting caught in this kind of wonderful addictive cycle appeals to you, please give me a call. I'd be delighted to introduce you to someone from Lebanon's past and watch with delight as you wander down all kinds of unexpected paths.



### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

#### *Silver Benefactor*

**Mr. & Mrs. E. David Hawkins** – Lebanon  
**Butch & Alicia Watson** - Lebanon

#### *Family*

**Richard Tanger** - Lebanon

#### *Senior*

**Eileen Anderson** – Lebanon  
**A. Elena Cogdell** – Texas  
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#### *Individual*

**Thomas Wolf** – Washington, D.C.  
**Melissa J. Calkins** – Nevada  
**Thomas Weingart** – North Franklin  
**Carolyn Crist-Schwab** – North Carolina

## History Trivia

### Answer:

Seabury Road was originally named Hoxie Road #2. Hoxie Road #1 was the name of the road now known simply as Hoxie Road. The duplicate Hoxie road names were confusing. The number 1 was dropped by the committee assigning house numbers in 1990, and Hoxie Road #2 was renamed Seabury Road, recognizing early settlers of Lebanon in that area.

*For more information, see article on page 9.*

### Contact Us:

The Lebanon  
Historical Society  
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.



## Calendar Of Events

**Sunday, October 25**  
2pm

**“Do you know who your ancestors are?”**

Presenter: Carol Whitmer  
of the Connecticut  
Historical Society

An introduction to genealogy  
Members free,  
non-members \$2  
Refreshments served



**Sunday, November 15**  
2:00pm

**“The Civil War Search  
for a New National  
Anthem”**

State Historian  
Walt Woodward presentation  
& musical performance  
Members free,  
non-members \$2  
Refreshments served



**Sunday, November 29**  
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



**Sunday, December 6**  
6pm– 8pm

**Tree Lighting,  
Open House &  
Exhibit Preview**

Preview our newest exhibit,  
enjoy mulled cider &  
molasses cookies while  
enjoying festive music.  
Holiday crafts for kids.

## From the Collection



Transcription of letter from N.B. Williams to Miss Dutton,  
Dec. 1906

when Mr. Williams was in his 90s

~ gift of John Champe

Miss Dutton,

*I learn through Malie(?) that a request comed from your house that I give some of  
the mechanical employments in Lebanon, that people were engaged in when I was a  
boy.*

*The following is within my recollection.*

*Stephen Payne lived beyond Kick Hill Manf. Lead Pipe, Pumps, Knives &  
Dentists instruments*

*F.A. Flint lived on Kick Hill. Hatter, furnished the town with wool & fur hats.*

*Caleb Hayword, Factory North West of Harvey Chappells. Manf. of Rolls.*

*Hills tannery in the hollow near where Ch<sup>ls</sup> Loomis lived, where all kinds of  
leather was Manf. no one went out of town to sell their hides.*

*David Avery, Manf. all kinds of vehicles then in common use worked near where  
Alvin Lyman lives.*

*Augustus Wetmore, Manf of boots & shoes*

*John Woodworth, Blacksmith, Manf plows, hoes, forks and  
axes. I did not use any but his make when I first  
commenced farming.*

*Mr. Pierce that lived on the road to Colchester Manf of  
furniture & coffins*

*Salmon Williams of Exeter made great improvement on  
plows, and made the same*

*Eliphalet Metcalf Manf of pianos and flutes, fife & Clarinets, near Mrs. Johnsons*

*Joseph Corey Manf of satinet and other cloths and to a great extent supplied  
the town*

*Mr. Noyes of Goshen (lived on the Wattles place) Manf furniture & coffins*

*Mr. Wattles of Goshen, noted for being the inventor and manufactured a  
“Pan Harmionican,” a very costly instrument do not think it was a success  
but was a success in Manf other musical instruments*

*There once was a time when the State of Conn could look to Lebanon for Gov’s,  
members of Congress & the Young need not go out of town to fit for College  
or learn a trade, but “behold old things are passed away, all things are  
become new.”*

*Yours Truly N. B. Williams*

A transcription of this letter was previously published the 2001 edition of our newsletter.



# Five Mile Rock

By Jim Wesolowski

We walk in from the road through a gap in the wall. Through a field part reclaimed by scrub and sapling. An old bulldozer stares off into the distance as we pass in the late morning light. My dog lags behind.

Then we are over another stone wall and into the woods.

I tell the man I am taking on this trip, Rick Kane, that the woods here remind me of something decayed, rundown.

A ruin.

It is, in

its way,

being the

remnants

of old

farms that

once

made a

living for those who lived on them. They were the factories, the storehouses of their day. Now they lay covered in fallen leaves and trees and brush. Stonewalls criss-cross here and there, gray chains that hold these woods together, pitched this way and that, spilling like lichen-covered decks of cards. The past proprietors of these lands lie quiet under their own length of stone, cousin to these but carved and thin, up the street at Goshen burying ground.

We are taking the straight shot to Five Mile Rock.

Heading west to intersect two slender lines on Nathaniel Webb's 1770 Lebanon Third Society survey map, we are on the lookout for a road the map says steps off Fowler running south-southwest. It makes a bee-line to the rock with LVMC (Lebanon Five Mile Corner) carved on it. I have been told the inscription was made

in 1705, to settle land claims in the area.

We stride on, the dog meandering, first flanking us then sliding by, and then he is behind us again, about his own business. The first greenery of spring is budding, and our eyes are looking for two southwest running walls that mark a road.

After a while we see it, crossing at right angles in front. Two stone walls, two

rods wide, about 33 feet apart. It passes us going both ways like a ghost in the woods. No wagon, no horses hoofs, nothing flows down it but us. It's a road paved now with trees and leaves,

scattered dead wood, the flotsam and jetsam a road collects when it's not traveled 100 years, more or less.

The two side-by-side walls run on, hand in hand as it were, drifting a little apart now and then, but keeping company at a regular distance. Until one wall ends abruptly. Like it stumbled. But the other keeps on, the one on the east side, like an old habit. After a while, it trails off too. That leg turns a corner and runs east, half-heartedly. Like an old widower who finally got used to living alone, but not too well. It tapers off to nothing in less than 50 feet, fading to the ground.

Rick, the dog, and I, stop. I have been here before and so has the dog, but he seems not to notice. All the smells must be new today. I point farther down our line of travel, into the gray-brown woods. You won't be able to see it in a

*Continued on page 10*



A note of thanks  
from one of  
the 2015 Lebanon  
Historical Society  
High School  
Scholarship  
Recipients  
Madeline Ouellette



Dear Lebanon Historical  
Society,

*I feel both honored and astonished that you have chosen to give a scholarship to me. I cannot thank you enough. This scholarship means absolutely so much to me. It means that I can be a little less stressed about going to an expensive yet completely worthwhile school...*

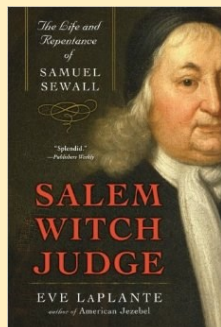
*...I understand that you must have worked hard to raise this money, and you can trust that it will all be put to great use. Thank you for all you have done for me.*

Sincerely,

Madeline Ouellette

## **A Good Read**

By Betty Forrest



### ***Salem Witch Judge: The Life and Repentance of Samuel Sewall***

By Eve LaPlante

*"Yet He can be our guide in acknowledging and rectifying our wrongs. Like Him, we are capable of a change of heart."*

Thus ends the *Salem Witch Judge*, a biography written by Eve LaPlante, a sixth great-granddaughter of Samuel Sewall. Sewall was a judge during the 1692 Salem, Massachusetts witch trials. One of five judges serving under the Court of Oyer and Terminer ("to listen and decide"), Sewall heard testimony and spectral evidence to determine whether or not a plaintiff practiced witchcraft. Defendants who confessed were forgiven, but if convicted and unrepentant, suspects were condemned to death.

A wealthy, respected and pious man, Samuel Sewall and his family socialized, worshipped and intermarried with leading families in Massachusetts colony. Sewall was a major land-owner in and around Boston, and Point Judith in Rhode Island. As a judge and leader of the Puritan Church (which later evolved into the

*Continued on page 7 sidebar*



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**

David & Sheryl Postemski

### **General Donations:**

Donna Baron  
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### **Evening at the Museum-2015**

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### **Publications Donations**

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### **Genealogy Research Donations**

Sue McConnell  
Patricia Pellegrini

### **Beaumont Restoration Project**

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Glenn Pianka

### **Brick Fund**

Michelle Teubner



# W. A. Fuller Chair & Account Book or One Thing Leads to Another

By Donna Baron



One Sunday this spring, Nancy Ellis and her husband from Michigan stopped by the Museum. They had driven east for a family wedding and she was using the opportunity to fulfill a promise to her late

mother Clara Davoll Hayes (Lyman Memorial High School class of 1936). The Ellises had brought with them four circa 1850 tiger maple sabre-legged chairs that came originally from the Fuller farmhouse on Cook Hill Road in Lebanon. Nancy had promised her mother that somehow the chairs would be returned to the town where they belonged.

Clara Louise Davoll was born in Willimantic on April 26, 1919, the daughter of Winthrop Dodd Davoll and Bertha L. Goodrich who were married in Lebanon at the Exeter Congregational Church by Reverend Elwell O. Meade in 1915. Winthrop Davoll was the son of Milo Stow Davoll and Clara Lavinia Fuller. Milo Davoll's parents (Joseph G. and Ruth [Peckham] Davoll) moved to Columbia from Rhode Island by 1860. The family first bought land in Lebanon later that year.

Clara Louise Davoll's grandmother Clara Lavinia Fuller Davoll was born in 1867, the daughter of William Austin Fuller and Emily Elizabeth [Yeomans] Fuller. William Austin Fuller's great grandfather

Abiel Fuller had moved to Lebanon from Rehoboth, Massachusetts in 1726 when he was twenty-two. He bought land from his older brother Benjamin in the part of town then called Lebanon Village. The *Genealogy of the Fuller Families descending from Robert Fuller of Salem and Rehoboth, Mass* states that Abiel "lived in vigor past his ninetieth year, was small in size, but very energetic and stirring, the life of society, young and old and carried a halo of good cheer so continually in his conversation and manners, that boys hailed the little white-headed old man of four score years and more, as the jolliest companion they could find." Mr. Fuller lived on the same farm his entire life and the property was inherited by his son Abiel whose eldest son William Austin inherited his father's and grandfather's farm.

William Austin Fuller's account book, which Brian Bartizek donated to the Lebanon Historical Society in 2006, reveals much about life on the Fuller farm. W. A. Fuller was a farmer, a teacher, a surveyor, a railroad ticket agent, a selectman, a road inspector, a landlord, a justice of the peace and an entrepreneur. Starting in 1844, the book details work on the farm and produce and livestock sold.

In 1858, Fuller surveyed for an addition to the cemetery in Willimantic and laid

*Continued on page 11*



*Continued from page 6 sidebar*

Congregational Church), Sewall believed that all people were sinners and salvation was offered through God's grace.

After consideration and prayer, Sewall came to believe that he had erred in condemning people using spectral evidence. Following Puritan practice he decided to make a public confession in 1697, five years after the trials. For the rest of his life, Sewall demonstrated his repentance, including wearing a symbolic hair shirt.

The book traces the intertwining of Sewall's life story with his religious faith as he faced many losses. Eleven of his fourteen children died as infants or toddlers and he buried two of his three wives. In addition to keeping a detailed diary, he wrote hymns using his favorite Psalms. At his funeral, among other accolades, he was noted for his "moderation, peaceableness and humility."

Besides describing Samuel Sewall's life and the Salem Witch Trials, this book provides a detailed look at 17<sup>th</sup> century life in and around Boston. For anyone familiar with the area today, it is not hard to imagine its evolution over time. Samuel Sewall and his family and friends are still very much a part of the landscape. Burial plots, homes, and meeting houses described in the book are still here.

This is a book well worth the title of "A Good Read."

It is personable, well written, and full of interesting stuff.

**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, Photos 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.**

## Sarah Thomas Diary Part II

By Rick Kane

*As recounted in the Summer 2015 Provisions, The Sarah Thomas's Diary, leads a reader in many directions. New information will be shared as it is discovered.*

Though an avid diary keeper, Sarah did not identify herself as author anywhere and referred to her parents only as "father" and "mother." Careful reading does reveal that she referred to people of her own age or younger by first names, neighbors of her parents' generation respectfully as "Mrs. Lathrop" or "Mr. Lathrop" and visitors whom she did not know well as "Mr. or Mrs. Turner."

Sarah's world in 1876, which she described for personal reasons, was surprisingly interesting. Having identified Sarah as the author, I focused on identifying each name mentioned in her diary. Slowly, her day-to-day world and that of her family and the Goshen Society emerged. As each name in her diary is researched, a young woman emerges who was very well connected to the temperance movement and the women's suffrage movement.



Lucy Stone

Lavinia Goodell (Sarah's famous lawyer cousin) came to Lebanon following their attendance at the June 1876 International Temperance Convention in Philadelphia. They travelled together to Boston where they meet with Henry Browne Blackwell, his wife Lucy Stone and others who had been abolitionists and were leaders of the temperance and suffrage movements. However, in researching all the names mentioned, another mystery surfaced. Sarah Thomas was listed in the 1860 US



Lavinia Goodell,  
Wisconsin's first female lawyer

Census and the 1880 US Census as living with her parents in Lebanon, but she did not appear anywhere in the 1870 Census. Where was Sarah living in the years just before beginning her diary in 1876?

In her writing she often mentioned visiting her Uncle James and Aunt Jane Thomas in Norwich. James Thomas was a lawyer who lived at 67 Union Street in Norwich. During these visits she wrote of Mr. and Mrs. Francis E. Dowe, who lived at 71 Union St. On a few occasions, she spent the night with them, clearly quite familiar and comfortable in their home. In 1876, the Dowses were new residents of Norwich, who had not been there for the 1870 federal census. Searching that census revealed no Francis E. Dowe, but records did include an unmarried Francis E. Dow in Heathsville, Virginia.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> 1876, Sarah wrote "Letters from Mr. Dowe saying he would pay my expenses down south if I would take the school." Why had Mr. Dowe made this offer, what school was involved and was the "south" connected with Heathsville, Virginia?

*To be continued in the next issue of Provisions*



# The Seabury Family and Other Road Names

By Alicia Wayland

In January 1701/2 and July 1702, Samuel Seabury purchased three tracts of land in Lebanon. He called himself of Duxbury, Massachusetts. He never came to Lebanon but appears to have moved to Groton, Connecticut, where his brother John Seabury had settled. John became the grandfather of Bishop Samuel Seabury (1729-1796), the first American Episcopal bishop in North America and in Connecticut

The Seabury brother who did settle in Lebanon from Duxbury was Benjamin, who died in 1787, at the age of 97. He and his son, also named Samuel, are probably the two Seaburys shown on the 1772 ecclesiastical map of the First Society as living on pentways off Babcock Hill Road.

Here are the map notes next to their dwellings:

Seabury 3 miles, 248 rods

Seabury 2 miles, 83 rods

The mileage is the distance from their dwellings to the meetinghouse in the town center. A pentway is a minor road that may be closed by gates by adjacent landowners. Someone needing to use the road would have to open and close the gates.

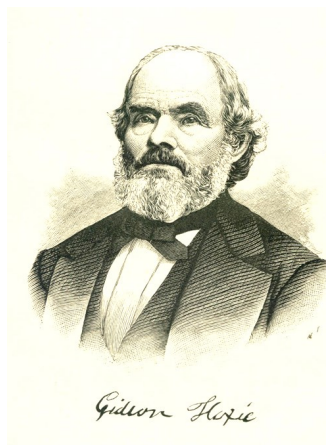
The first pentway was eventually extended

into a road running Southwest to intersect with Route 207. It is now called Briggs Road.

The second pentway was eventually closed. A short dead-end road running Southwest from the top of the hill connects to Route 207. This road was named Hoxie Road #2. It was renamed Seabury Road because of the historical association of the Seabury name in Lebanon when house numbering was instituted in town by an ordinance adopted in 1990.

The Hoxie family was well known in Lebanon for the bountiful and beautiful farms they established in the area of the original Hoxie Road #2 (now Seabury Road) and Hoxie Road #1 (now Hoxie Road).

Gideon Hoxie came to Lebanon from Rhode Island in 1794. The family was not only successful in farming but many were active in civic affairs. The best-known was probably George E. Hoxie, who was appointed deputy sheriff of New London County, served two terms in the legislature, and was then elected Sheriff of New London County in 1938.



## All Readers Welcome

**History Book Club  
to meet Wednesday  
September 9,  
7:00 pm** at the  
Lebanon Historical  
Society Museum.  
*Refreshments provided*

Discussion on  
**For Adam's Sake,  
A Family Saga in  
Colonial New England**  
by Allegra Di  
Bonaventura

A wide variety of perspectives will make for interesting conversation so come if you've read the book, started the book but not finished it, just couldn't get into this book, or even if you didn't have a chance to begin.

Discussion will also include suggestions for future reading and setting up a bi-monthly calendar for meetings.

**If you are interested  
but can't come  
September 9,  
please call the  
Museum at  
860-642-6579 to leave  
your name and contact  
information.**

**Or  
call Keith LaPorte  
at 860-456-3813 for  
further information.**

*As we continue to identify the source and origin of road names in Lebanon we hope to have more families provide the history of road names associated with their ancestors. Anyone who has such information is welcome to send it along and we will include one per issue or as space allows, as we have over the last year or so.*

## Museum Updates

As a part of our 2015-2016 celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lebanon Historical Society, the Exhibit Committee is planning a display about **life in Lebanon fifty years ago**. The display will open in the multi-purpose room cases over the winter.

We are looking for “stuff,” objects that reveal something about life in the 1960s.

Kitchen gadgets, music, clothes, photographs – anything that speaks to you about life at that time.

If you have something that you would be willing to lend for the display, please contact the Museum staff.

We will record some basic information and have a member of the special display committee get in touch with you.

Our wonderful white-painted hearse has a long history in Lebanon and is now a treasured part of the Museum collection. **Soon it will have its very own hearse house.**

Lebanon resident and Eagle Scout candidate Connor Montgomery is leading a project to replicate the Exeter Cemetery hearse house on the Museum campus as the future home for the antique hearse. This project provides secure storage and display space for the vehicle and the additional space in the Carriage Shed will be used to complete our long-anticipated farming exhibit.

## Five Mile Rock

*Continued from page 5*

few weeks when the greenery comes, but today, you can. Out there in the distance on the right, the wall we lost first on the west, begins again. It's resurrected squat and tumbled, but solid. We make for it across the intervening forest, walking the gap of no mans land like horizontal climbers bereft of a guide rope, trusting our bearing.

This wall is only temporary though, it ends after a hundred feet. But it breeds confidence. Where it dies in a scatter of stones, it gives rise to a rusty barbed-wire fence. Before and after many a good-sized oak, the wire sweeps up from the ground, pierces the trunk, then settles down again on the other side. The trees look like they waded into the wire, got tangled and never got free. And pulled behind them just enough wire to raise it from the ground before it stopped them in their tracks.

Rick says he would never have seen the wire on the trees. It blends in too well. But I have been looking at old barbed wire lately in the woods and my eyes are drawn to it.

I notice it because I've learned it leads to something, a barn turned to dust, a forgotten dooryard, an old boundary line, all signs the land was once part of somebody's life.

I tap the rusty fence with my walking stick and tell Rick, this same wire runs straight through Five Mile Rock. Right through a crack in the old rock in the woods.

I also tell Rick, we are close. I point down our heading a ways. “There it is.”

A small bluff, a low gray pulpit in the forest rising out of Lebanon's floor. We climb on its back and look for the inscription: LVMC. Lebanon Five Mile Corner.

I have been here three times before, once in snow and twice when it was clear, and couldn't find the letters carved in stone.

We rummage around, referring to the photo nailed to a tree nearby which shows the inscription, then check back with the rock. Walk up and down its length and width. We've heard the inscription is faint, but we can't find even a trace.

Then I see what looks like a letter near the top of the rock. But the orientation is unexpected. One would think it would be carved facing up the rock, not at the

top of it looking down. But there it is, clear and plain. Not like the day it was cut, but readable.

I put my fingers in each individual letter and trace carefully. I feel the familiar roughness of stone. Rick takes a photo with his smart phone, at an angle, so as to

catch light and shadow right. I have my own image recorded, in the feel of it.

My dog walks down the rock, casts a glance and keeps on going, sniffing his way through the woods like he usually does. Our turn to follow him.

He always seems to know where he's going, regardless of who plans the trip.

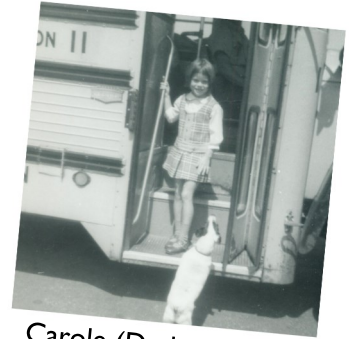


*Photo of Five Mile Rock taken in 1976*





## Exhibit News



Carole (Dudar) Brown

New school clothes?

A new pencil box?

Lunch in a brown paper bag? What was the first day of school like in Lebanon? Did your mother take photos as the bus came up your road?

The Lebanon Historical Society would like to borrow, scan and return some vintage (before 2010) first-day-of-school photos for possible use in our up-coming exhibit about learning in Lebanon. If you are willing to share, please call the Museum at [860-642-6579](tel:860-642-6579) to schedule a time to have your photos scanned.

The exhibit committee is also looking for 20<sup>th</sup> century school-related objects; pictures and objects from Lebanon's one-room schools and information about the history of FFA, Future Housewives of America and other vocational clubs.



Above: Fuller—  
Davoll clan



Clara Davoll



Fuller home on Cook Hill Road

## W. A. Fuller

*Continued from page 7*

out the burial plots. In 1860, he worked for the state surveying Indian Territory in Montville. He often was appointed to administer estates, particularly the division of real estate among heirs. The account book later states, "Commencement of cigar making." From September 1865 until at least February 1869, William A. Fuller paid women and youths (including his daughter Mary C. and son William E. Fuller) for making cigars. Some months more than a thousand cigars were produced, although Mr. Fuller was not always able to sell as many as were made.



Improving his farm was clearly important to Fuller. In 1847, numerous account book entries refer to acquiring lumber and timbers and to work on a barn. Wall (probably stone fencing) building was referenced from 1847 through 1850. In April 1854,

Fuller hired help for "work moving house." The purchase of chairs is not mentioned, but the account book documents a family with more cash than was common in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the ambition to improve their property and economic position. It is easy to imagine that Nancy Ellis' mother Clara Davoll could have understood that these were her Fuller grandparents' chairs. Certainly, the chairs were in the Fuller House on Cook Hill Road when Clara was a little girl and they have now returned to Lebanon as a valued addition to the Historical Society collection.





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**History Trivia Question:** How did Seabury Road get its name? *See page 3 for the answer!*

**IT'S TIME!**



For the  
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**9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

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