



Vol. 9 No. 4

Fall 2017

Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society

Programs & Events

Unless noted are open to the public and are held at the museum.

- **Saturday, Sept. 9** •
- **Sunday, Sept. 10** •

Ye Olde Lebanon Town Militia & The Lebanon Historical Society invite one and all to a **Revolutionary War Encampment**

Admission to the encampment and all the demonstrations are free and open to the public

Saturday, Sept. 9

10:00am

Firing of the morning gun, reveille and flag raising

CAMP OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

10:30am

Demonstrations of cannon & musket firing on the Green

ALL DAY

Artificer and cooking demonstrations in the Beaumont House

11:00am

18th Century Recruiting Event—Children will be drilled as Militia recruits

11:30am

Officers Call - Lebanon Militia's Officers Tent

12:00pm

Nooning

1:00pm

Artillery Demonstration on the Green

Events continued on Page 4

A Wall That Talks

By Donna Baron

Often history is as much about what is missing as what remains. In Lebanon, one example of this is a little known connection with wealthy 20th century businessman and antiques-collector Henry Francis DuPont. During the 1930s and 1940s, DuPont was amassing the collection that in 1951 became Winterthur Museum in Delaware. DuPont expanded his parents' mansion

painted fireplace wall from the house known as the Welles-Williams House.

In 1711, Reverend Samuel Welles (1689-1777) of Glastonbury became Lebanon's second minister. About a year, later he built a house set back on the west side of what has become Route 87. The painted fireplace wall was probably not an original feature of the house. The combination of faux cedar



Courtesy, Winterthur Museum, Williams Room

to include scores of rooms which he filled with outstanding examples of American art, furnishings and architectural elements. Sometime, in the years leading to opening his museum to the public, DuPont or his agents came to Lebanon and left with an extraordinary, mid-18th century

graining and a landscape scene link this work to chimney walls in the Connecticut River Valley that are dated to the 1740s and 1750s. This dating suggests that it was Lebanon's third minister, Solomon Williams of Hatfield, Massachusetts (1703-1774), who

Continued on Page 11

**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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Donna Baron

From the President

Rick Kane

"Evening at the Museum" held on Saturday July 15th was a terrific night. Attended by approximately 150 people, "Evening at the Museum" has become THE social event of the year in Lebanon. Thanks to our Evening Committee, staff, volunteers, servers, corporate donors and donors and bidders for the Silent Auction, this was a record year! Our committee works hard to improve this event year after year and this year was no exception – best yet!

Back on June 10th, we held the official re-opening of the relocated and restored Beaumont House with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event was attended by many people with two of our State Legislators (Cathy Osten and Linda Orange) also in attendance.

Our office/ kitchen renovation project was completed by early July. This project was completed on time and within budget. It is our intent to utilize local contractors and tradesman whenever possible. The Lebanon Historical Society receives a lot of support from our residents and businesses and it behooves us and Lebanon, to do likewise. The office/kitchen renovation project was contracted with local resident, Shane Kuzel, as the General Contractor and all subcontractors were from Lebanon or the local area.

The Broom Shop and Hearse House have exchanged locations. Thanks to our Building and Grounds Chairperson, Art Wallace, these buildings are now in their desired locations. The Broom Shop will now be more integrated with the history of the Beaumont family, as an early 1800 working farm.

Additional changes and upgrades to the property will continue through the late summer and fall. As the Memorial Bricks have been re-etched in granite, they will be replaced during the upcoming months. The original bricks were fading and unreadable. The funding for this project is supported by money bequeathed to the Society by Ellen Lathrop, specifically for this purpose. Ellen was a long-time member of the Society. In 1965, she was an a member of the committee that originally organized the brick walkway fundraiser. *Thank you Ellen.*

Anyone who wishes to retrieve their original brick is welcome to do so once the walkway has been completed.

I ask all of our members to continue to "spread the word." The Historical Society Museum is a great town asset. The Museum is open to the public at no charge. While we hope for increased membership to support our many activities, being a member is NOT necessary to enjoy the Museum and all it offers.

Our staff and docents enjoy visitors and look forward to discussing the history of the Pastor's Library and the Beaumont family as well as the several exhibits within the Museum.

Our Program committee has great programs lined up through the fall (see the upcoming events listed herein).

Our next major events are a Revolutionary War encampment on September 9 and 10 and our 51st Antique Show on September 30th. See the back page for more information.

Welcome New Members!

Bronze Benefactor

Jo Solley Hansen
of Florida

Family

Fred, Evelyn & Melissa Buckley
of Lebanon

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of Avon

Michael Okonuk & Marie Reynolds
of Lebanon

Individual

Sally Pierz Tate
of California

Individual Senior

Grant Bombria
of Norwich

Bruce H. Maine
of Illinois

Sandra Crosthwaite
of Lebanon

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Story telling is the best kind of history, not the sort of history that involves memorizing dates or studying politicians or generals. Stories are the memories that real people share and that provide insight into everyday life. Stories make history come alive and stories are at the heart of what we try to do here at the Museum. From preserving the documents and objects that form our collection, to researching, planning and installing exhibits or presenting programs for school children it's all about the stories.

Stories come in all shapes and sizes. Some are painstakingly researched and full of references to early records while others are whimsical recollections of something a grandparent said or the teller's own school days. Collecting the community's stories is both great fun and important.

Last year, some of our members and friends met for an evening at a Soup and Story event. After supper, State Historian and Columbia resident, Walt Woodward, encouraged participants to share stories, and we did. Participants remembered neighbors, childhood adventures and their growing up years. Everyone was fascinated and it was hard to end the evening.

Building on that success, we set aside Sunday evening, October 22 for another soup and story gathering. Please make your reservation to join Walt Woodward and Historical Society members for the fun of recalling history. All stories are welcome, but if you'd like a hint of where to start, may we suggest that, for an exhibit we are opening next spring, we'd love to hear your stories about travel or transportation. A first car story or the tale about a memorable family vacation? Perhaps the annual trip to buy new school clothes or the weekly delivery of groceries. You know your own stories and the rest of us would love to hear them.

Please make plans to join us at the Log Cabin on October 22. You will find a great group of friendly people eager to listen as you share a story.

Elkanah Tisdale, the source for our trivia question

In 1800, the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences initiated research to compile a Statistical History of Connecticut. Questionnaires were sent to all 107 towns in the state. Nearly 50 towns sent replies, but only a few were ever published. In 1996, the Academy began an effort to locate all surviving reports with the intent of publishing them. This project was completed in 2003.

This modern research project located 34 town reports and a couple more that covered multiple towns. Lebanon's report was among these. The report had been deposited at the Connecticut Historical Society in 1847, but had never been published. Elkanah Tisdale (1746-1809) completed Lebanon's report shortly after the town received the questionnaire in 1800. An addendum was submitted via letter in 1801. Mr. Tisdale was a prosperous tanner and

farmer who was known as "lawyer" Tisdale though he was never licensed as such. He received the request from the Academy in his role as Lebanon Town Clerk, a post he held from 1796 to 1805. He also represented Lebanon twice in the state legislature.

In his answers to the survey questions, Tisdale provided a wealth of details about life in Lebanon in 1800. He drew on his own observations and on information that had been passed on to him from his elders. Physical descriptions, demographics, observations about weather, farming, roads, churches, schools and manufacturing fill the paragraphs of the short report. This issue's trivia question came from the report. Tisdale's comments will continue to appear in *Provisions* and in our exhibits. Many thanks to Alicia Wayland whose copy of the 2003 edition is now part of our Research Library.

Trivia Answer:

According to Elkanah Tisdale, there were 499 houses of which 78 were valued for less than \$100. The average value for a house in town was \$297.60

Would you be willing to sponsor our newsletter?

Every issue of the newsletter costs \$300 to produce and mail.

We are always in need of full or partial sponsorship.

If you are interested please contact us at 860-642-6579.

Contact Us:

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

860-642-6579

museum@historyoflebanon.org

www.historyoflebanon.org

facebook.com/historyoflebanon

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Research Library
by appointment.

Calendar Of Events



Continuation of Revolutionary War Encampment

Saturday, Sept. 9

1:00pm

18th Century Fashion Show
at the Beaumont House

2:00pm

Skirmish between Colonial and
British Forces on the Green

5:00pm

Camp closes for Dinner

7:00pm

Candlelight Tour
of the Encampment

Sunday, Sept. 10

11:00am

Firing of the morning gun,
reveille and flag raising

Camp opens to the public

All day

Artificer and cooking
demonstrations in the
Beaumont House &
out-buildings of the
Historical Society

11:30am

Officers Call -Lebanon
Militia's Officers Tent

12:00pm

Nooning

1:00pm

Demonstrations of cannon and
musket firing on the Green

2:00pm

Skirmish between Colonial and
British Forces on the Green

4:00pm

Tattoo—Camp closes
to the Public

Events continued on Page 5

Thank you! For your generous donations

General Donations

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Rob Slate

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Evening at the Museum

2017

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- Newsletter

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Alicia Wayland

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David Ferling
Lucille Hessling & Family
Marjorie Hoskin
Rick & Sue Kane
Christopher Kearns
Andy & Judy Keller
Kenneth Koreyva
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Maurice & Lucy Simard
Andrea Stannard
Ed Tollmann
Ingrid Wood

Liberty Hill and Chestnut Hill Post Offices

Part One

By Ed Tollmann

On March 1, 1834, a post office was established in Liberty Hill, Connecticut. The first post master was George Simms Gray, who opened the office in a small general store. In 1834, a four-horse coach carried mail on its route between Hartford and New London. Mail was



Postcard of the Liberty Hill Church showing the Liberty Hill general store across the street.



Above is an enlargement of the Liberty Hill general store where the Liberty Hill post office was located.

delivered at Liberty Hill three times a week.

After the building of the railroad through Chestnut Hill in 1873, the mail was transported once a day to the station and back to the office by the following carriers: Mumford Peckham, John Abel, Henry Holbrook and, last, George Clark. Everyone in the neighborhood had to go to the post office which was in the general store, to pick up their mail.

In August 1885, a post office was established in the town of Columbia and named the Chestnut Hill Post Office, mainly because it was in the Chestnut Hill section of Columbia. This post office was in a small store that was behind the Chestnut Hill Station right on the railroad tracks. The first post master was store-owner George H. Loomis.

In 1892, Mrs. Louise Loomis was named post mistress. All went well with both

post offices until 1907. Once a day, the mail was brought in on the railroad and the Chestnut Hill mail was taken off at the railroad station as was the Liberty Hill mail.

For 20 years, Mrs. Louise Loomis faithfully served as Chestnut Hill post mistress in the little store behind the railroad station. When Mrs. Eva Dimon of Hartford was visiting there in 1906, Mrs. Loomis said, "Oh, Mrs. Dimon, I wish you had this job. Why don't you take the post office?" Mrs. Dimon finally decided to be the post mistress and it soon became known that Mrs. Loomis had resigned in favor of Mrs. Dimon.

Mrs. Dimon moved from Hartford to Chestnut Hill and circulated petitions for her appointment. Then the village took sides. It is said that Senator Brandegee took a hand and Mrs. Dimon was also assisted by WW Palmer, the leading

Continued on page 10

Calendar Of Events



- **Saturday, September 30** •
9 am—3pm

51st Annual

**Outdoor Antique Show
on the Lebanon Green**

Held rain or shine

\$5 admission

Free parking

Refreshments available
for purchase all day

- **Wednesday, October 11** •
7pm

History Book Club

"Lafayette in the
Somewhat United States"
by Sarah Vowell

- **Saturday, October 14** •
10am

**"Who Is Down Under
the Stones at
Center Cemetery"**

Walktober Walk

Guided walk by Genealogist
Lindy Brunkhorst Olewine
Meet at the Center Cemetery

- **Saturday, October 21** •
10am

**Scavenger Hunt on the
Lebanon Green**

Walktober Walk

Guided walk led by
Donna Baron.

Meet at the Lebanon
Historical Society Museum

- **Sunday, October 22** •
6pm

**"Soup & Story"
at the Log Cabin**

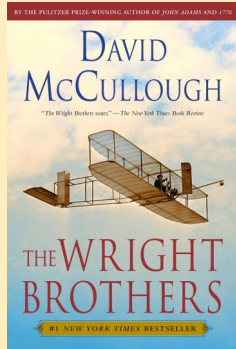
with State Historian
Walt Woodward

\$12 per person

Reservations Required
Call 860-642-6579

A Good Read

By Linda Wallace



The Wright Brothers

By David McCullough

Most people are familiar with the Wright Brothers as pioneers of the first manned, powered flight at Kitty Hawk. But what else do we actually know about them? And there is much more to know. David McCullough shows the fascinating behind-the-scene story of two Ohio boys who taught the world to fly.

Orville and Wilbur Wright were born six years apart, with Orville being the oldest, but in many ways they were as close as twins. Besides their parents, the family consisted of two older brothers, who married and moved out the family home, and a younger sister, Katherine. Their father, Milton, was a bishop of the United Brethren in Christ Church and served as an itinerant preacher for most of his life. The mainstay of the family was their mother, Susan, who passed away from TB in 1889. It is believed that Orville & Wilbur's mechanical aptitude came from their mother,

Continued on page 7 sidebar

Evening at the Museum

By Sandie Chalifoux

July 15th, 2017 was another beautiful night at the museum. I hope that you were able to attend and see all the splendor of the night under the tents. The hors d'oeuvres were outstanding from Café Mantic and



the buffet that was prepared and served by Olde Tymes Restaurant was enjoyed by all! The silent auction was a great success this year, a nice variety of items donated by board members, Lebanon Historical Society members, and non-members. Thank you to all for the donations, and the bidders too-best silent auction yet!!!!

In January of 2017, the committee met and began to plan the event that always takes place in July. Much planning goes into this event- food, theme, decorations, centerpieces, silent auction presentation etc. As time goes whizzing by, we gather to start seeing all our planning come together, including the creation of the invitations completed by Gracie, stuffing envelopes and putting all the ideas together. The committee consists of Co-chairs: Jacy Worth and Sandie Chalifoux, the indispensable Gracie Sayles, Alicia Lamb, Donna Baron, Linda

Heatherly-Auction Chair; Marianne Freschlin, Linda Wallace, Sue Kane, Connie Berglund and Suzanne Yeo. What a dedicated committee we have.

The committee has a lot of people to thank, for the success of this event, however, a special thank you to Jim and Geri McCaw for the loan of the tents, tables and chairs, and to Prides Corner Farm, for lending the beautiful flowers that were surrounding the perimeter of the tents. Just a note to mark your calendar for next year, July 21, 2018. Bring a friend and enjoy a "special night" at our beautiful museum on the historical Lebanon Green. If you are not a member, call the museum and sign up to be part of an amazing organization, or to be put on the mailing list for an invitation. Hope to see you next year- on July 21, 2018!!!!

Lebanon Creamery Desk

By Brian Bartizek

This is one of the first physical objects with a Lebanon history purchased by the Society. An auction was advertised at a house on Rte. 207 east of the center. Among the items pictured was the Lebanon Creamery desk. Prior to the auction, a group of members decided that the Society should try to buy it and, in fact, were successful and the desk was placed in the Beaumont House.

In 2016, after the house was moved again, to its current location, it was decided to furnish it as closely as possible to 1810 using Beaumont inventories; and there, in Samuel's list of 1814, was a desk with a substantial value of \$5.

The desk had strong anecdotal history of ownership by the Pultz and Fuller families and being used at the creamery, across the street from the Pultz home.

In one of the drawers there are stuck down portions of forms for shipping goods on the NY, NH & Hartford RR, which the creamery would have used to ship products to the large cities. During its operation from 1884 to 1933, our



desk would have been considered old but still useful.

It was made in the mid 1700s of maple and white Pine. Its small proportions {only 32" wide} and stepped interior harken back to the

Queen Anne period of American furniture. The quality and style of workmanship point to a trained rural cabinet-maker, but not to any specific area in southern New England.

Over the years, it has experienced hard use, abuse and even fire. The bracket base was replaced and drawer lips repaired 50 years ago. Even so, it is a part of Lebanon's important dairy history and serves well as Samuel Beaumont's desk.



Above: Poster for Lebanon Creamery butter, to be placed in a store where butter was sold.
LHS Collection

Right: Late 19th c photo of the Lebanon Creamery.
LHS Collection



The Wright Brothers

Continued from page 6 sidebar

who would make toys and in their words "as good as the store kind."

The Wright brothers were industrious, intelligent and probably geniuses. Although neither went to college, they possessed a wide range of knowledge on many subjects.

Their fascination with flight stemmed from watching birds fly. It was from their patient observation of the movements of birds in flight that they formed their theories for human flight. It took many years of accumulating and mastering this information, before they were able to achieve manned flight.

Orville and Wilbur designed and tested their own models and built a wind tunnel to determine the effect of wind on objects. When manufacturers were unable to provide an engine to meet their specifications, they, along with their mechanic, Charlie Taylor, built their own. Finally, in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville made the first flight of 12 seconds and 120 feet. Later in the day, Wilbur was able to fly for 59 seconds and traveled 852 feet. As time went on, they were able to greatly improve on these times and distances.

It wasn't until 1906 that the Wrights received a

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Wright Brothers

Continued from page 7 sidebar

patent for their flying machine. When they first looked to the U.S. government for encouragement for their venture, there was scarce interest, as the government had another project concerning flight, which they were sponsoring. In 1907, though, the government asked for bids for an airplane with certain criteria. Twenty-two bids were submitted, three accepted, but only the Wright brothers finished the contract.

While the U.S., initially, wasn't interested in the Wright's flying machine, France was. Wilbur spent many months in France trying to find backers for their machine, which he successfully did. In 1909, Orville and Wilbur formed the American Wright Company. Wilbur took over the business side of the company and when he passed away in 1912, Orville, feeling the absence of his brother, sold his rights to the company in 1915 and concentrated on experimental works.

There is so much more to the Wright brothers' story and David McCullough brings to life (as Paul Harvey would say) "the rest of the story" about these two ingenious, inventive, and brave men.



Cook Hill Road

By Rick Kane

Cook Hill Road is located in the northern section of Liberty Hill area of Lebanon and extends North to the Ten Mile River shifting slightly northeast to interconnect with the very northern tip of Village Hill Road.

Cook Hill Road, Village Hill Road, Burnham Road and a small section of Trumbull Highway (Route 87) encompass an irregular square of land that includes what is now known as Cook's Hill; hence the road name, but the story behind the road name is how Cook's Hill came to be so named.

Job Cook was born circa 1776 in Newport, Rhode Island, died in Lebanon in 1859. As a widowed farmer, he came to Lebanon in the early 1800s most likely between 1810 and 1820. He appears in US Census records in Lebanon as head of household beginning in 1820. Job's arrival in Lebanon may have been because the town had a Baptist Church. There is evidence that many other Rhode Islanders migrated to Lebanon and were affiliated with the Baptist Church.

Job's son, John L. Cook married Jannette Gay in 1840. The officiating minister was Esek Brown of the Baptist Church. Numerous other members of the Gay & Cook families were also married in the Baptist Church by Esek Brown. *[Bennet Cook married Betsy Loomis in 1821 also by Esek Brown, Louisa Ann Cook married Jonathan Babcock 1832 also by Esek Brown.]*

Job's name appears on some land records that our genealogist Lindy J. Brunkhorst Olewine has researched dealing with Village Hill Road. The research indicates Job's land holdings stretched as far eastward as the western boundary of land owners on the west side of Village Hill Road. Researching the

land records specifically for Job and John Cook has identified a 120 acre parcel of land, bounded on the west by the highway leading from Liberty Hill to Willimantic over "Cook's Hill" so called, and bounded on the east by land owned by Mariah Moffitt and Thomas Kingsley whose property was on the West side of Village Hill Road. This validates that Cook's Hill was encompassed by land owned by Job Cook and was thus so called.


One on-line source states he sold his land to his son John Lawton Cook on Feb 26, 1846 and on the 1850 Census, Job Cook is found living in the household of his married daughter Louisa Ann (Cook) Babcock, wife of Jonathan E. Babcock.

The property and buildings thereon changed hands many times between 1860 and 1936 when Daniel Stebner came on the scene. Today, the Stebner Farm is the property that was once owned by Job and subsequently John Cook back in the 1840s and early 1850s.

Job's only son, John L. Cook, moved out of Lebanon to Syracuse, New York by 1860, and became a hotel keeper.

The Cook family does not appear on the 1868 Map of Lebanon but their legacy remains in the road name.

The 1868 Map of Lebanon also shows that at the intersection of Cook Hill Road and Route 87 there was a peat bed and a quarry. Ed Tollmann has shared that you can see the quarry but is currently on privately owned land.


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.



First Car

By Matthew Flegert

Owning your first car marks a pivotal moment in young adulthood, it is the beginning of one's independence (and responsibilities). My first car was a 1983 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham.



The Caddy, as I came to call it, was quite big, measuring in at 18.4 feet long; I fit the entire Lyman Boys Tennis Team inside once. One of the first customizations I did was to add a set of steer horns to the hood. At work, Kurt Bender helped me install a CB radio with a PA system in the car, and lent me an AC/DC power converter so I could run Christmas lights around the horns and in the interior. You knew it was me when I was coming down the road; this proved to be both good and bad! The furthest away from Lebanon I ever made it in my first car was to New Hampshire. I really wanted to drive up the Mount Washington Auto Road, but a strong

summer storm sidelined the excursion (I only had one working windshield wiper!).

As old cars go, the Caddy started having problems. The electrical system began to fail, which took with it the radio and fuel gauge. The heat never worked well so I would keep blankets in the back seat. Finally, one day I went to start her up and she refused to crank over. Rather than pour more money and time into the car, I decided it was time to move on. I replaced the Caddy with a 1986 Volkswagen Jetta, quite a change! I have fond memories of my first car, and every now and then I will have a dream about the Caddy.

Down & Up, Open & Closed

Down & Up:

"Fading from View: Lebanon's Historic Cemeteries," will be dismantled in early September to be replaced by a private collection of school-girl needlework art. This wonderful collection will be on loan and displayed in our meeting room through early January 2018.

Open & Closed:

The Beaumont House and Pastor's Library are open every Saturday through September from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. The last guided tour begins at 3pm. Both buildings will be closed for the season as of October 1st. If you haven't had a chance to take a tour, we encourage you to do so soon. Both buildings will open for the Tree Lighting & Open House on December 3 at 6pm.

Down & Up:

"How They Learned: Education in Lebanon 1700-1970," exhibit will be dismantled at the end of February 2018 and replaced with our (yet to be titled) transportation in Lebanon exhibit opening the beginning of May.

Do YOU have car photos?

Your first car?
A family car or truck?
Your grandparents' car?
Cars on the farm?
Cars on vacation?
Any car or truck with a Lebanon connection?

The Historical Society exhibits committee would like to borrow photos like these to scan and return to you. The digital images will be used to create a "wall of Lebanon cars" as part of our upcoming 2018 exhibition about travel and transportation in Lebanon.

If you can help fill this wall, please call the Museum at 860-642-6579 or email museum@historyoflebanon.org.



Our next

History Book club
will be held at

**7pm on Wednesday,
October 11, 2017**

Our next book will be
**"Lafayette in the
Somewhat United
States" by Sarah Vowell.**
Everyone is welcome.

Thelma & Louise Remember

Anonymous

**Fall Season
50 plus years ago**



~ Autumn in Lebanon meant harvesting corn crops to prepare local cow's winter fodder. For many farmers (Bartizek, Aspinall, Hoxie, Grover, Carney) that meant chopping "truck paths" (Yankee farmers didn't want to waste crop space) by hand, loading and feeding cut stalks through a corn auger, which created silage, which was blown through piping and usually stored in an upright silo.

~ Harvesting corn in the fall was an arduous job, entailing many hours of labor. Most corn choppers were only composed of one or two cutting heads (compared to the machines of today that can cut 15 to 20 rows at a time!) Many hours were spent driving around corn lots, with trucks perfectly spaced beside the cutting machine capable of blowing the silage into said truck body. Heaven help the kid driving the truck, who allowed chopped feed to hit the ground! Each full truck load was then driven to the barnyard, backed up to the corn auger, shoveled out of the truck body and blown into the silo. Inside, workers were allowing the feed to be piped, while

Continued on page 11 sidebar

Liberty Hill and Chestnut Hill Post Offices

Continued from page 5

politician and businessman in Liberty Hill. She landed the job and immediately moved the office a quarter of a mile away. In moving it, some residents claimed that she inadvertently crossed the dividing line of the town of Columbia

mail; and if she wanted it thereafter, she should come to the street and carry it in herself. Mrs. Dimon said she would not do this unless commanded to do so by the government.

The next day, when George passed

through the village with the mail for Liberty Hill, he drove right by the Chestnut Hill Post Office without looking to the left or right. When he got to the station, he had the Liberty Hill mailbag but none for Chestnut Hill. Station Master John F. Congdon asked Clark about Chestnut Hill mail and Clark replied,



Chestnut Hill train station with store at the rear where the Chestnut Hill post office was located.

and went into the town of Lebanon and consequently from Tolland County to New London County. The residents of Columbia objected to going to Lebanon to get their mail even though it was only a quarter mile away because Chestnut Hill is in Columbia not Lebanon and Columbia is in Tolland not New London County.

The new Chestnut Hill Post Office in Lebanon was approximately a mile and a half away from the Liberty Hill Post Office and sat back from the road about 100 feet with a lawn in front. After eight months, Mrs. Dimon removed the fence surrounding the lawn. When mail carrier George Clark drove up from Liberty Hill, he drove onto the lawn and chucked out the Chestnut Hill mailbags. Mrs. Dimon pounced on George and forbade him to cross the lawn again, stating that he must stop in the street and get out to carry the mail up the walk to her. George told Mrs. Dimon that mail carriers were not obliged to leave their wagons to deliver

"Well, I'm through getting mail there. I've looked over my contract and I'm paid \$80 a year to carry mail from Liberty Hill Post Office to this station and back again. It don't say anything about Chestnut Hill."

Henceforth, all mail connection ceased and moving the mail was up to Mrs. Dimon. Someone wrote to Washington and complained about the mail being held up. Finally, the station master was pressed into service to carry the mail on his back, to and from the station to Chestnut Hill Post Office four times a day. If someone in Liberty Hill sent a letter to a friend in Chestnut Hill a few rods away, the letter went from Chestnut Hill station by train to either Willimantic or New Haven where it was sorted into a bag marked "Chestnut Hill" and put onto another train – a journey of up to 100 miles.

*End of part 1 to be continued in the
next issue of Provisions.*

A Wall That Talks

Continued from page 1

commissioned the work.

Williams, who was called to the Lebanon pulpit in 1722, was part of a large and politically important family network of wealthy ministers and merchants known to historians as the "River Gods." The Williams and their Stoddard cousins served parishes throughout the Connecticut River Valley, eastern Connecticut and western Massachusetts. When they moved to Lebanon, Reverend Solomon Williams and his bride Mary Porter of Hadley, Massachusetts, purchased Reverend Welles' house where they lived for fifty-four years.

Art historians have not yet been able to determine when the parlor wall was commissioned or who the artist was. Though the faux marble stiles and cedar-grained panels are similar to walls in several other Connecticut houses, the landscape scene above the fireplace is unique. Like other over-mantel landscapes, this was probably based on an English or Dutch engraving that the artist had seen. Unlike every other known example, the Welles-Williams over-mantel has applied moving details including the vanes of the windmill and the waterwheel on the downstream mill.

Exactly when this remarkable woodwork was removed from the house and taken from Lebanon to Delaware is not currently clear. The reason for doing so was probably monetary. Money was tight in the late 1920s and 1930s and Mr. DuPont was known for his determination to get what he wanted for his collection which include numerous rooms from houses throughout the eastern United States.



Visitors to Winterthur Museum & Gardens can see the parlor wall in the so-called Williams Room while touring the Winterthur Museum galleries. A related chimney wall from the Seth Wetmore House in Middletown can be seen at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford and recently restored cedar grained woodwork is on view in the Webb House's Washington chamber in Wethersfield. Other Connecticut River Valley houses with related painted woodwork are privately owned.



Exterior of the Wells-Williams house.

Thelma & Louise Remember

Anonymous

silage-forking, packing and interlacing small slat-type "door-boards" to be stacked in place in the inner chute of the silo, which when taken down, piece by piece which would allow feed to be thrown down the chute for winter munching. Often times the fast paced blowing of the corn did not allow enough time to remove the chains and pipe from the telescoping metal cylinders, which resulted in clogged pipes, which then shut down the running equipment and caused colorful language from the farmers! Heaven help the kid who allowed the inner corn pipes to become clogged! Interesting to see today's methods of corn/silage storing, as compared to the "good-old-days!!"

~ Apple orchards in town were busy harvesting their crops. Morgan's Apple Orchards, conveniently located on Route 207/norw Exeter Road, allowed Kindergarten teachers to walk their charges the ½ mile or so down Creamery Hill to traverse the orchard, enjoy some of their fruits, and take in all the farm had to offer.

More recollections of fall to follow in our next edition of Provisions.



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History
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Question:

In 1800 how many houses were there in Lebanon?
See page 3 for the answer.

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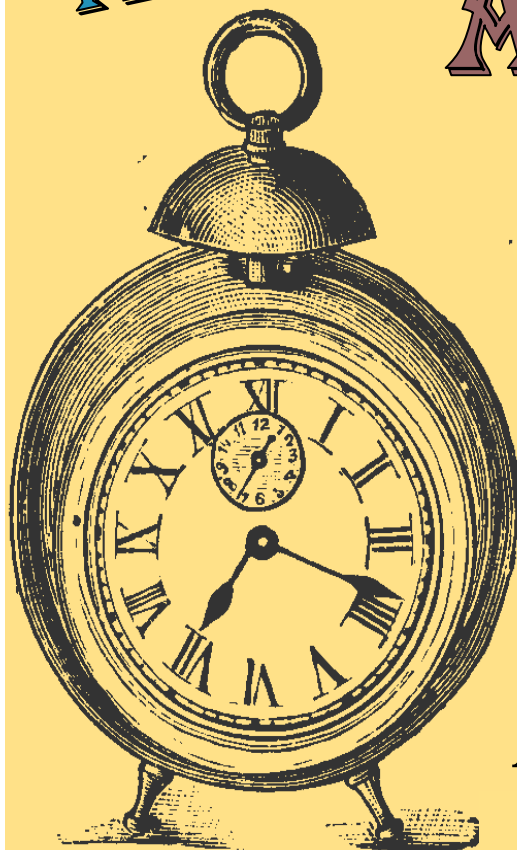
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