

Vol. 11 No. 4 Fall 2019

Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society

Programs & Events

Unless noted, all programs & events are open to the public and are held at the museum. Visit our website at historyoflebanon.org for all current information.



• **Sunday, September 15** •
2 pm
Faith Trumbull
Huntington

Talk by Margaret Meahl on the brief but full life of Governor Trumbull's daughter. Co-sponsored by the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House Committee. Free admission. Refreshments.



• **Saturday, September 28** •
9 am — 3 pm
53rd Annual
Antique Show
on the Lebanon Green

Held rain or shine. **\$5 admission**. Free parking, up to 70 dealers. Enjoy homemade pies, chowders & sandwiches, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

See pages 4 & 5 for more events

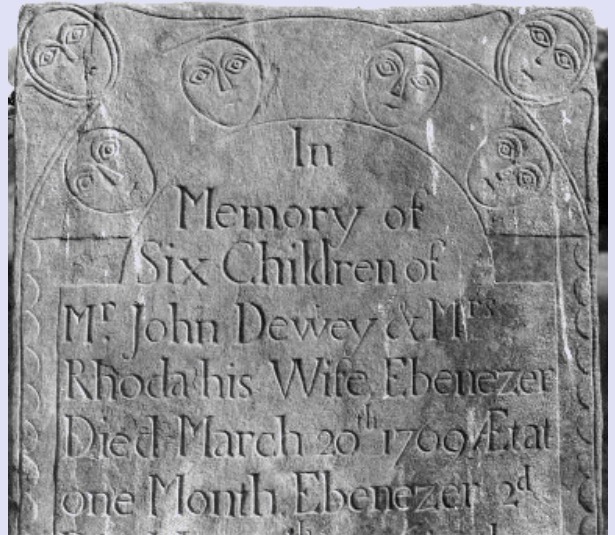
Diphtheria

By Donna Baron

Reverend Jacob Eliot of Goshen kept a diary from 1737 to 1764. Parts of this diary survive, and some excerpts have been published. The diary entries reveal much about the minister's business and social life. He also noted the parishioners who died and their causes of death. As their minister and doctor, serving the ill and dying was one of Eliot's primary responsibilities. Consumption (tuberculosis), pleurisy, childbirth complications, lung fever and old age were common causes of death. In 1741, a new complaint, "throat distemper," began to appear in Eliot's annual list. Eighteen-year-old Hannah Archer died that year. The next year, Eliot attributed at least three children's deaths to this disease.

For the next seven years, throat distemper seems to disappear in Goshen Society, but in 1749 it struck again with a vengeance. In January, three children died. Three more children succumbed between February and April. Eliot's diary entries in August and October each include three deaths, with another recorded in December. The disease flared again in the late summer and fall of 1754, when, according to Eliot

"In all—5 aged persons, 4 middle aged & the rest (13)



Gravestone for the six children of John and Rhoda Dewy, carved by Lebbeus Kimball with six faces. Gravestone is located in Trumbull Cemetery.

Photograph courtesy of Farber Gravestone Collection

children & young persons. Ye whole died in about a month of the Camp Distemper out of about 40 in all that had it."

After 1749, Eliot apparently did not continue recording parishioners' deaths in his diary.

Modern medical historians identify throat or camp distemper as diphtheria, a disease which affected hundreds of thousands of children annually until an effective vaccine was developed in the 1920s. Today, the DPT (diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) vaccine protects most children from the debilitating and life-threatening effects of throat distemper. Symptoms include sore throat, loss of appetite and fever, but

**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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From the President

Rick Kane

Since our last edition of *Provisions*, the Lebanon Historical Society has been involved in our busy events season.

On June 8, we held our annual Second Saturday event, with many artisans displaying their workmanship, including blacksmiths, a cooper, a broom maker and a demonstration of spinning wool into yarn.

Activities for children provided a look into how everyday chores were done in the "olden days," like rug beating, using a scrub board and wash tub and corn shelling. The high school FFA students assisted in the construction of birdhouses, and kids got to enjoy a small petting and feeding area, featuring birds brought by Mark Tollmann and sheep brought by the Nowosads. As in years past, all attendees enjoyed the waffles made over an open fire and, of course, eating them!

This year, all the demonstrators and activities were located between the front of our Museum and the Beaumont House and all along the stone wall. This attracted a much larger crowd, as it was more visible from the road. Many thanks to Ed Tollmann for creating and, again, organizing this wonderful event.

Another great Lebanon Historical Society Evening at the Museum event was held on July 20, 2019. As I mentioned in my welcoming remarks, my deal with the devil four years ago was for no storm activity for that event during my tenure as president. Well, the devil got the best of us anyway, with a hint at what the "edge of Hell" might be like. It was a very hot night, but, as we know, the people of Lebanon always make the best of it. I think I can say a good time was enjoyed by all. Please note that attendees do not need to be Historical Society members. Next year, encourage your friends and relatives to join us for a enjoyable evening!

Many folks were instrumental in planning this wonderful event and making it a reality, including the Evening at the Museum Committee and many LHS volunteers, Community Events chairs, Jacy Worth and Tony Tyler, and our amazing staff. I would also like to thank our sponsors and those who donate both dollars and items to the silent auction. A special thanks to all who attended and withstood the heat and humidity (I believe it may have been a record for Connecticut). The consensus is that it was a successful event, however you wish to measure it.

So now, on to the next event—the 53rd Annual Antique Show on the Green, to be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Planning has already begun, and again, we hope for good weather and a large crowd, so bring your friends and family.

I continue to emphasize the importance of long-term planning to keep the Historical Society a healthy and active organization. We need new members on the Board from time to time. If you'd like to participate, please let us know. According to our bylaws, next year we will have several board members who are term-limited for at least a year.

Also, we periodically conduct a strategic planning event, typically one day in the fall, and it's coming up again this year. We will be looking for volunteers from outside our current Board who might be willing to participate. Fresh ideas are always helpful! If you are interested, please let us know. Please help us to promote Historical Society membership to friends, neighbors and family members. Thank you, as always, for your support!

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Individual Memberships

Ann M. Day of Wisconsin

J. Ben Hobbins of California

Shannon Ryan of Groton

Frederick Rivard of Lebanon

Family Memberships

Donna Brazalovich of Lebanon

Individual Senior Memberships

Carol Flynn of Manchester

Eleanor Thorpe of Pennsylvania

Senior Couple Memberships

Thomas & Laurene Shewan of Uncasville

Dennis & Toni Greci of Lebanon

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Listening to reminiscences about Lebanon 20, 40 or 60 years ago is one of my favorite activities. Diaries, account books, letters and probate records provide a similar kind of personal encounter with the past. Since coming to work at the Lebanon Historical Society, there are some manuscripts and publications that I find myself reading and rereading every year or two because of the insight they provide to other times.

George Milne's *Lebanon: Three Centuries in a Connecticut Hilltop Town* is one source that reveals something new each time I read it. I especially enjoy the quotations from Ellen Bliss Huntington's diary, which has disappeared in the years since Jean McArthur loaned it to Reverend Milne. Dwight Spaulding's manuscript about growing up in Goshen in the mid-19th century and Dan Huntington's recollection of his Revolutionary War boyhood are also favorites.

Then there is Henry Aspinall (1903–1985). Sometimes I forget that I never met Henry. Ed Tollmann has shared so many recollections that I often feel as though I must have known Henry well. The Historical Society has many hours of tape recordings and transcripts of the various programs Henry presented. Henry's notes about where he found mill sluiceways or dams were a valuable resource for our recent Working Water exhibit.

Though not born in Lebanon, Henry grew up here, and was a story collector even as a child. For his entire life he must have paid careful attention to the memories of local men and women who'd been children during the Civil War or whose grandparents had been alive during the American Revolution. In his talks, tours and oral history interviews, Henry shared this immense treasure trove with his friends, and it's still a valuable resource for us today.

Recently, I was rereading "Touring with Henry," a booklet that is a transcription of a bus tour that Henry narrated for Historical Society members in 1980. Henry drove a school bus for many years, and based on all the stories in this booklet, had a tidbit to share about every corner and crossroad. During my rereading, I stumbled upon an answer to a question that Fitch family descendants, in particular, often ask. "Where, exactly, did Reverend James Fitch live?"

Reverend Fitch was a minister in Norwich, son-in-law of Captain John Mason and an early landowner in Lebanon. He moved to town shortly before his death, but several of his sons were also Lebanon residents. Sources indicate that the original Fitch land grant was somewhere near the cedar swamp (now flooded as Red Cedar Lake). Reverend Fitch is often cited as the person who chose the name "Lebanon" for the town because the trees in the swamp reminded him of the biblical cedars of Lebanon.

Henry Aspinall, who talked with elderly Lebanon residents since he was a boy in the early 1900s, knew just where this early Lebanon house had been. One of the stops on his tour was on Camp Mooween Road, between Bozrah Light and Power Company pole #786-1/2 and pole #787. Stopping the bus and pointing across the road, Henry said, "Right here beside me, by the roadside, is where I believe to be the site of the house where Reverend James Fitch died . . . He died at the age of 80 and lived in Lebanon with his son on the site right here, possibly eight or nine months, until he died in 1702."

Just a tale? Maybe; but I do believe that Lebanon residents would have remembered where such a historically significant man had lived through enough generations for story collector (and teller) Henry Aspinall to hear about it as a child and remember the details to share 70 or more years later.

Trivia Answer

According to John Pease and John Niles of *A Gazeteer of the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island*, there were 4 distilleries & 7 mercantile stores serving the 370 dwelling houses in town.

If you have any questions or ideas for our newsletter, please feel free to contact us!



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.
12 pm - 4 pm

**Research Library
by appointment.**



Calendar of Events



- **Saturday, October 5 •**
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Walktober Walk
Explore the Exeter Cemetery

Guided tour by Dan Moore
Meet at Exeter Cemetery



- **Sunday, October 6 •**
5 pm - 7 pm
Volunteer Social

Join us for a potluck supper to celebrate all those who volunteer their time and talents to make this Society run.

Bring something to share and we'll do the rest.

For more information call the museum at 860-642-6579



- **Wednesday, October 16 •**
7 pm

History Book Club

The Train to Crystal City: FDR's Secret Prisoner Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II,
by Jan Jarboe Russell



- **Saturday, October 19 •**
10 am
Walktober Walk
Red Cedar Lake Trail

Walk the trail and discover the story of Red Cedar Lake and uncover the ruins of Camp Mooween.
Walk led by Art Wallace.
Meet at lake entrance.

Events continued on page 5

Many thanks to 2019 donors to designated funds & events

Additional Annual Appeal Donations

Mary Lily

Genealogy Donations

Ann Day
Laurei DeCapua
Paul Kelly
Jesse Watras

Slate Genealogy Fund

Rob Slate

Publications - Newsletter

Anonymous

McCaw Memorial Library Fund

Robert & Margaret McCaw

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Evening at the Museum Monetary Donations

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Attorney Patrick Prue
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Gracie Sayles
Rob Slate
Ann Sheedy
Andrea Stannard
Ed Tollmann
Al & Judy Vertefeuille
Art & Linda Wallace
Jim Wesolowski
Windham Hospital Ladies Auxiliary
David & Suzanne Yeo

The Geer Family Memorial Orchard

By Dan Moore and Melissa Hayes

After the Revolutionary War, many Lebanon residents moved to New York State or Ohio. This created a vacuum, which was filled by people from Rhode Island—families like the Peckhams, Champlins and Hewitts, many of whom were orchardists. Rhode Island was known as the New England state that developed the most nursery businesses—one of the reasons why the Geer Family Memorial Orchard includes the “Rhode Island Greening” apple.

Orchards have played an important role in Lebanon’s history over the years. Until the 1938 hurricane, Lebanon had several huge orchards, including the Smith Orchard run by Asher Smith (father and son), who owned Redwood. In the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the Smith Orchard boasted 1,000 peach trees. During this era, Lebanon supplied produce of all kinds (including those peaches) to the company store that serviced employees of the five mills in Willimantic.

The Orchard

The Lebanon Historical Society has been working to establish an orchard on the museum campus which features heritage apple trees. Three of the trees were grafted from red and yellow apple trees that grew on the grounds of the Governor Trumbull House and the original site of the Beaumont House. (Dan Moore estimates that the Trumbull House tree may have been more than 200 years old, based on the number of rings he counted when it was taken down.)

This project has been made possible through donations given in memory of several members of



the Geer family (Harold Geer, Norma Geer and Richard Geer), who felt passionately about preserving Lebanon’s agricultural history. Dan Moore is grateful for the help provided by two key figures at Prides Corner Farms, instrumental in the process: Mark Sellew, president, and Larry Walsh,

assistant propagation manager.

Located behind the Beaumont House, the orchard currently includes eight trees, three of which were grafted from old trees taken from Lebanon properties. One of these three trees is called a “Sheepnose,” or Connecticut Gillyflower; from the Trumbull House, the other two—as yet unidentified—were taken from the Beaumont House site in Village Hill. The other five heritage apple trees were purchased: Rhode Island Greening (by 1650), Tolman Sweet (United States, prior to 1800), Hunt Russet (Concord, MA, 1750s), Spitzenburg, a favorite of Thomas

Continued on page 11



Connecticut Gillyflower



Rhode Island Greening



Tolman Sweet



Hunt Russet

Calendar of Events



- **Saturday, November 2** •
9 am

Strategic Planning Session
If you are interested in joining us please contact us by calling 860-642-6579 or emailing dbaron@historyoflebanon.org



- **Sunday, November 17** •
2 pm

John Adams

Portraying John Adams, George Baker tells the story of the historic 50-year friendship between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Members free,
non-members \$2



- **Sunday, December 1** •
1:30 pm or 2:30 pm

Holiday Spray-making Workshop

Make a spray for your door, mailbox or a centerpiece. Choose one of two sessions. Materials fee \$5 per spray for members. Non-members pay an additional \$3 to attend. Pre-registration required.



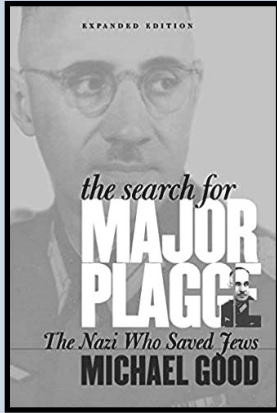
- **Sunday, December 8** •
6 pm - 8 pm

Lebanon Tree Lighting & Open House

Enjoy warm cider and ginger cookies by the fire while kids make holiday crafts. View our latest exhibits and take a lantern tour of the Beaumont House and Pastor’s Library.

A Good Read

By John Knudsen



**The Search for Major Plagge:
The Nazi Who Saved Jews**
By Michael Good

The Search for Major Plagge: The Nazi Who Saved Jews by Michael Good is a gripping chronicle of courage and survival. Dr. Good practices medicine and lives in Durham, Connecticut. As the son of Holocaust survivors, he has written a book that presents us with two stories in one: First, the miraculous account of how his parents survived the Nazi death machine in Lithuania during the Second World War; and second, a compelling mystery in which he recounts his determined effort to uncover the story of Major Karl Plagge, who seemingly “fell off the map” after the war.

Dr. Good's mother, Pearl, was convinced at war's end that she and 250 other Jews could not have survived the notorious Vilna ghetto without the heroic deeds of this mysterious German army officer, who, against all odds and at great personal risk,

Continued on page 7 sidebar

Summer fun at the Lebanon Historical Society!



May's Memorial Day Parade Float



June's Second Saturday



July's Evening at the Museum



Lebanon Plays Ball

From the Collections

Earlier this year, Jean King Reichard donated her father Frank (Billy) King's Lebanon baseball team shirt. Jean recalled, "Many years ago, my father played baseball on the Lebanon Town Team. On Sunday afternoons, my family would go to the games (in Lebanon, Columbia, Coventry, etc.). Mr. Ed Jones would pass the hat for donations. Other players I remember were Donnie Jones, Kalmon Kurcinik, Clayton Lathrop and Art Stevens."

This wool shirt with letters spelling "LEBANON" joins a Lebanon baseball collection that includes team photos, baseball score books, team lists, a mitt and fielder's glove, bats and a ball, a how-to book and shoes, shirts and pants. The collection covers the first half of the twentieth century, a time when amateur baseball for men was an important part of small-town life throughout the country. Players were often older teenagers and young adults, but some



seated in front of the iron gates on the First Congregational Church steps. "LEBANON" baseball shirts, bats, gloves and a ball are all featured in the picture. Unfortunately, there is no record of who donated this photo to the Historical Society.

Ed Tollmann donated two other early images of the team, a postcard and a photo. According to the late Harold Geer, the players seen in the circa 1909 postcard (page 10, top) included Otto Pultz, Norman Pultz, F. Williams, Chauncey Williams, Ed Jones and Harold Mason, as well as men named Smith,

Hewitt and Church. The umpire was Mr. McClure.

The circa 1915–1920 photo (page 10, bottom) includes men identified by Harold Geer as Otto and Merton Pultz, Ed Jones, Chauncey Williams and umpire McClure. Many years later, Robin Chesmer donated some of the Pultz family's baseball equipment,

including bats, balls and uniforms.

A 1935 team list donated by Ed Tollmann reveals that by this time Frank

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 6 sidebar
was determined to protect the Jews over whom he had command as slave laborers. According to Pearl Good, "He was better than Schindler!"

Dr. Good's riveting narrative compels the reader to consider the following provocative questions: What makes for a hero? Why is it that some people submit to the authority of a cruel and evil regime whose brutality staggers the imagination, while others, like Karl Plagge, choose to defy this very same regime at great personal peril—even while wearing the military uniform of the offending government? And finally, under what circumstances does moral leadership occur, and what are the qualities of a moral leader?

These questions are timeless, and their relevance to the present cannot be overstated.

Readable, sensitive and engaging, *The Search for Major Plagge* offers a fresh look at the Holocaust through a powerful and uplifting story of the human spirit, and how it can endure extreme adversity and ultimately triumph over unthinkable evil. Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, writes:

"Against the background of the Holocaust which has robbed so many of their faith, here is a story to restore one's faith."



1900–1915 photograph of Lebanon's town team men played well into middle age.

The earliest Lebanon Town Team artifact is a circa 1900–1915 photograph (above) of nine men and two women

Memorial Brick

Honor your family,
a loved one or
an organization
with a granite brick in
our memorial walk.



For a \$100 donation we will have a granite brick inscribed with up to 3 lines of text, 13 characters per line, and have it set in our memorial walkway in the front of the museum.

Order form available on our website at www.historyoflebanon.org or email us at museum@historyoflebanon.org



Rafferty Road

By Rick Kane

We have mentioned before that many of the roads in Lebanon take their name from the most prominent family living on the road at a particular point in time. In this case it is Dr. Brae Rafferty, who in 1936, purchased a 120-plus-acre farm on what is today called Rafferty Road. At that time, however, it was a continuation of Jordan Road, from the Gates Hill area down to Route 289.

The farm—situated on a dead end today—has had few occupants since 1936. Dr. Brae Rafferty sold the property to Edward and Klara Bender in 1961.

But who was Dr. Brae Rafferty? Francis Brae Rafferty was born in Willimantic in 1901 to Frank and Mary (Britton) Rafferty. He lived in Willimantic with his family until he attended Brown University, graduating in 1924. He then attended Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia and interned at Mercy Hospital in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

He returned to Willimantic in 1933 to live and serve the community at Windham Hospital, where he was chief of surgery from 1943–45, and again in 1962. He served as medical examiner for the Town of Windham and several surrounding towns for many years. Dr. Rafferty also found time to preside as president of the Windham County Medical Association and president of the Connecticut State Medical Society in 1951–52. In 1968, he retired and was named an emeritus member of the hospital staff.

He and his wife, Ann (Postemski),

took up residence in Chaplin, where he passed away on February 16, 1972.

He is buried in Chaplin's Russ Cemetery.

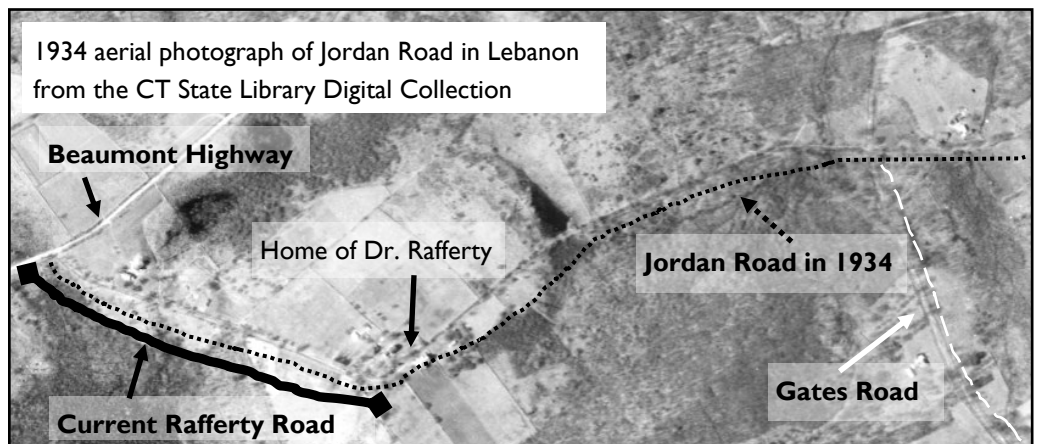


Dr. Brae Rafferty

Dr. Rafferty and his younger brother purchased the 120-plus-acre farm in Lebanon on Jordan Road. The farm extended to land owned by William Gates on what today is Gates Hill. Maps from 1854 and 1868, and an aerial photo from 1934, show a continuous road from Route 289 all the way through to Gates Hill, continuing on to Windham. The 1957 CT DOT map of Lebanon clearly identifies the dead-end road as Rafferty Road.

The land-transfer record associated with the Dr. Brae and Robert W. Rafferty purchase of the farm in 1936 identifies a boundary as Jordan Road. By the time of the land transfer to Edward and Klara Bender in 1961, it is identified as Rafferty Road. A different land transfer in 1956 also identifies it as Rafferty Road.

A review of Town Meeting minutes and selectmen's meeting minutes from the time period of 1936–1956 do not reveal any action by the Town or the selectmen to officially name the road "Rafferty Road." We can only assume that residents referred to it this way, and it was eventually adopted in the Town road system as such.



Diphtheria

Continued from page 1

the most notable symptom is the formation of a thick gray substance over the nasal tissues, tonsils, larynx and pharynx.

From 1735 until 1740, throat distemper ravaged New England. Starting in southern New Hampshire, it spread to Boston and from there north and south along the coast. The disease primarily infected children, and some families reported losing eight children in three days. Goshen's first outbreak in 1741, was probably related to this epidemic. Like measles and influenza, diphtheria seemed to disappear periodically, only to reemerge with a vengeance a few

years later. Young children who had not previously been exposed to the disease could not build up any natural immunity, so each flare-up was deadly. This seems to be what happened in Goshen in 1749 and 1754.

The Goshen Society diphtheria epidemics were probably not unique in Lebanon. Other parts of town and surrounding communities were undoubtedly impacted. Old cemeteries often reveal that several children in one family died within days of one another, but gravestones rarely identify the disease involved. Jacob Eliot's diary and his position as minister and medic shed light on the effect of a single disease on one small rural community.



A Bit About Smallpox

Donna Baron

Smallpox, a highly contagious and often deadly disease, came to North America with European fishermen and explorers and devastated American communities in the 16th and 17th centuries. Smallpox outbreaks recurred irregularly throughout the colonial period.

In 1721, Boston suffered an especially severe epidemic and the disease spread through much of New England. Colonists understood that exposure to smallpox patients or infected corpses seemed to spread the disease. Separate smallpox cemeteries were common in cities and in rural towns like Lebanon which had at least one such cemetery on Mack Road.

Lebanon suffered a severe outbreak in 1777, probably as a result of infected men returning home from fighting around



Colored Engraving by C. Manigaud; titled *Edward Jenner, Vaccinating His Young Child*, held by Mrs. Jenn Wellcome. Original painting by E. J. C. Hamman

Adams deliberately exposed themselves to the disease in order to develop natural immunization with a mild case of smallpox.

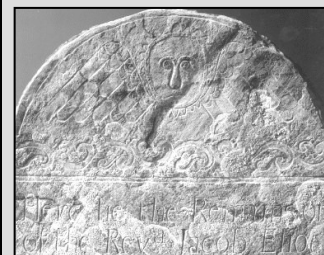
English physician Edward Jenner developed and administered the first smallpox vaccine in the 1790s, but the disease was not eliminated worldwide until the early 21st century. Many Lebanon residents recall getting a smallpox vaccine as children and may have the distinctive shadowy multi-pronged scar on their shoulder or hip.

Boston and New York during the American Revolution. Although African slaves had taught Puritan ministers such as Boston's Cotton Mather about preventative inoculation by 1720, the practice was only adopted very slowly. In the 1770s, American leaders including John

Rev. Jacob Eliot

Source: News article about Goshen Church published in Norwich Bulletin, July 1, 1929 pages 5 & 10

"Rev. Mr. Eliot was born in Boston in 1700. He was the grandson of Jacob Eliot, a 1631 Puritan emigrant from England and a grand-nephew of the Rev. John Eliot, the famous missionary to the Indians. Jacob Eliot's home was a large two-story house on the road west from Goshen Hill; that part of the hill was called Eliot Hill for many years....Rev. Mr. Eliot's death occurred April 22, 1766, in the 66th year of his age and the 37th of his ministry."



Cropped photo of Rev. Jacob Eliot's gravestone in the Goshen Cemetery. Gravestone was carved by John Huntington of Lebanon.

Photograph courtesy of the Farber Gravestone Collection.

Epitaph: *Here lie the remains of the Rev. Jacob Eliot, First Pastor of the Church of Goshen, Born in Boston on Nov 26, 1700, Educated in Harvard College, ordained in the Church here Nov 26, 1729 & having great prudence, diligence & uprightness served this people & this generation by ye will of God...in ye 66th year of his age.*

Lebanon's
Mayflower
Roots



The genealogical research center at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum sometimes receives inquiries about ancestors who may have been 1620 passengers on the *Mayflower*.

The *Mayflower Society*, an association for those with proven *Mayflower* descent, lists 51 possible *Mayflower* ancestors. Although there are only approximately 25 individual male lines of descent from the *Mayflower*, the Society estimates that there may be 35 million descendants, many with a huge variety of last names because of their descent through generations of female lines. However, several early Lebanon families—including Aldens, Bradfords, Brewsters and maybe Fullers—can be traced back to the *Mayflower*.

As the first Plymouth settlers spread out in the second and third generations, they moved west, and by the 1690s, some grandsons and great-grandsons had settled in Norwich. Some of these men—including Andrew Alden, Joseph Bradford, Benjamin Brewster Jr. and John Brewster—moved to Lebanon between 1698 and 1730.

Baseball

Continued from page 7

(Billy) King had joined the team. The 15 men on the roster also included Merton Pultz and Clayton Lathrop. This gift of Lebanon baseball material includes the 1935 game book with score sheets for the Lebanon team and their opponents from Colchester, Hadlyme, Columbia, Eagleville, Salem, Norwichtown and Fitchville.

Although historians have disproved the story that baseball was invented by Abner Doubleday (the great-grandson of a Lebanon Crank [Columbia] resident), Lebanon has a fascinating twentieth-century connection to “America’s favorite game” that has been very well documented, thanks to the generosity of our donors and friends.

Postcard of Lebanon's 1909 baseball team



1915–1920 photograph of Lebanon baseball team

Apple Trees

Continued from page 5

Jefferson's (Hudson River Valley, before 1800) and Newtown Pippin (Long Island, NY, circa 1750).

The Process

For a successful graft—the only way to grow an apple tree, by the way, as they are not grown from seed—you need to take cuttings when the tree is dormant (typically, in February). Cuttings can be grafted via bud or branch grafting; a combination of both was used to grow the three Lebanon trees. Dan and his colleagues purchased cold-hardy root stock and grafted a total of 50 cuttings onto the stock, sealing them with beeswax. It took three years to get these cuttings to take, as some didn't make it through the winter.



Do You Have an Old Apple Tree on Your Property?

The LHS is looking to see if any Lebanon residents might have old apple trees on their property. If so, we'd like to come and look at the tree when it has apples on it, and if you're willing, pick a few. We'll send samples to a heritage grower to determine whether it qualifies as a "heritage" variety.

An heirloom or heritage plant is an open pollinated variety that has been grown for many years and passed down within a family or group. Heirloom varieties evolved over time by natural or human selection, often having wonderful taste, aroma and vitamin



Identified as "Orchard in Lebanon," this photograph includes a man and his cow standing among fruit trees. Unidentified location.

Lebanon Historical Society Collection

content. There are Family Heirlooms and Commercial Heirlooms. Family Heirlooms are the varieties that have been passed down within the family for many years. Commercial Heirlooms are heirlooms that were either selected for or developed by seed companies many, many years ago. There are also Native American Heirlooms that were passed down through the generations.

Please contact us if you think you might have such a tree and would like us to come and investigate; we would love to add more heritage trees to our orchard.

Although Samuel Beaumont's press filled a free-standing building, and probably operated by horse power, small hand-cranked presses were common well into the twentieth century. Currently, the Museum collections do not include a cider press, but a Lebanon press would be a wonderful addition.



We're Open for Tours ! The Beaumont House and the Pastor's Library

are open for guided tours through October 12.

Saturdays only
from 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Additional times by appointment only



Correction: Our summer 2019 issue of *Provisions* included an error in an article that appeared on page 4, titled, *Hinckley's and Pitchers mills, circa 1860 to 1938*. We incorrectly stated that Charles L. Pitcher Jr. and his brother David bought the Hinckley mill from Edwin N. Hinckley in 1813; however, it was actually purchased in 1913.

If you enjoyed
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our next issue of

 **Provisions**

History
Trivia
Question:

In 1819, an inventory was taken of buildings in Lebanon.
How many distilleries were there in town?
How many mercantile stores?

See page 3 for the answer.

IT'S TIME!

For the
53rd Annual
ANTIQUÉ SHOW

on the Lebanon Green

Routes 207 & 87 Lebanon, CT

Sponsored by the Lebanon Historical Society

**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 28**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

RAIN or SHINE - FREE PARKING -

Homemade pies, chowders & sandwiches; grilled burgers & hot dogs.

Admission \$5.00 children under 12 free

For more information contact

Lebanon Historical Society

860-642-6579



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