



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 1 No. 3

Spring
2009

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Calendar of Events

All our programs are open to the public. We look forward to seeing all our members at our programs.
See program details on page 4

Wed., May 6, 7pm
Colonial Connecticut and the Atlantic World Economy
Presentation after the Annual Meeting and potluck supper

Sat., June 13
10-4pm

CT Open House Day and 2nd Saturday

The Model T club will be shuttling visitors to and from the historic sites around the green to see lots of special activities.

We'll have a

- blacksmith
- corn-husking machine
- antique tractors

2nd Saturdays
July 11, Aug. 8,
Sept. 12
10-4pm

Summer Children's Programs

Unlocking History

Look for our flyers in June!

Call to Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

Lebanon Historical Society Museum

Join Us for Good Food, Good Friends, Good Program

You are cordially invited to the 43rd Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper of the Lebanon Historical Society, Inc.

*Please bring a dish to share
and we will provide the coffee and punch.*

At the business meeting, members will hear reports, vote on a change in the Bylaws and elect members of the Board of Trustees. Please see separate notices on these votes and on the program.

We look forward to seeing you there!

- LHS Board of Trustees

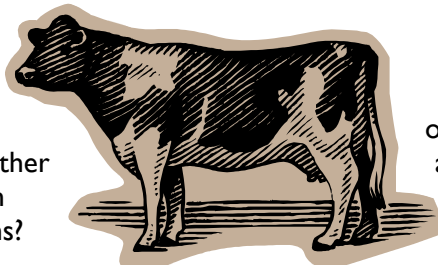
Connecticut's colonial trade topic of program at annual meeting

Alicia Wayland

Where did the beef go, in the 18th century? And the sheep, horses, poultry and other farm products from Lebanon and other Connecticut towns?

Joseph Avitable will share his unique findings about colonial Connecticut's maritime trade in a program at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum on Wednesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. Titled "Colonial Connecticut and the Atlantic World Economy," the program is free and open to the public.

Benedict Arnold's raid on New London in September 1781 not only burned down the city but also destroyed all the Custom House and port records on which written history is based. By contrast, the port records



of Boston are well preserved, making Massachusetts

appear to dominate the Atlantic colonial trade.

Although all the departure records were destroyed, Avitable knew the Connecticut ships had arrived somewhere in the Atlantic world. He focused his research on the arrival records from distant ports such as those in the Caribbean and along the Atlantic coast.

What Avitable uncovered is a very large Connecticut export trade, primarily from New London and primarily for livestock, that will change

Continued on page 6

**The mission
of the Lebanon
Historical Society**

The mission of the Society is to preserve and to interpret all aspects of the history of Lebanon, Connecticut from its earliest inhabitants to the present day, with a special emphasis on the role of Lebanon in the American Revolution.

Board of Trustees

President

Ed Tollmann

Vice President

Glenn Pianka

Treasurer

Rob Slate

Secretary

Alicia Wayland

Buildings & Grounds

Brian Bartizek

Community Events

Keith LaPorte

Collections

Jill Adams

Development

Gisele Russo

Education

Sara Cross

Exhibitions

Margaret McCaw

Finance

Kurt Bender

Membership

Jan Grigas

Publications

Jacy Worth

Nominating

Al Vertefeuille

Personnel

Betty Forrest

Ex-Officio

Archibald Andrews III

Director

Donna Baron

From the President

Ed Tollmann

Our February school vacation programs were very well received. We had the largest attendance ever. The students worked on genealogy and archeology projects. A wonderful group of volunteers and our staff made it all possible. My thanks to you all. Because of your efforts we're getting a very loyal group of students that look forward to these programs.

Our staff was doing double duty getting the vacation programs planned and setting up the St. Francis display. A wonderful fireside chat was enjoyed by 70 guests. Father Brian Converse started the chat off with the history of the Parish. Panel members Jennie Brewster, Nancy Godere, Dot Goldstein and Barbara Wengloski added the finishing touch to the program by remembrances about the early days of St. Francis. What a rich history came forth.

I am please to announce that at the Board of Trustees voted to hire interim director Donna Barron as our permanent director. Donna and the staff are working very well together and things are moving forward in an organized manner. I try to sit in on our staff meetings. This has kept me more involved and up to date on what's happening at the museum.

The Board of Trustees attended a day long retreat to brainstorm what our goals are for the future. From this we will be planning a new 5 year strategic plan for the Society. In closing, I want to thank our Board of Trustees for their hard work for the Society. The camaraderie and diversity cannot be matched. I feel very privileged to be working with such a wonderful group.

Nominating Committee Proposes Slate for Board of Trustee Positions

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees is pleased to present the following proposed slate of Trustees for election at the annual meeting on May 6. The slate includes the election of five Trustees who chair Standing Committees. Terms are for two years. Non-officer Trustees are eligible to serve three two-year terms.

For Trustees to Chair Standing Committees, 2009-11

Keith LaPorte, Community Events

Gisele Russo, Development

Connie Berglund, Finance

Jan Grigas, Membership

Betty Forrest, Personnel

Bylaws Change Will Add Three Members to Board of Trustees

At the annual meeting on May 6, members will be asked to consider and vote on a change in the Bylaws. At present, the Board consists of four officers and 11 trustees who each chair a Standing Committee. The proposed change will add up to three at-large members to the Board of Trustees to provide additional expertise and support to the Board. They will have the same terms of office as the trustees chairing committees. The proposed changes are highlighted in bold:

Article V, Section 2 – Number, election, tenure

a. The Board shall consist of four (4) officers of the Society: the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, and **fourteen (14)** persons elected to serve as non-officer Trustees, **eleven (11) of whom shall serve as Standing Committee Chairpersons and up to three (3) of whom shall serve as At-Large Members**; they shall be elected on a rotating basis, depending on initial year elected, at the Annual Business Meeting to serve for a two-year term or until their successors are elected. No such elected non-officer Trustee who has served three (3) consecutive two-year terms shall be eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed from the expiration of his/her third two-year term. Officers shall be limited to two (2) consecutive two-year terms in the same office except for the Treasurer whose two-year term may be extended by a majority vote of the Board and with approval of the Nominating Committee. All elected Trustees must be members of the Society. Terms shall begin immediately after election.

Director's Message

Donna Baron

According to Oscar Hammerstein, "May was full of promises, but she didn't keep 'um quick enough for some..." As we look ahead to May and the next fiscal year for the Lebanon Historical Society, there are many plans a-foot and promises to keep. While progress may be more slow and steady than quick, by this time next year, we will have accomplished a great deal.

Within a few months, you can anticipate seeing a new Lebanon Historical Society web site. Lebanon resident and recent graduate of the design program at Eastern Connecticut State University, Emily May, is working with museum staff to develop a historic and engaging look for the site. Last year, intern Rebecca Conelias drafted wording for the many pages that will make up the site. Now staff and volunteers are revising those texts. Very soon our web presence will be as much fun as our programs and events.

Last year, the Society successfully applied for a Connecticut Humanities Council grant to hire a temporary part-time curator who could address issues relating to caring for and expanding our object and archival collections. Work on this project was postponed as Sally Whipple left and I came on board. However, by May, we anticipate that our new Curator will be hard at work.

We will be calling on members and other residents to help with this project. We want and need your input as the Historical Society plans for the future. What should our collections include and how can we find these materials? You can expect to receive an invitation to a workshop or focus group to discuss these issues and develop a new collecting plan.

In 2009, we would also like to increase Historical Society membership and all of you can help with this too. Ideally, we dream of having every family in town on our membership roles. Our current members are our best advocates, so please talk with your friends and neighbors. Tell them about our great kids' programs, lively discussions, engaging exhibits, and outstanding genealogical and historical resources and volunteers. Expanded member benefits will be announced soon so this is a wonderful time to join.

At the Lebanon Historical Society, May and all of next year are full of promise. With your help, we can work to see that potential fulfilled. I hope to meet many of you at the annual meeting on May 6. Please introduce yourselves and feel free to offer your suggestions. Together we can enjoy good food, an interesting presentation, and a chance to exchange ideas.

Remembering those who served: Will you help?

During every war from the American Revolution to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Lebanon has answered the nation's call. Local residents serve today, as they have in the past, with honor and a sense of conviction.

To honor this tradition of service, the Lebanon Historical Society will sponsor an exhibit that opens for Memorial Day and runs through the summer.

Members and other Lebanon residents are invited to loan memorabilia of their own or a family member's military service for this exhibit. Artifacts from the colonial and 19th century wars will be drawn from the Museum's collections. However, photographs, uniforms, accoutrements, and souvenirs from more recent conflicts are needed.

If you have a story to share or materials to loan please call the Museum at 642-6579. Museum staff will be happy to tell you more about the exhibit and exhibit-related programs. Your participation will help create a fitting memorial to all Lebanon residents who have served our country through military service.

A "Buck for Buckingham"



The Buckingham Library has been generously donated to the Historical Society and it is our vision to move the Buckingham Library to our site as soon as we can raise the money to do so.

We are asking everyone to donate A "Buck for Buckingham."

**A Special
Thank You
to the
Lebanon
Business
Association
for a \$250
donation to our
membership
initiative**

Contact Us:

The Lebanon
Historical Society
856 Trumbull Hwy
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

Wed. and Sat. only
or by appointment.

Wed., May 6, 7pm
Colonial Connecticut
and the Atlantic
World Economy

Speaker: Joseph Avitabile.

Presentation after the
Annual Meeting and
potluck supper

Sat., June 13, 10-4
CT Open House Day
2nd Saturday

Blacksmith, Corn Husker,
Antique Car Rides
from site to site

Summer Children's Programs

Unlocking History

If you would like more
information, please email
us so we can add you to
our "Sneak Preview" list
and we'll get registration
information out to you
before it's publicly

**Jonathan Trumbull
Junior House**
Sat., May 16

Opens for the season
12-4pm with a new
exhibit titled "The Art of
Theorem Painting"
Artist reception 2-4pm
Judith Vertefeuille

Sat., June 7

"Revolutionary Tastings"

Modern versions of desserts
available at historic sites for
CT Trails Day

Sat., June 13

Demonstration on
"The Technique of

Theorem Painting" 1-3pm

Sat. June 27

"Time for Tea" 18c British
Tea by Reenactors

Annual Update—Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee Brian Bartizek, Chair

The Buildings & Grounds committee was involved mainly with routine maintenance and repairs of items that are now 10 years old. Members and volunteers include Howard Wayland, Glenn Pianka, Harry Eck, and Ed Tollmann. Tasks included: treating the Beaumont roof, sealing around the furnace chimney, repairing and re-programming the electronic door locks, re-positioning the base mount and repairing the flag pole rope, building cabinets in the new hands-on room, front door chime, and cleaning and re-lamping light fixtures. The front door, which was wood and had cracks was replaced by a steel unit.

For this coming year we must focus on a long term maintenance plan and try to reduce our budget at the same time. One possible saving would be to do our own lawn work if we can get a few volunteers.

Collections Committee Jill Adams, Chair

The Collections Committee is excited at having received the news that the Connecticut Humanities Council approved our application for a \$20,000 grant.

This grant will fund a part-time, temporary collections manager who will work with our director and volunteer collections staff to produce an improved collections management policy and plan. Thank you to Sally Whipple for all her hard work on the grant application. The position announcement was posted the week of March 9th and we should be hearing from interested applicants soon.

Community Events Committee Keith LaPorte, chair

The Community Events committee would like to extend a warm thank you to all who help make the concessions end of our Annual Antiques Show click. Volunteers help realize the parking, gate, kitchen, grilling, baking, coffee etc ends of this tradition. This year's Annual Antique show will be on Saturday, September 26.

The memorial brick sidewalk that welcomes visitors to the museum is still open to your interest. Please contact the Historical Society at 642-6579, if you are considering this special purchase.

In an effort to promote fellowship, this committee is presently in discussion on a new tradition—"4th Friday, Picnic on the Patio." This wonderful space should be enjoyed by all. And of course more to follow.

Development Committee Gisele Russo, Chair

Development Committee activities this year include the Annual Appeal Drive which was completed in February. We are still accepting donations. We are currently working on plan for the future which includes membership education on the process of bequests and planned giving.

Education Committee Sara Cross, Chair

We have had another wonderful year of programs at the Museum. In August we had a farewell reception for a dear friend Jan Bartizek who moved to Lebanon, Ohio to be with her son. She will be sadly missed.

On November 9 our program "Stories of Men from Lebanon who served in the Revolutionary War" was presented by our Director Sally Whipple to whom we also had to say goodbye as she has left us to work at The Old State House in Hartford. We had a farewell reception for her after the program.

Our Lebanon Tree Lighting Open House was well attended by folks (with very rosy cheeks from the cold wind) who stopped by to warm up with some hot mulled cider and ginger snaps. The LHS Christmas Party on December 10 was a fun evening of fellowship.

On January 18, in spite of bad weather, Charlie and Jimmy Bender gave a wonderful

program on their hike at the Grand Canyon with some Lebanon friends.

There was standing room only for the Fireside chat on the history of St. Francis of Assisi Church of Lebanon which was held on February 22. A large display in our multi-purpose room of their church items enriched the program.

Lyman Memorial High School Music Club held their second "open mic night" at the Museum, with the students doing most all of the preparation. It was well attended by over 90 young people.

There have been wonderful school vacation programs at LHSM as well: "Tracing Your Family Tree," "Archaeology," and "Becoming a Backyard Archaeologist."

On March 16 we held a joint program with The Lebanon Garden Club on "Early New England Gardens and Their English Connections," presented by Cynthia Dias-Reid.

It was standing room only with folks so anxious to see some gardens and flowers as we impatiently wait for our own gardening season to arrive.

We hope you have enjoyed these programs and hope to see you again at the Museum.

Exhibition Committee Margaret McCaw, chair

This year, exhibit changes have focused on the cases in the multi-purpose room. The first exhibit featured the history of the community chorus. Chorus members helped develop the exhibit and presented a short concert as part of a Fireside Chat. Through the Christmas holidays, visitors enjoyed seeing toys and games once used in Lebanon. In February, St Francis of Assisi Church and its parishioners worked with museum staff to install an exhibit of church materials.

The accompanying fireside chat drew more than 60 attendees. The committee is currently working on an exhibit about the history of the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department that should open in late May.

Membership Committee Jan Grigas, chair

The Membership Committee is active with a mailing to all homes in Lebanon. Hopefully, we can achieve the goal to have more members per capita than any other historical society in Connecticut. We are sending a letter and membership application to these homes asking them to join our society and support our museum. Thank you to all our current members for your support!

Publications Committee Jacy Worth, chair

The Publications Committee meets monthly to plan content and layout of 'Provisions' which is circulated quarterly. Our focus is to create an interesting and informative newsletter which provides our readers with articles on our rich Revolutionary War history as well as stories relating to more current local history.

We collaborate with our Director and staff and the Board of Trustees in order to keep you informed of activities and exhibits at the museum. The committee welcomes suggestions for future articles from our readers. In order to defer the cost of the newsletter we offer sponsorships. We are also working with the museum staff in assessing literature for sale in our gift shop. I thank my dedicated committee members: Alicia Wayland, Gisele Russo and Donna Baron as well as Grace Sayles, Alicia Lamb and Marty Kendall for creating a newsletter we are proud of. We hope you enjoy reading 'Provisions.'

Nominating Committee Al Vertefeuille, chair

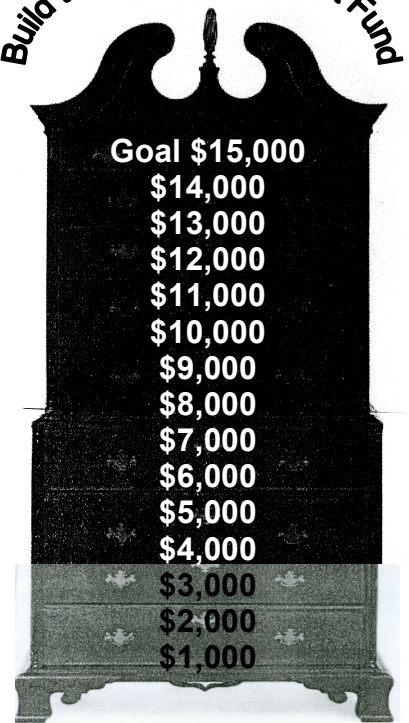
The Nominating Committee recommended two members to fill existing vacancies. Jill Adams was elected to fill a vacancy as Chair of the Collections Committee and Giselle Russo was elected to fill the Chair of the Development Committee. The committee is currently updating the manual which outlines basic responsibilities of Board Chairpersons and will be meeting to recommend nominees for Board vacancies and officers of the society for presentation to the Annual Business meeting.

Summer Sundays

The
Lebanon
Historical Society
will be joining the
other historic sites
around the green and
opening on Sundays
From May 17 to
Oct 11 from
12 to 4pm
as long as we have
volunteers to do so.

If you have a free
Sunday and would like
to help out, please
contact the office,
642-6579

Build the Newcomb Chest Fund



Through your generosity
we've
raised **\$3,625.00** so far!

A Good Read

A recent addition to our collection is "Connecticut's African & Native American Revolutionary War Enlistments 1775-1783"

Published by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
Written by Jason R. Mancini & David J. Naumec

Another Good Read

that you can find in most libraries is

"Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring."

Written by Alexander Rose
Published by Bantam Dell
"Based on remarkable new research, acclaimed historian Alexander Rose brings to life the true story of the spy ring that helped America win the Revolutionary War.....Beyond the battlefield and deep in to the shadowy underworld of double agents and triples crosses, covert operations and code breaking ..."

WANTED:

For the Lebanon Historical Society Library and Archives

Pre-1950 Phonebooks and/or City Directories with Lebanon Listings

Summer 2nd Saturdays

Starting several years ago, the Lebanon History Consortium (Lebanon Historical Society and Beaumont House, DAR – Governor Trumbull House and Wadsworth Stable, SAR – War Office, Town of Lebanon – J. Trumbull, Jr. House, and First Church) selected the second Saturday of each summer month as a special programming day. The various sites planned craft demonstrations, hands-on activities, and short-term exhibits for these days.

This year, the Historical Society has planned a series of exciting new ways to join in the fun of Second Saturdays. In June, we will feature crafts people demonstrating blacksmithing, quilting, broom making, and woodworking as well as Model T Fords and antique farming equipment. In July and September, staff from the Blue Slope Museum will offer a wide variety of historic children's games and toys. Each month there will be special hands-on family craft activities. Other plans are still being made, but we promise a good time for one and all. So, come to the Lebanon Green on Summer Second Saturdays. Visit the

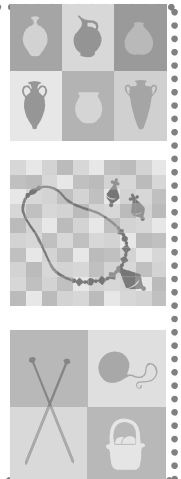
Farmers' Market, then come to the Historical Society and explore the other historic sites around the Green.

Connecticut Open House Day – June 13, 2009

For the fifth year the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism is sponsoring a state-wide open house day. Museums around the state will be offering free or discounted admission and/or special programs to entice residents to explore travel near to home. The Lebanon Historical Society and all the History Consortium members will be participating and invite you to check us out. For more information about other interesting places to visit on June 13 go to www.cultureandtourism.org.

Do you know a crafter who would be interested in showing wares at our expanded gift shop?

If so, please give us a call 642-6579



Connecticut's colonial trade topic of program at annual meeting

Continued from page 1

the way historians view Connecticut's position in the Atlantic trade world. He has assembled a data base of close to 10,000 voyages, along with their cargoes, and he can show where in Connecticut the products came from. Not only do these findings show the huge agricultural surpluses produced in the colony, they also implicate Connecticut in the sugar and slave trade of the West Indies.

This painstaking research is the basis for Avitable's dissertation, "The

Atlantic World Economy and Colonial Connecticut," which he expects to complete in May. Avitable graduated from CCSU in 1999 with a double major in History and Economics. After receiving his M.A. from Trinity College in 2002, he entered the graduate program at the University of Rochester. Between 2007 and 2008, he was a visiting professor of history at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y.

LHS Volunteers—A Continuing Series

Gisele Russo

This article begins a series highlighting the volunteers of LHS. When we began discussing possible candidates for the first article one name rose above all others to begin this sequence: Rob Slate.

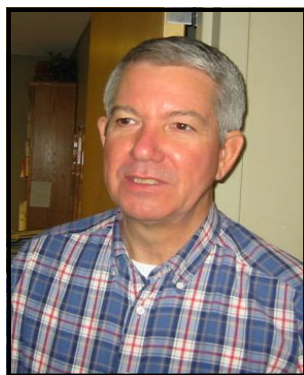
I had the opportunity to sit with him one Saturday morning at the museum recently (where he can usually be found) and discussed his extensive involvement. As a near life long resident he spoke of his background which eventually led him to become involved with LHS. Rob, along with his brothers Jon and Tim, are the 7th great grandsons of Richard Lyman III and 8th great grandsons of Josiah Dewey, both original proprietors of Lebanon who settled here in the late 1690's. His brother Jon still lives in the Lyman homestead at 595 Trumbull Highway. His family moved back into the area in 1948 when his parents, Alton & Esther Slate, purchased the family homestead from Alton's Aunt Minnie. Rob was a year old at the time they moved in.

Alton spent many summers and vacations living with his Grandfather Kingsley in Lebanon while growing up. Rob's mother originally hailed from Durham. Here he led a sheltered existence as most do living in a small rural town.

His father instilled in him a love of hunting and fishing and the family's deep roots in Lebanon and his mother "infected" him with a keen interest in genealogy.

He also recalls the stories told by his Dad's mother, Mary Matilda Kingsley Slate, about growing up in Lebanon in the late 1800's and early 1900's. His grandmother had a sharp mind for detail until her passing just short of her 98th birthday.

Rob previously transcribed the Barbour Collection records for the Town of Lebanon which consists of the Births, Deaths and Marriages for the period 1700 thru 1854. His current project is the scanning of his Dad's many war letters starting in 1941 when he was drafted into



Rob Slate, Treasurer

the army and continued till the war in Europe finished and he returned to Connecticut. It also includes other letters sent and received by family members. One of these more memorable letters was dated December 7, 1941 and includes his brief thoughts about the events on that fateful day after hearing the news on the radio at Camp Wheeler, GA. In the future he hopes to work on an educational program for youth on genealogy to instill the desire to research their family roots, a natural fit with computers and the Internet. He also would like to continue his own genealogy research and expand his current data base of approximately 10,000 people.

He entered the Air Force in 1969 and remained in the service until 1976 when he and his family returned to Lebanon. Rob graduated pilot training and went on to command a KC-135 tanker crew. After leaving the service Rob joined his father in the Mustard Insurance Agency which Rob runs today. Rob's background is rich with volunteerism. During the years since his return he has also been greatly involved with our local Lions Club, the Board of Finance and the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Rob initially came to the Lebanon Historical Society around 1995 when talk of the museum first began. In 1998 he became treasurer and automated the accounting system after moving into the new museum. He's been the treasurer ever since but would gladly pass that torch on to a new volunteer. Additionally he is also the museum's computer 'guru.' He maintains the server, network, and updates the software and maintains all the computer equipment as time and knowledge permit. Rob is a wonderful example of a dedicated volunteer that we hope will instill others to follow their hearts and do the same.

Exhibit News

*A faith, a church,
a community:*

**St. Francis of Assisi
Church Exhibit**
is open until the end
of April

A new display
Honoring the
**Veterans of Lebanon
Rev War to Iraq**

If you have any artifacts
you would be willing
to share please
contact the museum

The logo for the Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) features a stylized fire hydrant and a fire hose forming a circular shape around the letters 'LVFD'.
LVFD
**Lebanon Volunteer
Fire Department
Exhibit**

**Opening
Memorial Day
2009**

If you have a craft
you'd like to
demonstrate
for an adult or
children's program,
please give us a call
642-6579
or email us
museum@
historyoflebanon.org

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."
-Robert F. Kennedy

**Sponsorship
reminder**
If you would be
interested in
sponsoring
the next newsletter
please call us
at 642-6579

**Lebanon Historical Society
Museum & Visitor Center
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249**

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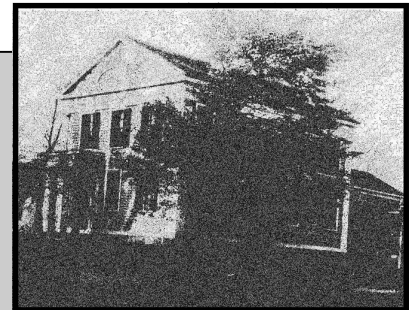
Please don't
miss the
**ANNUAL
MEMBERS
MEETING
& POT LUCK
SUPPER**
**Wednesday, May 6
6pm**

**Program
Colonial
Connecticut and
the Atlantic World
Economy
7pm**



**St Francis Church Exhibit will be up until the
end of April. If you haven't seen it yet,
please stop in before it's too late!**

**Museum hours are 12 to 4pm
Wednesday through Saturday.**



Programs, exhibitions & services of the Lebanon Historical Society are made possible in part by a generous grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council.