



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 3 No. 3

Spring
2011

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Events Calendar

*All of our programs are
open to the public.*

Wednesday, May 4

Annual Meeting

**6:00pm Potluck Supper
Meeting**

7:00pm Program

Please bring a dish to share

Saturday, May 14

Opening Weekend

for the History Museums
around the Green

*Our year long celebration of
History through Music has
begun!*

Sunday, May 22

2:00pm

**"Our Love is Here
to Stay"**

A musical program of Gershwin
& Porter performed in memory
of Barbara Stannard.
Held at the Columbia
Congregational Church
Free for everyone!

National Trails Day Concert

Saturday, June 4

2:00pm

**"Pilgrims' Progress:
From Plimoth to Yorktown"**

Co-sponsored by the Lebanon &
Columbia Historical Societies

Performance of colonial music
by "Seven Times Salt,"
Reception to follow. Held at the
First Congregational Church
of Lebanon
Free for everyone!

Programs continued on page 4



Please join us for the forty-fifth
Annual Meeting

of the

Lebanon Historical Society

on

Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6 pm

held at the

Lebanon Historical Society

MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

6pm Potluck supper, 7pm meeting, program to follow

"Going It Alone: Lebanon Since 1804"

Presented by Alicia Wayland

Please bring a dish to share. Coffee and punch provided.

"Going It Alone: Lebanon After 1804"

In May 1804, Lebanon lost 21.8 square miles of territory and nearly 800 residents when the General Assembly approved the formation of the new town of Columbia from the North or Crank Society of Lebanon. Alicia Wayland, town historian, will present a program on the changes in the people and the land that have taken



*The former St Mary's Mission Chapel on McGrath Lane.
Lebanon Historical Society Collection*

place since then. Her presentation will be part of the 2011 Historical Society Annual Meeting.

The evening will begin at 6:00 pm with an old-fashioned potluck supper. Society members and friends are encouraged to join us and to bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. Serving dishes and utensils are much appreciated and should be identified with the

Continued on page 5

**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 and Acting
Membership Chair*

Glenn Pianka

Treasurer

Rob Slate

Secretary

Sandie Chalifoux

Buildings & Grounds

Jim Mello

Community Events

Keith LaPorte

Collections

Brian Bartizek

Development

Vacant

Education

Sara Cross

Exhibitions

Margaret McCaw

Finance

Connie Berglund

Nominating

Al Vertefeuille

Personnel

Betty Forrest

Publications

Jacy Worth

Members-at-large

Linda Heatherly

Suzanne Yeo

Ex-Officio

Archie Andrews III

Director

Donna Baron

From the President

Ed Tollmann

On March 26th your Board of Directors held a strategic planning session from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Numerous ideas and goals were discussed. A three year strategic plan

was put in place with projects prioritized by importance. A back-up business plan was also accomplished. The session was a great success. Donna Baron, our museum director, did a great job facilitating.

Plans have been started by Jan Grigas, our Development Subcommittee Chairman, for our second "Evening at the Museum." Keep August 20th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. open. You won't want to miss this wonderful evening of fellowship and camaraderie.

Maureen McCall, Russ Blakeslee, Charlie Grant and Pastor Mark Turcio made up the panel at the reception for the Goshen Congregational Church display. The Exeter section of town along with newly acquired items in our collection were also on display. If you haven't seen the new display stop by, you'll be impressed. Our goal is to showcase a Lebanon church each year, this being our third.

At our April 5th Board of Trustees meeting a vote was taken to have Glenn Pianka disassemble the roof, move to our site and restore the Buckingham Library. Glenn is confident that the project will be completed by the end of June. Again, many thanks to the Fortin Foundation for funding this project.

As usual, the Museum has been a hub of activity. A basket making class was a great success. Rick Spencer's concert "Outlaws, Villains and Rogues," played to a full house on April 3rd. Our varied programs have something of interest for everyone.

Don't forget our annual meeting May 4. You should have received an invitation with bylaws changes on the back in the mail by now.

Following a potluck supper a business meeting will be held. A bylaws change, and election of trustees will be acted upon.

Alicia Wayland will round out our evening

with a program titled Going It Alone: Lebanon After 1804. Please plan to attend. This is your meeting. Happy Spring to all and as usual please call with any ideas or concerns, I'd love to hear from you. Evenings 860-423-9444.



Director's Message

Donna Baron

Every year at annual meeting time, you (the members) are given reports about what the Lebanon Historical Society has accomplished over the last year. Phrased that way it sounds as though "the Society" is a single large object operating independently. Of course, nothing is further from the truth. Our Society consists of people, many people, who offer their time, energy, creativity and generosity to keep the organization alive and vibrant. Without all of you, there would be no Lebanon Historical Society and without our great volunteers our work would never get done.

The members of the Board of Directors are at the heart of this community effort. President Ed Tollmann provides a firm backbone for us all and does far more than running meetings (really well). Over the last two years, I have found him washing windows, meeting contractors, setting up tables, and hauling hoses. There seems to be nothing he won't tackle if it needs doing. As treasurer, Rob Slate rivals Ed in the number of hours he devotes to the Society. Every week Rob spends hours at the museum handling the budget, paying bills, and keeping an eye on the technology that we all depend on.

Vice-president Glenn Pianka and Buildings & Grounds Chair Jim Mello keep our facilities in good repair and plan ahead for long term maintenance needs. Glenn has recently been instrumental in repairs to the Beaumont House and preparing for the Buckingham Library move, while Jim has instituted community volunteer groups for exterior upkeep and a plan to reduce electrical costs. Long-time Board member Brian Bartizek currently serves as Collections committee chair overseeing the Society's growing collections of photographs, documents and objects is always willing to reset the timers on the outdoor lights. Exhibits always benefit from Maggie McCaw's expertise as she shares her knowledge of the museum building and its mechanical systems.

Sara Cross, whose hospitality skills enhance every program, Keith LaPorte who has been in charge of organizing and running the Antiques Show for several years, and Jacy Worth under whose guidance the newsletter has become a magazine about local history have all contributed so much to our success. Our newer Board members Connie Berglund, Sandie Chalifoux, Betty Forrest, Linda Heatherly and Suzanne Yeo work tirelessly behind the scenes dealing with administrative issues like financial planning, program implementation and the gift shop.

Over the next few years, you may hear from Nominating Chair Al Vertefeuille as he looks for new members to work on and with the Board. This is a lively and hard-working group of people who are dedicated to keeping Lebanon's appreciation of its past alive. Without them, there would be no Lebanon Historical Society.

Many thanks to the Lebanon Senior Center for opening up their facility for our Board of Trustees strategic planning meeting. It was the perfect atmosphere and space for the day-long session where creative and thoughtful work was accomplished by our wonderful Board and director.

Welcome to our newest members

Supporting
John "Jack" Sullivan

Patron
Lebanon Life

Family
Scott & Kathy Schultz
Bob Bryon

Individual
Ingrid E. Wood

Senior
Charles & Teresa Grant

History Trivia Answer:

In 1921, Miss Lydia Hartig, who was born in Alsace on the border of France and Germany, came to serve at the Goshen Congregational Church where she remained until 1926. Look for an article about the intrepid young woman in the next issue of *Provisions*.

Contact Us:

The Lebanon Historical Society
856 Trumbull Hwy
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249
860-642-6579
museum@historyoflebanon.org
www.historyoflebanon.org

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat. 12pm to 4pm

Library & Research Center

Wed. and Sat. only
12pm to 4pm

Upcoming Programs & Events

National Trails Day Walk
Sunday, June 5
12pm - 4pm

"Allons Chercher du Bon Pain"

(Let's go find some good bread)
Walk to each of the museums
around the green and get a
taste of the breads that
sustained the residents of
Lebanon and the soldiers
who passed through.

**Saturdays: June 11,
July 9, August 13**
12pm-4pm

Second Saturdays Family-Fun Events

at the museum.

A variety of family orientated
activities each Saturday.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, August 20

"An Evening at the Museum"

Saturday, September 24

**45th Annual Outdoor
Antiques Show**

You can always visit
our website **www.**

historyoflebanon.org

to see a list of our current
events and programs

We would love to see you
at our programs.
If you have an idea
for a program or you would
be interested in putting on a
program, please let us know!

Lebanon's Tisdale School

By Betty Forest

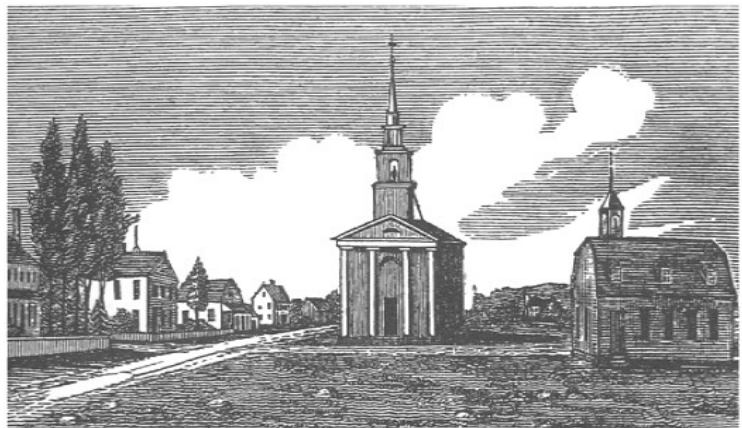
Under the tutelage of Nathan Tisdale (1732-1787) and his commitment to the highest educational standards, the Tisdale School of Lebanon, Connecticut was a "Blue Ribbon" school of its time. Tisdale served as its master from 1749 to 1786.

The school was founded in 1743 by Jonathan Trumbull and several other townspeople as a subscription school for tuition-paying students. Within the first year of its founding, the "Subscription School" had thirty-five students. Later, under Tisdale's tenure the school was among the largest in the colonies and the new republic, drawing nearly 80 students a year. Some of these students were boarders from nine out of the then 13 states and from as far away as the West Indies.

The school was based on the concept of the Latin Grammar School, which had its roots in medieval monastic life to prepare boys for college. Grammar schools were formally

introduced in the North American colonies in 1635 to prepare boys for college. The teaching style of the time valued memorization and recitation, and the curriculum became defined to prepare for entrance to Harvard and, later, Yale. The Tisdale School was such a school. Their curriculum consisted of Eutropius, Cornelius Nepos, Virgil, Cicero, Horace, Juvenal, the New Testament, and the Iliad. Later courses in surveying and navigation were added. Although the student body was mostly boys, some girls also attended. Grammar school students commonly studied the classics every morning from 8:00-11:00 and every afternoon from 1:00 until dark. Formal classical training usually began at age eight and continued for seven years. Then the male students went to college. Prior to grammar school, reading was taught at home or at Dame School.

Continued on next page



John Warner Barber's sketch of the Lebanon town center, which he drew in 1835, shows the brick schoolhouse, known as the Tisdale School, in the street across from the First Congregational Church. The brick schoolhouse was built in 1762; it replaced the original frame structure erected in 1743 when the school was first founded. The brick schoolhouse was demolished sometime between 1835 and 1844, the year Jeremiah Mason, a 1784 graduate of the school, returned to his home town for a visit. Mason wrote in his autobiography that he was "grieved" to see the loss of the "venerable old building" and its replacement with a wooden school building.

Tisdale School continued

Continued from previous page

The first school building was approved in 1743. It was a frame structure constructed near the present Town Hall. This was later replaced by a two-story gambrel-roofed brick building in 1762. According to Jonathan Trumbull's account books, Isaac Fitch, a master builder of the time, was involved in work on the Tisdale School. However, it is what happened inside these buildings that was important. Master Nathan Tisdale, the driving force of the school's success, was born in Lebanon on September 19, 1732. He graduated from Harvard in 1749 at the age of 17. He took charge of the grammar school for 37 years, from his graduation until his death (1749-1786). He was a strict disciplinarian, exact in his work, and he held high expectations for his students. It was said that he inspired his students with his own enthusiasm as a thinker and a worker. He was known for his aversion to corporal punishment (prevalent at the time) so that the alumni of the school tended not only to highly regard their classical education but also revere him. His school produced a multitude of scholars and leaders of the time.

"Going It Alone..."

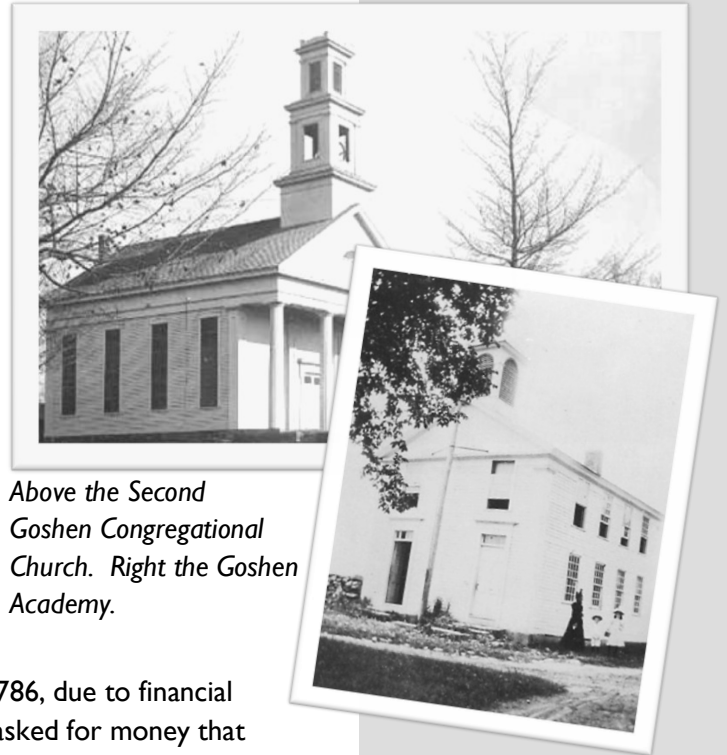
Continued from page 1

owner's name. Drinks and tableware will be provided. Please join old and new friends for conversation and some of the best food in eastern Connecticut.

At 7:00 the Historical Society will convene a short business meeting. President Ed Tollmann and director Donna Baron will present brief reports and answer questions. The Nominating committee will introduce the slate of prospective and returning Board members for the approval of the membership. Members will also be asked to approve bylaws changes.

After the business meeting Mrs. Wayland will share her insights about the ways Lebanon changed in the 19th and 20th centuries. The program is free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend Mrs. Wayland's talk whether or not they've been able to join us for supper.

In 1773, Tisdale suffered a stroke of "paralysis" which caused him to stop teaching until 1774. During this time the artist John Trumbull took charge of the school. His health continued to deteriorate, however. In 1786, due to financial difficulties, he asked for money that was due to him by the school proprietors. After a vote, it was decided to defer the payment until another meeting. Unfortunately, Master Tisdale suffered a fatal stroke before the proprietors met again. He died January 5, 1787 at the age of 56. Surely it was a loss to Lebanon and to education in general. Definitely it was a loss to the school that he had led for so long.



Above the Second Goshen Congregational Church. Right the Goshen Academy.

Exhibit News

The Goshen Society Church and Community

Our display is open and awaits visitors in our meeting room. Whether you are making new discoveries or recalling fond memories, the new exhibit "Goshen Society, Church and Community" will intrigue and delight you.

Also displayed in our meeting room are **recent gifts to the museum**

An interesting mix of letters, clothes, wood planes, photographs, and lots of Lyman High memorabilia

In our changing exhibit gallery:
**Jonathan Trumbull:
A Merchant
Struggling for
Success**

A Good Read

Food Rebels, Gorilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cooking' Mamas

By Mark Winne
(Beacon Press, 2010)

Winne, the former director of the Hartford Food System in Hartford, analyzes the problems of industrial agriculture and how a rapidly growing alternative food system offers consumers healthier food choices while saving precious farmland from development.

Winne tells the stories of people who have changed the way in which food is produced and distributed to a more sustainable system. Of local interest is chapter 6, devoted to Robin Chesmer, who operates Graywall Farm with his son Lincoln Chesmer, here in Lebanon, Connecticut. Robin tells the story of how six Connecticut dairy farms combined their resources to create their own company, The Farmer's Cow. Their milk, dairy products and eggs are humanely produced on local farms, and are now available throughout the state, proving that the public will support sustainable farming and the land preservation tools needed to keep farmers in business.

This "good read" is available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library.

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for Board Vacancies:

Community Events: Keith LaPorte, 2011-2013

Finance: Connie Berglund, 2011-2013

Membership & Development: Mary Lou Beckwith, 2011-2013

Personnel: Betty Forrest, 2011-2013

Trustee-at-Large: Linda Heatherly, - Member, Finance Committee 2011-2013

Trustee-at-Large: Suzanne Yeo, - Member, Education Committee 2011-2013

Trustee-at-Large: Kirsten Westbrook, - Beaumont House Committee 2011-2013

Annual Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee Jim Mello, Chair

Front door decorations by Megan Klein have been done seasonally. "Thanks" to concerned LHS members, electrical upgrades have been done in main building hall areas and restrooms, grounds cleanup accomplished with help of many volunteers, repairs to stone wall done thanks to Jim Wesolowski and his adult education classes, Beaumont House south wall has been replaced both inside and outside, electricity has been connected and pest control management done, main building chimney has been taken down, new exhaust and flue pipe installed and roof hole patched, air conditioning units have been serviced, we have joined the Ct. neighbor to neighbor energy challenge, a panic bar has been installed on the front door, the MPR rug has been spot cleaned and the patio furniture re-painted as needed (thanks to Brian Bartizek)

Collections Committee Brian Bartizek, Chair

The collections committee members are Marty Kendall, Sarah Griswold, Alicia Wayland Glenn Pianka, Harry Eck, Emil Pocock and myself. During the last year Sarah completed her work as collections manager and has remained on the committee. Marty continues to do a fine job in the library and helping with exhibits. The committee meets as necessary to review new acquisitions. Each new exhibit at the museum has encouraged donations of items connected with Lebanon's history. For the coming year, I would like to focus some attention on period-appropriate, Lebanon-related, items for the Beaumont House.

Community Events Committee Keith LaPorte, Chair

I am happy to report that in the past year the Community Events Committee has produced many successful events. Our Memorial Day parade float won an award and our Second Saturday family oriented events are attracting more people every year. Our Annual Outdoor Antiques Show continues to be our biggest fundraiser and a wonderful day for buyers and sellers. This year's new event An Evening at the Museum was well received and will be a yearly event. The year ended with the ever popular December tree lighting and chorus sing. It's wonderful to see the museum buzzing with people. None of these events would have been possible without the dozens of volunteers that lend their time and talent every year.

Development Committee Vacant

2010-11 was a busy year for the Development Committee as the Historical Society hosted its first fund raising gala event and conducted another successful Annual Fund campaign. With special thanks to Giselle Russo who suggested the "Evening at the Museum" and Jan Grigas and her hard working committee who made it happen, the first annual "Evening" raised \$3,073.42 after expenses. Each year, our annual campaign is more and more successful. Thanks to our generous donors, we have raised \$6,785 in 2010-11 plus \$740 late donations to the 2009-10 campaign.

Education Committee Sara Cross, Chair

Historical Society program topics this year have ranged from Connecticut's western settlements, the Old State House and Connecticut-made glass to how to start genealogical research, basket making and caring for family heirlooms. Our community conversations

about Boy Scouting in Lebanon and the Goshen Congregational Church were very well-attended and lively. Next year we hope to continue to offer a variety of different programs and to add a bit more music into the mix.

Exhibition Committee Margaret McCaw, Chair

This year has been busy with many exhibits, large and small, being closed, newly opened, and in the planning stages. Summer of 2010, the final units of now-closed original Permanent Exhibit were reinstalled in the hallway in the exhibit section. The Community exhibit "Gemeinschaft: Church and Community in Village Hill" - Our yearly look at the history of one of Lebanon's churches - was closed in August 2010. The major exhibit "Jonathan Trumbull: A Merchant Struggling for Success" was opened in April 2010 and will close in October 2011. The Community exhibit honoring Lebanon Boy Scouts, "On My Honor...: Boy Scouting in Lebanon 1934-2010" opened in September 2010 and closed in January of 2011. The Community exhibit about the Goshen Hill Congregational Church and Goshen Hill Community - our yearly look at the history of one of Lebanon's churches - opened March 27, 2011 and closes in August 2011. The primary gallery exhibit "Long Long Ago: Lebanon's History through Music, 1875-1940" will open in December 2011 and will remain in place for two years. A Community exhibit about Lebanon Fairs and the Lion's Club will open in September 2011 and remain on view into January 2012.

Finance Committee Connie Berglund, Chair

The Finance Committee provides oversight and leadership for all areas of the Historical Society's finances. The committee includes the chair, an at-large member, a representative from the Savings Institute, and the society's treasurer as an ex officio member. As part of monitoring the society's endowment and investments, the committee has met with the Savings Institute account managers and attempted to learn more about the management of fund accounts and the endowment. Along with other trustees, the committee also is active in the yearly budget preparation and long and short term development workshops.

Membership Committee Glenn Pianka, Acting Chair

The membership committee continues to actively recruit new members and encourage membership renewals. Over the past year we have received 30 new memberships consisting of 8 families, 4 individuals, 9 seniors and 9 new patron memberships. Expanding programs have contributed to some of our new members. We are grateful to our loyal members who have renewed their memberships over the course of this past year. We will continue to reach out to the community and welcome additional new memberships.

Publications Committee Jacy Worth, Chair

The Publications Committee meets monthly to plan the content and layout of 'Provisions', which is circulated quarterly. Our focus is to create an interesting and informative newsletter. Our goal is to provide readers with articles related to our rich Revolutionary War history as well as more current local history. We collaborate with our Director and staff, the Trustees and Librarian in order to keep you informed of activities and exhibits at the museum and locally related events. The committee welcomes suggestions for future articles from our readers. In order to defray the cost of the newsletter we offer sponsorships. We also work with the museum staff in assessing literature for sale in our gift shop. Recently we solicited the help of Angell House Design to create the Lebanon Historical Society Museum and Visitors Center's new logo. I would like to thank my dedicated committee members, Alicia Wayland, Donna Baron, Betty Forrest as well as contributing writers Marty Kendall and Marie Reynolds, along with Grace Sayles and Alicia Lamb for all of their hard work in creating 'Provisions.' We are very proud of this newsletter and hope that our members continue to enjoy reading it.

Nominating Committee Al Vertefeuille, Chair

Board stability and hard work characterized the 2010-2011 fiscal year. We welcomed Sandie Chalifoux as Secretary and Suzanne Yeo as member-at-large to join Sara Cross on the Education Committee. At the 2011 Annual Meeting Mary Lou Beckwith will be nominated as the Membership and Development chair. Kirsten Westbrook will be nominated as a member-at-large to coordinate activities at the Beaumont House.



We are proud
to announce
that the Connecticut
League of History
Organizations, (CLHO)
has awarded an
**Honorable
Mention**
to
The Lebanon Historical
Society's program,
**"Education Programs
for Home School
Families."**

*"The committee praises
the historical society for
reaching out to the home
school family audience,
and modeling the kind of
program and strategy
that other museums
can follow."*

Volunteer Opportunities

**If you have an
interest in lending a
hand in any of our
current projects,
please let us know**

School groups will be
visiting soon!

We have a few
proofreading and
scanning projects
coming up.

If you like to work
outside - spring clean
up is coming soon!

Lebanon Historical Society
MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WILLIMANTIC CT
PERMIT NO 412

*If you are interested in
sponsoring the next issue of*

Provisions

*please contact us
860-642-6579*

History Trivia Question: *In the 19th century, several Lebanon residents left to serve as missionaries to western Indian tribes or in missionary churches in places like the Sandwich Islands or Turkey. Under what circumstances did a foreign-born missionary come to Lebanon to serve in a church here?*



LEAVE A LEGACY®
CONNECTICUT

*Include charities in your estate
planning and make a difference
in the lives that follow.*

Every day, people from all walks of life make gifts to charity through their wills, making a tremendous difference in the world they leave behind. If you are interested in leaving a legacy of your own, please visit www.leavealegacyct.org

Please join us for the 45th
Annual Meeting of the
Lebanon Historical Society
Join Us
Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6 pm
at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum
Potluck supper at 6pm
Meeting at 7pm, program to follow
"Going It Alone: Lebanon Since 1804"
Presented by Alicia Wayland
Please bring a dish to share. Coffee and punch provided.



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