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 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.

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

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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.
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 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.

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.

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Tisdale School continued

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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 (prevailant 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.

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.

"Going It Alone..."

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"Going It Alone..."

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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.

Exhibit News

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

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
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

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**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.
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.
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?