



Lebanon Provisions

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 7 No. 2

Spring
2015

Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

Sunday, March 1

2pm

"From Bonnets to Bell Bottoms: A Century of Connecticut Fashion"

Karen DePauw of the Connecticut Historical Society, presents an entertaining look at fashion history from the 1860s to 1960s. Members free, non-members \$2 Refreshments served



Sunday, March 22

2pm

"Udder Destruction"

Lindsay Randall of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, shares a fascinating perspective on the role of dairy farming in the creation of conflicts in 17th century New England. Members free, non-members \$2 Refreshments served



Co-sponsored by the Lebanon Garden Club

Monday, April 13

6:30pm

Native Plants in the Residential Landscape

Author Nancy Ballek Mackinnon of Ballek's Garden Center, presents an informative slide show detailing the use of native plants to create a beautiful landscape and an ecologically balanced yard and garden. Members of the Historical Society and the Garden Club free, non-members \$4 Refreshments served

More Events on Page 4 & 5

Calling all members to the
49th Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society

on Sunday, May 3, 2015

4:00pm to 6:00pm

Annual business meeting begins at 4:00pm

Agenda to include: President's, Treasurer's & Museum Director's reports

Election of Board Members

Business Meeting will be followed by a special program

**Members are invited to stay after the program
and enjoy refreshments and conversation.**



"A Look Back at Life on the Himmelstein Homestead Farm"

Presentation by Frank Himmelstein

Sunday, May 3

Following our
annual meeting

Frank Himmelstein will share some rare movie footage of his family's farm operation taken between 1939 and 1951. The Himmelstein Homestead Farm has been in the Himmelstein family since 1913.



Meyer Himmelstein sitting on his John Deere tractor

**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.*

Board of Trustees

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Brian Bartizek

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Mary Lou Beckwith

Nominating

Ed Tollmann

Personnel

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Programs

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Alicia Wayland

Museum Director

Donna Baron

From the President

Glenn Pianka

It takes two or three feet of snow to slow me down enough to make me sit still behind this keyboard and dream of the hope of spring. While I was watching a recent episode of CPTV's Downton Abbey, the Grand Dame said, "*Hope is a tease, designed to prevent us from accepting reality*". OK, OK, OK..... for 2015:

-I hope that the Beaumont House relocation project and interpretive planning committees are successful in re-opening that adjunct addition to our campus.

-I hope that the spring clean-up committee is ready for the piles of hickory nut shells left behind by a bonanza year.

-I hope that our strategic plan cycle will be narrowed from the present 5 year to 3 year reviews.....this is a way for all of us to live through more cycles, but more importantly, now that we can see a general conclusion to our Capital Projects, we will be able to devote more time to interpretation and enjoyment.

-I hope that the Conservation and Agricultural Commission will accept budgetary and proprietary responsibility for the care and protection of the Five Mile Rock in concert with the Town's motto "Preserving Our Agriculture and History".

-I hope that overall site development, e.g., stone walls, plantings, accessory buildings locations, walkways and access points, create a utilitarian and inviting atmosphere now and forever.

I hope that the comradery of our Board of Trustees and Staff is never ending.

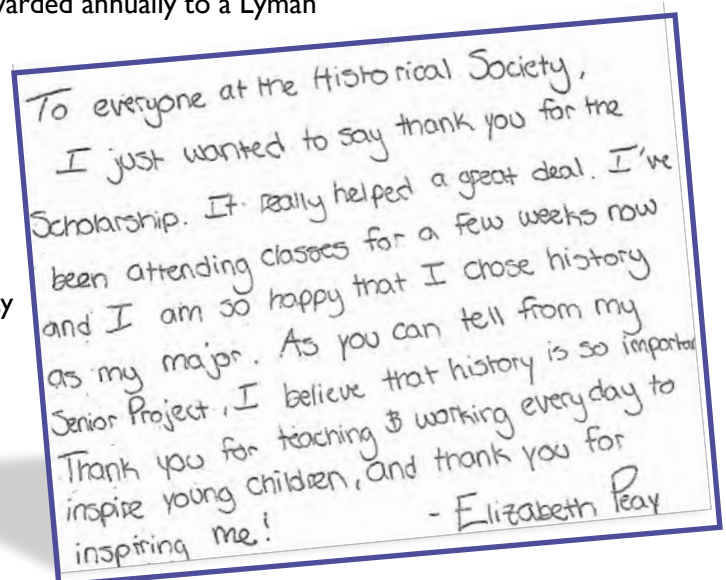
As amusing as I thought that it was, I would like to revise that quote at the beginning of my ramblings to, "*Hope is an outline from which we can, and will, create reality*"..... I hope.

Lebanon Historical Society Scholarships

Elizabeth Peay was the 2014 recipient of the Lebanon Historical Society scholarship which is awarded annually to a Lyman Memorial High School

Senior. **Recipients must be Lebanon students with a demonstrated interest in history.** Candidates who have volunteered at the Historical Society are preferred.

Interested students should apply through the High School.



Director's Message

Donna Baron

A lively and dedicated group of six committee members worked to research, plan, and install the new interpretive exhibit in the Pastor's Library. They are now working just as carefully and enthusiastically planning for the Beaumont House.

Meetings are noisy and filled with references to deeds, probate inventories and distributions as the committee works to fit the large Beaumont family and all that they did into a very small house. Textile processing, dairying, coopering and cider pressing have all been discussed as the Beaumonts' wide range of agricultural activities became clear. Now the process of selecting objects to put into the house and scripting the stories to be told has begun.

The committee has also considered just how to share the stories and exhibits. All the work moving and restoring these buildings and researching and planning the exhibits is aimed at having the buildings open to the public. Second Saturday in June and the town tree lighting offer special occasions for opening the historic buildings, but are only two days. The site lends itself to all kinds of demonstrations and hands-on activities. We look forward to working with craftspeople and re-enactors to make the Beaumont House come alive. This winter we hope to find a needleworker or two to replicate our Beaumont family samplers.

We would also like to welcome visitors on a more regular basis. One thought has been to look to the Society's own history and again create a corps of volunteer docents for Saturday afternoons from early May to late October. Volunteers would be based at the Museum working on library or archives projects there and would lead visitors on tours to both the Pastor's Library and the Beaumont House. Please let me or committee member Brian Bartizek, Marianne Freschlin, Rick Kane, Marty Kendall, Dan Moore or Alicia Wayland know if you are interested in becoming a docent.

McCall Road

By Diane and Scott McCall

As we continue to identify the source and origin of road names in Lebanon we hope to have more of the families provide the history of road names associated with their ancestors such as this one submitted by Diane and Scott McCall. Anyone who has such information is welcome to send it along and we will include one per issue or as space allows, as we have over the last year or so. Thanks to Diane and Scott for the history of McCall Road.

The name of McCall Road, as expected, stems from a large historical presence in that area by a family of that name. In 1650, James MacKall was a Scotsman taken prisoner during the second Battle of Dunbar

by Oliver Cromwell (Wars of the Three Kingdoms or English Civil War). It has been said that of the 15,000 captives, some 5,000 were thought to be so anti-English that they could not be paroled. These prisoners were to be gotten rid of by being transported overseas....but the British Parliament wished to incur no expense in accomplishing this.

Each prisoner was then identified by a bond which stipulated eight years of labor to its holder (indentured servitude), and these bonds were sold in the London marketplace. The new colonial ironworks in Saugus,

Continued on page 8

WELCOME

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Family Membership

Christy Kelly,
Lebanon

Individual Membership

David Moorehead,
Gales Ferry

Senior Membership

Dana Kessler,
Lebanon

Calista Abel Gingras,
Chaplin

History Trivia Answer:

In 1980 Lebanon's population stood at 4,762, which more than made up for the loss of Columbia's population of approximately 800 included in the 1790 census.

The population continues to increase with every new census and currently stands at approximately 7400 people.

Contact Us:

The Lebanon
Historical Society
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** by appointment.

Calendar Of Events

Sunday, April 26
2pm

"Girls Tea & Crafts"

A ladies tea for young ladies and their adults. Enjoy tea, treats and craft a Mother's Day bracelet.

For girls ages 5 and above.

Must be accompanied by an adult.

\$5 per person



Sunday, May 3
4pm—6pm

Annual Meeting

4pm Business meeting
followed by a program
presented by

Frank Himmelstein,

"A Look Back at Life on the Himmelstein Homestead Farm"

Stay for a social hour
with refreshments



Saturday, May 16
1pm-3pm

"Spring Has Sprung"

Co-sponsored by Lebanon Regional FFA

A program for kids and families
to learn about seeds, plants and
create 2 planters to take home.

Cost is \$4 for 2 planters.

Held outdoors at the Lebanon
Historical Society Museum
Pre-registration preferred



Sunday, May 17
2pm

"Tempest Tossed: The Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker"

Author Susan Campbell
presents an entertaining
talk on Isabella Beecher Hooker,
a leader in the woman's suffrage
movement and part of

Connecticut's wealthy and
influential Beecher family.

Members free, non-members \$2

Refreshments served

In 2010 Mary Lou Beckwith submitted the following entry to the
Lebanon Conservation Commission's Agricultural Writing contest.

We thought you might enjoy this walk down memory lane as much as we did.

Things My Grandchildren Will Never See, Hear, Taste or Smell

By Mary Lou Beckwith

"Thanks to your requested stories, I had a great time remembering some of the sounds, smell, and views of my childhood, growing up on Briggs Road, Lebanon.

My mother and father, Phyllis and Gurdon Aspinall purchased the 100 acre Henry Briggs Farm in 1950 for \$18,000.00.

At that time a one-room school house became the Briggs' summer cottage and we farmed the remaining acreage. Henry Briggs and grandson Dale Speerli, grew about an acre of gladiolus for sale each year on the property, which were just beautiful. (Now the first house on the left, from Babcock Hill Road)

The farm consisted of an old barn, several out-buildings, such as a corn-crib, chicken coop, garages, tool shed and milk house. We worked and utilized those buildings until my Dad built a new 100 foot barn in 1957 from materials taken from an old barn and trucked home from Meriden, CT.



Home and barn buildings on Briggs Road in 1959. Left to right: shed/garage, chicken house, corn crib, farm house, horse barn, "new" barn 1957 with silos in back, milk house between barns and old 1800's barn on right.

Farming and Milking in the 1950s

The pungent air-mixture that greets you as you unlatch the door into an 1800s barn, amid the rattling wooden stanchions, as the tethered cows arise from their soggy saw-dust bedding, resting positions.

The hand-hewn, main carrying beam of the wooden edifice, with its perfectly scripted "May 8, 1806" carved prominently in the heart of the timeworn structure.

The cold winter air that hits your face as you traverse through snow drifts, toward the barn for the 5:30am milking, mesmerized by the gray curls of rising smoke from awakening chimneys in houses dotting the distant hills.

The warmth of the 40/50 Holstein cows that envelops you upon entering their abode, on any icy cold, snowy, frosty morning.

The frosted, aged window-panes above the bovines' heads, thick enough to scratch names and initials, which slowly drip and melt away with the ensuing warmth of the day and the animals.

The lowing of the cattle, as they stir and anxiously anticipate their morning vittles, the odoriferous mixtures and combinations of silage, hay, molasses and grains.

The moistened nostrils and suspended drool from each cow as they alternate between drinks from the sloppy metal water-bowls and their fodder.

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WWII Fighter Plane Crashed in Red Cedar Lake

By Alicia Wayland

Almost 71 years ago, a young Navy pilot lost his life when his fighter plane crashed into Red Cedar Lake in Lebanon on September 3, 1944. He was a member of a fighter squadron that was practicing simulated strafing runs on the lake.

The incident was briefly mentioned in George McLean Milne's book, *Lebanon: three centuries in a hilltop Connecticut town*, in a paragraph listing the Lebanon casualties of World War II. But the pilot's name and hometown were not given.

According to the Navy accident report, the pilot was Ensign Timothy Edward Sullivan, a member of a fighter squadron stationed at the U.S. Naval Auxiliary Air Facility located at Groton, Connecticut. Sullivan was flying an F6F-5 Hellcat.

The accident report notes that Sullivan began his run from 3,500 feet altitude, at a glide angle of 40 degrees and a speed about 300 knots. He began his recovery from the glide too late and crashed into the lake. The plane bounced, then exploded and disintegrated. Sullivan was thrown clear "without material disfigurement." His body was recovered seven hours later by divers from the Naval Submarine Base in Groton.

... from 3,500 feet altitude, at a glide angle of 40 degrees and a speed about 300 knots.



The F6F Hellcat was a carrier-based fighter aircraft. Ensign Timothy Sullivan was piloting an advanced version of the plane, the F6F-5 Hellcat, when he crashed into Red Cedar Lake. The plane was designed to take on the Japanese A6M Zero fighter plane and quickly became the most successful naval fighter of all time. The F6F-5 was built by Grumman Aircraft and was powered by a Pratt and Whitney engine.

In the Commanding Officer's opinion, as quoted in the report, "this able young pilot was killed because of over-confidence in his flying ability, in an effort to pull out extremely low to demonstrate his skill, largely to himself, partly to other members of the flight."

Sullivan was 20 years old when he died.

His hometown is Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. A local newspaper, the *Pottsville Republican*, included him in a November 10, 1945, article titled "Schuylkill County's Hero Dead of World War II." There does not appear to be local recognition of his wartime service and tragic death, perhaps because it was stateside, and not in a combat zone, and he was unknown locally.



to everyone who has volunteered with us in 2014!
2015 looks like another busy year
with lots of opportunities for helping hands.
We look forward to working with you!

This issue of Provisions

was also supported by
a donation made
in memory of
William Brewster



and an additional
donation from
Nancy Dubin

Calendar Of Events

Saturday, June 13

10 am—3pm

"Second Saturday"

Our free fun-filled
family day

Take a ride in an antique
truck or car around the
Lebanon Green.

Watch demonstrations
by craftsmen of all types.

Lots of hands-on
activities too!

This event is free.

Hot dogs and
hamburgers will be sold.



Sunday, June 28
2pm

**"Eastern Connecticut
Native People and
Their Stone
Artifacts"**

State Archaeologist,
and UConn professor
Brian Jones lectures on
Eastern Connecticut
native people and
presents a show-and-tell
of stone tools.

Members free,
non-members \$2

Refreshments served

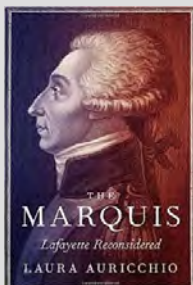
A Good Read

By Betty Forrest

The Marquis, Lafayette Reconsidered

By Laura Auricchio

"Go back to the United States. Write your book. And tell Lafayette's story."



Thus ends this biography of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834). And what a story it was! This in-depth, well-researched book is chock full of information about his life and the times in which he lived.

Although he came from great wealth, his fortune waxed and waned. He was conversant with the notable leaders of his time including King Louis XVI, the leaders of the American and French Revolution, and the French aristocracy. He struggled with social quandaries and with his idealistic visions which often clashed. Glory, honor, and lasting fame were the treasures that Lafayette sought.

Lafayette was very involved in two revolutions, the American and the French. The first elevated him to hero status, while the second ended with him fleeing the country and landing him in a Belgian

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Annual Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Art Wallace, Chair As a fairly new member of the Board, and a new chairman of this committee, I found I had a lot to learn about the buildings and keeping up the grounds. With a lot of help from the committee members, staff and volunteers we were able to do what needed to be done to keep the museum looking great and in good operating order.

We were able to get a new coat of paint on the exterior of the museum, which really looks great. With the help of the Boy Scout Troop 180 the bricks in the walkway on the north side of the museum were removed for future landscaping. The brush around the monuments, was removed to allow the monuments to be more visible. In the spring, we'll decide if we want to plant new bushes here or to leave it as is.

This spring the bollard lights along the patio and driveway will be replaced with station lights, like the ones on the south side of the parking area. This should provide more light in this area and onto the patio. This year we will add the Beaumont House grounds to our responsibilities. What a great job that committee did in getting the Beaumont House moved across the Green. It is a good addition to the museum campus.

Many "Thanks" to the volunteers who helped make the "seasonal movement" of the patio tables and chairs and erection of the tents for the "An Evening at the Museum" a possibility. The museum would not be what it is without the wonderful staff we have keeping us on our toes. A big thank you to them.

Collections Committee: Dan Moore, Chair 2014 saw the collections committee working closely with the Interpretive Planning Committee evaluating our collection and looking at what we require to present the Beaumont House and Pastor's Library properly. In the past, it has been the philosophy of many museums to simply stuff an old house with a collection of antiques. Our goal with the Beaumont House is to present it as it was during a particular time period.

Additionally, the committee has focused on conservation of our existing collection. To that end we want to extend our gratitude to Marty Kendall for the re-caning of the office chair that will be displayed in the Pastors Library. I am delighted that this task has been taken on by a Historical Society member, it makes the job much more personal.

Finally, the committee has focused very intently on donations, preferring to conserve Society funds where possible. To this end we are grateful to those town residents as well as members who have donated items this year.

Community Events Committee: Keith LaPorte, Chair Community and events go hand in hand. The Historical Society in grasping its mission statement embraces the activities that unite Lebanon in a communality. The gripping of goals accomplished past, leads us to the present, and points us to the future. As we wave hello to the fresh ideas that greet us, an extended firm handshake of thanks and good to see you will bring us to the always unfolding next chapter. Tallyho!

Exhibition Committee: Marianne Freschlin, Chair The Civil War exhibit, currently featured in the Gallery, will close in the early fall. The Multipurpose Room currently displays the Beaumont and Sweet collections of medical equipment. This will remain in place for the foreseeable future; however, the remainder of the space will be used for a new exhibit featuring the First Congregational Church. There is also space reserved for materials from the Museum's archives or personal collections from local individuals. Such ambitious changes will require the assistance of many volunteers. If you are interested in helping with the research or installation of any of the new exhibits, please get in touch with the Museum today!

Finance Committee: Connie Berglund, Chair The Finance Committee is charged with the oversight and management of all aspects of the Society's finances. Its membership includes a chair person who is a member of the Board of Trustees, additional Board members including the Vice President and/or representatives from the Society's financial partners. The Treasurer serves as an ex-officio committee member. Preparing and approving the annual operating budget for presentation to the Board for final approval is a major yearly activity. The committee also reviews the monthly income and expenditures prior to Board meetings, reporting as needed. Reviews of investment objectives, endowment requests and status, property and liability coverage, as well as long range financial planning and projects are discussed within the committee and presented to the Board from time to time. In 2014, committee members met twice with representatives from the Adams Family Trust who recommended changes in several investment accounts.

Historic Buildings Committee: Brian Bartizek, Chair The Beaumont House is now on its new foundation and work continues. In the spring, we will be focused on the chimney top and the landscape. The interpretation committee went to Windsor to study the Historical Society's program for their house. We are making progress on how to furnish and interpret life in and around the Beaumont House in the year 1800. At the Pastor's Library, a railing was installed at the steps. Inside, we have furnished it according to the circa 1910 records. A library table, side chairs with a Lebanon history and a Norwich parlor stove were added. Also, appropriate window shades and curtains were put up.

Membership and Development Committee: Mary Lou Beckwith, Chair Keeping in mind our objectives to oversee membership renewals, solicit new members and assess membership growth, we incorporated a couple of new ideas to our mailings. Through the creative staff (Gracie, Donna and Alicia) a "Welcome to Lebanon" post card was created and mailed to some new residents of Lebanon, inviting them to join our 200 member organization. We've also mailed copies of "Provisions" to some local folks, who we thought might be interested in connecting with the people, places, objects and stories of the Town's past. We continue to spread the word about the Lebanon Historical Society and encourage those who might be interested in joining us. If you have any ideas to help us accomplish our goals, as we "...seek to provide our community and visitors with connections to the past, an understanding of the present and a sense of responsibility for the future," we would appreciate your suggestions and assistance. A big "THANK YOU" to all for your memberships, renewals and donations; we appreciate your continued support.

Personnel Committee: Linda Heatherly, Chair Over the last year, the Personnel Committee focused on forming an Education Committee and recruiting new volunteers to assist with school programming. These volunteers helped with planning and implementing elementary school, middle school and homeschool programs during the spring. The committee looks forward to further work this coming spring and as renovations are completed at historic sites around the Green.

Nominating Committee: Ed Tollmann, Chair The following are the board positions to be filled at the annual meeting in May.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Term</u>
Secretary	Lydia Myers	2015-2017
Community Events	OPEN	2015-2017
Finance	Al Vertefeuille	2015-2017
Membership & Development	Mary Lou Beckwith	2015-2017
Personnel	Linda Heatherly	2015-2017
Programs	Suzanne Yeo	2015-2017

We are still looking for a community events candidate.

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prison for an extended time. Although both revolutions ended up being Republics, he sought that France become a Constitutional Monarchy which was unpopular with the people.

Lafayette was a great admirer of George Washington. Washington shaped much of Lafayette's life, serving as a role model and an advisor. This was demonstrated both during war and in peacetime.

There are many incidents recorded in this biography. Also, Lafayette was a man of his times. He kept mistresses and slaves. He had plantations in the Caribbean, but he was interested in the gradual release of his slaves.

He was interested in farming as well as politics and soldiering. He made friends among the Oneida people in this country, and he lived among the French Court.

The author, Laura Auricchio, a specialist in eighteenth-century French history, has been able to draw on new and substantial research to tell Lafayette's story. It helps to understand why he was so revered in America, and so denigrated in his own country. The Marquis is definitely a good read worth considering.

Available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library.

Expand your knowledge of Lebanon's history by adding some of these books to your own library.

- *History of Windham County, v. 1*, by Ellen Larned, reprint
- *Dr. William Beaumont*, by Keith R. Widder
- *Lebanon, three centuries in a Connecticut hilltop town*, by George Milne
- *Lebanon, Images of America Series*, Arcadia Publishing, by Alicia Wayland, Ed Tollmann & Claire Krause
- *Hussars in Lebanon!*, by Robert A. Selig
- *En Avant with our French Allies*, by Robert A. Selig et al.
- *Around the Lebanon Green*, by Alicia Wayland, Photos by Grant Huntington
- *Lebanon Recalled*, by John Sutherland
- *Connecticut Signer: William Williams*, by Bruce P. Stark

These books and more are available in our gift shop. Stop in or call for prices.

Annual Committee Reports

Publications Committee: Sandie Chalifoux, Chair The Publications Committee meets monthly to plan content and layout for the LHS newsletter *Provisions*. Assuming this responsibility after the May 2014 annual meeting has been an exciting and interesting experience for me. To take over the responsibility from Jacy Worth is an intimidating experience for me, never having been involved in anything like this. I am indebted to the committee members: Alicia Wayland, Betty Forrest, Donna Baron, Gracie Sayles and Alicia Lamb. The committee welcomes suggestions for future articles and writers from our readers. Our goal is to provide our readers with interesting and informative articles on Lebanon's Revolutionary War history as well as subjects relating to more current local history. We continue to add some color to the pages of *Provisions*. In order to defer the cost of the newsletter, we offer sponsorships. The newsletter is available to our members via e-mail if interested. The Society's web site displays past issues as well.

Programs Committee: Suzanne Yeo, Chair We have had another successful year providing programs that cover a wide range of topics. Author Allegra di Bonaventura spoke about her book, *For Adams Sake*, the story of a New England slave in New London. State Historian, Walter Woodward, gave an entertaining and informative lecture on "New England's Other Witch Hunt." We hosted the third annual Holiday Door Spray-making Workshop and the annual Tree Lighting Open House with our popular craft project for the children. Our director, Donna Baron, gave an informative, talk about celebrating Christmas during the Civil War. We saw how much clothing styles have changed and what has stayed the same from the Civil War to the swinging sixties in "From Bonnets to Bell Bottoms." We are looking forward to our annual ladies tea for young ladies and their adults. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who work hard on the Programs Committee to provide a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. I can't thank them enough for their support.

McCall Road

Continued from page 3

Massachusetts Bay Colony purchased a number of these bonds. Among them was the service of James MacKall who arrived in Saugus in 1651 along with 149 other Scotsmen in similar straits. He became one of the hammersmiths who operated the trip hammers that formed hot iron into desired shapes.

He was married in 1657 in Braintree Massachusetts, siring a son named James. A grandson also named James was born in 1690, moving to Lebanon, Connecticut in the early 1700s. He secured a mortgage for 135 acres of farmland in 1723. After that time, several transfers of property resulted in increased and substantial land holdings for the McCall (as the name was transformed to) family. James was among the 32 organizers of

the Goshen Church in 1729. He had nine children—seven of them sons, and his will provided each son with a farm of their own. Over the scores of decades since, most of that land once held in McCall hands has been sold out of the family. However, much of the land inherited by the eldest son Archippus was handed down through several generations, and McCalls still live on the remainder today.

With the large McCall presence, tradition tells us that the road to their holdings was first known as the road to McCalls, or simply and unofficially as McCall Road. This eventually became the officially designated name that we see today.

Cutting Corn

By Helen Bender

Field and silo corn were an important crop on every farm. The field corn was used to feed pigs and chickens, etc. basically using the kernels. In late fall, the ears of corn were hand-picked and then husked. Silo corn was used as fodder to feed cows during the winter months.

The corn was planted in the spring as soon as the land was dry enough to plow, harrow and plant. The kernels had to be treated with tar or a similar substance to discourage crows from pulling up plants and eating the kernels. Once the plants were 4 to 6 inches tall the soil was cultivated. This was done with a horse drawn cultivator uprooting the weeds between the rows. One person, usually a child, would lead the horse up and down the rows, and another person handling and guiding the cultivator. However, this did not disturb the weeds in the actual corn row. This had to be done by all members of the family using a hoe and hoeing an entire field of corn. A back-breaking, seemingly impossible task, especially in a large field where the rows seemed endless. This job had to be completed before haying could be started, preferably by 4th of July.

In the fall, the corn had to be hand chopped and loaded onto a wagon or dumpcart. It was then taken to the silo and dumped. A blower was standing outside the silo with a long, wide belt attached to a big black engine (called a lunger). When running it had a very irregular sound pop--pop-----pop-----pop --pop—etc. This engine would drive the wide belt to turn the chopper and blows the chopped corn up a long wide pipe into the silo. The corn stalks were fed into the chopper by hand. Inside the silo, corn

One person usually a child, would lead the horse up and down the rows, and another person handling and guiding the cultivator.

had to be distributed evenly and stomped down. Another chore for the children. This engine was shared by the entire village. So in order to get everyone's corn cut in as short time as possible, all helped at each farm, working like a team. Many women helped in the fields while others prepared food for all.



Top: Bringing in the sheaves on Krause farm 1930.



Middle: Planting corn on the Liabrandt Farm 1939.



Bottom: Harvesting corn on the Krause Farm 1930.

Photos courtesy of Helen Bender and Claire Krause

During this year's tree lighting, this striking photo of the Pastor's Library was captured by Thomas J. Nanos—www.nanosphoto.com



Our rapidly growing library collection includes:

- Lebanon land records on microfilm
- Exeter Congregational Church Records on microfilm
- Early American newspapers on microfilm includes:
—Windham Herald (1791-1795)
—Norwich Courier (1796-1820)

Some of our computerized databases include:

Lebanon Births:

-Barbour index to vital records (1700-1854) which included births, marriages & deaths.

-Town Births (1851-1884)

Lebanon Baptisms:

-First Congregational Church (1700-1836)

-Goshen Congregational Church (1729-1882)

Lebanon Marriages:

- Early CT Marriages by Frederick Bailey -before 1800

- First Church (1816-1821)

- Town records (1852-1884)

Lebanon Deaths:

- Town records (1851-1884)

- Lebanon Hale cemetery records

- Columbia Hale cemetery records

- Hebron Hale cemetery records

- Old Willimantic cemetery, Windham

- First Congregational Church (1872-1840)

Census Records:

Federal Census 1790, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910

1850 Lebanon Agricultural Census

These are just some of the records in our research library.



Things My Grandchildren Will Never See, Hear, Taste or Smell

Continued from page 4

The long outstretched coarse, slobbering tongues that grope for the ever-retreating wisps of hay and grain laying in the mangers.

Hearing the sound of roosters crowing in the out-buildings as you approach. Hens clucking and milling around your feet, as you tap frozen water from their watering dishes, in the dead of winter, and replace them with a fresh supply of liquid.

The ensuing tumult of chicken feet, clamorous clucking and contented gurgling of the caged birds, following the daily "chicken-watering-chores."

The sweet, warm, frothy milk extracted by the stainless steel milking machines, aligned by each cow, hung and attached by large black rubber straps around each cow's belly.

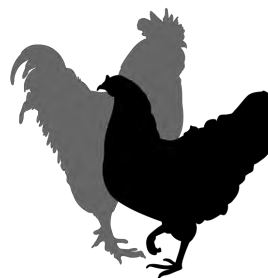
The sound of confusion and mayhem that followed, when a milking machine got stepped on, kicked from or dropped off the cow's udders, while attached to the vacuum system.

The closeness one feels while resting one's head into the side of a cow's flank, positioned on a three-point stool, while "stripping" her udder, following the removal of the milking machine.

The fun of having and watching the numerous barn cats hover around "the milk dish" with their entreating glances and anxious "mews" as they anticipate a liquid treat.

Giggling while squeezing the cow's teats, aiming straight at a sitting cat, a few feet away; and making a direct hit, with a warm stream of milk, into its mouth. Several cats became quite adept at catching the streams, once they realized the reward of the white mustaches from the first missed squirts.

The dreaded "wet tail" cow swishes, as the bovines stand upright, following the all-night, tail-dangling in sloppy urine soaked gutters: the smell and feel unforgettable, especially when slapped up-side the



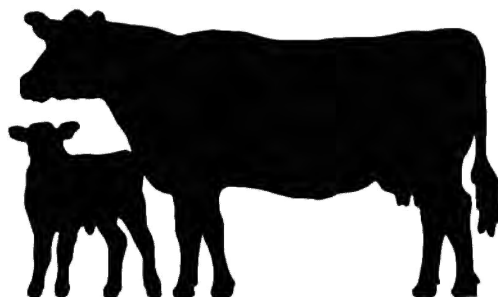
head while stripping a cow.

The daily chore of climbing up the silo rungs and throwing fodder down the chute with ensilage

forks, for the cows' daily feedings. A labor intensive job, from beginning to end: cutting corn paths by hand to allow trucks/ chopper in the field, chopping the green corn, dumping truck loads into the corn auger, blowing the silos full of feed, (trying not to clog the feeder pipe) placing door slats into the chute opening as the silo filled, (with pungent liquid oozing out of the wooden structure for days) and reversing the process as the cattle utilized their feed throughout the year.

Driving the "ensilage trucks" in the corn fields as the chopper dispersed the feed into the truck body. One had to drive

close enough to collect the fodder, keep an eye on the driver chopping the corn and remain close enough to the



equipment as the two rounded the fields as a unit, collecting the fresh feed. Problems arose when the driver of the truck failed to round the corners or failed to keep pace and closeness with the chopper driver...result spilled corn in the field and reprimand from the farmer!

The smell of newly mown hay fields in the summer.

The hard work of cutting/tedding and raking the farm's hayfields into windrows, bailing a 1000+ bales on a hot summer's day, picking up the newly created feed, by hand onto hay wagons, unloading the bales onto an elevator and stacking the scratchy rectangles into a 90 degree+ haymow. A laborious, heated task!

The cool refreshing swim, around 10:30 in

Continued on page 10

Continued from previous page

the evening, enjoyed at Lake Williams Pond, following a hard day's work in the hayfields and haymow.

Riding one of the horses into the man-made pond, created by the Conservation equipment, operated by Win Benjamin, in the 1950s.

Hanging onto the horse's mane, riding bareback into the middle of the cow-pond and slowly slipping off its back, as it continued paddling toward dry land.

The Saturday mornings we would gear ourselves to "watch" the cows as they ate the hedgerows, along the sides of Briggs Road. One sister would ride a bike to the lower end of Briggs Road (near the present Bi-Agri property) with snacks and a supply of comic books, while the other stationed herself about a half mile away, letting the cows meander for several hours along the dirt route, clearing the road sides of various plant growth. Heaven help the

sister who forgot to close the barways!

The excitement of watching a goose lay, sit on, and hatch a cute little gosling.

The experience of watching several ducks create their nests in the pasture, seeing the ducklings hatch and watching them waddle around the barnyard with their proud parents.

Remembering the stench of old, un-hatched eggs, from an abandoned duck nest in the middle of the cow pasture.

Smelling the musty odor of the cool water surrounding the 40 quart milk cans residing in the milk-tanks of old. After

straining the milk into milk cans and tapping their lids shut, they were placed into the liquid, to cool down until picked up by the "milk-man," a tough, water slopping, hefting job, until modern "bulk tanks" were introduced.

The delicious fresh, ice cold glass of milk one could retrieve from the large stainless steel bulk tank in the milk room, available 24-7!



"Lebanon Doctors" Exhibit



Exhibit News

Current Exhibits

"Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home"

Lebanon and the Civil War



"Moving Beaumont"



"Lebanon Doctors"



Lebanon's History



"Explore Revolutionary Lebanon"

Our hands-on history room for kids of all ages

Collectors Case Display

"Toys Soldiers &

"Postcard Greetings"
Courtesy of Sandie Chalifoux & Ed Tollmann



Work is underway
on an exhibit about the
First Congregational Church

This exhibit will open
sometime in April.



A new gallery exhibit
about learning in
Lebanon will open
in the fall of 2015.

This exhibit will follow the evolution of formal classroom and apprentice-style instruction and will also feature the development of the library- from its earliest manifestation as a private subscription library to the public institution that we are familiar with today.



History Trivia Question: In 1790 the population of Lebanon, which still included Columbia until 1804, was 4,166, its highest level since settlement began in the 1690s. Thereafter, population steadily declined to a low of 1,343 in 1920. In what year did the population rebound to the level of 1790? [See page 3 for the answer!](#)

Don't forget to mark these dates in your calendar!

Sunday, March 1 at 2pm

**"From Bonnets to Bell Bottoms:
A Century of Connecticut Fashion"**

Sunday, March 22 at 2pm

"Udder Destruction:"

**The role of dairy farming in the creation
of conflicts in 17th century New England"**

Monday, April 13 at 6:30pm

**"Native Plants in the
Residential Landscape"**

Sunday, April 26 at 2pm

Girls Tea & Crafts

Sunday, May 3 from 4pm-6pm

**Annual Meeting & program,
"A Look Back at Life on the
Himmelstein Homestead Farm"**

Saturday, May 16 from 1pm -3pm

"Spring Has Sprung"

Sunday, May 17 at 2pm

**"Tempest Tossed: The spirit
of Isabella Beecher Hooker"**

Saturday, June 13 from 10am—3pm

"Second Saturday" Free Family Fun!

Spend some time with us
on Saturday, June 13 from 10am to 3pm
for *"Second Saturday"*

Where everything
old is new again.

Lebanon Historical Society
MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER
Located on the historic Lebanon Green

856 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon • 860-642-6579

www.historyoflebanon.org