



Vol. 10 No. 2

Spring 2018

# Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society

## Programs & Events

Unless noted are open to the public and are held at the museum.

**Please turn to page 10 for two programs sponsored by the Columbia Historical Society**

### • Wednesday, March 14 • 7pm

#### **History Book Club**

Discussion on *Nathaniel's Nutmeg or The True and Incredible Adventures of the Spice Trader that Changed the Course of History*  
by Giles Milton  
Free & open to the Public

### • Sunday, March 18 • 2pm

#### **"Connecticut Beer Making"**

Presenter & author, Will Siss, the "Beer Snob"

Talk on the history of CT beer making and tasting.  
Program is free to members, \$2 for non-members.  
Tasting \$5 for all.  
Must be 21 or over  
Reservations Required  
860-642-6579

### • Monday, March 19 • 6:30pm

#### **"Plant Propagation"**

Presenter: Sarah Bailey, Master Gardener

Co-sponsored by the Lebanon Garden Club. Free to members of the Historical Society & Garden Club. All others \$4 Refreshments

Events continued on Page 4

## Calling all members to the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society **Sunday, May 6, 2018 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm**

Annual business meeting begins at 4:00pm

*President's, Treasurer's & Museum Director's reports, Election of Board Members & Proposed Bylaws changes*

Business meeting followed by an  
**Opening Reception for our new exhibit**

### **"From Here to There"**

*Transportation to, from, within and around Lebanon*

Join us for refreshments and conversation.

## Edna Eddy Recollections

*Taped interview of Edna Eddy on August 5, 1991 in Brooklyn, CT conducted by Lucille Manning and transcribed by Margery Jahoda*

"Mrs. Eddy was born 1/11/1905 in Lebanon, Connecticut. Her father was John Edward Burgess and her mother's maiden name was Charlotte Hewitt. In 1910, her mother died and she went to live with her Uncle Will and Aunt Ella Blanchard. They lived in the house, now an apartment house north of the Green where the road forks to Columbia one way and Willimantic the other. In the early days the house had been an inn where people changed horses between New London and Hartford. It had three levels and seventeen rooms, including a ballroom and two dressing rooms.

Mrs. Eddy remembers a Methodist Church with a spire that was across the street south of the stone house (where Lyons now live). She recalls it being in

disrepair, but with an interior of lovely maple woodwork. Mrs. Eddy's aunt Ella went there as a girl and told the following story to her."

*"It was the time ladies were wearing hoop skirts and this spinster lady with quite blond hair, with little curls hanging around her face, came into the church wearing a very big hoop skirt. It was a Sunday when things were happening so there was quite a crowd. The lady approached a place where a gentleman, a bachelor, who always dressed beautifully and was extremely polite and proper, was sitting. She indicated that she would like to sit in the pew also, so he got up to move out to let her in. She*

*Continued on page 6*



**Thank you Larry & Connie Berglund  
for generously sponsoring this issue of Provisions**



**The mission of the  
Lebanon Historical  
Society**

*To encourage a sense  
of community, the  
Lebanon Historical  
Society connects  
residents and visitors  
with the people, places,  
objects and stories  
of the Town's past.*

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*Museum Director*

Donna Baron

## From the President

Rick Kane

We enjoyed another well attended open house following the Christmas tree lighting on the Lebanon Green. The open house provided an opportunity for many guests to explore the exhibits and enjoy hot mulled cider and cookies while the kids created ornaments and engaged in a snowman scavenger hunt. Visitors also had the opportunity to walk along the candle-lit walkways to tour the Pastor's Library and Beaumont House. Thanks to our terrific staff and volunteers for planning this community event and to our docents for opening the historic buildings. Joining the rest of the Town in this seasonal celebration is always an important part of our year.

January and February are somewhat quiet months for the Museum. We tend to avoid special programs when the weather may be wintry. Programs will resume in March with the **Connecticut Beer Making talk & beer tasting, presented by Will Siss, "The Beer Snob" Sunday March 18 – please note reservation for the beer tasting are required and there is a small fee of \$5.**

Other programs are listed on pages 4 and 5 as we lead up to the Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. All members are welcome to attend and we sincerely hope as many as possible are able to do so. If for any reason you should need transportation to and from the meeting, please let us know. Volunteers will be happy to provide a ride. We will have a full slate of Historical Society Board members to elect. There will be refreshments to share and a new exhibit to view in the changing exhibit gallery.

The staff and volunteers have been working hard to plan and install interesting new exhibits. The private collection of needlework has been returned with our thanks to the lenders and a new display of WWI toy soldiers has been installed in the meeting room. The collections are on loan from the McCaw family and Ed Tollmann. The Carriage Shed will open after the weather warms up in the spring with the Farming Exhibit. Please stop in and enjoy!

The History Book Club met in January with one of the largest groups to date for any of our book discussions. Interest continues to grow and we have a very interesting lineup for the forthcoming months.

In our last edition, I mentioned that we would be adding a replica combination woodshed-privy behind the Beaumont House. Thanks to the efforts of Brian Bartizek, that project is 95% complete with only the cedar roofing to be done once the warmer weather arrives. At the same time we will be scraping paint on the broom shop before repainting the clapboards and replacing the existing cedar shingles. We also hope to begin the process of relocating the Smoke House to a location behind the Beaumont House; integrating it with an early 1800s farming family environment. Many hands make light work of projects like these so volunteers are welcome to assist on all projects!!!

The old memorial bricks have been replaced on the newly rebuilt walkway between the driveway and front entry to Museum building. ***If you would like to keep your original brick, please contact the Museum.***

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to our Annual Appeal and all those who may yet contribute. Your continued support is vital to our sustainability. We have existed for 50+ years and hope to exist for a long, long time. The greatest challenge for all museums and historical organizations is and will continue to be financial security. Thanks to all our members for your continued support.



*Welcome  
to our newest members*

***Silver Benefactor***

**Tony & Terri Tyler  
of Lebanon**

***Bronze Benefactor***

**Margaret Lamb &  
Christopher Clark  
of Storrs**

***Individual***

**Erika Cruz  
of Lebanon**



Lebanon Historical Society

## Director's Message

Donna Baron

*Local history, community history, is family history that is written on a slightly enlarged scale.*

At the Museum, we see this among the visitors who come in to investigate an individual ancestor. The quest for details about a single person almost always expands to that person's role in Lebanon affairs. Questions arise about why someone came to this town, what the family did to support themselves or why they moved away. Often we learn as much or more from our visitors as we are able to help them learn from our resources. Questions like these get to the heart of what Lebanon was like at different points in the past and how it has changed over time.

Sometimes, it's our own collections or the stories we already tell that open new windows into the past. Perhaps no family has been more central to our story-telling than the Beaumonts. Dr. William Beaumont's key role as a doctor and medical researcher have been shared with generations of local school children. With the re-opening of the Beaumont House, Samuel and Lucretia Beaumont's family of nine and their work farming in Village Hill were added to our interpretive plan. Very recently, thanks to the sharp eyes of Board member Matt Flegert and the quick work of Board member Brian Bartizek, we added another layer to the Beaumont story.

Our collection now includes mid-19<sup>th</sup> century daguerreotypes of Dr. Beaumont's youngest brother John (who returned to Lebanon from Hartford and worked here as a carpenter) and two unmarried sisters, Mary and Ann. There are also daguerreotypes of John's daughter Abby Cornelia and an unidentified man who may be her husband Henry A. Loomis. Ann Beaumont is named as "instructress" on two samplers, which are in our collections, and Abby Cornelia made a beaded purse, which is also in our collections.

House, artifacts, stories and now images come together to add depth to our understanding of this Lebanon family and to enrich the history we can share with members and visitors.



Four of the Beaumont daguerreotypes, recently added to our collection

## Trivia Answer:

In 1856 William S. Peckham donated a small part of his side yard (now 906 Beaumont Highway) as the site for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Lebanon church disappeared from Methodist records in 1881 and by the early 1900s the building had disappeared with the land reverting to the original house lot

## Would you be willing to sponsor our newsletter?

Every issue of the newsletter costs \$300 to produce and mail. We are always in need of full or partial sponsorship.

## Contact Us:

The Lebanon Historical Society  
P.O. Box 151  
Lebanon, CT 06249

**860-642-6579**

[museum@historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)

[www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)

[facebook.com/historyoflebanon](https://facebook.com/historyoflebanon)

## Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.  
12pm to 4pm

**Research Library**  
by appointment.



## Calendar Of Events



- **Wednesday, April 11 •**  
**7pm**

### **“Culinary & Medicinal Plants of the Colonial Period”**

Presenter: Debra Hultgren,  
*Community Herbalist, Educator  
and Gardener.*

Members free, non-members \$2  
Refreshments

- **Sunday, May 6 •**  
**4pm-6pm**

### **52nd Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society**

Business meeting at 4pm  
followed by

**Exhibit Opening Reception,  
“From Here to There”  
Transportation To, From,  
within and around Lebanon**

- **Wednesday, May 9 •**  
**7pm**

### **History Book Club**

Discussion on *Salt,  
A World History*  
by Mark Kurlansky

Free & open to the Public

- **Sat. & Sun., June 2 & 3 •**  
**12pm—4pm**

### **“Letterboxing Around the Green”**

Follow the letterboxing trail  
along the green

- **Saturday, June 9 •**  
**10am—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.  
*Hands-on activities too!*

*Events continued on Page 5*

## The Wright Connection

By Ingrid Wood, Columbia Town Historian

**Provisions - Newsletter for Lebanon Historical Society** is a delightful gift in the mail. The fall 2017 issue was no exception. “A Good Read” by Linda Wallace showcasing David McCullough’s engaging **The Wright Brothers** was both thoughtful and provoking. So it is worth mentioning that the Wright brothers Orville, Wilbur and their siblings have a Lebanon connection!

A few years ago Paul and Claire Wright of Hopkinton, MA came to visit in search of ancestor Seth Wright (1726 – 1775). Seth Wright owned approximately 100 acres in Chestnut Hill where his descendants lived until 1891. He married Lydia Sarah Clark. He served as Lieutenant of Lebanon’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Troop of Horse (1766-1769) in the Connecticut’s 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Seth Wright had answered the Lexington Alarm on April 19, 1775. Years earlier he worked as Eleazar Wheelock’s trusted business agent and as “provisioner” for the newly founded Dartmouth College, sending butter, cows, tools, blankets, and money to the new school in Hanover, New Hampshire’s frontier wilderness. He served as representative of Freeman of Lebanon to the General Assembly in 1774. Near Seth Wright’s prominent monument, carved by Zerubbabel Collins in the Old Yard Burying Ground (in Columbia) were also gravestones of Rebeckah Sykes Wright (d. October 7, 1760, aged 83) and Deacon Samuel Wright (d. April 18, 1734, aged 61). Rebeckah and Samuel Wright were the great, great, great-grandparents of Orville, Wilbur, and their three siblings.

Samuel Wright appears as “Samll Wright” in February 28, 1714-1715 petition, signed by 24 freemen, to create a second ecclesiastical society known as Lebanon North Parish or Lebanon Crank. This petition was voted down by

the town of Lebanon. He and 13 others entered into the Covenant Grace to originate a church in the village of Lebanon Crank by 1720. Congregational church records show Samuel Wright was “chosen” as Deacon from 1716 – 1734 until his death. On December 14, 1726, the North Parish voted to “pay Deacon Wright the sum of one pound for sweeping the Meeting House” which was still under construction as late as 1733.

Orville and Wilbur’s great, great, great-grandfather Samuel Wright was born in Northampton, MA in 1674. He married Rebeckah Sykes in Northampton, MA in 1697. They had eight children: James, Lydia, Samuel, Preserved, Nathaniel, Ebenezer, Esther, and Benoni, some whom settled in Lebanon Crank. Great great-grandfather Benoni Wright was born in Lebanon Crank on February 26, 1719, and died January 3, 1761. He married Eliza Betsey Smith (1719 – 1785). Among their five children was (great-grandfather) Dan Wright Sr. (1757 – 1832), born in Lebanon Crank, who married Sarah Freeman (1762 – 1848) at Hanover, NH in 1785. He moved his family to Ohio. Grandfather Dan Wright Jr. (1790 – 1861) born in Thetford, VT married Catherine Reeder (1800 – 1866) in 1818, and moved to Indiana. Father Milton Wright (1828 – 1917), born in Rush County, Indiana, married Susan Koerner (1831 -1889). They had five children: Reuchlin (1861 – 1920), Lorin (1862 – 1939), Wilbur (1867 – 1912), Orville (1871 – 1948), and Katherine (1874 – 1929). Wilbur, Orville, and Katherine did not have children.

Several Wright genealogies are conflicting. Most of the North American Wrights trace their lineage to the Wrights (Wryta, Wright) of Kelvedon Hatch, England in 1488.

*Continued on page 11*

## Exhibit News

A glimpse of the exhibits we've been working on. Clockwise:

❖ Collecting World War One Toy Soldiers;  
❖ Toy Soldiers with a peek at our ❖ medical instruments collection on display; ❖ The soon to be opened farming exhibit; ❖ Pictures of the buildings surrounding the Green 1865 — 1875.

Our new transportation exhibit will be open for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 6.



## Calendar Of Events



### • June date TBA •

2pm

### "Stone by Stone:"

The Magnificent History of New England Stone Walls

Presenter: Dr. Robert Thorson, Author and Professor of Geology at UCONN. Members free, non-members \$2.

Refreshments

### • Saturday, July 21 •

5pm– 8pm

### "An Evening at the Museum" gala

Wine & beer tasting, silent auction and dinner  
\$50 per person  
\$80 a couple

By invitation only.

If you have not received your invitation by June 11th, please let us know by calling 860-642-6579.

### • Sunday, September 16 •

3pm to 5pm

### Croquet Anyone?

On the lawn of the Beaumont House.

We will have the equipment & refreshments waiting for you!

The is a free event

### • Saturday, September 29 •

9am—3pm

### 52nd Annual

### Antique Show

on the Lebanon Green

Held rain or shine

\$5 admission

Free parking

Refreshments available

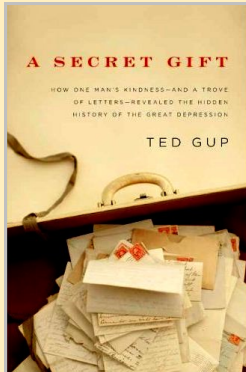
for purchase all day

More on page 10



## A Good Read

By Melissa Hayes



### A Secret Gift:

*How One Man's Kindness & a Trove of Letters Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression*

By Ted Gup

During the financial crisis of 2007–08, author Ted Gup was given an old suitcase that had been in his mother's attic for years. Inside, he found stacks of letters, dated December 1933, along with canceled checks. Gup learned that the letters were in response to an ad his grandfather, Samuel J. Stone, had run in the newspaper prior to Christmas 1933, offering \$10 to seventy-five needy families in Canton, Ohio. All they needed to do was write and tell him their "true circumstances."

Once a thriving industrial city, Canton was hit hard by the Depression, with high unemployment, failed banks, and assistance programs that fell short. Stone's guarantee of anonymity on both sides—inventing the pseudonym "B. Virdot" for himself—was a draw for those who resisted the idea of accepting charity.

*Continued on page 7 sidebar*

## Edna Eddy

*Continued from page 1*

*clamped her skirts together so she could get by when her skirts got away from her and went over his head. It was so embarrassing for them, but it brought the house down!"*

"In Mrs. Eddy's time, transportation was mostly by horse and carriage. When cars arrived, the roads were still so bad that they were only used in the summer. The first car in Lebanon was owned by Lou Smith. Mrs. Eddy's Uncle Will owned the second car, purchased when he was sixty-five years old. She laughed when she told how it took him a long time to learn to put the brake on instead of saying 'whoa'."

"Here follows her story about his first car."

*"It was a Cadillac, rather high, had little steps like carriage, no top and no windshield. On bad hills all the guest walked up the hill, only the driver stayed in the car. On the way to Columbia, the last hill had four or five big 'thank you mams.' Uncle Will would rev the engine up to get over the first one, stop, put the brakes on and let the engine catch up. That's the way he inched his way over the hill."*

"Her story continues about the Elmore, his second car."

*"I had just come to live with them when he got the Elmore, which I've never heard of since. The Elmore you could shift, but Uncle Will*

*didn't shift very well so he would always try to get up the hill on high. Invariably, we never made it. We'd have to back down the hill with Uncle Will just sitting there holding onto the wheel until we stopped. I can remember Aunt Ella pleading with him to stop and get it into first before we came to the hill. He never did as he was always so sure we were going to make it. One time he took me down to the Lebanon station to go to high school. When I came back that night he was waiting. I could see by the look on his face that something*



1908 Advertisement for The Elmore

*was bothering him. "What's up, Uncle Will? What happened?" "Well," he said, "I'll tell you. Quite a little happened, but I got out of it all right. You know I wanted some grain. I pulled right up by that platform just as neat as you please. Some young fellow came up with a big bag of grain and told me if I didn't want to back around, I could go over past the weigh scales and get in line. Well, I've always*

*Continued on page 7*

## Edna Eddy

Continued from page 6

backed around, so I backed around.

CONTACT!" He motioned to the bent fender."

"Everyone started yelling at me.

Then the brakeman came out and really lit into me. So, I

said to him "Wait a minute. Is this the regular scheduled train?"

"No," he replied. "We just came up from Yantic to bring some grain."

"Well, there's your answer," I said. "I never ran into to a regular scheduled train in all my born days. But, if you're going to come up here any time that strikes your fancy, you just look out for yourself."

I asked my Uncle, "What did he say?"

Uncle Will replied, "I really don't know. I was headed the right way so I got right out of there before I could hear what he said."

Then I noticed a tear on the top of the seat. "Did that happen back there?"

"No, no," my Uncle said. "The train was practically stopped and I wasn't going that fast, but you know I always figured when I got back home, I could go around the yard and with one swing I could get under the shed. Well, I tried it today. You know those big boards I put up on the shed when the roof began to sag? One of those boards got caught on the top of the car and stopped me. I thought, I'll just back right out so I put it in reverse, but didn't go anywhere. That roof just bore down on me! Finally, I put it in reverse and gave it all the gas it would take. Well, I went out of there lickety-lather across the back lawn and you know that rose bush your Aunt Ella set such store by? It isn't there anymore.



I took it right off."

I said, "What did Aunt Ella say?"

"I haven't told her about any of these little incidents," he said. "You know, these little things make her awful nervous.

We agreed not to tell her until after supper.

Then she came to me and said, "Do you know how to start the car?"

I said, "Yes."

"Do you know how to make it go?"

I said, "Yes."

She handed me the keys, even though I was just thirteen, and told me to take the car down the ramp to the ten-acre lot and learn to drive it. I did and from that time on I drove the family everywhere. You didn't have to have a license in those days as long as you had a licensed driver with you.

Aunt Ella couldn't drive because she couldn't see across the road, but she was always prepared for emergencies, especially since Uncle Will was having so much trouble.

She was always afraid of an accident. So, whenever we went out in the car, Aunt Ella and I had to go into the bedroom and change our underclothes. She said if she were going to be tipped upside down alongside the road, she wasn't going to have anything but lace, ruffles and tucks showing. She was not going to be caught not looking good, either end."

"Mrs. Eddy credited her father Ned, as he was called, with being a great story teller. Evidently, she inherited his talent."

Continued from page 6 sidebar

B. Virdot was flooded with so many letters that he felt called to double his offer, sending \$5 checks to 150 families. Although a small amount, it was enough to provide food, buy shoes for the kids, or forestall an impatient landlord. Many of these poignant letters are included, and make for compelling reading.

B. Virdot's identity was kept secret for seventy-five years, until Gup opened that suitcase. Inspired, Gup wrote an op-ed piece for the *New York Times*, reflecting on the grim economy in 2008. The book grew from there, with Gup researching public records to find out what happened to the recipients, interviewing children and grandchildren when possible. While not every story had a happy ending, the book captures the human capacity for resilience in the face of adversity.

Woven among the recipients' powerful stories, Gup also tells about his grandfather: what led to his generosity, his harrowing childhood as a Jew in Romania, and how he reinvented himself in America and achieved success. This is an absorbing account of what Americans faced during the Depression, and how one man did his best to bring hope to an embattled community.





# A big THANK YOU!

to Kathy Schultz



Kathy's leadership and dedication to the Lebanon Regional Agricultural Science & Technology program at Lyman, known as FFA, has benefited the Historical Society in many of our community activities.

Under Kathy's direction, this group of students has been contributing to the Society for years by providing a variety of materials, infinite ingenuity and hours and hours of their time. They host our very successful spray-making workshop, children's crafts for the Lebanon tree lighting open house and for our Second Saturday event in June.



## Annual Committee Reports

**Buildings & Grounds Committee: Art Wallace, Chair** As always, I'd like to thank all the volunteers and Board members and staff for all the help throughout the year. Without them the buildings and grounds would not look as good as they do. This year we were able to get 2 major projects accomplished. The main project for 2017 was swapping the locations of the Hearse House and the Broom Shop. A special shout-out to Dave Merrick of Easland Enterprises for his knowledge, and equipment, in moving these 2 buildings. Also, a thank you to Rick Kane and Brian Bartizek for their time and help with this project. We also did an update to some of the HVAC systems throughout the museum. Hopefully, this will be a more efficient system with these upgrades. In order to keep the roofs of the buildings in good shape, and looking good, we had them sprayed to rid them of black mold. This year, 2018, we will continue to improve the heating and cooling systems in the museum as needed. As we work with the UConn's Community Research and Design Collaborative team to help layout our campus for better utilization, I'm sure new and exciting projects will develop. Last, but not least, a special Thank You to the staff for help in making sure that the buildings and grounds are maintained and kept in good condition, reporting any problems so that they can be corrected as soon as possible.

**Collections Committee, Dan Moore, Chair** As I approach the end of my third term as your Collections Chair, I would like to take a moment to pause and reflect on the last six years. I came onto the committee full of passion and enthusiasm which I still have. During this time, however, I have had the privilege to work with a professional staff that is first a mentor to all of us who have the chance to be on a the LHS Board. I would like to take a moment to thank our museum director Donna Baron for her ability to channel my passion and enthusiasm for collecting in a positive and professional manner. To Gracie and Alicia, no one functions well without you two, thank you so much for everything. During the past six years, we have, of course, added to the museums Archives and Collections with the generous donations of many Lebanon families. I am especially proud of the strict "by the inventory," manner in which we have interpreted the Beaumont House and the Pastor's Library. Rather than a lesson in decorative arts, these buildings are as accurate a reflection of how they may have appeared, using wherever possible, furnishings from Lebanon homes.

Thank you all for a great ride for the last six years and I look forward to serving on the LHS on committees wherever needed.

**Community Events Committee, Jacy Worth, Chair** We began the year with our annual float in the Memorial Day parade, always a crowd pleaser! Our committee and wonderful LHS staff members have a great time planning and constructing the float each year. Our Second Saturday event took place in June. Local artisans gathered on the museum lawn to present their specialties and display their wares, providing hands on education and activities to the young and not so young. Rides in antique Model Ts delighted many as they were driven around the Lebanon Green that day. Many thanks to Ed Tollmann for consistently heading up this community event. It takes a lot of effort and we rely on our wonderful LHS Museum staff and volunteers as well who contribute their time toward this enjoyable day. In July, we held our annual 'Evening at the Museum' event, which was well attended as always. We have a terrific committee consisting of board members

*Continued on next page*



# Annual Committee Reports

*Continued from previous page*

our superb staff and many volunteers who start meeting in January to plan this gathering. The weather cooperated, it was a lovely evening and this fund-raiser becomes more popular every year. The annual Antique Show was held in September on the Green. Once again, with the help of an enthusiastic sub-committee of LHS Board members, our dedicated museum staff and able volunteers it was a great success and always lots of fun. Christmas Tree Lighting open house in December was well attended and featured tours of the Pastor's Library and Beaumont House, which was warmed by a roaring fire. Children created special Christmas crafts and guests were offered cookies and mulled cider as well as the joy of listening to Christmas Carols played by Lyman Memorial H.S. students. It is a great pleasure to work with our Board Members, staff and volunteers whom all work diligently on various committees with the common goal of, as our Mission states, 'encouraging a sense of community by connecting residents and visitors with the people, places, objects and stories of the town of Lebanon's past'. Many thanks to all!

**Exhibit Committee: Marianne Freschlin, Chair** Spider-webs, dust, splinters-oh my! This past year, preliminary efforts were made to prepare the carriage shed for the upcoming Farming Exhibit. It was a dirty, sweaty endeavor that involved climbing ladders to the loft area and securing sharp and spiky implements to the back wall. I am happy to report that there were no casualties nor loss of limb. Great progress was made thanks, once again, to the Museum staff and a host of volunteers. Many thanks to all! Within our multi-purpose room, the exhibit "Fading Memories, Lebanon's Historic Cemeteries" was retired and replaced by a display of needlework created by young women in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The collection included numerous examples of intricately detailed works of art. Each one a testament to the individual's prowess with needle and thread. This exhibit was recently replaced with miniaturized scene-scapes and World War One soldiers on loan from generous lenders. Throughout the year, the Gallery exhibit "How they Learned: Education in Lebanon 1700-1970", continued to engage visitors and offered an informative, sometimes nostalgic review of the evolution of education within the community. 2018 will be a busy year. There will be significant changes made to the existing exhibit areas so stop by and see what's new!

**Finance Committee: Al Vertefeuille, Chair** The Finance Committee (Al Vertefeuille, Bob Slate, Rick Kane and Ed Tollmann) is responsible for managing all aspects of the Society's finances, the major responsibility resting with budget and investments. Budget preparation begins in February with requests from Committee Chairman and the museum director. The director and museum staff are available to meet with each chairperson to discuss budget requests. The working document is then reviewed by the finance committee to compare requests and anticipated revenue, with a final document presented to the full board in April for their approval. The budget is then presented to the annual meeting in May. The committee reviews actual operating results against the budget and reports at our monthly meetings concerning the financial condition of the Society. The committee insures that appropriate and adequate property and liability insurance is in place. Finally, the committee must prepare a long-range multi-year projection of income plus expenses. Investments are monitored at regularly scheduled meetings and phone discussions with investment firms and representatives of the Adams Family Trust.

*Continued on next page*

**Reading & talking  
about history  
for the fun of it!**



Join us for the  
**Lebanon Historical  
Society history  
book club.**

We invite you to join us  
as we select books and  
share our thoughts and  
reactions in open and  
engaging conversation.  
Refreshments served.

**Wed., March 14  
7pm**

Book: **Nathaniel's  
Nutmeg or the  
True and Incredible  
Adventures of the Spice  
Trader that Changed  
the Course of History**  
By Giles Milton

**Wed., May 9  
7pm**

Book: **Salt,  
A World History**  
By Mark Kurlansky

**Wed., August 8  
7pm**

Book: **Ship of Gold in  
the Deep Blue Sea:  
The History and  
Discovery of the World's  
Richest Ship Wreck**  
By Gary Kinder

You can also find our  
new selection and  
discussion date  
announcements on our  
website and Facebook  
**For more information  
call the museum  
860-642-6579**



## “Harvesting Stones”

**A documentary telling the stories of Jewish farmers who came to eastern Connecticut from the 1890s to the mid 1900s.**

*This program is sponsored by the Columbia Historical Society.*

**Sunday, March 11**

**from 2pm –4pm**

at the Beckish Senior

Center located at

88 Rt. 66 Columbia

This event is free and

open to the public.

Light refreshments.

## “Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood”

**Connecticut Historical Society program presentation**

*This program is sponsored by the Columbia Historical Society.*

**Sunday, April 27**

**at 7pm**

Held at the Columbia

Congregational Church

325 Route 87, Columbia.

open to the public.

Program follows the Columbia Historical Society Annual Meeting

# Annual Committee Reports

*Continued from previous page*

**Historic Buildings Committee: Brian Bartizek, Chair** During the past year, the society made significant progress towards the interpretation of the area around the Beaumont House as a Lebanon farmyard of the 1810 era. Art Wallace and Rick Kane put in many hours to move the Hearse House and Broom Shop to there planned sites. The Broom Shop will represent one of the out buildings that the Beaumonts had. A wood floor was built in the Hearse House and a stone entrance ramp is planned for this year. The Woodshed/Privy was erected using the period framing from Lebanon. I was not able to find appropriate antique siding so new pine will need to be colored this year. Thanks to Glenn Pianka and Ed Tollmann we have antique siding and a 3-hole seat in the privy. A wood shingle roof is planned along with replacing the broom shop roof. Thanks to Dan Moore and equipment from Pride’s Corner we were able to move the large stones to the woodshed site and to rebuild the rear steps on the Beaumont House.

**Membership & Development Committee: Melissa Hayes, Chair** I have truly enjoyed my first year of serving as Membership and Development Chair, overseeing the Lebanon Historical Society’s membership renewals, the soliciting of new members, approving membership solicitation materials, and helping to coordinate the solicitation of funds for endowment, capital, and operating expenses, along with the annual appeal. It’s a joy and a privilege to work with Alicia, Gracie, and Donna; they are talented and dedicated professionals, and the gifts they give to the Society and our town are immeasurable. I’ve also enjoyed working with fellow board members and participating in this year’s events, including coordinating baked goods for the antique show, and helping to serve mulled cider at the tree lighting. Being a part of the Board is an honor, and I look forward to serving LHS and our beloved town any way I can in the years to come.

## Nominating Committee: Ed Tollmann, Chair

Slate of Board Members to be Elected at the Annual Meeting of Lebanon Historical Society on May 6, 2018.

President	Rick Kane	2018-2020
Vice President	Keith LaPorte	2018-2020
Treasurer	Rob Slate	2018-2020
Buildings and Grounds	Art Wallace	2018-2020
Collections	Tom Meyer	2018-2020
Exhibits	Marianne Freschlin	2018-2020
Historical Structures	Brian Bartizek	2018-2020
Personnel and Nomination	Betsy Petrie-McComber	2018-2020
Publications	Sandra Chalifoux	2018-2020
At-Large	Ed Tollmann	2018-2020
At-Large	Margaret McCaw	2018-2020
At-Large	Suzanne Yeo	2018-2020

**Personnel Committee: Betsy Petrie-McComber, Chair** The personnel are extremely dedicated to the mission of the Museum and they demonstrate this in so many ways. Over the past year, as renovations were well underway they continued to be positive and enthusiastic in their jobs. The Museum is fortunate to have a dedicated staff willing to be so accommodating.

*Continued on next page*

# Annual Committee Reports

*Continued from previous page*

**Program Committee: Genevieve Nowosad, Chair** The Programs Committee has continued to provide a wide variety of interesting and informative programs for the members of the Historical Society and the community. One highlight was the Revolutionary War Encampment held in September. Visitors had the opportunity to see authentic materials from the time period, to speak "Colonists" and "British Soldiers" and to participate in time-period activities. Soup and Story was held at the Log Cabin again this year. This popular event combined a soup, bread and dessert meal with the opportunity for participants to listen to stories from State Historian, Walter Woodward. This is a program that will likely be back by popular demand. Another wonderful program, which was well attended, was the annual tree lighting open house and kid's craft activity. Several community members have mentioned how much they love being able to bring the kids in, listen to some music, participate in a craft, and learn more about the town which they call home! We do our best to plan to have one program a month. These were just three of the many programs we offered in the past year. Stay tuned for many exciting presentations scheduled in 2018. Many thanks to my dedicated committee and all they do to help to schedule programs and provide refreshments.

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Sandie Chalifoux, Chair** 2017 has just whizzed by or so it seems. Our committee consisting of Grace Sayles, the "rock" of this committee, Donna Baron, Betty Forest was on sabbatical, (not because she wanted to be) for most of the year, and myself. Linda Wallace stepped up and did a "Good Read" critique, Rick with his interesting Lebanon road details and specifics and Donna giving us interesting commentary about Lebanon, its ancestors, are all great additions for "Provisions" along with many other interesting articles. If you have never visited the museum, please do so – you will read about all the upcoming events and exhibits and that will take place during the coming year in "Provisions". Sponsorships of "Provisions" to cover printing and postage is always welcome. Contact the museum at any time if you wish to support your newsletter. The newsletter is also available via e-mail. We hope that you will find the upcoming editions enjoyable and informative. We are all so lucky to live in this magnificent historic town of Lebanon!

## The Wright Connection

*Continued from page 4*

Immigrant Deacon Samuel Wright (1613 – 1665) ventured forth to New England, presumably as an agent on behalf of his father Nathaniel Wright, a wealthy London merchant who helped co-found the Massachusetts Bay Company. This young immigrant Deacon Samuel Wright first appears in Springfield, MA land records in 1638. His son James (1639 - 1723) is among the first babies born in the Springfield, MA community. Lebanon's own Deacon Samuel Wright is James Wright's son. James Wright's other son Jonathan was Seth Wright's father. So

Lebanon's illustrious Seth Wright was Deacon Samuel Wright's nephew, and Orville and Wilbur Wright's very distant cousin, or something like that!

The monuments can be visited at the Old Yard Burying Ground on Route 87 near the center of Columbia or on "Find A Grave" memorials #22050485, #22050452, and #36444984. Please note the date of death for Deacon Samuel Wright is unfortunately misstated on the "Find A Grave" app. Columbia, Connecticut December 2, 2017.

## Memorial Brick

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



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

Order form available on our website at [www.histoyoflebanon.org](http://www.histoyoflebanon.org)



If you previously purchased a brick, before we upgraded all bricks to granite and you would like your original brick, please give us a call and in a week's time we will have the brick for you to pick up.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you to  
Larry & Connie  
Berglund  
for sponsoring  
this issue of

 **Provisions**

## History Trivia Question

Currently, there are three churches located around the Lebanon Green – the First Congregational Church, the First Baptist Church and St. Francis of Assisi.  
**What fourth church stood near the Green from 1856 until the early 1900s?**  
Do you know where it was? **See page 3 for the answer.**

*Mark your calendar to save the date  
for these two great summer events!*

Saturday, June 9  
10am– 3pm  
for “Second Saturday” in June  
*Free Family Fun Event*



Saturday, July 21  
5pm– 8pm  
for  
Evening at the Museum  
Fundraiser  
*Silent Auction, Wine & Beer Tasting,  
Appetizers & Dinner*