



Vol. 11 No. 2

Spring 2019

# Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society

## Programs & Events

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

- **Sunday, March 10** •  
2 pm  
**Katharine Hepburn:  
From Hartford to  
Hollywood**

The story of Hepburn's Connecticut roots. A Connecticut Historical Society program.

\$2 admission non-members, members free

- **Wednesday, March 13** •  
7pm  
**History Book Club  
"Barracoon"**  
*The Story of the  
Last Black Cargo*  
by Zora Neale Hurston

- **Monday, March 18** •  
6 pm  
**Tools for Your Garden  
Lecture & Workshop**  
with Bill Harris of Acer Gardens  
Buying, caring for, repairing &  
sharpening of garden hand  
tools. Bring your own  
hand-clippers for workshop.  
\$4 admission non-members,  
Historical Society & Garden  
Club members free

**Events continued on Page 4**

Calling all members to the 53rd Annual Meeting of the

Lebanon Historical Society

**Sunday, May 5, 2019**

**4pm - 6pm**

Following the 4pm business meeting

**Join us**

for a lively  
musical program by  
**Rick Spencer**

Program followed by  
refreshments & conversation

**Are We There Yet?**



**Songs of travel  
& transportation**

## **From the town historian's notebook: Lebanon and the Chestnut Blight**

By Donna Baron

In 1994, town historian Alicia Wayland received an inquiry from a researcher at the Connecticut Agricultural Resource Center. Researchers had found an intriguing observation about Lebanon in a 1937 report.

"The last big native chestnut tree in the state, located in Lebanon, is almost dead." "Where?" they asked, "had the tree been located?"

Before 1900, the American chestnut tree had dominated the forest east of the Mississippi. These large trees featured rot-resistant wood that was straight grained and suitable for furniture, fencing and building. Its edible nut was a



Illustration of American Chestnut

mainstay in the rural economy. Hogs and cattle were fattened for market by allowing them to forage under chestnut trees. Native wildlife from butterflies to blue jays to bears depended on chestnut trees for shelter and food. People consumed train-car-loads of fresh or roasted American chestnuts every year.

The Asiatic blight fungus was accidentally introduced in America in 1904. By 1906, scientists reported that

in just two years over 98% of the American chestnut trees in the Bronx were already infected. American chestnuts were largely destroyed east of the Mississippi. In the far west, a few

Continued on Page 6  
Page 1

**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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Suzanne Yeo

*Museum Director*

Donna Baron

## From the President

Rick Kane

At publication time of this issue, we will be closing in on the end of another fiscal year. The end of our fiscal year (April 30) will bring new members for the Lebanon Historical Society Board of Trustees. LHS does have term limits for our Board members and, while we have enjoyed the commitment and expertise of the members who must leave us, we always look forward to new members who will bring new ideas and energy to LHS. Anyone wishing to join us should contact our nominating chairperson, Betsy Petrie McComber, or let one of the Museum staff know of your interest.

The period between the holidays and our Annual Meeting tend to be a bit less hectic at the Museum than the months June to December, but all the planning for programs and our summer events are already well underway.

During this time period, we do our Annual Appeal mailing and, once again, the response has been very good. I want to thank all who have contributed and will contribute to aiding us in meeting our operating budget again this year. With a full time staff of three, 10 buildings and 7 acres to maintain, it is a challenge; but with your continuing support, we have been able to maintain our beautiful campus and support the many programs offered throughout the year.

I am also pleased to report that our membership has grown and will hopefully continue to increase each year. Lebanon enjoys a rich history and our mission is to collect, document and display that history for everyone to enjoy.

One major commitment undertaken by LHS over the past 12-15 months is to take an active role in solving the ownership issue and the preservation of our historic Lebanon Green. We hope to have this resolved by mid-year so stay tuned for more information.

As I do in each issue, I ask all of our members to continue to "spread the word." The Historical Society Museum is a great town asset. The Museum is open to the public at no charge. While we hope for increased membership to support our many activities, being a member is NOT necessary to enjoy the Museum and all it offers. Our staff and docents enjoy visitors and look forward to discussing the history of the Pastor's Library and the Beaumont family as well as the several exhibits within the Museum.

### Welcome To Our Newest Members

*Family Memberships* Tucker & Jillian Ives of Lebanon

John & Barbara Robinson of New Jersey

David & Joyce Trainer of Manchester

*Individual Senior Membership* Maureen Carlson of California

*Senior Couple Membership* Ralph & Sally Munroe of Lebanon

## Director's Message

Donna Baron

When I talk with Lebanon seventh graders on their annual Bike and Hike, our conversation focuses on what the Historical Society collects and why we do this. After looking at a few objects, students begin to understand that our collections tell us details about life in town – in the past. However, they are often confused when I ask that they donate their sneakers or cell phone to the collections. To them, those objects aren't historic. Shoes and phones are just their stuff. "How," I ask, "will someone in 100 years know what it was like to be a seventh grader in 2018, if the Historical Society doesn't collect this kind of object?"

To many of our members and neighbors, things that their parents or grandparents used here in Lebanon are just old stuff. Honestly, sometimes that's true, but sometimes they are treasures. A business card for a store we'd never heard of in the south corner of town, a photo of a music class at the elementary school or a pair of hand-made skis were among the 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts added to the Society collection in 2018. Each tells us a little more about what life was like and none was something we had known to look for.

If, as you are cleaning out, down-sizing or just poking into a neglected corner, you find something with a strong Lebanon connection, please think about giving us a call. Often we'll be very excited and look forward to having the Collection Committee accept a gift. There are a few things that we have just too many of (the fund-raising brochure "High Winds, High Hopes," for example). We would happily explain why we are not accepting your generous offer. Whenever possible, we will suggest another museum or organization that might be interested. As long as the Lebanon link is strong, and we don't have a dozen of them, nothing is too "young" or too every-day.

You won't know unless you ask us and we might miss that next unexpected treasure.

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Our newest exhibit explores how the rivers streams and ponds shaped the town and the industry that grew around them. We've learned so much working on this exhibit and we hope you take the time to stop in and take a look and make some discoveries of your own.



### Exhibit opens March 6, 2019

Special thanks to  
Marianne Freschlin  
Marty Kendall  
Carol Faustman  
Meg Rackliffe  
Dana Kessler  
Tom Meyer  
Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine  
Joan Hill  
Dan Moore  
who have contributed  
their time to do the  
research for this exhibit.

## Trivia Answer:

It was some time before 1711 when "Chestnut Hill" is mentioned in town meeting records concerning a dam across the Ten-Mile River.

Lebanon  
Town Meeting  
February 20, 1710/11  
*"At ye same time they granted to Mr Benjamn Woodworth & sargt Josiah Dewey & any others as shall joyne with ye liberty of damming across ten mile brook about ye falls eastward of Chestnutt Hill below Josiah Dewey junrs land for ye benefit of mill or mills..."*

## Contact Us:

The Lebanon  
Historical Society  
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Lebanon, CT 06249

**860-642-6579**

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

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

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

**Museum Hours:**  
Wed. thru Sat.  
12pm to 4pm

**Research Library**  
by appointment.

## Programs & Events

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

• **Sunday, April 7** •  
2 pm

### Tales of a Yankee Peddler

Presentation by Tom Kelleher historian and curator of mechanical arts at Old Sturbridge Village.

\$2 admission non-members, members free

• **Sunday, May 5** •  
4pm — 6pm

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society

Business meeting begins at 4pm followed by  
**“Are We There Yet?”**

#### Songs of American Transportation

A light-hearted and music-filled program by **Rick Spencer**

Social hour & refreshments to follow  
Program is free.

• **Wednesday, May 8** •  
7pm

### History Book Club “Killers of the Flower Moon”

*The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*  
by David Grann

## Have you ever wondered how Lebanon’s Clubhouse Road got its name?

By Ed Tollmann

### The beginning of the Liberty Sportsmen Club:

Frank L. Barnes of Brooklyn, NY and Joseph R. Scott of Jamaica Plains, NY had for several years been staying with E. A. Stiles (whose house and land were on Tobacco Street near the intersection with Clubhouse Road) to go hunting. Soon after 1888, an agreement was drawn up between them which

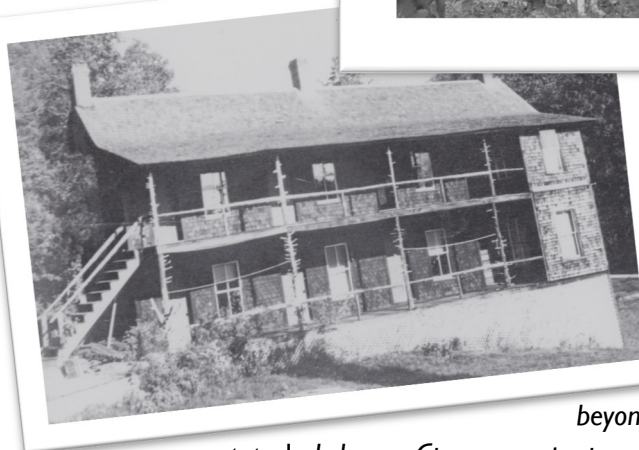
Stiles, Edward A. Stiles’ wife.

*From an article appearing in the Willimantic Chronicle October 30, 1889:*



Above: A successful Liberty Club members hunt, 1912.

Left: The Clubhouse before it burned in 1925.



Over in Lebanon just beyond Liberty Hill has been erected a sportsmen’s hotel by Boston and New York gentlemen who are fond of hunting and fishing and have styled themselves the Liberty Sportsmen Club. The building is on property of Edward A. Stiles who sold two acres of land to the club and erected the building for them costing about \$2000. He has temporarily moved his family in, in order to act as manager of the establishment and to board the men. Its internal arrangements are for luxury and comfort including a club room, 24x21 feet, which has a stone fireplace an ample dining room with a similar fireplace adjoins. Beyond are convenient apartments for Mr. Stiles’ family. The second story contains 12 sleeping rooms each

stated: Lebanon Ct. January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1889. In consideration of \$25 to be paid to me on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October of each and every year I hereby lease unto Joseph R. Scott of Jamaica Plains and Frank L. Barnes of Brooklyn, New York the exclusive shooting and fishing privileges on all my land and water in said township said lease to hold good for the term of two years from date with the privilege of renewal by said lessee for the whole or any privilege of eight additional years on the same terms as above specified. This legal agreement giving exclusive hunting and fishing rights on Stiles property was signed by Joseph Scott and Frank Barnes and Edward A. Stiles and witnessed by Edna

*continued on page 5*

# Lebanon's Clubhouse Road continued

continued from page 4

containing two beds and furnished in simple rural style. A pole, 30 feet high, was erected upon the roof from which floats the national colors. There are about 20 members in the club comprising wealthy businessmen from Boston, New York and Brooklyn. The president of which is E. R. Hunnewell of Boston. Ten members are now on hand with valuable dogs, costly guns and the best fishing tackle and are enthusiastically enjoying the sport. Last spring, they put 400 quail into the woods and propose next spring to introduce 2000 more so to thoroughly stock the region with that game.



Left to right: Edward A Stiles' wife, Edna, their daughter in-law Lillian, their son Edward W., daughter Beatrice next to Edward W. and Lillian's son Leslie who died in WW II Edward W. Stiles was the last caretaker of the Liberty Club.

Huntly Pond (Stiles pond) has been full of pickerel but the water is now drained off in order to kill them so as to make ready for the introduction of some 10,000 salmon trout next summer. The club has purchased from many of the neighboring farms the exclusive right of hunting on their farms so that the club holds that privilege for much of the territory for three-mile square.

How, these wealthy gentlemen first

came to Lebanon is not clear, but they so enjoyed their stays, that they invited several friends to form a new, Lebanon-based sportsmen's club. In the January 1889 lease, Stiles also sold them the land for a clubhouse [the clubhouse for which Clubhouse Road was named]. Within months, additional lands had been acquired and stocked with quail and salmon trout. In addition to this original stocking, members added English pheasants and happily hunted native wildlife. According to the Willimantic Chronicle, April 30, 1901, the preserves of the Club "were the best stocked in the state." Great care was taken to prevent strangers from hunting on their preserve as illustrated in the November 21, 1894, the *Willimantic Chronicle* article: *Whenever anyone of the sportsmen or their guests go out for a try at the birds, each man is given a whistle with a peculiar tone. The farmers in the proximity of the game preserve have been engaged to keep a close watch over possible trespassers and are also provided with whistles. When the farmer hears a gunner shooting, he blows his whistle and if the sportsman has a right to shoot on the grounds, he blows a blast in response to prove his identity and the farmer knows all is well. If the shooter does not respond to the whistle, the farmer at once proceeds to hunt him up and make him skip.*

The clubhouse, which Edward A. Stiles built in 1888, featured a dining hall and club room with large stone fireplaces and twelve bedrooms upstairs. Soon after, the club built an annex with additional sleeping quarters. For many years Edward and Edna Stiles managed the facility. When the clubhouse was struck by lightning and burned to the

continued on page 11

## Programs & Events

- **Saturday, June 8** •  
10am — 3pm

**Second Saturday in June**  
**Free - Family - Fun**  
Antique car rides around the Green and demonstrations by craftsmen of all types.  
Held rain or shine.



- **Sunday, June 23** •  
2 pm

**Something Old,  
Something New:  
Connecticut Weddings  
Through the Ages**

Learn where our cherished wedding traditions come from. A Connecticut Historical Society program.  
\$2 admission non-members, members free



- **Saturday, July 20** •  
5pm– 8pm

**"An Evening  
at the Museum" gala**  
Wine & beer tasting,  
appetizers, dinner & dessert  
Silent auction  
By invitation only.

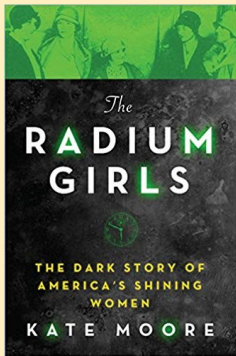


- **Saturday, September 28** •  
9am—3pm

**53rd Annual  
Antique Show  
on the Lebanon Green**  
Held rain or shine  
**\$5 admission**  
Free parking  
Enjoy homemade pies,  
chowders & sandwiches.  
Grilled burgers & dogs

## A Good Read

By Linda Wallace



### Radium Girls

By Kate Moore

They were the “shining girls” and they did have an actual physical glow about them. These young women were the ones who painted the luminous clocks and watches in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These watches were in much demand by the military during WWI as well as by the general population.

These young women, some only in their early teens, had what was considered an enviable job, painting the glow-in-the-dark numbers on the dials. It paid well and the working conditions were good, or so they thought. The method used to paint these small numbers was called lip-pointing.

Although the paintbrush bristles were fine, they still needed to ‘pointed’ more. The girls were instructed to lip-point by putting the

*Continued on page 7 sidebar*

## Lebanon and the Chestnut Blight

*Continued from page 1*

stands of planted chestnuts survived, while in the east, some root systems still generate saplings which rarely survive more than a few years.

Scientists have monitored and tracked chestnuts’ survival since the blight first arrived. Whenever possible, they lugged heavy box cameras into the woods to add photographs to their documentation. In 1994, Extension Service researchers found photos of the Lebanon chestnut taken in 1933 and 1938. Copies of these images accompanied the inquiry that Alicia Wayland received.

Alicia’s notes about this inquiry

indicate that

she had never heard about this historic tree, but

she set out to learn what she could. She

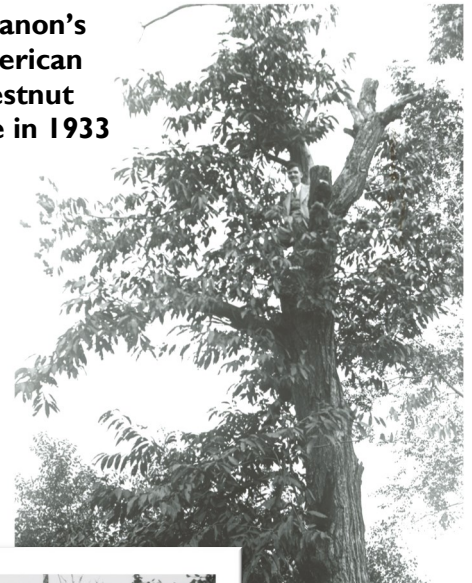
replied,

“I said I’d contact a few older residents to see if anyone could remember such a tree.” She left a phone message for Frank Bartizek and spoke with Sol Kiotic, who did recall such a tree.

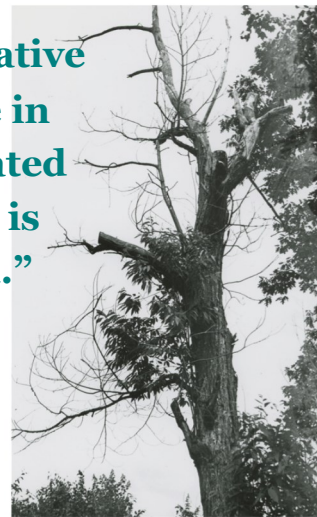
His parents owned a 10-acre lot on Old Colchester Road when he was a boy. The lot was opposite what was, in 1994, the Goodrich place at 31 Old Colchester Road, on the right-hand side of the road heading toward Colchester. “At one end of the field, there was a very old, isolated chestnut tree, with very large branches.” Sol recalled that it was still bearing nuts in 1930, the last time he remembered gathering chestnuts from it, but that it appeared to be dying at that time.

Sol told Alicia that on the adjacent lot there used to be a steam-powered saw mill for chestnut trees run by a man named Gardner. The chestnut trees from Gardner’s lot were used for piling for docks

Lebanon’s American Chestnut tree in 1933



**“The last big native chestnut tree in the state, located in Lebanon, is almost dead.”**



The same tree in 1938

and had to be 90 feet long. Sol’s father hauled these 90 foot long logs on two telescoping wagons hooked together and pulled by four horses. Mr. Kiotic took the logs to Leonard Bridge Railroad Station where they were

loaded onto two flatcars because of their length. They were shipped by train to Bridgeport and New Haven. Some days later, Sol advised Alicia that the lot had been dozed and a house built so there was no evidence of the tree.

Despite its ultimate death, for a few years in the 1930s, Lebanon was home to the state’s largest healthy chestnut tree. Scientists and land-owners continue to work towards the goal of providing a blight-free environment and introducing an blight-resistant variety of the American chestnut cross-bred from surviving trees in the Pacific Northwest and genes from blight-free Italian or Japanese varieties.

# Thank you to the 2018 Donors to our Archives & Object Collections

Dicks Antiques – Richard Blashchke  
 Bev York  
 Ed Tollmann  
 Mary Lou Beckwith  
 Jo Ann Izzo  
 Keith LaPorte  
 Steven F. Still Antiques – Steven Still  
 McCall Family  
 Paul & Anne Maffiolini  
 Susan Martineau  
 Andrea Stannard  
 Helen Bender  
 Bill Brauch  
 Roger Abell  
 Barbara Wengloski  
 Town of Lebanon - First Selectman's office  
 Alicia Watson

Karen Thoms  
 Martha McSweeney  
 Dan Moore  
 John & Ruth Sweet  
 Shawn McGillicuddy  
 Calista Gingras  
 Ron Drum  
 Brian Bartizek  
 Richard & Rita Lataille  
 Robert Slate  
 Rod Dzialo  
 John McClellan  
 Mary Wells  
 Robert & Margaret McCaw  
 St. Francis 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
 Donna Diekmann  
 Lyman Memorial High School

We would also like to thank those individuals and families who have loaned items for our exhibits as well as those who have allowed us to copy or scan documents and photographs for our files which enhance our body of knowledge of Lebanon's history.

## From our collections



2018.048.001

This past year we were very fortunate to add four quilts to our textile collection.

The two beautiful quilts on the left were hand stitched by Bertha Lathrop. The Lathrop family were long-time residents in the Goshen section of Lebanon.

Both the complete quilt and the quilt top are in lovely condition with vibrant colors and the materials reveal classic patterns of the 1930s. *Donated by Alicia Lathrop Watson*



2018.043.002

We are equally fortunate that these quilts arrived with such a rich provenance in the form of a printed history of the Lathrop family by Charles Lathrop, called *"In This Place."* Excerpts, such as the following, tell us even more about Bertha's life, *"...Aunt Ella, and her daughter cousin Bertha lived on in the old house with some electric lights and a telephone, but no heat except wood fires, no plumbing, and water only which was drawn from the well..."*

## Radium Girls

*Continued from page 6 sidebar*

brushes in their mouths and then into the paint – lip, dip, paint; lip, dip, paint, over and over. They did this hundreds of times a day.

The paint that they mixed and used contained radium. The addition of radium to the paint was what made the numbers (and girls) glow. Radium was considered the wonder drug of its time, being used in items ranging from body lotion to tonic water. Little did most people realize radium's deadly effects. The owners and managers of the United States Radium Corporation of Orange, NJ and The Radium Dial Company of Ottawa, IL did, but they kept those facts hidden from their workers. The Waterbury Clock Company in CT was also complicit in the deception.

As time went by, many of the young women were becoming ill. Some exhibiting teeth that were falling out, gum infections that wouldn't heal, even having parts of their jawbone coming out in their hands. Tumors of their jaws and joints were not uncommon. Eventually many died a horrible and painful death. The cause of

*Continued on page 8 sidebar*

## Radium Girls

*Continued from page 7 sidebar*

these debilitating conditions was proven to be the radium that they had ingested over time. The medical bills for the treatment of these conditions were overwhelming. The women struggled to find a way to make the companies accountable for the expenses and to provide protection for future workers. Eventually, they had their day in court, although they had to fight bureaucracy and corruption.

Radium Girls details the lives of the ‘shining girls’ and their determination to make the companies admit to their knowledge of radium’s harmful effects and the companies disregard for their workers’ well being. Kate Moore illuminates the women’s struggle and determination for justice over corporate greed. A heartbreaking and yet inspiring story that led to recognizing the dangers of radium and to life-changing regulations that have saved many lives in the nuclear industry.



## 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. In 2018, we were able to accomplish a few projects that needed some attention for some time. We were able get the dead tree near the drive to the Beaumont House cut down, and all the limbs, trunk, and debris removed. The stump was ground down and all the disturbed areas were reseeded. All of this was done by “Good ‘ol Boys Tree Removal” company. Many thanks for the great job they did. A very professional company. One of the main projects that got accomplished was the paving of the complete driveway and parking area. The loose stone that we have been living with for many years was not working out any longer. It was washing away and leaving dangerous ruts. Also, in the winter and spring it became very muddy when the ground thawed. The new pavement should give us many years of safe parking and walking surface. In the spring, we hope to get the Beaumont House, and other structures sprayed to remove mold that has started to appear on the sides. We also hope to get the Smoke House moved to its new location behind the Beaumont House. This is a very slow and tedious process and can only be accomplished by someone who really knows what they’re doing. Last, but not least, a special Thank You again 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 the problems can be corrected as soon as possible.

**Collections Committee, Tom Meyer, Chair** The collections committee met in the spring, September, and December of 2018 to consider items donated to the Society for inclusion in the LHS permanent collection. More than 100 items from 44 donors were gladly accepted into the LHS collections. All items met the mission of the LHS regarding preservation of the community's heritage and were considered by the Collections Committee to be valuable additions to the Society's collection. Many thanks to Lebanon residents and non-residents with ties to Lebanon for their generous contributions. In addition, many thanks to the dedicated staff of the LHS for screening the numerous prospective donations, evaluating them and providing the Collections Committee with information regarding their significance. Additional thanks to the members of the Collections Committee for their careful consideration and decisions regarding a key element of the museum: its collection.

**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 T’s 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, 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, despite soggy ground, and

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# Annual Committee Reports

*Continued from previous page*

always lots of fun. The Christmas Tree Lighting open house in December was well attended and featured a tour of the Pastor's Library. 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** This year was exceptional with regard to exhibit planning and implementation. The newest Gallery Exhibit "Transportation to, from, within and around Lebanon" came together beautifully thanks once again to the amazing talents of the Museum Staff and volunteers and the addition of objects from generous lenders. The cases of the Multipurpose Room have been cleared of the World War One soldiers and now await installation of the next display that will feature the relationship between bodies of water within the town and significant weather events to economical development and recreational pastimes. Over the past year, progress was made to the Farming Exhibit and work will resume once the weather warms as it is being installed in what used to be the Carriage Shed. There is much work to be done this coming year. Anyone with a desire to lend a hand, whether it be assisting with research or exhibit planning and/or installation, is encouraged to come on down!

**Finance Committee: Al Vertefeulle, Chair** The Finance Committee (Al Vertefeulle, 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 at 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.

**Historic Buildings Committee: Brian Bartizek, Chair** We prepared the base for the smoke house move and I installed the dehumidifier in the Beaumont House. The broom shop roof replacement was delayed until spring of 2019. The siding and the roofing for the Woodshed/Privy was completed this year.

**Membership & Development Committee: Melissa Hayes, Chair** It's been another busy and exciting year, 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 operating expenses, along with the annual appeal. I'm happy to report that we recently hit an all-time high of 315 members. (This figure is technically a bit higher when you take into account family memberships, some of which include children.) As always, it's a joy to work with members and

*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.



Our next **History Book Club** will be held at

**7pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2019**

Our next book will be

**"Barracoon"**  
*The Story of the Last Black Cargo*  
**by Zora Neale Hurston**

Everyone is welcome.  
*Even if you haven't finished the book, you are welcome to join us!*

*This books are available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library*



**A featured panel in this exhibit displays where Lebanon's earliest settlers came from.**

Lebanon's earliest settlers (1710 and before) moved from a variety of Connecticut and Massachusetts towns.

**1695-1701**

(older settlements in New London County – probably looking for affordable land)

- Norwich
- New London
- Stonington
- Windham

**1696-1701**

(upper Connecticut River Valley – possibly fleeing Native American attacks)

- Northampton
- Westfield
- Springfield
- Deerfield
- Hadley
- Hatfield
- Duxbury
- Bridgewater
- Scituate
- Marshfield
- Plymouth
- Swansea
- Little Compton
- Dedham
- Gloucester

**1699-1704**

(extended families from northern Plymouth County)

**1701-1705**

(established Connecticut towns – mostly individual families)

- New Haven
- Killingworth
- Enfield
- Suffield
- Windsor
- Hartford
- Saybrook
- Wethersfield

## Annual Committee Reports

*Continued from previous page*

volunteers, fellow members of the board, and our talented staff, Alicia, Gracie, and Donna; we all share a commitment to preserving the history of our amazing town. I'd like to thank members and volunteers for their help in spreading the word about membership in the LHS at events like "Dark Sky over Lebanon" on the Lebanon Green and our croquet event this past year, and encourage you all to urge family and friends to join our wonderful organization!

**Personnel and Nomination: Betsy Petrie-McComber, Chair** the following are board positions to be filled at the Annual Meeting on May 5, 2019:

Community Events	To Be Filled	2019-2021
Finance	To Be Filled	2018-2021
Programs	To Be Filled	2018-2021

The personnel are extremely dedicated to the mission of the Museum and they demonstrate this in so many ways. The Museum is fortunate to have such an enthusiastic, cheerful and helpful staff.

**Program Committee: Genevieve Nowosad, Chair** The Programs Committee has continued to provide a wide variety of interesting and informative programs such as: the medicinal value of herbs in the colonial era; the history of beer-making & tasting, which included a tasting (was very well attended), a "how-to" on plant propagation which was co-sponsored by the Lebanon Garden Club and Robert Thorsen's talk on the changing Lebanon landscape. We viewed the stars with telescopes with Last Green Valley rangers and played croquet on the Beaumont house lawn. Our local revolutionary history was well represented with talks by Richard Randune and Robert Selig plus walking the Green to discover what buildings were and were not present in the 1770s. State Historian, Walt Woodward, shared his research and perspective on the art of John Trumbull. Many thanks to my dedicated committee and all they do to help to brainstorm ideas, schedule programs and provide refreshments. We hope that if you have program suggestions that you will share them with us and we hope to see you at this years roster of presentations.

**Publications Committee: Sandie Chalifoux, Chair** Another year has come and gone. Our small committee meets often to try and create a publication that will draw your attention to past, present and future happenings in our historical town. The committee consists of Grace Sayles, the "creative drive" behind this publication, gathering articles, photos, and then putting it all together in this publication. Donna Baron continues to provide interesting facts, stories and history about our wonderful town, she has the experience of searching and coming up with many interesting articles and information to be written about and shared with our readers. Linda Wallace, Missy Hayes and Marty Kendall have all contributed to our "Good Read" section. Rick Kane continues to research and enlighten us as to how many of the roads in Lebanon got their names. (Do you have a road that you would like to know more about?) All museum events/dates and times will always be found in every edition of "Provisions." If you would like to sponsor an edition to cover the cost of printing and postage, it is always welcome. Contact the museum if you wish to support "your" newsletter. "Provisions" is also available via e-mail. There are four editions during the year and the committee hopes you will find them interesting and enjoyable to peruse

## Lebanon's Clubhouse Road continued

*continued from page 5*

ground in 1925, the Stiles family barely escaped with their lives. Everything was destroyed including all the original shooting and fishing records and the first logbook. Soon after the fire, the clubhouse was rebuilt around the stone chimneys. A second building that club members called "The Annex" survived the fire and provided extra sleeping quarters.

In 1905, the Club was reorganized and incorporated with a Board of Directors. Early members recalled that in a year, they might shoot 150 partridges, 325 quail and 150 woodcock. By 1917, the population of game birds had dropped substantially. In 1924, the state of Connecticut banned shooting quail. Fishing had been reduced earlier in the century when several years of drought damaged the trout streams, but Club members continued to travel to Lebanon into the early 1930s. On March 3, 1934, member C.T. Curtis noted in the Club Ledger, *"I left Boston at 5:20 pm. From Willimantic to Liberty Hill to foot of Tobacco Street by auto. Thence I rode in a cordwood sled with a large farm horse. Snow deep, perhaps a foot and a half and many drifts."*

In many ways, Club members must have seemed a bit out of place in Lebanon. Neighbors recalled some of the men arriving in expensive open touring cars that they would drive through the woods and brush to use as shooting platforms. For local families who did not even own a car, this seemed unbelievable. However, for the 49 years the Club was active, its members had a positive impact on some aspects of Lebanon's economy. Rob, Tim and Jon Slate's great, great grandfather, Frank Kinglsey raised,

boarded and trained hunting dogs for the members. One record documents a member paying Mr. Kingsley \$75 to "break" (train) a single dog (Jon Slate now lives in his great, great grandfather's house.) Tobacco Street resident Walter Arson recalled that he and his brothers Matt and Freddie supplied the Club with firewood for a number of years. The Haddad family lived next door to the Arsons and had a large truck farm. Mr. Haddad had a reputation of growing the best tomatoes in the area and often supplied Club members with fresh vegetables.

### The End of the Liberty Club

By 1937, however, the Club had only three members: C.T. Curtis, Bradford Norman and George Mumford. At their September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the members voted to sell the approximately 425 acres owned by the Club with its buildings and building contents. Each member was to receive one-third of the sale price. The Club was officially ended in 1941 when a certificate of dissolution was filed in Boston.

### The Next Chapter

The transformation of the former Liberty Club and property, which is now Camp Laurel, will be in the next issue of Lebanon Provisions.

*Many thanks to Donna Whitcomb Diekmann, Edward A. Stiles' great, great niece for sharing the Liberty Club ledger and related materials with us.*



Hunting dog trainer, Frank Kingsley standing far right

*One record documents a member paying Mr. Kingsley \$75 to "break" (train) a single dog*



Mr Haddad with a bushel of apples

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



History Trivia Question: **When was "Chestnut Hill" given that name?**  
See page 3 for the answer.



**Katharine Hepburn:  
From Hartford to Hollywood**

This program will link her career and legacy to her roots in Connecticut.

A traveling presentation from the Connecticut Historical Society museum & library

Program followed by light refreshments & conversation.  
Members free, \$2 for non-members

Sunday,  
March 10  
2pm

**Sunday, May 5**  
4pm — 6pm  
**53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Lebanon Historical Society**  
Business meeting begins at 4pm  
followed by



A light-hearted and music-filled program  
by **Rick Spencer**

Social hour & refreshments to follow. Program is free.



**Sunday, April 7 2 pm Tales of a Yankee Peddler**

Presentation by Tom Kelleher historian and curator of mechanical arts at Old Sturbridge Village, shares the tales of the original New England salesmen  
Members free, \$2 non-members

*Lebanon Historical Society*  
MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

Located on the historic Lebanon Green

856 Trumbull Hwy Lebanon, CT

860-642-6579

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