



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 2 No. 4

Summer
2010

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Calendar of Events

All of our programs are open to the public.

Tues. - Thurs.

Aug. 16, 17 & 18

9:30-11:30am

Cool Kids Crafts

Leather Tooling, Knitting & Jointed Paper Puppets.

Learn "How To" and bring home your creation
For children entering grades 3 - 6

Preregistration required

Sat., Aug. 21 • Time TBA
Vintage Baseball Game

On the Lebanon Green

Sat., Sept. 11 • Noon-4pm
"From Puritan to Patriot"

SAR Color Guard Program
Held at the War Office

Sat., Sept. 11 • 7-9pm
An Evening At The Museum

Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction. LHS Museum
Please contact us for a ticket

Sat., Sept. 19 • 7am-noon
Early American Industry Association Swap Meet

Members & the public welcome
LHS Museum

Sat., Sept. 25 • 9am-3pm
44th Annual Antiques Show

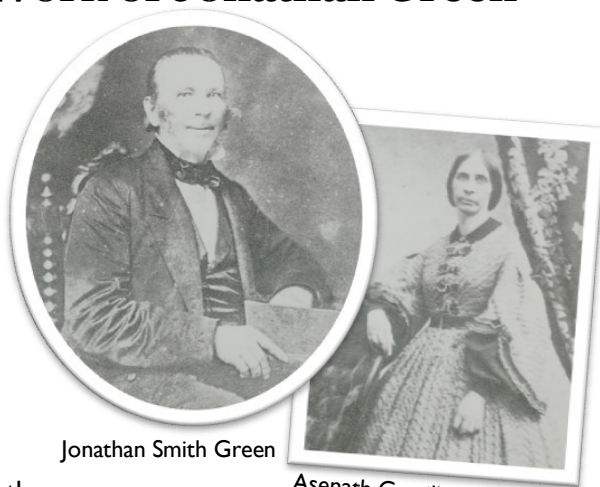
On the Lebanon Green
\$5 admission

**Many more events
listed on page 4**

The Missionary Work of Jonathan Green

Alicia Wayland

This is the second in a series of occasional articles about missionaries whose callings led them from their hometown of Lebanon to service in many different countries worldwide, as well as in home ministries throughout this country.



Jonathan Smith Green

Asenath Cargill Spring Green

When newly-wed Fannie Hinckley Gulick boarded the third missionary vessel to the Sandwich Islands in November 1827 (see *Provisions* Winter 2010), another Lebanon native committed to the missionary life was also on board. Jonathan Smith Green, born in Lebanon on December 20, 1796, and a graduate of the Theological Seminary at Andover, Massachusetts, had just been ordained on October 3, 1827. He was accompanied on board by his bride, Theodotia Arnold of Middletown, Connecticut, whom he had married in September.

Jonathan Smith Green was the son of

Beriah and Elizabeth (Smith) Green. The Greens moved to Lebanon from Preston with their son Beriah Junior in 1795. In 1800 the Greens moved to Lisbon, then by 1810 the family, now with two boys and two girls, had relocated to Pawlet, Vermont. Beriah Green Senior was a highly-skilled furniture maker and the Lebanon Historical Society owns two of his Windsor chairs. He evidently passed on his skills to Jonathan who was recorded in missionary annals as

Continued on page 4



An Evening at the Museum

Saturday, September 11, 2010

4pm to 7pm

\$25 for an individual and \$40 per couple

Music by Nanette Adesso

Wine tasting by Allen S. Goodman and hors d'oeuvres on our patio

Silent auction offering local artwork, elegant meals and more!

For tickets please call the museum, 860-642-6579

**The mission
of the
Lebanon Historical
Society**

The mission of the Society is to preserve and to interpret all aspects of the history of Lebanon, Connecticut from its earliest inhabitants to the present day, with a special emphasis on the role of Lebanon in the American Revolution.

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Donna Baron

From the President

Ed Tollmann

Things are hopping at the museum. Our new Governor Trumbull exhibit opened June 12th and was very well received. A Boy Scout display will be replacing the very successful Lutheran Church display. This exhibit will correspond with the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts. If anyone has, or knows of any Boy Scout memorabilia, please call the museum.

Mr. Adam's memorial service and the unveiling of the memorial plaque went very well. The rain in the afternoon did not hinder the activities.

A luncheon was held at the community center and a concert was performed at the First Church. The plaque was placed on the rock at the beginning of the walkway. When you have time stop and take a look.

Many projects have been completed and others started. For many years the center chimney and the chimney for the boiler room were leaking. After trying to patch both many times it was decided to pull the roof off around the chimney to see what was wrong. Thanks to Glenn Pianka it was discovered that the roof around the chimney had been installed improperly. Glenn replaced the area around the chimney and the leak is now fixed. As for the boiler room, a power vent for the boiler was installed and your president and vice president successfully removed the wood and metal chimney eliminating that leak. My thanks to Bender's Oil Service for installing the power vent at cost. Electricity has been restored to the Beaumont House. After almost two years of frustration the lines were repaired and the power turned on. Many thanks to Thomas 'TJ' Benoit for his numerous hours completing an easement and an A-2 Survey and many frustrating calls to CL & P. David Tuttle also donated many hours helping us probe to find the break. Without their help the project would have cost much, much more to complete.

The Buckingham Library move has gained momentum. Coit Excavating of Bozrah gave us a great deal on installing the slab at the end of our drive to set the library on. Steve Coit also rerouted driveway drainage and reset the drain across the driveway that had been lifted by frost so the runoff from the road could not enter the drain. The drain is now set in concrete deep enough so frost will not be a problem. The price Steve did both projects for was really a gift. I also want to thank Bill Brewster and Brandon Handfield for drawing the plans and giving their expert advice as to how the job should be done. Without all this volunteer help we would never have been able to afford to complete these three projects. As of this writing the new sills are being installed under the Buckingham Library. The roof will then be dismantled and the move to our property will be completed.

Two successful workdays were held to spruce up the buildings and grounds. Flowers around the patio and in front of the stonewall are in bloom. My thanks to all our volunteers for their dedication to the society. The momentum that has been generated can be felt as soon as you enter the museum. Our Director and Staff give more than 110% every day. Our Board of Directors not only get along wonderfully but are all taking charge and moving the society in a successful direction. The society should be very proud of the accomplishments that have been made.

My wishes to you all for a safe and happy summer.



**Fun was had by all at our last
Second Saturday event**

Director's Message

Donna Baron

In a work place that is always challenging and rewarding, some days do stand out as special. These days are often those when someone arrives with their hands filled with old things.

Sometimes, our visitor just wants to have something identified. Recently a young Lebanon resident brought in some rusty artifacts he'd found in his yard. We've been able to help determine what they are and to tell him not to clean off the rust. Removing rust could easily mean that there would be nothing left. It was especially satisfying to have a middle school student interested enough in local history to ask for help.

Other times, a visitor asks if the Historical Society is interested in accepting an object as a gift. Although this is not a decision any one person can make for the Society, I do try to screen potential gifts when they first arrive. Often I can be very enthusiastic. Recently, a couple came in with a 1755 George II half penny from the dirt cellar in their Lebanon home. Hard currency was rather rare in 18th century Lebanon, so I happily accepted their generous offer to leave the coin.

This coin and other newly received objects will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Collections Committee which usually has the final say as to whether or not a gift to the collections is accepted. In a few unusual circumstances the full Board makes that decision. Once accepted, a gift is entered into our PastPerfect database where it is assigned a unique number and catalogued. After being assigned a storage location the gift is archivally packed and put away until it is needed for research or an exhibit.

If you have something that you've always wondered about, please pay us a visit. We'll do our best to help you learn more about what you have and we'll happily talk with you about making a gift to collections if you would like that information.

Welcome to our newest members

Senior

W. Brewster Cockrell
Richard & Rita Lataille

Individual

Carmen Bell
Susan Leerstang
Kirsten Westbrook

Family

Catey Farley & Jack Tavares
Lisa Gould
Skip Kuzel & Mary Horan
Steve & Brenda Olearnick

Patron

David & Sherri-Ann Martin

Please share your email with us

By now, you probably don't even notice that we ask for you to share your email address in every issue of the newsletter and on your membership renewal form. Our persistence has an important goal. With the costs of paper, printing, and postage going up, email provides a quick, secure, and cost-effective way to contact you. If you would like to know about up-coming programs at LHS and other local organizations, opportunities to volunteer, or interesting tidbits about Lebanon history, please be sure we have your email address.

As a thank you for helping us save money, the LHS staff will be creating email historical notes. As we learn about newsworthy events from Lebanon's past, we will share them with our email membership list. Or, you can opt out of this or any other category of LHS email notices. You set the limits. Call 860-642-6579 or email us at museum@historyofLebanon.org

Send us your recipes For our Heritage Cookbook

Don't miss your chance!
**Time is
running out!**
Recipe
submission
DEADLINE
October 1, 2010



Make sure that your family's heritage and traditions are represented with a favorite recipe. Whether it's a holiday recipe that's generations old or a recipe clipped from a magazine, all are welcomed.

**Call the museum
860-642-6579
for more information
or a submission form.**

History Trivia Answer:

Copper

Contact Us:

The Lebanon
Historical Society
856 Trumbull Hwy
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249
860-642-6579
[museum@
historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)
[www.
historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Library & Research Center

Wed. and Sat. only
12pm to 4pm
or by appointment.



Lebanon 2010
celebrating the 300th
anniversary of
Governor Jonathan
Trumbull's
(1710-1785) birth.

The museums and historic sites around the Green will host special Trumbull events throughout the fall.

For more information
visit the calendar of
events on our web site
www.historyoflebanon.org



Sat. & Sun., Oct. 1 & 2
Living History
Encampment
 on the Green

Sun., Oct. 17 • 2-4pm
Cake Decorating Contest

Bake a cake to enter or come by to be a judge. *Kids welcome!*
 LHS Museum

WALKTOBER Events

- Sat., Oct. 9 • 11am:**
 Trumbull Cemetery Walk
- Sat., Oct. 16 • 10am:**
 Village Hill Walk *also*
 Rails to Trails Bike Ride
- Sat., Oct. 23 • 10am:**
 Five Mile Rock Walk

Sun., Oct. 24 • 1-3pm
Boy Scouts in
Community
Conversation

Join us in opening a new community display and sharing memories in a community conversation
 LHS Museum

Wed. Oct. 27 • 7pm
Pro's & Con's of Genealogy
on the Internet
 Carol Whitmer, presenter

Missionary Jonathan Green

Continued from page 1

having made all his own furniture for his homes in Hawaii.

Jonathan's older brother, Beriah Junior, also had a strong influence on him. Beriah became a professor of sacred literature at Western Reserve College in Ohio but his ardent abolitionist views were at odds with the school's trustees. He resigned and relocated to Whitesboro, New York, to become the president of the Oneida Institute. He had accepted the position on condition that he would be free to work for the cause of black freedom. Jonathan studied with Beriah Junior, doing so well that he was able to enter the Andover seminary without a college degree.

On arrival in Honolulu, Jonathan Green was sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to investigate appeals from Indians in the Oregon Country asking for a teacher. The Indians has sent the request to the ABCFM in the Hawaiian Islands by sea captains. In 1829 Jonathan visited the Russian settlement in Alaska and then sailed down the Pacific Coast of North America. Although Jonathan wrote a report recommending the establishment of missions in the region of the Columbia River, the ABCFM did not act on this for a number of years.

On his return to Honolulu, Jonathan was stationed at Lahaina and then in Hilo. In 1832, he was transferred to Wailuku. Here he established the first boarding school for Hawaiian girls and served as principal of the Wailuku Girls' Seminary 1836-1842. He also had care of the church there. Jonathan was known to be outspoken in his views in defense of the abolition of slavery. In 1842, the Greens left the service of the ABCFM because

"they were convinced that the relations the Board sustained to American slavery were not right in the sight of God."

The Greens moved to Makawao where Jonathan was an independent pastor in connection with the American Missionary Association. The church he formed there and which he served as pastor until his death was independent of ecclesiastical connections, and Jonathan had to rely on the congregation for his support.

Jonathan Green was a pioneer wheat farmer in the Islands and wrote articles for an agricultural bulletin to report on the wheat-growing efforts in his neighborhood. He was also a scholar and he translated several books of the Bible into Hawaiian. He preached in both Hawaiian and English and wrote for the newspapers both in the Islands and in the United States.

By his first wife, Jonathan had four children. Two daughters died in infancy and one daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and a son, Joseph Porter, grew to adulthood. Joseph Green became a minister in the Islands and Mary Green became the principal of the girls' boarding school at Waialua. Theodotia Green died October 5, 1859, in Makawao. Jonathan Green then traveled back to the United States where he met and married his second wife, Asenath Cargill Spring in Providence, Rhode Island, on September 11, 1861. By her, he had two more children, Laura and Franklin.

Jonathan Smith Green died at Makawao on the island of Maui on January 5, 1878, at the age of 81. Asenath Green with her two children continued the work of her husband at the church he had established at Makawao. She died there on February 4, 1894.

HISTORICAL COSTUME WORKSHOP

Learn to make a 1790s dress for a young girl
at two free sewing workshops on Sept. 11 and 19 from 1-3 p.m.
at the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House.

Dress patterns are free but you must bring your own material.
 Call Sherri-Ann Martin at 860-537-2172 to find out the amount of material needed.



Encampment October 2 & 3, 2010 on the Lebanon Green

The town of Lebanon and
Lebanon Historical Society
will sponsor
a 1750-1783 timeline encampment
with military re-enactment units
and sutlers from across the Northeast.
The host unit is Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia



Event is free and open to the public.
For more information, call the
Lebanon Historical Society at 860-642-6579
or visit www.historyoflebanon.org calendar of events

Cake Decorating Contest



Celebrates a 300th Birthday

If you like cake—and who doesn't—plan on visiting the Lebanon Historical Society Museum on Sunday, Oct. 17, to help choose the winners of a cake decorating contest from 2-4 p.m. Voting by visitors will determine the winners of the contest. Children are especially invited to help make this choice.

The contest is open to anyone who would

like to submit a cake for judging. The winning cakes will be determined by the number of ballots placed in a box beside each cake. Cash prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 dollars will be awarded to first, second and third place winners.

The cake should be a small cake, approximately 8" either round or square. It must have a colonial theme as its decoration in honor of Governor Jonathan Trumbull's 300th birthday this year. The cake must be edible and the baker must agree to donate the cake for a give-away drawing for visitors.

Visitors who wish to be eligible to receive a cake will write their names on the ballots. Random drawing of ballots at 4 p.m. will determine the winners. Winners must be present to receive a cake.

Cake bakers must pre-register. Contact Alicia Wayland at (860) 642-7987 or aliciawayland@charter.net for the entry rules and to register.

The contest is jointly sponsored by LHS and the 2010 Governor Trumbull Celebration Committee.

High School volunteers awarded 2010 LHS scholarships

At Lyman Memorial High School's June 14th graduation ceremony, Historical Society president Ed Tollmann presented scholarship awards to two students who have been active volunteers at the museum, Katie Lamb and Macy O'Hearn.

Katie has been a volunteer for more than two years working with children and helping with membership programs. She also worked with the Society as she completed her Girl Scout Gold Award which focused on farming traditions in Lebanon. Katie will be entering the honors program at Sacred Heart University as a Criminal Justice and Media Studies major in the fall. Macy began volunteering at LHS as part of her senior project and has continued helping out with special projects. In August, she will enter the School of Humanities and Sciences at Ithaca College where she will major in anthropology.

A Good Read

Diary of a Common Soldier in the American Revolution, 1775-1783

An Annotated Edition of
the Military Journal of
Jeremiah Greenman

*Edited by Robert Bray
and Paul Bushnell*

Jeremiah Greenman was
17 years old when he
enlisted in the Rhode Island
Army and was stationed
around Boston.

He volunteered for the
disastrous expedition to
Quebec, endured prison,
repatriation and the
barefoot march home.
He reenlisted in the Rhode
Island Continentals as a
sergeant for the campaign
of 1777, and moved up in
ranks to become regimental
adjutant for the Rhode
Island troops by 1782.

He was mustered out after
the final treaty of peace was
signed in 1783. For eight
years, Jeremiah was an
extraordinarily loyal soldier,
at the same time improving
his ability to read and write
on his own. Somehow,
throughout all these
tumultuous years, he
managed to keep a diary
filled with the briefest of
notes on his daily doings.

Although the entries are
terse, the overall effect is
very moving as the reader
lives through the harsh years
of war in the company of
this common but very
uncommon soldier of
the Revolution.

From the collections

*"Be it known that I, Erastus Geer,
a citizen of the United States, residing in
the town of Lebanon, county of New London,
and State of Connecticut, have invented a
certain new and useful Improvement in
Window-Frames...My invention relates to
metallic frames for barn, scuttle, and cellar
windows; and my immediate object is to
provide at a moderate cost a frame of metal
so formed that it may be cast ready for use,
and of such construction that the water
which naturally finds its way between said
frame and the engaging boards in stormy
weather will be turned outward."*



On January 11, 1886, Erastus Geer filed this application for a patent to protect his interests in his recently invented cast iron window frame. Unlike many inventions which exist only as ideas on paper, Geer patent window frames were actually produced. One of them, a three aperture barn window frame is part of the Historical Society collections. Such windows were once fairly common in barns throughout eastern Connecticut, though we do not know if they were sold or used elsewhere.

Erastus Geer (1823-1895) was the youngest son of David Geer and his second wife Anna Gallup. The Geers had moved from Ledyard to Lebanon in 1817 and purchased a 500-acre farm on the Yantic River. According to the 1882 *History of New London County, Connecticut with Biographical Sketches of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*, compiled by D. Hamilton Hurd, Erastus Geer attended common schools in Lebanon and studied for a few terms at the Bacon Academy in Colchester. When he was nineteen, he began teaching school. For the next ten years he taught school during the winter term and worked on the farm in the summer.

As was common in the 19th century, Erastus (the youngest) stayed home, cared for the farm and his parents as they aged and finally inherited the property. He married twice, first to Almira Saxton, who died shortly after their only son was born in 1853, and second to Frances A. Geer, a distant cousin, with whom he had no children. The Geers were members of the Goshen Congregational

Church and Erastus served in the General Assembly in 1877 and as a County Commissioner beginning in 1878.

Such a simple, practical object – a window frame that would not rot and would prevent leaking; developed and produced by a man who, apparently, invented nothing else. Cast iron window frames in barns around the region reveal the ingenuity of Lebanon farmer Erastus Geer.



Fanning Mill

Donna Baron

Sometimes artifacts reveal hidden bits of history. A hatchel in the Historical Society collection that came from a farm in Liberty Hill documents the presence of flax as a crop in Lebanon in the 18th century. A “fanning mill” from the Hinckley farm in Village Hill connects 19th century Lebanon farmers with the cutting edge of agricultural technology of that time.

From the earliest days of agriculture farmers sought labor saving ways to extract the seeds of grain from the stems and hulls. Only the seeds were of value as food and as a means to assure a crop the next year, but in most grains the seeds are protected within a hard shell. Loosening and collecting the seeds was a time consuming and physically demanding process.



When English settlers first arrived in Lebanon, farmers still used processes common in Biblical times. Grain was beaten or threshed with a flail to break the bond between seed and hull. Afterward, large flat baskets (called winnowing baskets) were used to toss the grain up into the air. The wind blew off the chaff (empty hulls and stem pieces) while the seed fell back into the basket. These ancient methods had remained unchanged in the Middle East and Europe for thousands of years. The only major improvement was the development of a barn with a large central aisle and doors on each end which created a windy dry space for winnowing.

In China, winnowing technology progressed far more rapidly than in Europe. A Han-dynasty pottery model dated 202 BC – 220 AD shows a man cranking a winnowing machine. This device includes a paddle wheel fan to create air flow and a series of graduated vibrating screens sized to let seed be collected at the bottom while large pieces of chaff were collected above and small pieces blown off. This process was far less labor intensive than the European method and could be assigned to a woman or child instead of a male laborer.

Winnowing machines or fanning mills were first introduced in Great Britain in the mid-eighteenth century. The first example is often attributed to Scotsman Andrew Rodger in 1737. Within a century, such machines were becoming commonplace on American farms where their use varied according to the local crops. In the Midwest fanning mills were used to process wheat and oats and in the South rice was the most common crop. In New England however farmers used the machines for rye and for dried beans. Corn, because of the cob, was not suitable for winnowing.

The Hinckley fanning mill in the Historical Society collection probably dates to the 1840s or 1850s and retains its original blue painted decoration. By today's standards with threshing and winnowing both completely mechanized, operating a fanning mill by turning the crank for hours at a time may seem like hard work. For farmers of the 19th century, however, it represented the most modern technology and proved a great time saver. Able-bodied men could continue working in the fields while wives and children took over the tedious chore of winnowing.

Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2010

Exhibit News

Jonathan Trumbull: *A Merchant Struggling for Success*

As Lebanon celebrates the 300th anniversary of Jonathan Trumbull's birth, the Governor seems like a figure from the distant past.

The Lebanon Historical Society's new exhibit “Jonathan Trumbull: A Merchant Struggling for Success,” however, shows a very modern side of Lebanon's famous citizen.

Before becoming a politician and war-time governor, Trumbull was a merchant, family man and prominent local citizen. While he excelled at the latter two occupations, he was not especially successful in business. For years he fought bankruptcy brought about by the ill-advised use of credit – a very modern story indeed.

The exhibit is free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday afternoons. Come in to meet the very human Mr. Trumbull and try your hand at bartering for goods or risk your fortune at international trade as he did.

Provisions
Lebanon
please contact us
860-642-6579

If you are interested in
sponsoring
the next issue of

Sponsorship reminder

Lebanon Historical Society
Museum & Visitor Center
P.O. Box 151
Lebanon, CT 06249

History Trivia Question:

What material were the first coins minted in the Connecticut colony made of?

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visit www.leavealegacyct.org
or contact the Lebanon
Historical Society.



 **\$5**
Admission

Please contact the Lebanon Historical Society at 860-642-6579

It will  here
 fore you know it!

**Saturday,
September 25**

9am to 3pm


44th Annual

**Lebanon
Antiques Show**

on the

Lebanon Green 

Interested in being a worker bee?