



Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 3 No. 4

Summer
2011

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Calendar of Events

All of our programs are open to the public.

Crafty Fridays

10am-12pm

for Boys & Girls Ages 6 to 10

July 22

Paper Mache' Bowl

July 29

Fringed & Beaded Bag

August 5

Naturalistic Necklace

August 19

Cast a Gravestone

Ages 6 to 15 this craft only

Saturday, August 20

5pm to 8pm

An Evening at the Museum

Tickets \$25 per person
\$40 per couple

Sunday, September 11

2:00pm

Lebanon Lions Club Fair

Exhibit Opening and Community Conversation

Saturday, September 24

9am to 3pm

45th Annual Outdoor

Antiques Show

\$5 admission

Free Parking

Food for sale

**Turn to page 4
for more programs**

Isaac Fitch, Lebanon's Master Joiner

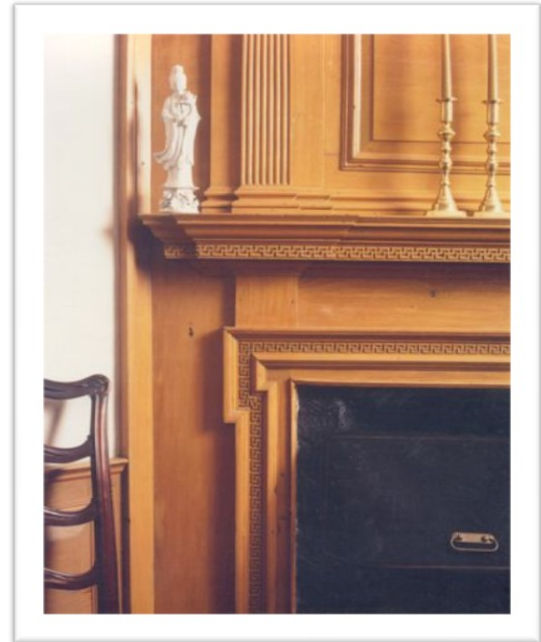
By Alicia Wayland

Isaac Fitch (1734-1791) was the 15th and last child born to his father Nathaniel Fitch of Lebanon. Nathaniel's first wife, Ann Abel, bore Nathaniel 12 children before her death in 1728. Nathaniel's second wife, the twice-widowed Mindwell Higley Hutchinson Tisdale, bore the next three after their marriage in 1729. Mindwell was the sister of Jonathan Trumbull's mother, making Isaac first cousin to the famous governor.

In 1784 Governor Trumbull wrote a letter to the mayor of New London, recommending Isaac as the "best architect within the compass of my acquaintance" to take on the work of designing and building the new county courthouse. The classically-designed building, at the head of State Street, still stands, a testament to the genius of this little known master joiner from Lebanon.

According to William Warren, Fitch's biographer, nothing is known of his early training and who he might have apprenticed to. It is primarily from the meticulous account books of Jonathan Trumbull and later his sons that the scope of Isaac's ability begins to emerge. Payments for work on the meeting house, Trumbull's mill, his store, and the Tisdale School are among the entries.

Payments to Fitch for his work on the



The intricately carved fireplace surround in the southwest parlor of the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House was created by Isaac Fitch.

grist mill indicate that he was doing the complicated work such as constructing the wooden gears a grist mill required. Other payments show that he worked at the Trumbull shipyard in East Haddam helping to build ships. One unusual job was the construction of a prefabricated building, the "Great House" ordered by a London doctor for shipment to Grenada in the West Indies in 1764.

Other payment records show how Isaac occupied his time between larger projects. He fixed carts, made wheels, built a coffin, fixed broken doors, and, most importantly, made furniture. A highboy, bedsteads, tables, chairs, were all listed in Trumbull account books and

Continued on page 8

Page 1

**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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From the President

Ed Tollmann

Our Annual Meeting was held May 4th and was well attended. We had plenty of food for our pot luck dinner and a wonderful program *"Going it Alone: Lebanon After 1804"* was presented by Alicia Wayland. I tried to keep the business meeting short to allow time for the program. After much thought I have decided that every year we will dispense with a program which will allow more time for questions and possibly a power point program covering some of the events of the year.

Jim Motyka, a teacher as well as advisor for Bulldog Productions at Lyman, and I have been coordinating oral histories with veterans for the Library of Congress. The last two years we concentrated on WWII vets. This fall we're going to set up at the museum and hopefully record more than one veteran each session. This is an important project. If you know a veteran who would like to be interviewed, please let me know.

Katie Lamb

and I have started our oral histories of Lebanon residents. John Musial was interviewed regarding Tobacco Street and what it was like up until WWII. We will be interviewing more residents.

We had a wonderful float in the Memorial Day Parade. Our theme was the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. We featured Frederick Schalk who died in the Battle of the Wilderness and is buried in Liberty Hill Cemetery. We won 1st place again!

The attorneys and trustee from New York representing the Trust came to Lebanon June 3rd. Julie Culp representing the library, Alicia Wayland representing the Trumbull Jr. House and I had many questions answered about the Adams Family Trust. After our meeting, they toured the green and we ended up at the Log Cabin for lunch. They were very impressed with the museum and Lebanon. I have a very good feeling about our relationship.

Our June Second Saturday got off to a soggy start but the weather cleared and Model T's could be seen carrying folks to our museum and around the green. A better than expected group attended. The crafters who had set up were very happy with the turn-out and the interest that the visitors showed.

With a hard working Board of Trustees and a great director and staff the museum is a hub of activity with more adult programs and children's programs and our ever-changing displays in the multi-purpose room. Please stop by when you can. Remember, it's your museum and your participation is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our volunteers the museum grounds have never looked better. Stop by with your lunch some day and enjoy it on the patio!



Second Saturday crafters Paul Rulli making custom furniture while his wife Lynn decorates freehand

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and lightning continue to change the landscape of southern New England. Although summer's heat has pushed thought of January's snow piles to the back of my mind, driving through town reminds me of how much damage the winter caused. There are fewer barns and sheds still standing, St Mary's chapel was damaged beyond repair, and trees and stone fences suffered.

The Historical Society cannot possibly save every building, tree or stonewall in Lebanon, but we can and should preserve their memories. This is a project in which all our members can participate. Your help is needed and appreciated.

First, you could check through your family photos to find any that show Lebanon's buildings or landscapes. These could be really old pictures from the early 1900s or from the 1960s. There are very few images out along Amston Lake or Red Cedar Lake in our collection and none of the newer residential areas. If you find such views, please call the Historical Society staff. We'll make an appointment for you so we can scan the images and record whatever information you can share. When you leave, you will take your photographs home with you knowing that you have helped build the visual archive of the town.

Then, you could take new photos that document your neighborhood. Buildings at different seasons from the same angle, buildings that are in danger of falling down and foundations you find in the woods are all important to record. We need pictures of contemporary events like farming, the farmers' market and the Summer Dance Fest. Someday, images like these will form the basis of exhibits and publications – unless we do not save photos now. So get those cameras out, take some pictures and then come see us.

We could even show you some of our favorite historic pictures. Perhaps you'll be inspired to go back to the same spot and take a photo of what that place looks like in 2011. Preserving the past in this rapidly changing world could be as easy as taking a picture.

2011 Scholarship Recipient

The Lebanon Historical Society is committed to awarding scholarships to Lebanon high school students who intend on furthering their studies in history and or who have shown a real interest in history, preservation and in their community.

We are proud to announce this year's scholarship recipient is Stacie Savage from Lyman Memorial High School. As part of the graduation requirements for Lyman Memorial High School, seniors must complete a "senior project." For her senior project, Stacie set out to research and assist the Johnson Home in Norwich, a residence for elderly woman run by a non-profit organization which was trying to achieve historic status to qualify for much needed funding for repairs. Built in 1766, the original tavern and inn burned in 1821 and was rebuilt in 1829. Stacie's research uncovered many interesting facts but unfortunately the Johnson home did not qualify for the historic status. Stacie was not discouraged and came up with a fundraiser to benefit the home and help with the cost of the repairs. We applaud Stacie's initiative and look forward to more good works from her. Stacie plans on studying history at UConn this fall.

Can you recommend a musician or group who would be interested in performing popular American music of the 19th or early 20th centuries?

Performances are currently being planned to run in conjunction with our

Long Long Ago

**Lebanon's History
through Music
1875-1940**

History Trivia Answer: A Broom

At the broom shop between 1902-1918 you could purchase
Whisk broom...15¢
Light house broom....20¢
Heavy house broom....25¢
Regular barn broom...30¢
Sturdy barn broom....35¢

Contact Us:

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

860-642-6579

museum@
historyoflebanon.org
www.
historyoflebanon.org

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Library & Research Center

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

Upcoming Programs & Events



WALKTOBER

Sun., October 2 1pm
Bartlett Brook Wildlife Area

Sat., October 8 10am
Up Commons Hill

Sun., October 9 1pm
Trek to Five Mile Rock

Sat., October 15 9am
Shutter Bugs on the Airline Trail



Saturday, October 22

10am - 12pm

In Their Own Words: **Practical Approaches to** **Oral History**

Workshop leader is
Melissa Josefiak

Saturday, November 5

10am - 12pm

Letterboxing Workshop

Learn about the Revolutionary War letterboxing project

Sunday, December 4

6pm -9pm

"Long Long Ago"

Exhibit Opening

Sneak Preview

Sunday, December 4

6pm -9pm

Annual Tree Lighting

Mulled cider, molasses cookies and a holiday craft for the kids

Vacation Week Crafts

Dec 27 - Dec 29

Paper making

for adults and kids

History in the Stars

evening workshops

You can always visit
our website **www.**

historyoflebanon.org

to see a list of our current
events and programs

Intern Project

By Brittany Kozial

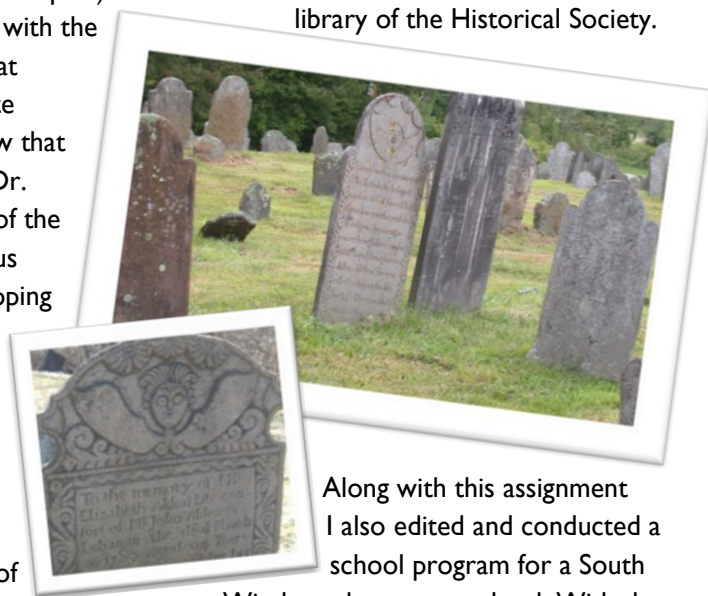
This past semester I worked as an intern at the Lebanon Historical Society. For the first couple of weeks I spent most of my time becoming knowledgeable on the town of Lebanon, reading up on the town's history from the beginning of settlement to present day Lebanon. Once I felt comfortable with my knowledge of the town's history, with a special focus on the role of Lebanon during the Revolutionary War, I started learning about ancient burying grounds and how to preserve them.

My main task as an intern was to find a way to obtain mapping coordinates for the tombstones in the Trumbull Cemetery. At first we thought that we might be able to go into the cemetery with a GPS you might use in your car and obtain coordinates that way, but it turned out that this kind of a GPS was not sensitive enough to obtain a different set of coordinates for each stone (some of them are less than a foot apart). I decided to get in touch with the Geography Department at Central Connecticut State University because I knew that they had a mapping lab. Dr. Kyem, one of the heads of the department, was generous enough to lend me a mapping GPS for the duration of the semester.

Receiving a GPS that was sensitive enough to obtain different coordinates for each tombstone was the first of many hurdles in completing my assignment of mapping out the cemetery. According to the Hale Records on the Trumbull Cemetery, there are over 700 tombstones. Even with the help of genealogist, Lindy J. Brunkhorst-Olewine there would be no

way for me to map out the entire cemetery, let alone be able to identify every stone. We had to decide which stones should be considered "important." Since the town of Lebanon was most important during its role in the Revolutionary War, we decided that all of the veterans in that cemetery should be mapped. We also decided that the Trumbulls were the most famous family in Lebanon and they too needed to be counted. We also tried to include many other people such as the Aldens, who ran a tavern during the Revolution, as well as famous ministers like Solomon Williams.

The majority of my semester was spent out in the cemetery with Lindy identifying stones, recording parts of the epitaph that were legible, measuring the stones, and retrieving GPS coordinates for the stones. Lindy and I collected data for about 100 different stones, and a map is now available for use in the library of the Historical Society.

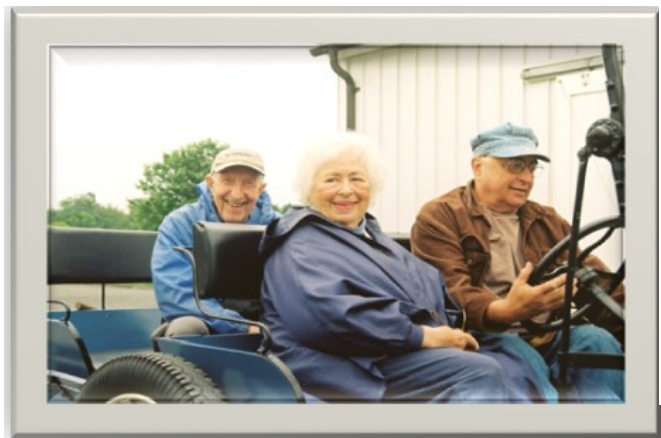


Along with this assignment I also edited and conducted a school program for a South Windsor elementary school. With the help of Grace Sayles and many volunteers, I led a scavenger hunt around the cemetery, which highlighted Revolutionary War veterans as well as the symbolism of Puritan art on the gravestones.

Featured Volunteer Dolle Fischer

By Betty Forrest

On a steamy June afternoon at Anchorage Farm on Waterman Road, I enjoyed a great visit with Dolle Fischer. I had known Dolle for many years, but I had never had the privilege to really learn about who she really is. My visit turned out to be a real treat.



Dolle & Elmer Fischer taking a ride with Ted Swol in his Model T at an LHS Second Saturday event

Born in Pittsburg Pennsylvania on July 2, 1924, Dolle was named after her grandmother Dorothea. When she was a teenager, demonstrating her independent spirit, she changed the spelling of her nickname from Dolly to Dolle. That was only the beginning! After graduating as her high school Salutatorian, she enrolled in Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. World War II had started and she was eager to enlist. However, she was only 18 years old. She waited another 2 ½ years, and she was able to persuade her mother to sign for her to enlist in the U.S. Army. She was sworn in on her 20th birthday.

After receiving her basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, Dolle was assigned to military intelligence in Newport, Virginia. Her job was to screen the wounded on ships returning from European war zones. However, she had her heart set on going overseas. In time, she sailed to Le Havre, France, on a C-3 Liberty ship. After leaving Paris, she went

to Frankfurt, Germany, where she worked with others to restore the art that Germany had stolen from museums. Abruptly, Dolle and her coworkers were transferred to Berlin. They had to go through several Russian command posts where the guards demanded cigarettes

and watches.

She had neither!

In time, Dolle was able to go on furlough, and traveled to Paris, London, and Switzerland. Fulfilling a promise to her mother, she returned home and finished college. She earned a degree in languages (French and Spanish). Next, she attended the Latin American School in New York City. However, after seeing a story about the

American Northwest in a magazine on a newsstand, Dolle went home to Pittsburg where she shared her enthusiasm with her mother (her dad had died). She dropped out of the Latin American School, and with her sister and mother, drove to the northwest. After visiting a number of cities, they ended up in Oregon, close to the majestic Mt. Hood. They found a house on Paradise Lane-a good omen!

When she was a member of the Mazamas Club (a mountain climbing group), Dolle was set up on a blind date with a young Naval Officer who was stationed in New Mexico. She and Elmer Fischer had six dates, her mother liked him, he met all of the requirements of a son-in-law, and so they were engaged! For their honeymoon trip, they packed skis and an ironing board on their car, and they spend half of the time camping and the other half in nice hotels. They've been married almost 63 years.

Elmer and Dolle settled into an efficiency

Continued on page 9

We come

to our newest members

Patron

**Henry & Lynn Hinckley
Willimantic**

Senior

**Marlene Wilkinson
West Lake, Ohio**

**Sandra Carlson
Lebanon**

Individual

**Katie Lamb
Lebanon**

**Denise Philbrick
Lebanon**

Family

**William & Barbara
Archer
Lebanon**

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Lebanon**

**Matt & Bonnie
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Lebanon**

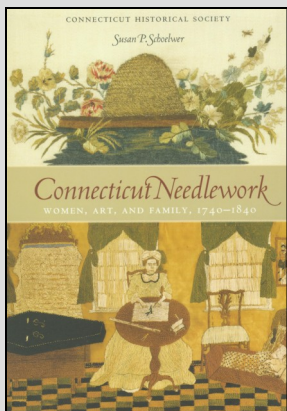
**Louise & Paul
Rheume
Lebanon**

People are the heart and soul of this organization and we are so pleased to welcome new members.

We are also so grateful to have so many faithful long time members who renew their membership each and every year.

Thank you for your continued support!

A Good Read



*Connecticut Needlework:
Women, Art, and Family,
1740-1840*

Susan P. Schoelwer

The Connecticut Historical
Society © 2010

Distributed by Wesleyan
University Press

Researched and written
as the catalog for an
outstanding exhibit of
needlework from the
Connecticut Historical
Society collection, this
book is filled with stories
of women and their
activities and families.
For readers interested in
Lebanon's history, many
of these stories relate to
Lebanon families. The
book also features
beautiful photographs
of some extraordinary
examples of needlework:
bed rugs, quilts, and
embroideries.

Faith Trumbull
Huntington's
embroidered chimney
pieces are perhaps the
best known of the
Lebanon needlework's
included in the book. The

Continued on next page

Tisdale Student: Augustus Porter

By Martha Kendall

In our last issue we featured Nathan Tisdale, schoolmaster, and his brick schoolhouse, where he taught from 1749 to 1786. The master was buried in the Trumbull Cemetery. His epitaph reads: "Reader, as thou passest, drop a tear to the memory of the once eminent Academic Instructor, Nathan Tisdale, a lover of Science. He marked the road to useful knowledge.

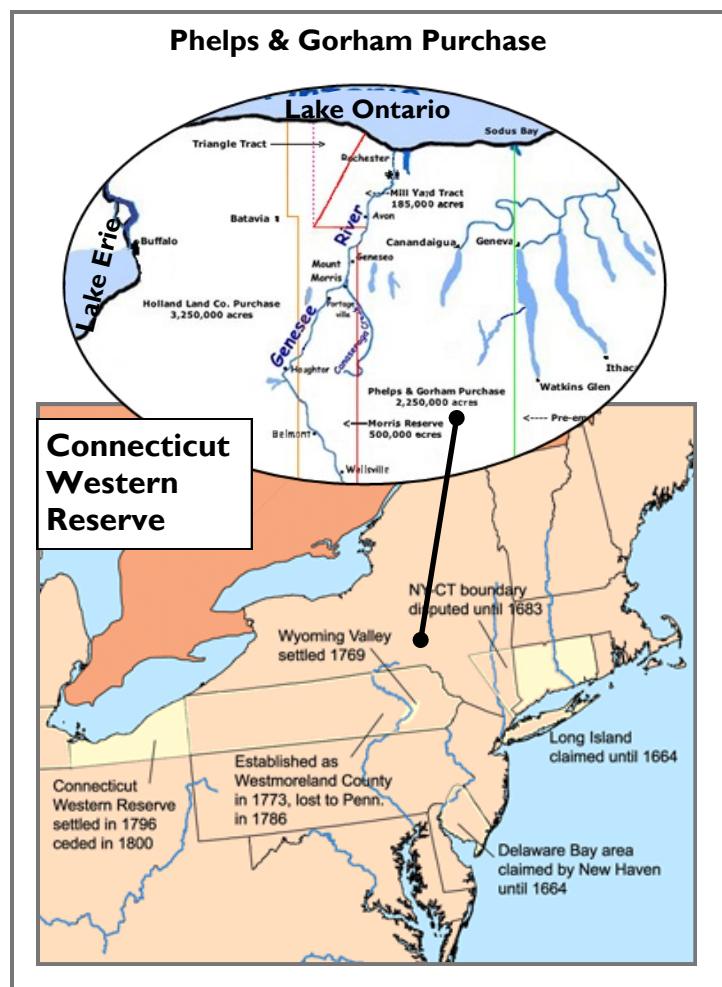
A friend to his country, he inspired the flame of Patriotism. Having devoted his whole life from the 18th year of his age to the duties of his profession, which he followed with distinguished usefulness to society, he died Jan'y 5th 1787, in the 56 year of his age."

Augustus Porter was among the students under the Master's tutelage for only a few months in 1786, studying particularly surveying and mathematics. With the death of Tisdale, Augustus returned to his father's farm in Salisbury, where he had grown up. His father, Joshua Porter, had been born in Lebanon in 1730, attended Yale College and became a physician and then a farmer in Salisbury. When Augustus attended the brick school he was 17 years old, born January 18, 1769. Those few months studying surveying launched Augustus into many years as a pioneer and successful surveyor of some of the large tracts of lands in New York and Ohio, the Phelps and Gorham Purchase and the Western Reserve.

While home on the farm, he had assisted a local landowner with some farm

surveys, gradually learning the art of surveying. In 1789, 20 years old, he set out to survey some tracts of land in New York owned by his father and several others of Massachusetts. He tells of his trips into the then wilderness of New York, by boat, by horse and wagon, and on foot, from Schenectady, to what is now Geneva, on to Canandaigua, surveying more and more townships.

The land, part of the 6 million acres



purchased by Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham from Massachusetts, is indicative of the complex land transactions following the end of the Revolutionary War--and Augustus Porter was right in the middle of it. He surveyed unpopulated lands for Oliver Phelps, then, for Robert Morris when portions were sold to him. On a 1795

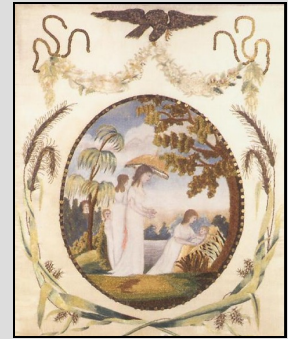
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A Good Read *continued*
narrative is accompanied by detailed photographs of the front and back of each piece as well as the engravings that might have served as the inspiration for the designs. Other Lebanon pieces include a sampler worked by Clarissa Cornelia Loomis who was probably instructed by Polly Kingsley. Polly is one of three embroidery teachers working in Lebanon between 1820 and 1850. The Historical



Society collection includes similar samplers.

Other Lebanon connections include the work and teaching of Reverend Eleazar Wheelock's mother and sisters whose influence spread throughout eastern Connecticut and needlework by Mary Johnson and members of the Geer, Huntington, Brewster and Williams families. Whether you are interested in women's history, local families or beautiful needlework, Susan Schoelwer's book is well worth exploring.

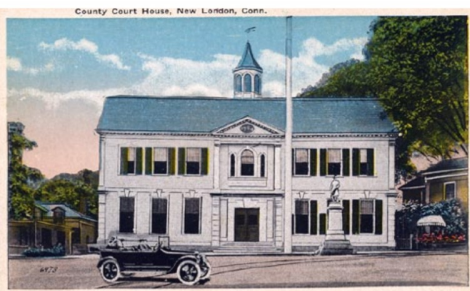
Another Lebanon Master Carver

Gottlieb Laibrandt
1885-1963

Resident of the Village Hill community in Lebanon. Gottlieb hand carved the interior woodwork of the Lutheran Church and the First Congregational Church when it was restored after in the hurricane of 1938.



First Congregational Church
Palladian window pilaster capital



The New London County Courthouse, designed and built by Isaac Fitch in 1784, is shown on this early 1900s postcard.

For more information on Fitch, see the biography by William Warren, *Isaac Fitch of Lebanon Connecticut Master Joiner 1734-1791*, published by the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Inc. (now Connecticut Landmarks) in 1978, second edition 1999, available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library.

Fitch

Continued from page 1

Isaac undoubtedly made similar items for other people as well.

In 1768 Fitch designed and built a three-story mansion house for Jonathan Deming, a wealthy merchant living in Colchester.

The house had a mansard-style roof and a ballroom on the third floor. This

imposing building was demolished in 1958 and the Fitch woodwork scattered to private homes and restorations. However, the northeast parlor with its elaborate woodwork was saved intact and erected in the American Museum in Britain, located in Bath, England.

Fitch was hired to help plan the new meetinghouse built in Colchester 1770-72 and did all the trim work and the cabinet work on the mahogany pulpit. This building has also been demolished.

During the Revolutionary War, David Trumbull, the governor's son, ran a small arms salvage plant and Isaac made the stocks for guns for the army. He was also hired by Jonathan Trumbull Junior between 1777 and 1784 to make improvements to his house on the east side of the green. This included the elaborately carved woodwork in the two front parlors. The house is now a museum owned by the town of Lebanon and visitors can see up close the fine workmanship of a master craftsman.

The house known as Redwood at the south end of the green was designed and built by Isaac Fitch in 1778-1779. David Trumbull commissioned the house for



Fluted pilasters with Corinthian capitals are among the decorative elements that Isaac Fitch made for the northwest parlor in the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House.



his new bride.

(The date of 1710 posted on a fence in front of the house does not relate to the construction date.) The house is a private residence but the stunning architectural design can be seen from outside the property.

Isaac Fitch was twice married. With his first wife, Susannah Blackman, he had four sons and a daughter, who married and moved to New Haven. His sons worked for their father, learning his trade, but after the Revolutionary War the three moved to new settlements in western New York and one to Maine. His second wife, Violetta Alden, was the daughter of Elizabeth Alden, who ran a famous tavern and shop on the east side of the green. Their two daughters died young.

Isaac Fitch died on September 25, 1791, at the age of 58, fairly young even for that time. He died intestate and deeply in debt. The inventory of his estate lists three books on architecture, including "Gibbs Architecture," indicating the influence of James Gibbs, the great 18th-century English architect, on Fitch. Had he continued working for another decade his genius might be more heralded.

Dolle Fischer

Continued from page 5

apartment in Los Alamos, New Mexico, while Elmer continued his work on the A-bomb. When Elmer was sent back to sea, Dolle, and their first child Frank, moved into a trailer in New Jersey. In five years, four more children arrived—Paul, Sally, Judy and Ted. They moved back to Oregon where Dolle's mother could help out. However, whenever Elmer would come into port, Dolle would load up her brood, and drive to wherever Elmer was (the East Coast included) so that the "kids would know who their father was!"

In 1964, the Fischers came to Lebanon. Although Redwood caught their eye, the \$5,000 that they had did not convince the bank to invest in their venture; however, they could buy the homestead where they still live. The main part of the house was built in 1850 and five additions have been made. Although they had no farming experience, this "can do" couple raised Black Angus cows, alfalfa and corn on their 40 acres, one of the smaller farms in Lebanon.

Settling into town life, the Fischer children excelled in their studies, no doubt spurred on by their high achieving parents. When her children were growing up, Dolle made certain that they had some world exposure. One summer she drove them to Mexico where they

camped out for several weeks. They also spent an entire summer in Europe, crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth, and camping in most all of the countries in their VW bus at \$3.66 per person per day! Her children are geographically spread out, and have given Dolle and Elmer 12 grandchildren. Their family is a great source of pride for them.

Between sports, the arts, history, volunteering in civic organizations (for 22 years she served as the municipal agent for Seniors), 4-H, scouts and church, Dolle has been very involved in Lebanon. She served as president of the Lebanon Historical Society for 2 years.

Additionally, she was the secretary to the President of the Board of Trustees of Windham Hospital for 15 years—a volunteer position. Dolle loves Lebanon for its prime land, and its beauty. She says it suits her temperament. To ensure its continuity, the Fischers have sold Anchorage Farm to their son Ted, who then gave a conservation easement to the town of Lebanon.

Be kind; be loving; and accept people for their ways. This is Dolle's philosophy of life. I think that she lives it. I have always thought that Dolle was a lovely, and vibrant woman. She is that and so much more!



Contact Donna Baron
Lebanon Historical Society
860-642-6579 or
dbaron@historyofLebanon.org

"Long Long Ago:"

*Lebanon's History through its Music
1800-1940*

Wanted to borrow for our exhibit:

*Pictures of concerts, dances
or family gatherings
Musical instruments*

*Early radio, gramophone or player piano
Stories about music in church,
at the Grange or at home*

Exhibit News

This is the last month
to see

The Goshen Society:
Church & Community

display in

our meeting room.

We will be taking down
the display in mid-August
to make room for our
new community display

on the

Lebanon Lions Club Fair

The fair display will open

Sunday, September 11

with a community
conversation about
the people and the
organization providing
decades of family fun.

Our major exhibits
will also be
changing this fall

*Jonathan
Trumbull:
A Merchant
Struggling for Success*

Will be replaced by

*Long,
Long Ago:*

**Lebanon's History
through Music
1875-1940**

Mile Marker Search



Long time member John Champe issues a challenge to all historical society members to find the mile markers lining the route from Norwich to Windham.

John has photographed all the markers he could find. Some are missing

If you'd like to look on your own or if you'd prefer to take a copy of the markers with you then stop by the museum and we will give you a picture of exactly what you are looking for.



August Porter

Continued from page 6

expedition from Buffalo to Erie, Pennsylvania, Augustus and his party traveled on horseback, for "there of course was no road leading from Buffalo eastward except an Indian trail, and no settlement on that trail."

The next year, 1796, Augustus became the chief surveyor for the Connecticut Land Company, a group of Connecticut speculators who had purchased 3 million or so acres from the state, the Western Reserve. Its chief superintendent was Moses Cleaveland, for whom today's city of Cleveland is named. Cleaveland tells of the preparations for the expedition, gathering packhorses and supplies of flour, pork and cattle, and of their journey from Connecticut to Schenectady, on the Mohawk River into Oneida Lake, on the Oswego River into Lake Ontario to reach Canandaigua, then to Buffalo, Erie and finally into Ohio. Augustus relates

His great-grandson writes of the many Indians who visited the Porter home, among them the Seneca chief Red Jacket...

that his assignment was to survey particular portions of the reserve, part of which was a boundary on Lake Erie. To complete the survey, Augustus and General Cleaveland themselves made the survey of the entire 120 mile shore. "At this time, there was not a white person residing on the reserve, except a Frenchman who lived with the Indians at Sandusky Bay." He was 26 years old; he was paid \$5 a day.

After 1797 Augustus, now with a wife and child living in Canandaigua, left wilderness surveying, and continued surveying in New York for Oliver Phelps, and for the Holland Land Company. In 1806 he moved his family to Niagara Falls, where he spent the rest of his life. He became a businessman, and with several associates, built a transportation network, including the building and owning of sailing ships to cross the Great Lakes to supply military posts at Mackinaw, Chicago and Fort Wayne. Augustus' own narrative is accompanied by one by his great grandson, who writes of the military contract with the Secretary of War in 1800.

When Niagara County was formed from Genesee County in 1808, Augustus Porter became its first judge, and in the same year, he built a home on the Niagara River, overlooking the falls. His great-grandson writes of the many Indians who visited the Porter home, among them the Seneca chief Red Jacket, for whom Augustus had prepared a survey between the Seneca nation and Lake Erie. But in 1813, while Augustus was traveling to the military posts of his contract, his home, mill and other property were burned by the British, his wife and children escaping into the night only hours before the raid. The entire town was destroyed.

In the following years Augustus returned with his family to Niagara, built a larger house, and soon became the first postmaster of Niagara County. He became a director of the newly organized Niagara Bank, and continued with his own businesses, a rope walk (rope for sailing ships), a saw mill, flour and carding mills and his farms. He was one of Niagara's most prosperous citizens.

Augustus Porter died on June 10, 1849, and is buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, New York.

Could Nathan Tisdale, teacher, imagine that any of his students would be instrumental in the settlement of the new nation in the midst of separating from England? Augustus Porter had followed "the road to useful knowledge" from his old schoolmaster in the brick schoolhouse on the Lebanon Town Green.

Sources: *Narrative of Early Years in the Life of Judge Augustus Porter*, by Augustus Porter and *The Life of Judge Augustus Porter, a Pioneer in Western New York*, by his Great-grandson, Charles Mulford Robinson. In the LHS library. Various websites describing and mapping the Phelps and Gorham Purchase and the Western Reserve. Find A Grave: Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, New York for his gravestone.



to mark your calendars for
our **biggest**
fundraiser
of the year

The 45th Annual Outdoor Antiques Show

On the Lebanon Green

Saturday, September 24

9am to 3pm

\$5 admission

Free Parking ~ Food For Sale

Without
the people there is
no society.

*Thank you to all the
people who make
this society
GREAT!*

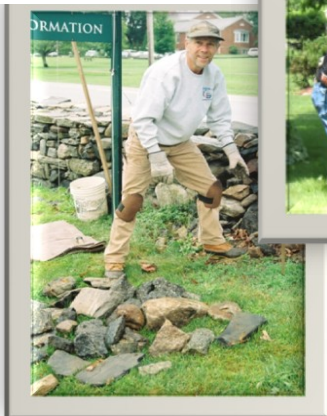
Once again Karen Saar
has transformed our
patio into a beautiful
garden sanctuary



Kirsten & Charles
Westbrook have been
on hand for all our new
projects and fundraisers



*Jim Wesolowski
Stone wall repair*



*Jim Mello keeping the
building and grounds
looking sharp*

*Jacy Worth
planting broom corn for
our broom shop*



Lebanon Historical Society
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History Trivia Question: *In the early 20th c in Lebanon if you needed any of these, a whisk, a light house, a heavy house, a regular barn or a sturdy barn, what would you be purchasing?*



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An Evening at the Museum

Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 5pm to 8pm

On the patio

Contemporary Music by Sequel

Wine Tasting and Micro-Brewery Beer

Hors d'oeuvres

Silent Auction includes local artwork,
theme baskets, plants, elegant meals and more!

\$25 per individual or \$40 per couple

Your check will assure that your ticket will be held at the door



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