



# Lebanon Provisions

Vol. 5 No. 3

Summer  
2013

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

## Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

**Saturday, July 20**

**5pm-8pm**

**An Evening at the Museum**

Wine & Beer Tasting

Silent Auction

to benefit public programs and exhibits

**\$25 per person \$40 per couple**

Limited Seating. Advance ticket

purchase recommended.

**Children's Program**

**Wednesday, August 7**

**10am -11:30 pm**

**"Finders & Keepers"**

Plant Scavenger Hunt &

Botanical Light Impressions

Appropriate for those  
entering kindergarten through  
3rd grade

Preregistration required

\$5 for non-members,

\$3 for members

**Children's Program**

**Wednesday, August 14**

**10am -12pm**

**"Plant Rainbows"**

Dyeing with Natural Materials  
& Native Plant Discovery Walk

Appropriate for those  
entering 4th through 7th grade

Preregistration required

\$6 for non-members,

\$4 for members

Deadline for registration

for both programs is August 1st

Turn to page 5 for more events

## Lebanon's William Huntington: Witness to Civil War History

By Rick Kane

William Henry Huntington, the son of Eleazer and Betsy Throop Huntington, was born May 18, 1839. He

was the middle child having an older sister Mary and a younger sister Ellen. The Huntington family homestead was located on present

day Route 87 just past the intersection of Waterman Road on the right heading south.

William enlisted on September 3, 1861 into the Eighth Connecticut Infantry, Company D and mustered in as a Private on September 21, 1861.

William kept a meticulous diary from 1861 to 1916. He recorded the weather for each day and any significant events for almost every day of his life between these years.

These diaries are in the possession of the Connecticut Historical Society. They are much of the source of information that follows. He inscribed in the opening pages of each year's diaries the following: *Rule for life: Speak as you mean, do as you profess, and perform what you promise*

The diaries afford us a glimpse of the Civil War through the eyes of an active soldier in battle and witness to significant

historical events. They also provide a view of life in Lebanon during the war years.

*Rule for life*

*Speak as you mean,*

*do as you profess*

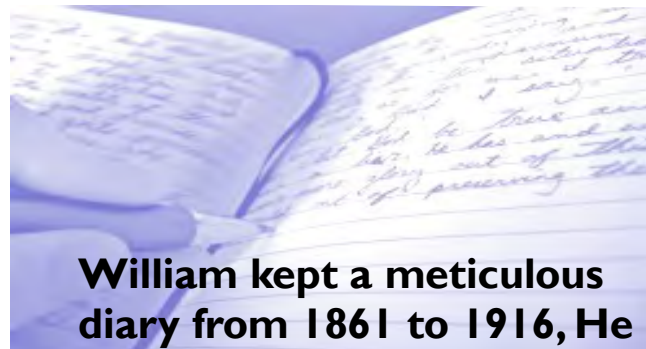
*and perform*

*what you promise*

William was wounded at Antietam. In September 17, 1862, he took a musket ball that entered just front of his left ear and exited out the back of his neck at an angle with his lower jaw.

As a result of this injury he lost hearing in his left ear. From a report in the Norwich Bulletin dated Saturday September 27, 1862: "Our Norwich Wounded - A telegram dated Baltimore, states that Fletcher, Tift, McCall, Morgan and Hone of this city, are not seriously wounded, Huntington, of Lebanon, not badly, Capt. Charles M. Coit is well. Col Appelman of Mystic is badly wounded, and will be obliged to have his leg amputated."

Continued on page 6



**William kept a meticulous diary from 1861 to 1916, He**

**recorded the weather for each day and any significant events for almost everyday of his life between these years.**

**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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## From the President

### Glenn Pianka

It seems like our annual meeting of May 1<sup>st</sup> was only a few weeks ago, yet eight weeks have passed. To those of you who were in attendance I outlined a very busy year ahead ....and that was an understatement.

To facilitate the moving of the Beaumont House we have assembled a group of eleven member volunteers: Connie Berglund, Jim Mello, Brian Bartizek, Harry Eck, Maggie McCaw, Bob Chalifoux Sr., Bob Chalifoux Jr., Al Vertefeuille, Dan Moore, Ed Tollmann and myself. This group is known as the Beaumont Siting Committee.

On a very rainy May 9, four of us removed the stone walkway and granite steps from the recently purchased house at 844 Trumbull Highway as a first step in preparing it for demolition. These items are stored behind the general storage building. We also set in motion the steps necessary to obtain a demolition permit, namely, utilities disconnects, lead and asbestos surveys, and removal of detected hazardous material. All of this has finally been completed as of June 25<sup>th</sup> and the formal demolition permit application has been submitted to the town.....we should be ready to move ahead very soon. We have been able to sell some of the appliances and will still need to remove the relatively new replacement windows prior to the actual razing.

The committee has hired Datum Engineering of Mansfield to develop our site plan.

On May 28 Adams Trust Liaison Ed Tollmann coordinated the hosting of four key members from the Adams Trust legal team and Deutsche Bank.

We were able to give them a guided tour of our facility to see what their efforts have produced along with a tour of other key Lebanon sites which the trust has supported over the years. After a luncheon at the Log Cabin, the group was gifted with locally produced Farmers Cow products. It was truly a valuable meeting to now be able to put names and faces together. They are very much interested in what we have done and are about to do. This face-to-face meeting has only heightened our mutual respect.

Threatening weather was the concern on our Second Saturday event of June 8<sup>th</sup>. As it turned out we were able to have a fully enjoyable day and promote many crafts of yesteryear. Two demonstrations that were especially popular were the wafer maker (over an open fire) and the day-old twin kid goats. Several children spent most of the day with them. THEY won't forget that day !!!!! Thank you to Ed Tollmann and all of the volunteers for coordinating another successful day. It is said that when the vendors have as much fun as the spectators then we are doing something right...well, we did something right.

On June 21<sup>st</sup> I had the honor of handing out two \$1000 scholarships at the Lyman Memorial High School graduation to Emily Klein and Russell Puleo.

Both recipients earned these awards for their volunteerism here at the museum. While giving the awards, I was proud to say that the Lebanon Historical Society is one of the best in the state.

Staff and committee members are busy in preparation for An Evening at The Museum on July 20, painting and preparing the gallery and display for the Civil War exhibit, mowing the grass at the "new" property, removing the old Museum sign at the roadside, relocating the "open" flag post and new stop sign.....you know.....doing the things that make this the **BEST** Historical Society in the State. That is not an understatement.



Annual Meeting Walk-About

## Director's Message

**Donna Baron**

At this time of year Museum staff tend to think a lot about school programs. This is our busiest season for "field trips," programs that are important for the future of the Historical Society. We are providing a critical service by augmenting classroom study of history and community. We are also building our future audience, encouraging membership and cultivating future contributors.

We share the responsibility of presenting our most frequently requested school program with our colleagues at the other historical sites around the Green. Most teachers want to bring students here because of the town's Revolutionary War history. We need to divide each school into reasonably-sized groups of ten. This can mean simultaneously running as many as seven different activities so that the entire group is engaged at all times.

It can be crazy, is always rewarding and is often a great deal of fun, but...for many years we have depended on the same few staff and volunteers to present the programs. Covering all slots has always been a bit of a challenge when a volunteer is suddenly not available at the last minute.



School group visitors

If you or a friend enjoy working with children (usually between grades 2 and 7, though occasionally college age), love history and want to be part of a community sharing its past, please call the Museum to learn more.



Our new signs

Commitment and enthusiasm do not always over-rule the effects of aging on our volunteers.

In order for the Historical Society to continue fulfilling its mission and offer school programs, we need to increase our pool of available volunteers. We are looking for six to twelve volunteers to work with us a few days each year as "museum teachers." Training and mentoring will be provided. Our programs are very hands-on, informative and fun.

**WELCOME**  
TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

~ Senior ~  
Harold Greenberg  
of Florida  
Barbara Manning  
of New York

~ Family ~  
Robert Lugli &  
Louanne DiBella  
of Lebanon

### History Trivia Answer:

The 1804 Meetinghouse War. Lebanon's third dispute about the best location for the new meetinghouse.

If you would like more information on the Meetinghouse Wars please check out our blog "Summing up the Past Lebanon, Connecticut" [www. historyoflebanonct. blogspot.com](http://www.historyoflebanonct.blogspot.com)

### 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** by appointment.





## LETTERBOXING

*Letterboxing is an intriguing pastime combining navigational skills and rubber stamp artistry in a charming "treasure hunt" style outdoor quest.*

If you'd like to give it a try go to:

**Revolutionaryct.com**

Click on one of 13 trails

Print the clues

Grab a small notebook, a pen and off you go!

If you would like to learn more about letterboxing go to **Letterboxing.org**



## Unsolved 1884 Murder still a Lebanon mystery

By Alicia Wayland

On Wednesday, February 20, 1884, Walter Noyes discovered the body of Harvey Chappell on the floor of the kitchen in his house. Noyes, a traveling sales agent for a large nursery and seed company, found the kitchen door open when he called at the Chappell farmhouse. He could see a man's body lying on the floor about 15 feet inside the door with blood on his face. He stepped inside and called out but there was no response. Noyes then went to the neighbors and with three men examined the house, which had been ransacked.



**It appeared that Chappell was murdered early Tuesday evening. He had been seen at the store on the green in the late afternoon.**

Dr. William Barber, the medical examiner, was notified and he summoned the coroner from Norwich. From circumstantial evidence, it appeared that Chappell was murdered early Tuesday evening. He had been seen at the store on the green in the late afternoon and his cows had been led into the barn but had not been fed. They appeared to have been in the barn for the past 24 hours. From newspaper accounts, it was reported that news of the murder spread rapidly and parties of residents descended upon the house, handling and moving everything before any officer arrived.

Chappell, who was 73 years old at the time of his death, was a bachelor

who had lived in the house since he was one, according to his own stories. Although Chappells were among the earliest settlers in Lebanon, Harvey Chappell's only living relatives were some nieces and nephews. He was known to be eccentric, customarily wearing the same old clothes and living very frugally. The handsome farmhouse, still extant on Chappell Road, was meagerly furnished and it appears that Chappell lived mainly in the ell at the rear.

Harvey Chappell was rumored to be very wealthy. However, he did not keep much cash in the house since he had been robbed several years before. According to an interview with Judge Frederick A. Burgess in 1957, Chappell used to curse the railroads "from hell to breakfast, as they used to say in those days." It was discovered after his murder that he had all of his money invested in worthless Illinois Railroad stock.

Burgess was ten years old when the murder occurred and living on Kick Hill Road. He was among the throngs of visitors to the house as the news spread and he saw the blood stains on the kitchen floor. Although he was 80 years old at the time of the interview, he recalled how shocking the news of the

*Continued on page 9*

## Thank you to all our 2013 Annual Appeal Donors

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Robert & Arlene Rivard  
Gwenyth Saar  
Pamela Shine  
Lucy Simard  
Rob Slate  
Tim & Linda Slate  
Tim & Sue Smith  
Harry & Barbara Teller  
Al & Judy Vertefeuille  
Ernest Watras  
Keith & Jennifer Wentworth  
Tim & Rene Wentworth  
Ingrid Wood  
David & Suzanne Yeo

**There is still time to buy your tickets to An Evening at the Museum**

**If you missed your invitation in the mail just give us a call and we'll  
send one out. Responses appreciated by July 17.**

## Calendar of Events

**Friday Evening  
September 13**

Exhibit Opening  
Reception  
for

***"Always a Pleasure  
to Hear from  
Home."***

Music & Refreshments  
announcements  
will be mailed

**Saturday, Sept. 28  
9am to 3pm**

**"47th Annual Outdoor  
Antiques Show"  
On the Lebanon Green  
\$5 admission**

Walktober Walks  
**Saturday, October 5  
11am**

**Center Cemetery  
Stones from the Age  
of Lincoln**

Meet at Center Cemetery

**Saturday, October 12  
11am**

**Revolutionary Lebanon:  
Tales and Tests  
on the Trail**

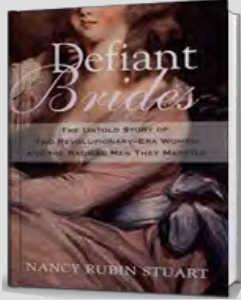
Meet at the Lebanon  
Historical Society Museum

For information  
on any of our  
programs,  
please call  
860-642-6579

Visit our website at  
[www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)

## *A Good Read*

By Donna Baron



### **Defiant Brides**

Peggy Shippen Arnold and Lucy Flucker Knox never met, but their husbands, Benedict Arnold and Henry Knox were both among George Washington's best generals. Although the young women grew up in different cities and supported different causes, author Nancy Rubin Stuart demonstrates the many ways they were alike in her parallel biography *"Defiant Brides: the Untold Story of Two Revolutionary-War Women and the Radical Men They Married."*

This intertwined biography reads like historical fiction as the author traces each marriage from courtship to child rearing and old age through the years of the American Revolution and the decades beyond.

Fine food and wine, gambling, over-generous hospitality and risky investment shape the unusual stories of these women's lives.

## **William Huntington**

Continued from page 1

There was no entry in his diary for September 17, 1862. His next diary entry was September 19, 1863 and there was a noticeable difference in the handwriting – it looked hurried and a bit erratic from his normal writing. Not unexpected given the circumstances. His entry reads: *I year ago I left home, in fight Company regt was cut to pieces very badly, only 143 out of 425, my wound is very slight compared with most.*

In his letter to the Pension board several years after the end of the war, he explained that he lay in a barn for one to two weeks along with many other patients who were attended to by Dr. Storrs. He was granted a 30-day furlough by Gen. Burnside and two additional 30-day extensions. William rejoined his regiment and proceeded to participate in every engagement with his regiment until the time of a second wound, including the siege of Suffolk, VA and was one of the party which captured Fort Huger at that place.

William was wounded again on May 7, 1864 in the battle of Walthall Junction. He suffered a bullet to the calf which forced him from the battlefield for many months while recovering. The wound as described in the documents submitted to the pension board on his behalf "entered the calf of the left leg making only a flesh wound but constricting the chord muscles such that this leg is an inch shorter than the other, this troubles him and gives him pain". He spent some recovery time in McClellan Hospital at City Point (City Point was the location where President Lincoln met the Richmond Peace Delegation in January 1865 as portrayed in the movie) but was eventually transferred to Armory Square Hospital in Washington D.C. Armory Square was on the site of the present day Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum at the intersection of Independence Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW. The hospital location afforded William a view of the White House.

During his convalescence he had visits from his mother and sister Mary, other Lebanon residents; Reverend Hines, and from

Norwich Mrs. Lafayette Foster.

It is interesting to note here that, not unlike our veterans returning from war today, he had much difficulty in securing the pension. It took many years and many pieces of correspondence to support his claim for a pension. As Ed Tollmann says "nothing changes in history, just the dates!"

### **Witness to History**

The second wound disabled William for a long period of time during which time he became a witness to history. This period is depicted in the recent Academy Award winning film – "Lincoln."

While convalescing in his hospital room on the night of October 21, 1864 he witnessed a torchlight procession and saw President Lincoln from afar. Huntington stated the procession was a full 3 miles long.

He received a furlough shortly after this entry and spent a good 20 days back in Lebanon before returning to D.C. in mid November. He had officially mustered out in August but re-enlisted on December 21, 1864 in the Veterans Corps. In this capacity, he served as a clerk in the office of the quartermaster general in Washington from December 1864 to August 1865. On Feb. 20, 1865, his official assignment became 37<sup>th</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Veteran Reserve Corps (VRC) detached to the quartermaster general's office.

Now serving in Washington D.C. he could get a pass and visit in to the city. He did so on January 2, 1865 and attended the President's levee and in this event he actually shook hands with President Lincoln. (Webster defines a levee as reception usually in honor of a person of distinction.)

Again, receiving a pass on January 10, 1865, he visited the Capitol and spent 3 hours in the hall listening to the debate upon the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution described by him as "very interesting."

On January 13, 1865, he once again ventured into the Representatives Hall, which he described as "much entertainment

*Continued on page 7*

# William Huntington

Continued from page 6

by Mr. Rollins of Missouri for 2 hours on the amendment question." Representative Rollins was a Unionist, and a slave owner and twice voted against the amendment in 1864. President Lincoln personally asked him to support the amendment as necessary to preserve the Union. Rollins, agreed to do so and as witnessed by William, Mr. Rollins spoke for the first time for the amendment, in a lengthy and persuasive speech to Congress.

William continued to follow the proceedings at the Capitol on the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment and on January 31 he attended the session and heard the vote on the Amendment – he recorded the results as he heard them "question passed by 119 to 57 great deal of excitement" (note official vote was 119 to 56 with — 8 abstentions).

Another significant entry in his diary for February 25, 1865: "News of fall of Wilmington." I mention this because this event was also depicted in the telegraph room at the White House in the movie "Lincoln."

March 4, 1865 was the day of Lincoln's second inauguration and William received a pass to attend. He witnessed the events and procession.

The war effort had clearly turned in favor of the Union and on April 10, 1865, William's words as recorded state for all the Union – "Most exhilarating news Lee's whole army surrendered!!"

The exhilaration was short lived as we all know when on April 15, 1865, President Lincoln was assassinated. William recorded it as: "News of the assassination of President & of Sec of the State & his sons last night by Booth a stage actor" and for his entry for April 16<sup>th</sup>: "Pres. Died last night Sec. Seward and his 2 sons are yet alive. A terrible gloom & horror all over the nation." He attended the funeral on April 19<sup>th</sup> and reported that 30,000 people were in the funeral procession. He also was able to see General Grant.



Armory Square Hospital Washington, D.C.

On April 20, 1865 he once again received a pass and went into Washington, D.C. to go through the Capitol and view the body of President Lincoln.

William was clearly a very active participant in our history, represented Lebanon well on the battlefield, and once disabled, witnessed and recorded many significant events in our nation's history. William remained in the army having and was eventually discharged in September 1865. His full service to the government being a month shy of 5 years. He returned to Lebanon and served as Judge of Probate for some time and in 1871 married Caroline Saxton, daughter of Nathan C. Saxton of Goshen Hill, (the Saxton home looks to be located on what is East Hebron Turnpike today in an 1868 map of Lebanon) with whom he had 5 daughters.

In 1884, the family moved to Hartford in the interest of education for the children. He was a clerk in the freight department of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company for about 3 years and spent an additional 16 years in the trucking business prior to his retirement. He passed away at his home, at 487 Prospect Avenue in Hartford, on August 6, 1918, age 79 years.

He left 4 daughters (1 daughter Elizabeth died young) and 7 grandchildren.

A final note: As I reviewed his diaries during these years I feel I got to know him, and I think I can say with some level of certainty that he indeed followed his Rule for Life: Speak as you mean, Do as you profess, and perform what you promise.

*Other entries from his diary :*

**October 21, 1864:** witnessed a torchlight procession from Hospital in Wash. D.C. — saw Pres. Lincoln — procession was a full 3 miles long

**January 2, 1865:** Attended President's levee — shook hands with him

**January 10, 1865:** Spent 3 hours at Capitol in the hall listening to the debate upon the amendment to the Constitution — very interesting

**January 31, 1865:** Went to Capitol on a pass heard them vote on Constitution Amendment — question passed by 119 to 57 great deal of excitement.

**February 25, 1865:** News of fall of Wilmington (also depicted in the telegraph room at the White House in the movie Lincoln)

**March 4, 1865:** went to Wash. D.C. saw pres Lincoln's inauguration, also procession

**April 10, 1865:** Most exhilarating news Lee's whole army surrendered!!

**April 15, 1865:** News of the assassination of President & of Sec of the State & his sons last night by Booth a stage actor

**April 16, 1865:** Pres. Died last night Sec. Seward and his 2 sons are yet alive. A terrible gloom & horror all over the nation

**April 19, 1865:** down to city with a pass to attend Pres. Funeral 30,000 in procession saw Gen. Grant

**April 20, 1865:** went through Capitol and saw corpse of Pres.



### What's In A Name?

The Lebanon Historical Society has embarked on an interesting project: to find the history and origin behind the names of roads in town.

Some may be easy and well known already, others a bit more difficult. If anyone has any knowledge of how and why roads in town have a particular name please contact the Lebanon Historical Society Museum by phone 860-642-6579 or email [museum@historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org) and please let us know what you know, think you know, heard via rumor mill or simply have a thought.

We will chase them all down if at all possible.

We hope to publish the history of one or two roads per newsletter.

Roads like Goshen Hill Road can be assumed to be named as the access between central Lebanon and Goshen Hill, Babcock Hill likewise, but how did Goshen Hill and Babcock Hill get named? Some of the road names are the result of the subdivision developer picking their children or spouse's names (*i.e. Rita Drive or Richard Road in Frankel Acres*) prior to the roads being accepted into the town road system at a town meeting. We hope to identify all of them.

## On the Road Again

Donna Baron

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Lebanon residents, like those around Connecticut, often chose to move houses and other buildings to new locations. As long as a structure was in good condition, being in an inconvenient location was not an impediment to its long term use. One advantage of post and beam construction

is that the building is a structurally strong box that can be lifted as a single unit.

Before the invention and widespread use of the steam engine, a building was moved by lifting it up and inserting rollers (logs) beneath. Multiple teams of oxen slowly pulled the structure forward as groups of men removed the rear rollers one after the



Ox team moving a building in Newburyport, MA.  
Photograph from the collections of Historic New England

other and re-inserted them at the front. Today it seems amazing that so many buildings of various sizes were moved in this manner.

In Lebanon, the two most significant moved buildings are probably the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House and the War Office. The Trumbull House was moved from the corner of West Town Street and the Exeter Road (Route 207) to its current location in 1823. The War Office was moved with the House and sat just to the south. In 1844 it was moved again to its familiar current site.

Many years later, the Beaumont Medical Club at Yale University identified a small house in Village Hill as the home of Dr. William Beaumont, their namesake. In the mid 1970s, they had this house taken apart and moved to its current location behind the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House. There it was reconstructed, restored and donated to the Lebanon Historical Society.

Now, the Beaumont House will be on the road again. This time it will be lifted onto a flatbed trailer and transported to Historical Society property on the east side of the Trumbull Highway. In late July, all the contents will be carefully packed and moved to the Historical Society's collections storage building. Our plan is to exhibit the Beaumont Medical Club collection of antique medical implements and the Bonesetter Sweet collection of splints and other artifacts in the Museum's meeting room.

The House will, we hope, be moved in late August or September after a modern foundation has been prepared on its new site. You will probably not miss the move as work continues, however we will try to provide email and Facebook updates.

Next fall and winter an exhibit and collections committee will work to refurnish the house so it can be opened for school groups and the general public next spring. Please let us know if you'd like to participate in this effort.



## Unsolved 1884 Murder still a Lebanon mystery

Continued from page 4

brutal murder was to Lebanon, which was an isolated and quiet rural community at the time.

A week after the murder Oliver Kingsley, who lived in the Exeter section of town, was arrested, taken to jail in Norwich, and charged with Harvey Chappell's murder. Kingsley admitted being in the neighborhood on the day of the murder but swore he had not committed the foul deed. Although Kingsley was known to be a sneak thief and had spent half of his 35 years in jail, no one really believed he had the courage or smarts to commit a grisly murder. Some years before, Kingsley

escaped from the Willimantic jail and ran through the streets in broad daylight wearing nothing but a pair of handcuffs. Somehow he eluded capture, got his handcuffs sawn off, and found a used suit of clothes to wear before finally being captured and returned to jail.

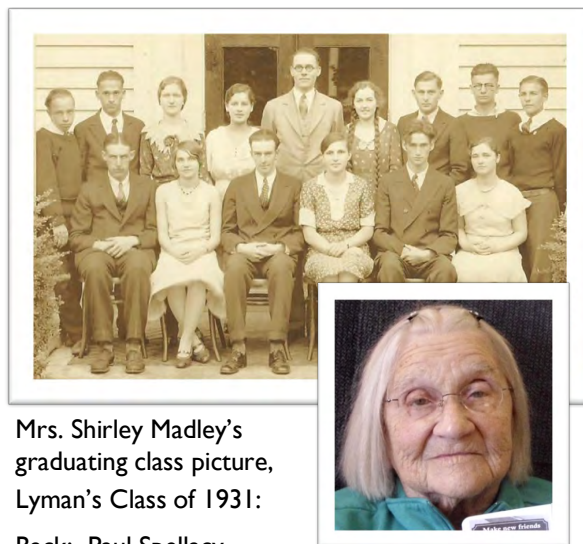
Kingsley was released since there was no evidence to tie him to Chappell's murder. Although many people believed a neighbor who owed Harvey Chappell a great deal of money was the murderer, no proof was ever found. Harvey Chappell's murder is still unsolved.

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Historical Society Member Shirley Madley

Marylou Beckwith

The list of Lebanon's centenarians will increase this summer when long-time resident and Historical Society member Shirley Madley turns 100. Shirley (Cummings) Madley was born at the family home on Exeter Road, July 15, 1913. Her parents were Rexford and Ruth Cummings who lived in the large colonial house between Clubhouse Road and North Street. She and her sister Hazel walked to the one-room school opposite Clubhouse Road. Shirley later attended the two-room school on the Green and graduated as part of the Lyman Memorial High School class of 1931.

After marrying Harold Madley, Shirley settled into the family homestead where they continued to farm and raised their daughter Mary Lou. Shirley was an active member of the Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and the Congregational Church. Shirley is now living at Harrington Court in Colchester while her daughter's family is in Texas. The Historical Society joins her many Lebanon friends in celebrating Shirley's 100 years.



Mrs. Shirley Madley's graduating class picture, Lyman's Class of 1931:

Back: Paul Spellacy, William Cohen, Florence Oden, Katherine Andrews/Lesi, Principal: E. Fenn Nourse, Bernice Cummings/Grabber, Harold Goldstein, Clarence Kneeland, Stephen Gorski

Front: Jared Hinckley, Shirley Cummings/Madley, Donald Burgess, Anna Tashman/Kerachsky, Gurdon Aspinall, Martha Laibrandt/McSweeney

## Exhibit News

We are working hard on our new Civil War exhibit

### "Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home"

We hope you will join us on Friday evening September 13 for our exhibit opening & reception.



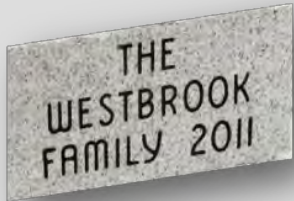
Many visitors have enjoyed the First Baptist Church exhibit that has been on display in our meeting room and we are sorry to see it go.



### Doctor's of Lebanon

With the Beaumont house closed for this season in preparation of its move across the green, we saw this as an opportunity to showcase some artifacts in a different way and tell the story of the doctors of Lebanon.

*We hope you'll stop in to take a peek!*



**New or replacement granite bricks available for the memorial walkway**

Sadly, the cast concrete of our memorial bricks has not held up as well as we wanted. Some bricks have become illegible.

If families would like to replace their bricks, new gray granite bricks are available at cost, **\$44 each.**

Replacement bricks can be placed in the same location as the fading bricks or can be relocated to higher ground.

If you would like to order replacement bricks, please call the museum office at **860-642-6579.**

New memorial brick orders will be filled with granite bricks for a donation of \$100 to the brick fund. Donors will still be able to select the wording for the dedication.

## When Everyone Works Together You Learn the Oddest Things

By Donna Baron & Laurie Lamarre

During discussion at our annual meeting, members were imagining the upcoming site work at 844 Trumbull Highway as we ready the property for the arrival of the Beaumont House. A suggestion was made to do an archaeology dig

before the site is disturbed. Despite Museum Education Lamarre (who also research center at Pequot Museum & quickly organized a willing to donate their



the tight timetable, Coordinator Laurie consults for the the Mashantucket Research Center)

group of archaeologists

time, materials and experience to dig.

Volunteers including her colleagues from MPMRC, members of FOA (Friends of the State Archaeologist) and Yankee Territory Coinshooters (a group of metal detector enthusiasts who often volunteer with archaeological investigations) arrived on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> prepared to dig.

Over the course of the day, single artifacts and small bits and pieces of life on the 844 Trumbull Highway property were unearthed – metal toys, washers, sparkplugs, coins, pipe stems and ceramic shards. Then, a puzzling feature at several locations in the northern front and side yard of the house made the archaeologists intrigued, as they paused and considered the appearance of 200+ year old handmade brick and mortar at a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century home. Generally, the brick features were near the surface, but also several layers deep – at some places 40-50 centimeters below the surface.

Archaeologist Kevin McBride, research director, considered several possibilities – an 18<sup>th</sup> century house, a chimney fall from a previous structure, or even several more Revolutionary War-era French bake ovens.

Rain brought Sunday's work to an end, but plans were made to resume archaeological excavations on Monday to try to solve the mysterious brick features. As hours, "shovel test pits," and trenches passed, the separate features were connected as one singular feature, and thoughts turned to an elaborate late 19<sup>th</sup>-century driveway. Finally, enough of the feature was revealed that everyone could see a long narrow ribbon of brick rubble circling the northeastern edge of the home which created a berm or embankment above the natural soil levels. In the excavation pits, the bottom was wet. Had someone built up the ground level to keep it dry?

The archaeologists were finding bits of asphalt roof shingles among the bricks. "In the 1920s or 1930s," they asked, "Was there a source of brick rubble in town?" "Like a brick meetinghouse that came down in the 1938 hurricane?" we replied. A visit to the front wall of the meeting house with sampled brick from the feature resulted in a conclusive "it's possible." When consulted by phone, John Champe, whose father was pastor at the church in 1938, provided several vital clues. After the First Church was

*Continued on page 11*



Jim Naumec  
Four Seasons  
Model T Assoc.



The Sheep  
of Kathy &  
Grace Schultz



Murray Newton's  
Pewter Molding



Grant Bombria's Brooms



The Wares of the Pied Potter of Hamelin



# Great Fun

was had by all at our  
**Second Saturday  
Family Fun Day**  
on June 8.

**This is an annual event  
so mark your calendar for  
next year.**

**Many Thanks  
To all the participants  
of our  
Second Saturday Event.**

**Four Seasons  
Model T Association  
Jim & Joan Naumec  
John Postemski & Ann  
Peter Smith  
Martin Peterson  
Ted Swol**

**Grant Bombria  
Steve Melady  
James Gillespie  
Ted Swol  
Pied Potter of Hamelin  
Rick Hamelin  
Jim Easton  
Bill Bender  
Mark & Lara Reynolds  
John Baron  
Doug O'Connor  
Jim Wesolowski  
Steve & Pam Bennett  
Charis Arnow & Bill Brauch  
Bil Kivic  
Mark Tollmann  
Grace & Kathy Schultz  
Murray Newton  
Farmer's Cow  
Sage Chesmer**

**Also many thanks  
to our volunteers.  
Many hands  
make light work  
as the saying goes,  
so if you are interested  
in giving us a hand  
next year  
please give us a call**

## When Everyone Works Together You

*Continued from page 10*

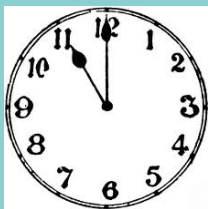
damaged, the whole bricks were salvaged and sold to raise restoration funds, however, no one cared about those which had been broken. Also, after the church windows were replaced in 1875, and framed with mismatched brick the exterior brick had been painted a dull gray .

A quick trip back to the excavation confirmed that some of the bricks indeed had the telltale gray paint. Underneath the bricks was a layer of asphalt roof shingles. It seems likely that this house, like so many others in town, had its roof damaged by the same storm that toppled the First Church steeple. Selectman Karl Bishop, who owned the house during this period, probably saw a way to get rid of his own debris and built himself a dry embankment and backyard by carting away some of the rubble from the church. Little could Bishop have imagined how thoroughly he would confuse a group of 21<sup>st</sup>-century archaeologists and metal detectorists, or how many different people's helpful memories would be called upon to solve the mystery – a uniquely Lebanon and authentic life story of the home at 844 Trumbull Highway.





**History Trivia Question:** What well known event led to the creation of the Baptist Church?



## Its Time to Mark Your Calendar



### *People using Plants in the Past*

#### Plant Programs for Kids this Summer

Wed., August 7  
**Finders & Keepers**  
10am to 11:30 am

Plant Scavenger Hunt  
Botanical Light Impressions

\$5 for non-members

\$3 for members

Appropriate for children entering  
Kindergarten up to those entering 3rd

Wed., August 14  
**Plant Rainbows**  
10am to 12 pm

Dyeing with Natural Materials  
Native Plants Discovery Walk

\$6 for non-members

\$4 for members

Appropriate for children entering 4th grade  
up to those entering 7th grade

*Lebanon Historical Society*  
MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER

• Located on the Historic Lebanon Green • Lebanon, CT •

856 Trumbull Hwy Lebanon, CT 06249

Call 860-642-6579 to register

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

Pre-registration  
required by August 1

Before you know it  
it will be time for the  
Lebanon Historical Society's

## 48th Annual **Outdoor Antiques Show**

on the  
Lebanon Green  
Saturday, September 28

9am to 3pm

\$5 admission