

Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society



Programs & Events



• Tuesday, June 21 •

7pm

"A History of Stepfamilies in Early America"

Presenter/author Lisa Wilson, shares the stories and challenges of real stepfamilies in early New England. Refreshments. Members free, non-members \$2.

• Saturday, July 16 •

5pm– 8pm

"An Evening at the Museum" gala

Wine & beer tasting, silent auction and supper all held under the stars. \$40 per person \$75 a couple By invitation only. If you have not received your invitation by June 15th, please let us know by calling 860-642-6579.

• Sunday, September 11 •

3 pm—5pm

Croquet Picnic at the Beaumont House

Old fashioned fun for all ages

Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and picnic basket. Cold drinks & desserts will be provided.

Events continued on Page 4

Lyman Legacy benefits all Lebanon Children

By Alicia Wayland

George W. Lyman, born in Lebanon in 1841, was a descendant of Richard Lyman, Sr., one of the 52 original proprietors of Lebanon. His grandfather, Captain Alvin G. Lyman, was born in Lebanon in 1770. He became an extensive farmer in town and was aided by his son, Ludlow Lawrence Lyman (1813-1896), who grew up on the farm and began farming his father's farm on shares when he turned 21 (which was then the age of majority).



GEORGE W. LYMAN

Ludlow Lyman married Harriet B. Taylor (1822-1900) of Lebanon and they resided on his father's farm where their only child, George W. Lyman, was born. When George was about three years old, his father purchased 83 acres on the east side of what is now Trumbull Highway or Route 87, across from the intersection with Waterman Road. Ludlow Lyman moved his family there and turned the farm into one of the most productive farms in the area. It was here that George Lyman grew up, learning to farm and beginning to take

over as his father aged.

In addition to being very prosperous farmers, both Ludlow and son George had the reputation of being extremely good businessmen. Their assets at death

indicate very substantial wealth in addition to the active farming operation.

George Lyman married Kate E. Peckham of South Kingston, Rhode Island. They lived on his father's farm until her death in 1898 at age 54. He married Lula Estella Hill, of Columbia, Connecticut, for his second wife on June 4, 1900. It was then that George began managing the farm from his new home, the house

commonly known as Lebanon Antiques, at 649 Trumbull Highway. George purchased the house from the estate of Dr. Charles Sweet, where it was one of Dr. Sweet's many investments. His cousins, Thomas Alvin Lyman and broom maker Eugene Lyman, lived next door at 1 West Town Street, in the house known as Mariners Corner.

George Lyman continued to live in this house until his death on December 26, 1919. He had no children. In an extraordinary gesture of good will,

Continued on page 10

**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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Donna Baron

From the President

Rick Kane

I want to thank the Society members for supporting the slate of candidates for the 2016-2017 Board of Directors. I consider it an honor and privilege to assume the responsibility of President. I want to extend our thanks to Glenn Pianka for his service to the Lebanon Historical Society, not only for his years when he served as President, but for all his years as a contributing Board member. During his tenure as President, the Museum complex saw the addition of the McBride Property to the Museum property, the relocation of the Beaumont House to the Museum property, the addition of the Hearse House (Eagle Scout Project), the restoration of the Pastor's Library and the renewed focus and attention to our financial structure and much more. Thank you Glenn!!!!

While we still have some planned changes on the museum grounds with building repairs (Broom Shop) and potentially building location changes (Broom Shop and Hearse House), our goal for the next few years will be to leverage our assets, our physical, human, intellectual and historical assets to the benefit and enrichment of our Lebanon Community, through programs, events and publications.

The Lebanon Historical Society is celebrating its 50th year anniversary and we will have several programs and special events throughout 2016 to mark the achievement. In 50 years, the organization rose from nothing to 7 acres with 9 buildings, a full-time staff of 3 and an annual operating budget in excess of \$200,000. It is quite an achievement and something for which the Town of Lebanon should be proud. Please watch this publication and notices in 'Lebanon Life' for upcoming events.

As we look forward to the coming years we hope to expand membership, expand attendance at our wonderful programs and continue our 2016 projects to completion. For those who were unable to attend the annual meeting, the following are our projects for 2016:

Cataloguing our extensive collections. **Volunteers are needed** – whether it be an hour a day, an hour a week or an hour a month. Any and all are welcome.

Road name origins project – if anyone knows the origin of a town road name and wishes to report to us or write an article, please come forward. We hope to publish in the future all road name origins in Lebanon.

Oral histories – we hope to capture more oral histories from our Lebanon residents who remember days long ago, and more recent events as we capture these memories for future generations who may wish to know what life was like in Lebanon at the turn of this century. Anyone willing to share his or her past and present is welcome.

I would like to thank the Society for their trust and support and look forward to serving and enhancing the value of the Lebanon Historical Society to our community.

**A big thank you to all of our dedicated museum educators and assistants who helped us to share a bit of Lebanon's history with school groups from Lebanon, East Hampton & Willimantic.
We couldn't have done it without you!**

*Thank you Kathy Schultz, Donna Koenig, Edna Pelto,
Connie Tormey, Joan Janus & Beth Iacampo*

Director's Message

Donna Baron

Gracie, Alicia and I (the staff at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum) thoroughly enjoy our jobs and love being part of the Lebanon community. However, our efforts are not what makes this organization the best local historical society in Connecticut. That honor and responsibility belongs to all the wonderful volunteers who donate their time and energy. That energy starts at the top. The members of our Board of Directors are unusually hard working and engaged; individually and collectively an outstanding non-profit Board. But there are so many others whose hard work and dedication have made the Lebanon Historical Society what it is today.

Ed Tollmann who has inspired so many others to join our efforts and who has done a bit of everything from organizing our annual June Second Saturday to keeping the driveway free of weeds. Glenn Pianka's expertise and hard work provided the leadership to create the museum campus we now share with the community and visitors.

Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine whose careful and extensive genealogical research has helped scores of patrons and the staff who sometimes assist in family history research. This year Lindy has dedicated many cold windy hours to inventorying historic graveyards as part of our cemetery surveying project. Marty Kendall who always says "yes" when asked to help with exhibit planning, installation or cleaning and gets hands-on whether sewing identification tags onto collections textiles, scraping lint for the Civil War exhibit

or writing articles for the newsletter.

Brian Bartizek's expertise and woodworking skills are frequently needed when we are installing exhibits or restoring furniture or buildings. His help is essential for running an Antiques Appraisal Day or organizing dealers for the Antiques Show. Alicia Wayland's research skills and knowledge of Lebanon history are generously shared so we can answer visitors' questions, keep our publicity and web site accurate and publish our award-winning newsletter.

Then there are the ladies (Sandie Chalifoux, Linda Heatherly, Connie Berglund, Suzanne Yeo and all those who've joined this committee more recently) who have been planning and running *An Evening at the Museum* since 2012, exhibits volunteers like Marianne Freschlin and Steve Hogan, everyone who shows up for Spring Cleanup Day, Second Saturday or during the Antique Show or helps in any of a hundred other ways.

Thank you! You make the Historical Society Museum and programs work. If you are not yet a volunteer, there is plenty of room for more. No matter what your interests and skills are, there is a job that needs doing and a group of great people to work with. Please stop by or give us a call. We'd love to help you find your volunteer niche.

Welcome to our newest members

Family

Kyle & Kristin Kane
of Ohio

Individual

Amanda Kane
of Massachusetts

Laura Stinson
of Colorado

Senior

Frank Alessio
of Lebanon

Janine R. Barber
of Washington

Ladd & Sue Bethune
of Lebanon

Alice-Mae Coutu
of Windham

Wayne & Katie Davis
of Lebanon

Sheryl Ginn
of Arkansas

Trivia Answer:

They all used the Lebanon Green for a runway to land their private planes. Some also stored their planes on the Green.

This is from an oral history with Clayton and Flora Williams, conducted in 1978 by Albert Pearce.

Would you be willing to sponsor our newsletter?

Every issue of the newsletter costs \$300 to produce and mail. We are always in need of full or partial sponsorships. If you are interested please contact us at 860-642-6579.

Contact Us:

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

860-642-6579

**museum@
historyoflebanon.org**

**www.
historyoflebanon.org**

Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Research Library
by appointment.

Calendar Of Events



• Saturday, September 24 •

50th Annual

Outdoor Antique Show on the Lebanon Green

Held rain or shine

\$5 admission

Free parking

Refreshments available
for purchase all day

• Sunday, October 9 •

10am

Center Cemetery Walk

Guided walk led by
Genealogist Lindy
Brunkhorst-Olewine.

• Sunday, October 9 •

2pm

Connecticut Samplers

Talk by Lois Peltz, on the
history of samplers with
information on their
conservation provided
by Donna Baron.
Participants are welcome to
bring their own samplers.

• Saturday, October 22 •

10am

History Walk on the Lebanon Green

Guided walk led by
Donna Baron.

• Sunday, November 6 •

6pm

"Stew & Story" at the Log Cabin

with State Historian
Walt Woodward
Cost to be determined.

• Sunday, November 13 •

2pm

"What Makes Connecticut Connecticut"

with State Historian
Walt Woodward
At Yeoman's Hall, Columbia

Santa Anna Road

By Rick Kane

The origin of this road was difficult to identify since it seems so out of character for Lebanon. It isn't a family name or place name you would associate with Lebanon, but it turns out to be fascinating. Thanks to Henry Aspinall and his "Tours of Lebanon," we have the folklore version. The following is based on excerpts from "Touring with Henry" published by the Lebanon Historical Society in 1990.

Santa Anna Road is a left turn to the east off Waterman Road as you head south from Lebanon Center. This area was known as Coreyville in the mid-1800s (identified in both 1854 and 1868 maps). Several Corey families lived there, and according to Henry Aspinall, ran the Corey Woolen Mill (1854 map identifies the location of the Corey Woolen Factory). Arnold and Joseph Corey of Plainfield purchased the property in 1835. From Lebanon land records "1835 Joseph and Arnold Corey of Plainfield to the full satisfaction of Gurdon Robinson assigns 5 acres with buildings, a factory building commonly called the Mason & Fitch factory April 8th 1835."

"There were several houses here in the village, quite a few. It was a real gathering place. After it was no longer used as a woolen mill, it was a grist mill, a blacksmith's shop and a cider brandy mill. As the story goes, there was a road that went from Coreyville down into Bozrahville, now discontinued, but where the

Bozrah Rod and Gun Club is, formerly the Henry Loomis place, there is a house where a man called Santianna lived. That was about the time of the trouble we had with old Santa Anna down in Mexico (US – Mexican War 1846-1848). That Santa Anna had one wooden leg (amputated as a result of a cannon hit in 1838) and this man also had a wooden leg and was reported to be much the same makeup." (*Touring with Henry, Lebanon Historical Society, 1990*)

Attempts to identify this man by various spellings of "Santianna" via US census records, Town of Lebanon marriage or death records and Lebanon land records were not successful.

Mexican general (and 11 times Mexican president) Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the "Napoleon of the West," became a villain in America when he ordered his troops to kill Davy Crockett and everyone else inside the Alamo. But that was in 1836 and several wars ago, and until recent times Santa Anna's name recognition had fallen considerably. For example, the average person probably didn't know that the general had a fake leg. That changed when a writer for the cartoon King of the Hill read online about the leg and penned an episode (1998) where it was kidnapped by one of the zany characters in Texas. (Wikipedia - <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/18808>)

Santa Anna's real leg was amputated after he was hit by cannon fire during a melee with the French in 1838 (the leg was interred with full military honors). In 1847, his artificial leg was captured by soldiers of the 4th Illinois Infantry, which is why it's in the Illinois State Military Museum. Santa Anna was eating lunch during a battle with the United

Continued on page 10



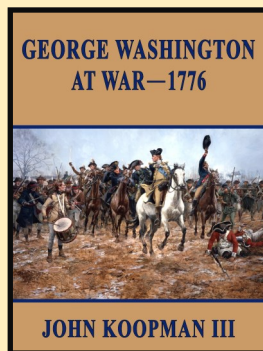
Thank you for your generous donations to our 2016 Annual Appeal



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A Good Read

By Betty Forrest



George Washington at War—1776

By John Koopman III

As the title indicates, George Washington at War—1776 covers a very short time span during the American Revolutionary War. Although the body of this short book (only 106 pages) reads like an action novel, it is worth reading.

It is fiction, based on well documented facts. The quotations that are included are taken from letters, diaries and pension accounts. John Koopman III is a long-time Washington impersonator and horseman who writes convincingly about Washington the man.

This simply written book covers the battle of Dorchester Heights in Boston which was won without firing a shot and the Battle of Harlem Heights in Manhattan, New York. It includes both famous historical figures and lesser known common soldiers.

Using primary sources to tell his story, Koopman shows us that killing and getting killed is a bloody mess and that there is no

Continued on page 7 sidebar

A Far-flung Connection with the American Presidency

By Alicia Wayland

In 1786, Connecticut finally gave up its sea-to-sea land claims that dated back to the 1662 charter received from King Charles II. However, the state reserved a 120-mile long stretch of land in eastern Ohio to itself that was known as the Western Reserve. In 1792, Connecticut awarded a 25-mile long section of the western-most section of the Western Reserve to the individuals who had lost all their property when British forces burned the towns of Norwalk, Fairfield and New London during the Revolution. This area was called the Fire Lands

Finding governing a far-off wilderness area a difficult burden, Connecticut sold the Western Reserve, except the Fire Lands, to the Connecticut Land Company for \$1,200,000 in 1795 and invested the money to support public education with the interest.

In 1796, the land company had the territory surveyed into townships of approximately 16,000 acres and began selling them to investors at a price of \$12,903.23. A group of investors from the Lebanon area purchased a township around 1800. The largest investor was Captain Daniel Tilden, a member of the Masonic Lodge in Lebanon, who gave the township its name of Hiram, after the Hiram of Masonic lore who was a brass worker among the builders of King Solomon's temple.

The purchasers of townships expected to sell their shares and make a profit. Few ever settled in the townships. Although not listed as a proprietor of Hiram, Elijah Mason of Lebanon may have been a partner with Daniel Tilden, his brother-in-law. In 1802, Elijah Mason and Mason Tilden, son of Daniel, and Elisha

Hutchinson of New York state and son-in-law of Daniel, located their lots out of the 50 surveyed in Hiram. In 1803, the three returned to Hiram, along with two of Mason's sons, Peleg and Roswell, and built cabins and began clearing the land. Once back in Lebanon for the winter, Mason's sons refused to return to Hiram, so Elijah moved his family to a farm in Hartford, Vermont.

In 1806, Roswell Mason changed his mind and moved to Hiram from Vermont to settle on a lot given to him by his father. He also acted as his father's agent, to sell the land Elijah still owned. Elisha Hutchinson also changed his mind and moved his family from New York state to Hiram. In 1812, Thomas Young of Windham, Connecticut, who was married to another of Daniel Tilden's daughters, also moved to Hiram.

Daniel Tilden did not move to Hiram until 1822, coming from Herkimer County, New York, where he had moved with several of his older children after his disappointing participation in the so-called "Meetinghouse War" in Lebanon in 1804 and subsequent fallout from political favor. He died here in 1833.

In the meantime, Elijah Mason and his family joined Roswell in Hiram in 1816. Mason's daughter Arabella was just six years old. Some years later, Deacon John Rudolph moved with his family, including son Zebulon Rudolph, from Virginia to Garrettsville, a new village created from sections of Hiram and surrounding towns. How Arabella and Zebulon met is not known but they were married in Hiram in 1830. A member of the Disciples of Christ, Zebulon was a co-founder of the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute in

Continued on page 11

From Our Collection

Snare Drum 2013.033.004

When Edwin Augustus Wetmore (1874-1964) was a boy, he was a member of the Lebanon Drum Corp. Until Wetmore's grandson, Wetmore Sanford, donated a snare drum and bass drum in 2013, we did not know that there was a drum corps in Lebanon in the 1880s. The Wetmore snare drum, with a maker's label inside and an inscription on the drum head revealed a forgotten Lebanon story.

The drums were made by John Haynes of 33 Court Street, Boston. Haynes was a prolific instrument maker from 1861 until 1903. Haynes produced snare and bass drums purchased by the Union Army and state militias during the Civil War and continued making and selling drums at 33 Court Street until the late 1890s.

Wetmore family tradition suggests that these drums had been carried during the Civil War, but according to military historian Dave Naumec, the lack of any military insignia raises questions about this. Naumec proposes that the drum may have been unused military surplus or purchased new in the 1880s.

Pencil decoration and words on the snare-side head of the smaller drum reads

*Dedicated to the
memory of the
O.U.A.M*

*Property of E.A.
Wetmore*

*Lebanon Drum Corp
Lebanon Conn*

Edwin A. Wetmore was the son of William Augustus Wetmore and his wife Abby Frances [Peckham]. William A.

Wetmore had served in Company C of the 18th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry as a wagoner. After the War, he returned to Lebanon where he lived in his father's house on the west side of the Green, farmed and raised his family. Edwin was the youngest of four children.

In 1888 and 1889, Edwin received letters from William S. Garland, a friend whose family had moved away from Lebanon. The first letter, dated August 8, 1888 includes Garland's comment "[I am glad of the luck of the Drum Corps.] I would like to be with you boys this fall but I can't do so." On May 12, 1889, Garland asked "Is the drum corps broke up yet?" These letters suggest that the Lebanon Drum Corp was

Continued on page 11



Continued from page 6 sidebar

"nice" way of killing the enemy. He also shows us the humane and human side of the war, the compassion for the defeated enemy and the burden of command. He covers the British troops' contempt for the Colonial soldiers and their leaders and how Washington used it to his benefit.

Many of the commands that were used in eighteenth century warfare are quoted throughout the book. An example "March-March," meaning move at double time, was one of them. Rifle shooting and cannon loading protocols were also covered.

Included after the story is told is a listing of characters both fictional and real. The real people are noted. There is also an appendix about Jeremy Bellamy from Cheshire, Connecticut who was noted throughout the book.

The real strength of the book, to me, is the very obvious respect that Koopman holds for George Washington.

As a Washington impersonator, he has gotten to know the man and his unique perspective has informed his portrayal here to make him as realistic as possible.

Throughout the book, Washington is portrayed as being courageous, steadfast, honest, and faithful.

Do pick up the book at the Lebanon Library and give it a read. "March-March." It is worth the time.

Grating the Nutmeg

The podcast of
Connecticut History

A series of podcasts are available online that you can listen to on your phone, tablet, or computer whenever you want.

These stories are told by the office of the State Historian and brought to you by *Connecticut Explored* magazine.

ctexplored.org/listen/



Connecticut's current state historian is Walter Woodward, a descendant of an early Lebanon family. He is a Columbia resident and has often presented programs at both the Lebanon and Columbia historical societies.



The first episode of *Grating the Nutmeg* featured our very own Ed Tollmann

Lebanon's Quiet Benefactor: Walt

Woodward visits Lebanon's historic green to learn from Ed Tollmann about that town's amazing life-long benefactor Hugh Trumbull Adams.

<http://gratingthenutmeg.libsyn.com/grating-the-nutmeg-the-podcast-of-connecticut-history>

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary at our 50th Annual Meeting!



Our new president Rick Kane proposes a toast in celebration of our 50 years while members enjoy social time after the meeting.



Another Memorial Day Float under our belt!

Beaumont

By Donna Baron

In January 1792, Revolutionary War veteran Dan Beaumont sold his small Village Hill House to his brother Samuel. As Dan headed off to up-state New York, Sam, his wife Lucretia and at least three children moved into the one-and-a-half story house we know as the "Beaumont House."

Over the next twenty-one years, Samuel and Lucretia raised nine children in this house. Sam was a farmer, a cooper, an orchardist and a cider mill operator as well as a Baptist and anti-Federalist. Lucretia kept house, ran a dairy making butter and cheese, spun wool and flax, maintained a garden and cared for her family.

Their simple middle-class farm house might well have crumbled and rotted except that their second son, William, left home and became a doctor. Many years later while serving as an Army surgeon at Fort Mackinac in Michigan, he began studying how the stomach worked. His experiments and the book he wrote established Dr. William Beaumont as the father of gastroenterology. In the 1920s, a group of doctors who were interested in the history of medicine named their newly formed club after this Connecticut native son physician. The Beaumont Medical Club identified a small house in Village Hill as the Beaumont Homestead and the home of

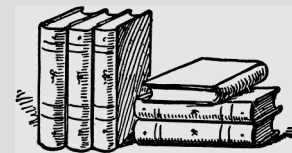
their namesake. By the mid-1970s, they determined to raise funds to purchase the house and property and to have the house dismantled and reconstructed behind the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House. The Village Hill lot was transferred to the town as a park and the house was donated to the Lebanon Historical Society to maintain as a public museum.

From 1984 (with the signing of a lease by the Beaumont Medical Club, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Lebanon Historical Society) until 2014 Society volunteers provided tours for visitors, welcomed school groups and cared for the little white house. In June 2014, after months of planning and preparation, the Beaumont House was carefully moved across the Lebanon Green to its new location just north of the Lebanon Historical Society Museum.

Two more years were needed as volunteers and contractors completed the restoration and refurbishing of the house. Recently, a new group of volunteers began investigating all the many stories that are part of this house and the people who have lived in and cared for it. Visitors can again step through its door into the past – a past where Samuel and Lucretia Beaumont and their children worked hard to keep food on the table and the farm going. Volunteers will share stories of the sons who moved away to find better opportunities and the daughters who never married but found ways to support themselves.

Please check with the Museum for hours when the Beaumont House will be open so that you can explore the childhood home of Dr. William Beaumont and life in Lebanon in the early 19th century.

Reading and talking about history for the fun of it!



Please join us for the Lebanon Historical Society history book club.

This informal group of readers meets every other month after reading an agreed-upon non-fiction book about a historical event, period or idea.

As a newly-formed group, we invite you to join us as we select books and share our thoughts and reactions in open and engaging conversation. Each meeting features refreshments themed to the time period and/or topic of the book we've read.

Look for book and meeting date announcements in *Lebanon Life*, on our website and Facebook page or by email. If you would like to be added to an advanced notice book club email list, please contact the Museum with your email address.

For more information call the museum 860-642-6579

Oral History Project

We are eager to resume our oral history project once again and we are looking for a few people who might be interested in helping us capture the town's history through the recollections of our most valuable resource, the residents of our community.

A sample of some of the treasured memories we have captured through our oral history project are below and on the sidebar on the opposite page.

An excerpt from "Touring with Henry"

In the early 1930s at the America's Cup races "The boat that won the race that year was the American vessel. The mast, the main mast, an enormous stick of timber, was got out of these woods [near the corner of Goshen Hill and Henry Smith Roads]. I helped get it out with a pair of horses, my team. It took six horses to get it to the road and that's in the early days of trailer and trucks. A trailer truck came up from Montville. Where they delivered it, I don't know, but the mast of the vessel that won the race that year came from this piece of woods right here."

Lyman

Continued from page 1

George W. Lyman left a major share of his sizeable estate to the Town of Lebanon to build a high school. At the time, the town's school system encompassed only eight grades. George Lyman's bequest of \$15,000 towards construction of a high school and \$36,700 (approximately \$1,400,000 in today's dollars) for its maintenance was accepted by the town on October 4, 1920. In March 1921, it approved a resolution to begin construction as soon as possible. The construction

funds were augmented by a town appropriation of \$18,000 in September 1921. The new building, located on the little green where Town Hall now stands, opened in September 1922.

In accordance with a clause in Lyman's Will, the school was named after him. Now at its third location and in its third building, the Lyman Memorial High School still carries the name of the man who had no children of his own but left his fortune to benefit all the children of his hometown.

Santa Anna

Continued from page 4

States when the Americans surprised him, the road who had a wooden leg was and he galloped off without his leg. The sergeant who grabbed the wooden leg exhibited it at county fairs for a dime a peek, but since 1922, it's been in the care of Illinois National Guard. According to Bill Hatcher, a guide at



probably referred to locally as Santa Anna simply because of his having the similar affliction as the notorious Santa Anna. The people of Lebanon would certainly have been aware of the news of Santa Anna and his famous wooden leg as the news was printed in

the museum, no one from Texas (or Mexico) has ever tried to kidnap it. (Wikipedia - <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/18808>)

As stated above, attempts to identify this man by various spellings of "Santianna" were not successful. So my guess is that in 1847 the story of Santa Anna was well known and probably discussed amongst town people and the person who lived on

the Norwich Courier of May 11, 1847. In diary entry of Sarah J. Goodwin for July 17th 1859, she noted : "Sunday July 17th I have been to meeting all day. Santa Anna rose for prayers today, and I hear tonight that he thinks he has experienced religion." The man certainly existed and was commonly referred to as Santa Anna, and was an attendee at the Baptist Church, if not also a member.

As we continue to identify the source and origin of road names in Lebanon, we hope to have more families provide the history of road names associated with their ancestors. Anyone who has such information is welcome to send it along and we will include one per issue or as space allows, as we have over the last year or so.

A Far-flung Connection

Continued from page 6

1850. Although founded by the Disciples, the institute was nonsectarian and coeducational, and functioned as a preparatory institution of a high level.

Following grammar school, Lucretia Rudolph, daughter of Arabella and Zebulon, attended a boarding school in Chester, Ohio, where she studied Greek and Latin. She then returned home to continue her studies at the Eclectic Institute with a rigorous course in the classical languages. Here her teacher of Greek was James Garfield. Garfield was a student at the Institute from 1851-1853, who then took two years away to complete his studies at Williams College in Massachusetts. He returned to Hiram to become first a teacher and then principal of the Eclectic Institute. After some years in an on-again and off-again courtship, James Garfield and Lucretia Rudolph were married in Hiram on November 19, 1858. She was 26 years

old and Garfield was 27.

While serving heroically in the Union army during the Civil War, Garfield was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He resigned from the service to take office. The Garfields built a house in Washington, D.C. so the family could stay with James year-round. The Garfields eventually had seven children, two of whom died young but five survived to live long lives.

James Garfield was elected President of the United States in November of 1880, taking office on March 4, 1881. Lucretia's time as First Lady was short-lived. On July 2, Charles Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker, assassinated President Garfield. Garfield lingered painfully for many weeks before finally dying on September 19. Thus ending Lebanon's far-flung connection with the American Presidency through Elijah mason's granddaughter, Lucretia.



Drum

Continued from page 7

active from circa 1887 to circa 1890.

The O.U.A. M was the "Order of United American Mechanics," a nativist organization founded in Philadelphia before the Civil War. By 1896, there were state councils in twenty-one states. This fraternal organization provided sick and death benefits for members before such services were offered by insurance companies. In time the organization abandoned its Freemason-like rituals and became a standard insurance company before being absorbed by its former youth affiliate, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

Other than the Wetmore drum, research has not yet found any references to the O.U.A.M branch in Lebanon and little is known about its operations in Connecticut. The first chapter of a female auxiliary, the Daughters of Liberty, began as a local club in Meriden, CT in 1875. Until something more comes to light, all we know is based on Wetmore family recollections that the drums were used in Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the largest Civil War veterans' organization parades.

An excerpt from Albert Pearce's 1975 oral history interview

In response to a question about the Green when Henry Aspinall was a young man, "Every house was a farm. Today there is only one farm on the Green. They were small farms in those days, of course, going back 62 years. I would say that ten or twelve cows was quite a herd. Some kept seven or eight cows, they lived on the farm and ate off the land ... But, of course, the Green, it was used more than it is now. Folks tied their animals out there. Tied their calves, you always tied your bull on the Green."

An excerpt from Albert Pearce and Bill Jahoda's 1977 oral history interview

"...opposite the Baptist Church... what's known as Mariner's Corner, that's an old house too. I dare say it's not the original house, I dare say there was an older house there than that is, but that gets its name as Mariners Corner because Capt. Hull lived there. After he died, of course, left a widow... she started and ran a rest home for sailors or sea-faring men. I don't suppose the rank and file sailors, but I suppose the captains and mates and so on, but that's how it got its name Mariners Corner."



History Trivia Question: *What did the following men all do on the Lebanon Green in the late 1940s and 50s ?*
Clayton & Errol Williams, Clinton Card and David Randall. See page 3 for the answer.

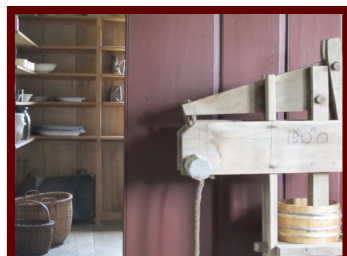
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