



Vol. 9 No. 3

Summer 2017

# Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society

## Programs & Events

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

**Something for Everyone  
at the  
Lebanon Historical Society  
on  
Saturday June 10**

• **"Second Saturday"** •  
**10am—3pm**

**A free fun-filled family day.**

Take a ride around the Lebanon Green in an antique truck or car.

Watch demonstrations by crafters of all types.

Lots of hands-on activities too!

Food available for purchase.

• **Ribbon Cutting and  
Grand Re-opening at the  
Beaumont House** •

**12pm**

Celebrating the re-opening of the Beaumont House for the season with a ribbon cutting followed by guided tours and refreshments on the lawn.

• **Fantasy Gnome-Land** •  
**10am—3pm**

Kids will have fun using their imagination to create their very own "Gnome -Land" to take home.

Suggested donation \$3 to \$5.

Come Early—Quantities Limited

Events continued on Page 4

## A Lebanon Militia Man's War

By Donna Baron

In 1832, Congress approved a pension system for enlisted men who had served during the American Revolution.

Retired servicemen and their widows submitted applications detailing service history, sometimes with remarkable clarity and detail. Many of these applications were included in Matt Keagle's 2007-8

Revolutionary War study of Lebanon and transcribed by Historical Society volunteers.

Individually and as groups the pensions make soldiers' experiences come alive.

### Isaac Gillett

Isaac Gillett of Lebanon applied for a pension a few months after the law was passed. His application was submitted verbally to Probate Judge Denison Wattles. Gillett recalled that in early December 1776, he was chosen by Governor Jonathan Trumbull to serve in his "body or life guard" with five other Lebanon men. Their responsibilities included standing *"guard in the night in particular, to guard the Gov<sup>t</sup> & Council & also to guard the publick stores*

*collected & kept at Lebanon for the use of the army..."*

Gillett was also sent once to Boston and frequently to New London, Hartford and Fairfield as well as to New York and New Jersey with messages



from Governor Trumbull. *"[at one time transported one barrel [of gun powder] to Farmington in this state, & Deposited it there to await Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington's order."*

Gillett remembered there being very few British sympathizers in Lebanon

Continued on Page 9

**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.*

**Board of Trustees**

*President*

Rick Kane

*Vice President*

Keith LaPorte

*Treasurer*

Rob Slate

*Secretary*

Mathew Flegert

*Buildings & Grounds*

Art Wallace

*Community Events*

Jacy Worth

*Collections*

Dan Moore

*Exhibitions*

Marianne Freschlin

*Finance*

Al Vertefeuille

*Historic Buildings*

Brian Bartizek

*Membership & Development*

Melissa Hayes

*Nominating*

Ed Tollmann

*Personnel*

Betsy Petrie-McComber

*Programs*

Genevieve Nowosad

*Publications*

Sandie Chalifoux

*Trustee-at-large*

Margaret McCaw

*Museum Director*

Donna Baron

## From the President

Rick Kane

Our Annual meeting held May 7, 2017 brings to an end the Society's first 50 years. We are now entering our 51<sup>st</sup> year as a society and having acknowledged the work and vision of those that came before us. It is now up to us to sustain and grow the Society so Lebanon can continue to enjoy this incredible resource.

Three new members were elected to the Board of Trustees during the Annual meeting. Melissa Hayes was elected as Membership chairperson, Genevieve Nowosad was elected Programs chairperson and Betsy Petrie-McComber

today we have a nice mix of older and younger board members, and these additions will sustain us over the next several years.

Every committee chair is responsible for one or more active projects – there are a lot of moving parts going on and we are keeping our incredible staff very busy, so just a few highlights:

You may have noticed we have some construction going on in the building – we are enlarging the kitchen to better support our fundraising activities, reducing dependence and cost on external sources and increasing efficiency.

In the upcoming weeks and months, you will see the broom shop & hearse house swap locations, the broom shop will become integral part of the Beaumont House interpretation and we hope to relocate the smoke house in the fall.

The brick walkway will be redone in granite bricks made possible by money bequeathed to the Society by Ellen Lathrop, specifically for that purpose. Signage and

landscaping will soon follow once all the buildings are in place

Financially we are in a strong position right now but, as always, the future of any organization such as ours must remain vigilant and conservative with our finances. Our endowment fund has enjoyed the benefits of the market surge and we took steps to provide a failsafe account to cover expenses for up to three years should the market turn down.

All the activities underway have not impacted the Board and staff on executing our mission of providing quality programming to our community as presented by our Director Donna Baron. Our Business meeting was followed by a special program "To End all Wars: Songs of the First World War" Presented by Rick Spencer and accompanied by Dawn Indermuehle.



Dawn Indermuehle. and Rick Spencer

was elected as chairperson for Personnel. Our Board continues to engage new people with new ideas and enthusiasm.

Thanks again to our outgoing Board members whose 6 year terms expired this year; Suzanne Yeo who scheduled terrific Programs through her tenure including this year's Annual Meeting (more below), Linda Heatherly, Personnel Chair who also participated wherever and whenever needed, and Mary Lou Beckwith, Membership Chair who met the challenge and grew the membership right up until the last few hours to over 315 members, a growth of over 10% over 2016.

Our Annual meeting also provided me with the opportunity to provide a 'State of the Society' message. A summary of that message follows:

The Board is very active and with the election of the 3 new members here

## Director's Message

Donna Baron

Here at the Historical Society Museum, we never know who will be coming in or where a simple question might lead. Some weeks ago, member Jim Wesolowski noticed the print of Richard Vertefeuille's painting of the "Loomis Homestead" which is hanging in our research space. Jim's simple question about where this house was located, started quite a chain of events.

Lindy Olewine, our wonderful volunteer genealogist and records researcher, started hunting for Mr. Loomis in public records. After many hours of research, she was quite sure that the Loomis farm was somewhere near or on the Bozrah Rod and Gun Club property. As she headed out to look for an abandoned house site, Rick Kane became interested, in part because of his interest in Santa Anna Road, and has joined Jim and Lindy in their search.

In the meanwhile, I followed up on the published photograph that Mr. Vertefeuille had used as the source for his painting. The photo, which was taken by the Reverend Hollis Campbell, minister at the First Congregational Church (1912-1921), is in the collection of the New Haven Museum. An old note said that this museum had about 40 views of Lebanon in its collection.

A phone conversation with the New Haven Museum's Director of Photo Archives has led to our receiving digital images of 41 photos that Reverend Campbell took while in Lebanon. These images provide a fascinating bridge between the 1868 photos of the area around the Green and the Lebanon we see today. All of you can anticipate seeing some of these images in future editions of *Provisions* or featured in our exhibits.

Do you have a collection of old photos of Lebanon? We are always happy to borrow snapshots from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s to scan. Currently, photos of family cars, trains on the Air Line or planes landing on the Green are of particular interest as we work on the up-coming travel exhibit. Help us create a wall of "first car" photos by sharing snap shots and stories of the first car you ever owned.

### Welcome to our newest members

*Family*  
**Scroggins Family**  
of Florida

**Melissa Hayes**  
of Lebanon

**Arthur & Kris Jankowski**  
of Pennsylvania

**Steven & Lisa Verizzi**  
of Lebanon

**Richard & Phyllis MacCutheon**  
of Avon

**Michael Okonuk & Marie Reynolds**  
of Lebanon

**Helen Schweitzer**  
of Lebanon

*Individual*  
**Douglas Conly**  
of Vermont

*Senior*  
**Mrs & Mrs Raymond J. Medeiros**  
of Lebanon

**Rick Coffey**  
of Lebanon

*Student*  
**Stephania Castillo**  
of Lebanon

## Trivia Answer:

A severe hail storm caused the massive destruction in the southern portion of Lebanon and in the towns of Bozrah and Franklin.

*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 sponsorship.

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](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)

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

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

## Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.  
12pm to 4pm

**Research Library**  
by appointment.



## Calendar Of Events



- **Wednesday, June 28 •**  
**7pm**

### **The Traditional Cooper**

Cooper Neil Muckenhoupt shares the how-to's of making staved wooden containers in an illustrated talk and demonstration.

Free to members,  
non-members \$2.

- **Saturday, July 15 •**  
**5pm– 8pm**

### **“Evening at the Museum” gala**

Wine & beer tasting, silent auction and dinner all held under the stars.

\$50 per person  
\$80 a couple

**By invitation only.**

If you have not received your invitation by June 12th, please let us know by calling 860-642-6579.

- **Saturday, September •**  
**9 & 10**

### **Revolutionary War Encampment**

*See sidebar on page 5 for details*

- **Saturday, September 30 •**  
**9am—3pm**

### **51st Annual Antique Show**

#### **on the Lebanon Green**

Held rain or shine

**\$5 admission**

Free parking

Refreshments available for purchase all day



*Events continued on Page 5*

## Chesbro Bridge Road

By Rick Kane

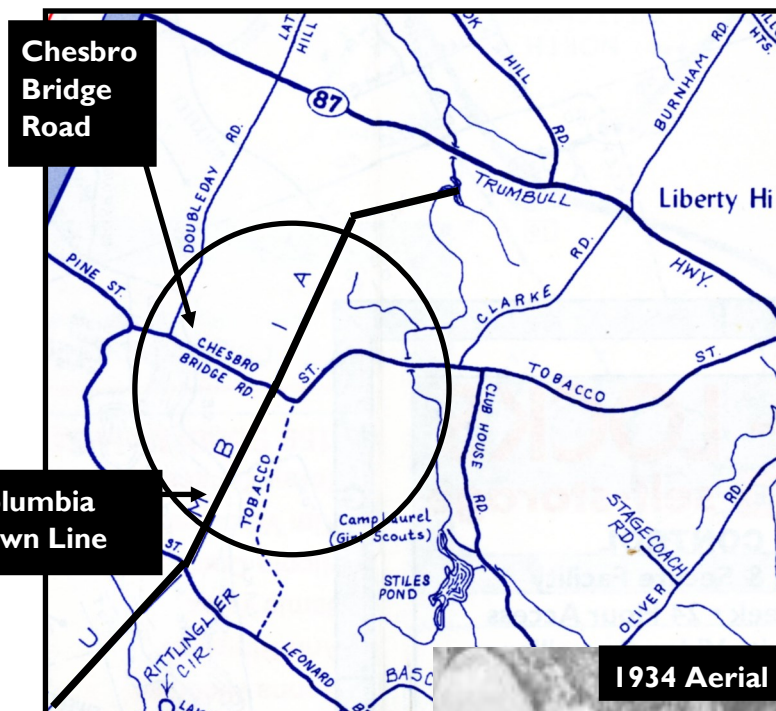
**Chesbro (or Chesbrough) Bridge Road is primarily a Columbia, Connecticut road with only 0.14 of a mile of it in Lebanon.** The 1957 state Department of Transportation Lebanon road map show this road as Tobacco Street Extension. A 2007 Lebanon map clearly labels it as

**Bridge Road.** A 1879 land transfer in Columbia land records from the Chesbroughs to Elizabeth Holbrook describes “a certain tract of land or parcel situated partly in Columbia and partly in the Town of Lebanon bounded Northerly by the lands of Carl

Holbrook and Amos Doubleday, East by lands of Joseph Clark, Ansel Hyde and Joseph Tucker, South by lands of W<sup>m</sup> Bliss heirs and the four corners on the highway to the place of beginning.”

**According to the 1868 Lebanon map, Chesbro Bridge Road did not end at the intersection of Tobacco Street**

**2005 Map of Lebanon**



**1934 Aerial Photograph**



Chesbro Bridge Road. The bridge for which it was named crossed over the Air Line railroad in Lebanon, a short distance from the Columbia town line.

The Columbia portion of this road was named for mid-19<sup>th</sup> century property owners Patrick H.L. and Emily B. Chesbrough. Over time, the name was shortened to Chesbro.

**As roads and bridges were gradually identified with the adjoining property owners, this became Chesbro**

**Note that Chesbro Bridge road used to continue**

*Continued on page 10*

## Thank you for your generous donations to our 2017 Annual Appeal

Anonymous (1)  
Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home  
Ralph & Marlene Adkins  
William Beatty, Jr.  
Mary Lou Beckwith  
Pierre & Sandra Belisle  
Helen Bender  
John & Christine Bendoraitis  
Ken & Janet Benson  
Larry & Connie Berglund  
Carole Black  
Russell & Jonica Blakeslee  
Alton & Jill Blodgett  
William Brauch & Charis Arnow  
Lynda Breault  
Rose Briggs  
David & Carole Brown  
Joanne Buto  
Judith Cariglia  
Ruth Celotto  
Robert & Sandra Chalifoux  
Robin & Kathy Chesmer  
Nancy Cormier  
Alveda Cranick  
Gwendolyn Cross  
Lu Day  
Michael Deeley  
James and Priscilla Donnelly  
Nancy Dubin  
Paul & Vicki Duff  
Paula Eaves  
Ed's Refrigeration Service  
Catey Farley & Jack Tavares  
Joan Fazzino  
Elmer & Dolle Fischer  
Ken Gardner  
Robert & Pauline Gaucher, Jr.  
Boyd Geer  
William & Joan Russoniello Goba  
Dorothy Goldstein  
Charles & Terry Grant  
Edward & Darlene Hathaway  
David & Berti Hawkiins  
Henry & Lynn Hinckley  
Evelyn Hopkins  
William & Suzanne Ingalls

Winifred Jackson  
Richard & Susan Kane  
Martha Kendall  
Richard & Teal King  
Walt & Donna Koenig  
John & Krys Konow  
Gregg & Linda Lafontaine  
The Reverend Ronald Lake  
Keith LaPorte  
Richard & Rita Lataille  
Kenneth & Gretchen Lathrop  
Lebanon Life Publications LLC  
Mary Lilly  
Betty Mackey  
Paul Maffiolini  
James & Jill Marocchini  
Robin & Mariele McBride  
Jim & Cindy Mello  
Tom & Svea Meyer  
Anita Mokoid  
Peter & Lydia Myers  
Joan Nichols  
Joyce Okonuk  
Marjorie Page  
Richard & Alice Patton  
Patricia Pellegrini  
Katherine Pellerin  
Richard & Jeannie Pogmore  
Steve & Meg Rackliffe  
Paul & Louise Rheume  
Frank & Mary Rodriguez  
Tim & Linda Slate  
Jacquelyn Smakula  
Roger & Dee Smith  
Tim & Sue Smith  
Paul & Sandra Spedaliere  
Jeffry & Lou Iva Stober  
Harry & Barbara Teller  
Joe & LeAnn Thibeault  
Ed Tollmann  
Al & Judy Vertefeuille  
Art & Linda Wallace  
Jim & Lori Wesolowski  
David & Suzanne Yeo  
Jim & Jacy Worth

**Revolutionary War  
ENCAMPMENT  
Ye Olde Lebanon Towne  
Militia and the Lebanon  
Historical Society invite  
one and all to join us on**

**Saturday, September 9  
& Sunday, September 10**



Continental Regulars and British Infantry will join several Milita Units in settling up camp on the Lebanon Historical Society grounds.

The encampment will be open to visitors during the day on Saturday and Sunday. Crafts people will demonstrate their trades while the ladies and children tend to chores.

Sutlers, including a potter, herbalist, coppersmith and general goods merchants will offer reproduction colonial wares for sale.

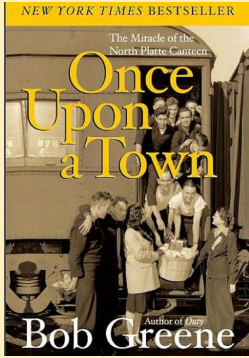
On the Green, the military units will demonstrate tactical drilling with muskets and artillery.

Admissions to the encampment and all demonstrations are free.

Special events will include the raising of a Liberty Pole and a candle light tour of the camp and the Beaumont House.

## A Good Read

By Linda Wallace



### ***Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen***

By Bob Greene

December 17, 1941, the troop train pulled into the station. The town had turned out with gifts for what they thought was the local Company D of the Nebraska National Guard on their way to fight in WWII, but instead it was Company D from the Kansas National Guard. After a brief stunned moment, one person stepped forward and gave her gift to one of the soldiers. The rest of the town's people followed, giving their presents to the amazed and appreciative soldiers. The next day, a letter to the editor of the North Platte Bulletin from Rae Wilson, challenged the town to form a canteen that would meet every troop train coming through town (and there were many, up to twenty-four a day). The citizens took up

*Continued on page 7 sidebar*

## The Newcomb Family Chest

By Brian Bartizek

One of the frustrations of a local historical society is the difficulty in acquiring early furniture made by someone in the society's area of interest. The chest-on-chest in the Lebanon Historical Society meeting room is one of a few Lebanon examples of early furniture in our collection. It is made of cherry and birch in a "high rural style" relating to furniture made in Colchester and Norwich. The secondary woods are chestnut, poplar and pine. It stands nearly 7 feet tall and 44" wide. While it has had damage to drawer edges, a replaced flame finial and finish, it is in excellent overall condition. It must have been quite impressive in the farmhouse in Lebanon Crank.

The chest was made sometime between between 1760 and 1779, most probably by Peter Newcomb. At that time, the Newcomb family home was near the intersection of the roads to Windham and Hartford, now Rts 6 and 66. Peter was the second of three generations of Lebanon joiners [furniture makers]. He had inherited tools from his father and passed his own to his son, William. Peter's will also gave this chest to his daughter Jemima in 1779. In an 18th century rural estate, a good bed and its furnishings was usually the most valuable furniture. However this chest was listed at 20% more than the best bed.



Jemima married a Capt. Gideon Clark of Lebanon 1787 and this chest continued by marriage through the Clark, Isham and Gilette families to the late 20th Century.

*We invite you to stop by the museum  
and see it in person.*

A very special thanks goes out to [Ella Mae Kuzel](#) for a visually engaging presentation at our most recent book club.

Ella Mae shared the recollections of her youth during WWII and her knowledge of the North Platte Canteen in Nebraska, In a way that charmed the 27 book lovers who were present.

Thank you Ella Mae for sharing with us all...  
*"the rest of the story!"*





# Thelma & Louise Remember

Anonymous



**Lebanon:  
"Summer  
Season"  
50+ years ago:**

~Local teens hired during the summer season for haying and related farm chores: Cadys,

Ward, Grover, Kerachsky, Spedaliere.

~After a long day of haying, hard working teens would take a bar of Ivory Soap for cleaning (always floated/easier to find at 10PM) and head to Lake Williams for an evening swim.

~Teens (and adults) working at Grand Lake Lodge, as the influx of tourists enlarged Lebanon's summer population. (One of numerous locals, owners Joe and Sylvia Tannenbaum hired: S. Messinger - '57-'59, jobs included: landscaper/gofer/bell hop/busboy/waiter.) Many New York residents visited and enjoyed evening strolls along Route 207 near Lake Williams. (Some of the most daring local kids, K. Kaven for one, were known to sneak into the "Broadway-like" shows presented at the Lodge.)

~Local kids took swimming lessons at the "Lion's Club Pond" and many teens had fun swimming and hanging out on the raft in the middle! Fun summer nights!

~Lebanon Fair held on the Lebanon Green (sometimes with ankle-deep mud) with many local families assisting: Bender, Raciott, Krause, Flegert, Aspinall, Tollmann.

~Some advertisers for the Fair: Szajda Brothers, Fraser's Nursery, Polly's Barn Antiques, Windham Lumber Co., Tee Kay's, Burt Ives & Sons, Inc., Italian Garden Restaurant, Durand's Barber

Shop, Rytman Grain, Stan's Auto Parts, J. P. Musial Co., Liebman Poultry and Pelto's Frying Pan Restaurant housed in the Green Store, with its distinctive sign: IT'S TYMFURKOFF!

~Briggs Road acreage filled with gladiolas by Briggs & Speerli families, trucked and sold to local florist shops. McKenna's Flower Shop always took dozens of the beautiful blossoms.

~Many locals (Sweet, Aspinall, McBride, Lamb) took their antique Model T's and Model A's for trips around the area, once the weather cooperated.

~Local kids had a path across the Green (between the McBride and Standish houses) traversing it whenever there were play-dates between the friends. Many "secret club" meetings were held in cramped closets and hidden spaces, while boarder/Bill Brewster sat in his rocking chair.

~The aromatic smell of new mown hay on many of the local farms (Szajda, Wengloski, Pultz, Olenick, Chansky, Pokorny).



~Burnham Road, at one time the straightest quarter-mile "drag strip" where locals (McCalls, Russo, Bub, Strenkowski, McGillicuddy,

Adams, Spencer, Spedaliere, Bates, Sweet, Kashork ) could test their engines. Always Chevys against Fords! Some remember John's cars as the fastest & he usually won the races, or tinkered with his engines until he did!

~Locals along Route 87 could pick up their mail at the Chestnut Hill Post Office (across from Clarke's Barn Antiques), presently a private dwelling.

~A Bond bakery truck could be seen

*Continued on page 11*

*Continued from page 6 sidebar*

the challenge and the North Platte Canteen was born – meeting every troop train for the next four years.

Bob Greene, a noted newspaper journalist and author, traveled to North Platte in early 2000 to explore this extraordinary story of the generosity of a small town and the surrounding communities. Through interviews with those who provided food and manned the canteen and the soldiers who stopped at the Canteen for their brief ten to fifteen minute visit, Greene evokes the dedication of the Canteen workers and the appreciation and joy that the soldiers felt. Somehow over 6 million soldiers were met and fed in that time, even with rationing as a way of life.

Greene also traces the role the Union Pacific Railroad had in shaping North Platte then and in post World War II.

This is a heartwarming story that exemplifies what makes America great and what an impact even a small town can make.

*Our next History Book club on August 9, 2017 will be David McCullough's The Wright Brothers.*

*Everyone is welcome.*

## Liberty Hill Church Stories

By Ed Tollmann

### Traveling to Lebanon – origins of the Town's early 20<sup>th</sup> century residents

By Donna Baron

Federal census takers today collect all kinds of information about United States residents. This level of detail has come about slowly with a little bit more listed every decade since 1790. In the first census, only the head of household was listed by name. Everyone else was just a number in a broad category such as “free white males under 16 years” or “free white females.” By 1830, free white males and females were enumerated but not named in thirteen age groups, enslaved and free colored men and women were enumerated by age and there were listings for selected handicaps. In 1850, every household resident was listed by name, age, sex and race and place of birth and males over 15 had an occupation listed.

In 1900, the census added information about parents, marriages, home ownership and year of immigration to the United States. Looking at Lebanon's 1900 census, it reveals much about the individuals and families who moved here before that year.

*Continued on page 9 sidebar*

In 1837, a group of men met at Gay's Tavern and agreed to build a meeting house which they would own and rent out to whatever congregation wanted to use it. By

1846, this group constructed a small white-painted wooden meeting house on the east side of the highway through Liberty Hill.

The first group to use the building was a Christian Church, which had been organized in Liberty Hill in 1810. The building was used briefly by the Free Will Baptists in 1873, followed by the Spiritualists and then a non-denominational group. In 1892, the Congregational State Conference established and helped support a mission in Liberty Hill.

On December 12, 1912, a meeting was held at the Liberty Hill Church which was accepted into the New London Association of Congregational Churches. Ten of the thirty-seven charter members were received on confession of faith and the remainder by letters from the Exeter, Lebanon and Columbia Congregational Churches and the Lebanon and Willimantic Baptist Churches.

In 1919, the Exeter Congregational Church was dissolved and merged with Liberty Hill as the Exeter Liberty Hill Congregational Church. In 1938, the Exeter Liberty Hill Congregational Church was linked to the First Congregational Church of Lebanon, a



Liberty Hill Church

pairing that continued until 1945 when the Exeter Liberty Hill church was dissolved and its membership and assets were transferred to the First Congregational Church. From 1938 to 1945, Reverend Howard Champ (we all know his son John) would officiate at the Center Church and then go to Liberty Hill to officiate there.

From around 1888 to 1938, the church was very active though membership then dwindled. I have records that show there were fifteen to eighteen children in Sunday School and 50 to 60 people often attended Sunday services. Arthur Davol told me about being custodian there when he was a kid. I think they paid him \$1.00 a month for sweeping out the building. He was also in charge of ringing the bell.

Visiting with my very good friend, Muriel Dimon, one day she told me about how wonderful the church was, how everyone got along so well. She remembered that Maude Adams was the organist. Muriel also recalled a funeral when one of the men carrying the casket, dropped it somehow and the body fell out. Someone thought the deceased person was still alive which led

*Continued on page 10*



# A Lebanon Militia Man's War

Continued from page 1

though one, a Mr. Fanning, (after having his property confiscated) threatened the Governor. Such threats concerned the guards as did the presence of several political and military prisoners who were housed near-by. One night Mrs. Abigail Hyde, the Governor's housekeeper, called Gillett into the house because a "stout man in a beggar's habit" had demanded to see the Governor. She ordered him off and he fled. Gillett followed him into the woods and fired at the intruder but did not catch him.

Private Gillett and the rest of the Life Guards were dismissed from duty after the French Hussars arrived in Lebanon in November 1781 and were never recalled to duty.

## Nathaniel Fitch

Lebanon native Nathaniel Fitch had moved to Oneida County, New York by the time he applied for a pension in 1832. At the Oneida County Court of Common Pleas, Fitch described his military service.

*"In May 1777 the company of militia to which he belonged, commanded by a Captain Vaughn or Vaughn was called out to guard the Continental stores which were deposited in*

*Governor Trumbull's malt house in Lebanon... continued in service until after the capture of Burgoyne, being six months, being discharged in November."*

Fitch served in Lebanon the entire time and received no discharge papers.

He later enlisted in June 1780 for six months and joined Major Darrow's company, Colonel Storrs' regiment in General Huntington's brigade at Nelson Point on the North River (Hudson River) in New York. His unit marched to Stony Point and then to Orange, New Jersey before moving into Maryland. He was discharged some time in December, again without a discharge paper.

Fitch enlisted, for a third time, with the "wagon

*Department under General Thomas Armstrong, Deputy Forage master General and served therein until*

*after the capture of Cornwallis - being with the army at that time."* He recalled that this last

enlistment was for about twelve months. He recalled that during his service he had seen "General Washington, Gen. Arnold, Baron Steuben, Col. Miller."



## Traveling to Lebanon

Continued from page 8 sidebar

The largest group of immigrants came from Ireland. Thirty-seven individual moved here starting in 1840 and continuing until at least 1890. Most of the men worked as farmers or farm laborers, while the women listed wife keeping house or servant as their occupation.

Thirty-five people had come from Canada. Of these, twenty-four specified being born in French Canada. Other listed origins included English Canada, Welsh Canada, Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.

Although most of these folks also farmed or kept house, men also listed grocery salesman, cotton mill card grinder, teamster and wood chopper. One woman worked as a druggist's clerk and another as a dry goods clerk. The man from Nova Scotia was a clergyman.

All eight of the English immigrants were farmers or farmers' wives. One family of four came from France. The father farmed, the older daughter was a silk spinner and the younger daughter was at school while the mother kept house. In 1900, there were fourteen German

Continued on page 10 sidebar

## Traveling to Lebanon

*Continued from page 9 sidebar*

immigrants in town, all of whom farmed.

Polish immigrants identified the specific region where they were born: three from Austrian Poland, six from Russian Poland and two from German Poland. There was a Polish cotton spinner and a grist miller as well as several farmers and farm wives. There was also one farming family that identified themselves as Russian.

Seven immigrants came from Sweden, two farmers and blacksmith with their wives and one farm laborer. The last immigrant recorded came from the West Indies to farm.

Further research may reveal how and where these new residents entered the United States. We would also like to know why they came here and how they traveled to get here. It's time to move beyond the census and look for other kinds of documents to answer these new questions.

The census, however, can still tell us about the individuals and families who moved here from other states and what work they found after they arrived.

Why would at least four individuals who were born in Missouri, for example, move to Lebanon?

## Chesbro Bridge Road

*Continued from page 4*

(the "highway" in the 1879 deed), but continued southward to the modern Club House Road. **This section of Chesbro Road was discontinued in a Lebanon Special Town meeting on October 27, 1932.** "That this section from Liberty Club House to Chesbro Crossing be discontinued, declared carried." The Liberty Club, a men's hunting club, maintained a hunting lodge for which the road was later named.

**The discontinued portion of the road was voted to be abandoned at a Special Town Meeting on June 16, 1969.** In a separate action, it was then conveyed to the Connecticut Trails Council of the Girl Scouts of America, now Camp Laurel.

Also, as an interesting side note, the 1870 Federal Census lists several boarding houses in this part of Lebanon in which railroad laborers who were building the Air Line resided. Further research in Lebanon land records produced some interesting results. A 1957 deed describes the property in much the same way as the late 1800s Columbia records. Bounded "easterly by lands formerly of Amos Doubleday, Joseph Clark, Ansel Hyde and Joseph Tucker, southerly by land formerly of William Bliss and Westerly by highway."

## Liberty Hill Church

*Continued from page 8*

to all kinds of wild stories.

According to Muriel, after closing the church, member from Liberty Hill would go to the First Congregation Church. The center church then had a reputation for being where you should attend if you had political ambitions like county commissioner Leslie Clark. Muriel also recalled going to the center church with

Later transfers of the same parcel continue to list the boundaries by the same descriptions, but in 1966 the westerly boundar is clearly noted as Chesbro Bridge Road. In May of 1979, the land transfer describes it as "parcel of land bound southerly by land now of formerly of the Railroad situated easterly of **Tobacco Street Extension, also known as Chesbro Bridge Road.**" I found no references in Selectmen's Meeting Minutes or Town Meeting Minutes from 1957 to 2007 where the road name was officially changed from Tobacco Street Extension to Chesbro Bridge Road.

As noted in a previous article on Leonard Bridge Road, all four Lebanon-based bridges (Leonard Bridge, Chesbro Bridge, Cook Hill and Kingsley) over the Air Line were eliminated and filled-in in 1972 .

*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.*

Mrs. Foote one Sunday. After being greeted at the door and escorted into the sanctuary, they chose a pew only to be told "no, that's Deacon so-and-so's pew." Each time they tried to select a space to sit, they were told that the pew "belonged" to someone else. Finally, she and Mrs. Foote looked at one another and walked out and never returned.

# Thelma & Louise

Continued from page 7

## Lebanon: "Summer Season" 50+ years ago:



in yards around town, as baked goods were sold and delivered to local families.

~Kids often rode their horses bare-back into the cow pasture ponds, for a refreshing dip, and an

occasional dive off the standing animal's back. Fun watching the equines swim their way to shore.

~Local kids might be found in farmer's fields, with a "22" in hand, trying to get rid of pesky woodchucks, which were called many colorful names--#% &\*@-- when a full load of hay and its tires ran afoul of a burrow hole.

~On a summer afternoon, some adventurous barefoot youngsters, might be found running through cow pastures, with various brown mud, muck, and whatever else was left by cows, squishing through their toes!

~Firework fun might have included burrowing into the numerous bogs in the cow pastures, setting up little "villages" and watching them blow to smithereens. Other times an M-80 might find its way down said woodchuck holes.

~Many hours were spent riding wide-front-end Farmalls, John Deeres, Allis Chalmers, and Fords as locals tended to plowing, harrowing, rock-picking, manure

spreading, mowing, teddering, raking, baling, and various other related farm chores.

~Cattlemen and farmers who frequented Kahn's cattle auctions in Franklin were given heavy canes for their use, (most often for prodding cattle) each sturdy wooden walking stick was engraved with "James S. Kahn Stockyards." (Some are still used in Lebanon).

~White Good Humor ice cream truck seen around town, driven by Mr. Williams.

~When not occupied by the above-mentioned summer activities, popular magazines: (Life, Teen, Saturday Evening Post, Esquire) might have been read by some. Others could be found enjoying popular TV shows: (The Addams Family, Adam-12, Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet, The Ed Sullivan Show, The Virginian, I Dream of Jeannie, Andy Griffith, Beverly Hillbillies, Gilligan's Island, Laugh-In, Smothers Brothers, American Bandstand and Night Gallery.) Kids might

be seen playing with: (yo-yos, Barbie, Etch-a-sketch, frisbees, play-doh, Easy-Bake-Ovens and slinkys).

~A very active camp, Prince Hall Acres, was located at the Lebanon-ColchesterTown line, frequented by many during the hot summer months.



## Your Invitation to our 8th annual Evening at the Museum Gala

held on  
Saturday, July 15  
5pm—8pm  
is on its way.

We hope you consider joining us if you've never attended and if you come every year please consider bringing a friend along to this invitation-only event.

Our evening is filled with delicious hors d'oeuvres, a wine & beer tasting under tents on our patio and grounds.

Many unique items grace our auction tables. Music plays as you enjoy a full buffet dinner and dessert.

A fun summer evening to mingle outdoors with neighbors you know and to meet new friends.

Please join us!

If you haven't received your invitation by June 15, please give us a call and we'll send one out to you.

We look forward to seeing you!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank you to  
Charlie & Terry Grant  
for sponsoring  
this issue of

 **Provisions**

History  
Trivia  
Question:

On July 15, 1799, thousands of acres of corn and two thousand acres of apple trees were destroyed in Lebanon. Do you know what caused the damage?

See page 3 for the answer.

*Don't Miss Out Second Saturday in June at the Lebanon Historical Society*

Saturday, June 10  
10am–3pm

*“Second Saturday” in June  
Free Family Fun!*

Craft Demonstrations • Hands-on Activities • Food



You are invited to the  
**BEAUMONT HOUSE**

RIBBON CUTTING & GRAND RE-OPENING

SATURDAY, JUNE 10  
AT 12:00 NOON

Welcome,  
Guided Tours,  
and Refreshments  
on the Lawn



**Fantasy  
Gnome-Land Craft**

Kids will have fun using  
their imagination to  
create their very own  
“Gnome –Land”  
to take home.  
Suggested donation \$3 to \$5.

From 10am to 3pm  
Come Early—Quantities Limited

