### **Programs & Events**

Unless noted all programs & events are open to the public and are held at the museum.



 Saturday June 2 I2pm—3pm Car Rally

All antique & collectible cars & trucks welcome. Parking at the museum and at the town parking lot next to the museum

Take a peek at our new exhibit on transportation in Lebanon



• Sat. & Sun., June 2 & 3 I2pm—4pm "Letterboxing Around the Green"

Follow the letterboxing trail along the Green



• Wednesday, June 6 • 7pm

"Changes in the Lebanon Landscape. What Would Thoreau Think?"

Dr. Robert Thorson, Author & UConn Professor of Geology Talk and book signing along with a reprint of his published work on Lebanon. Members free. non-members \$2. Refreshments



See page 4 & 5 for more events

### A Brief History of the Liberty Hill Log Cabin

By Ed Tollmann

Benjamin Dziadul and his brother Joseph purchased a 16-acre parcel of land situated on the westerly side of Route 87 and abutting the northerly side of Tobacco Street. The property was split, with Ben keeping the land abutting Tobacco Street. In 1930, Ben started building what would become

The Liberty Hill Log Cabin Restaurant.

Conversations on the phone with the Dziadul's son, Ben, (some people in town still refer to him as Little Benny) who is probably 95 now, revealed the following to me:

When the trolley lines stopped running from Coventry south to New London, his dad got permission to take possession of any or all the telegraph poles running along the trolley line. Ben and his dad went down

through Peck

Above: 1933 photo of Ben Dziadul standing on the bridge

over the rock garden at the Liberty Hill Log Cabin. Left: photo of Ben Dziadul Jr, known as Little Benny.



1933 photo of the Liberty Hill Log Cabin

Summer 2018

# 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**

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Museum Director Donna Baron

### From the President

Rick Kane

Our Society and town lost another asset this year in the passing of Howard Wayland. Howard was the Society 's President from 2001 to 2006. President, facility manager for many years, and always an available resource, he will be missed. In his closing remarks as his presidential term came to an end he wrote: "We, as a society, owe a lot of gratitude to all those past officers and board members who founded the organization and guided it through some rough times to make it what it is today. I only hope that my service has, in some small way, helped to improve it."

Howard introduced a strategic planning process and periodic review to the Society, initiated the Annual Appeal and essentially brought a level of institutional maturity to a growing organization. He was the right man for the time and we appreciate all he accomplished on our behalf. I am certain we can agree that not 'in a small way,' but a big way, he helped improve the Lebanon Historical Society.

Our Society enjoyed our 2018 Annual meeting on May 6. The slate of Society Board members were elected with many returning to serve another term. Suzanne Yeo has returned after a one year mandatory absence to fill an At-Large seat and Tom Meyer joins the Society Board for the first time to take the chairmanship of Collections Committee.

Tom takes over for Dan Moore who has been an extremely valuable and hardworking member of the society for years. Dan has contributed many hours of his limited time to the Society on many projects and committees. He has always been there when asked and needed. Dan spent many an hour assisting Glenn Pianka (and others) restoring the Pastor's Library, installing the stairs to the back door of the Beaumont House to make sure they were safe and secure, and many other projects on the campus. Dan has also annually arranged for Prides Corner Farms to provide flowering plants to decorate the tents at *Evening at the Museum*. Thanks Dan for all you have done and will continue to do in the future.

A new exhibit opened following the business portion of the Annual Meeting. – "From Here to There: Transportation to, from, within and around Lebanon." Many, many hours, over a year and a half, went into the research and development of this exhibit. I do think you will enjoy touring and reading all the interesting aspects of this exhibit. Thanks to the many volunteers and staff that produced yet another great exhibit. I bring special attention to the life-sized ox created by our Exhibit Committee chair, Marianne Freschlin. Marianne's earlier experience with creating breads and cheese wheels for display in the Beaumont House buttery prepared her well for the creation of the amazingly realistic ox!

The Society continues to update the campus facilities and grounds. Much has been accomplished but much still on the list. Over the next several weeks and months, you will see considerable activity on the changes to the landscape of the campus. By this publication, a "rain garden" will have been created at right front of the entry driveway. This should help with the water runoff from Trumbull Highway and limit some of the erosion we experience on our driveway. The rain garden is provided by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) which developed a program to conduct workshops and install as many as 100 rain gardens and 100 rain barrels throughout eastern Connecticut. The ECCD is partnering with the Connecticut Rivers Council of Boy Scouts of America to install the first project rain garden here. This program is being funded by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

The water collected in our rain garden will actually flow from the rear of our property to the Susquetonscut Brook to the Yantic River on to the Thames and into Long Island Sound.

The rain garden will be followed with other projects that alter look and usefulness of the campus.

### **Director's Message**

Donna Baron

Daily operations at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum depends on the staff and an amazing group of volunteers. Between May 1, 2017 and May 2018, we recorded 520 volunteer visits at the Museum – not hours, visits. Each visit represents between one and six hours of work in all kinds of activities. April 15 to 21, 2018 was National Volunteer Week which reminded Museum staff to recognize our unpaid but very important colleagues and the work they do.

School programs: Kathy Schultz, Donna Koenig, Connie Tormey, Beth Iacampo, Edna Pelto & Suzanne Yeo and joining us in May & June: Carol Faustman, Meg Rackliffe, Tony Tyler & John Knudsen

Historic buildings docents: Dana Kessler, Dennis Guilmette, John Knudsen, Sierra McElroy, Mike Goodwin, Deb Jani, Matt Flegert, Connie & Dennis Tormey Exhibit research: Carol Faustman, Meg Rackliffe, Dana Kessler, Brian Bartizek, Katie Davis, Matt Flegert & Tom Meyer

Exhibit installation: Marianne Freschlin, Marty Kendall, Brian Bartizek, Art Wallace, Rick Kane, Carol Faustman, Dana Kessler & Steve Hogan

Program planning & hospitality: Genevieve Nowosad, Lydia Myers, Beth lacampo, Suzanne Yeo, Kathy Schultz & Pam Handfield

Gardening: Connie Berglund, Joyce Reynolds & Sandra Crosthwaite
Collections: Abby Miner, Sue Kane, Linda Wallace, Brian Bartizek, Dan Moore

& Marty Kendall

Genealogy: Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine

Historic buildings: Brian Bartizek, Rick Kane, Art Wallace, Dan Moore, Bob Chalifoux & Bob Chalifoux, Jr.



Welcome to our newest members

Silver Benefactor

Dr. & Mrs. Zoran Pazameta

of Lebanon

Family
Stephen Preli & Family
of Lebanon

Individual Senior

Dr. Carter Broach

of Pennsylvania

**Eric Fowler** of Pennsylvania

Senior Couple
Charles & Jane Watras
of Suffield



Buildings & grounds: Art Wallace, Rick Kane, Ed Tollmann & Keith LaPorte and others helping during spring and fall clean-ups

Plus all the wonderful volunteers who donate their time to make our Community Events (Memorial Day parade float, Evening at the Museum, Antique Show & Tree Lighting) great successes every year.

All these volunteers and their efforts highlight the wide ranges of activities undertaken here at the Museum. We are rarely bored and there is always something new and different to do. When you see any of these folks, please thank them for their efforts on behalf of the Historical Society. Won't you consider joining them?

Please visit our new website for current information on events and programs.

You can now pay online to renew your membership!

#### Trivia Answer:

In 1910, Charles L. Goodrich was the owner of the first car in Lebanon





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

www. historyoflebanon.org

> facebook.com/ historyoflebanon

### Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat. 12pm to 4pm

## Calendar Of Events

# Saturday, June 9 • 10am—3pm "Second Saturday"

A free fun-filled family day! Ride in an antique truck or car, grind some corn, make a pen, build a birdhouse, watch a variety of craft demonstrations Hot dogs & burgers for sale

• Saturday, July 21 • 5pm-8pm
"An Evening at the Museum" gala

Wine & beer tasting, silent auction and dinner \$50 per person \$80 a couple By invitation only.

If you have not received your invitation by June 1 Ith, please let us know by calling 860-642-6579.

Wednesday, August I •9pm to I0:30pm"Dark Skies

Over Lebanon"

Join us on the Lebanon Green!
Bring a blanket, and a
telescope if you have one to
a family friendly exploration
of our planetary neighbors.
Guided by Last Green Valley
Rangers, Kim & NASA
Ambassador, Geoff McClean.
Free & open to the public.
Call 860-642-6579 to register.
Rain date is Friday, August 3

Wednesday, August 8 •7pm

**History Book Club** 

Discussion on, Destiny of the Republic, by Candice Millard

Events continued on Page 5

### Pilgrimage to Lebanon

By Donna Baron

"6,000 MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO LEBANON" according to a



headline in the September 9, 1918 edition of the *Norwich Bulletin*. This remarkable event is documented in the Historical Society collection by a small paper banner which in featured in our new exhibit "From Here to There: Transportation to, from, in & around Lebanon."

On one side the banner reads: "En Route to Lebanon Patriotic Pilgrimage to Connecticut's Historic Shrine Sept. 8; Run approved by fuel administrator for Connecticut." And, on the back it reads:

"Attention: The United States Fuel Administration has called upon the public to refrain, until further notice, from the use of gasoline for pleasure riding on Sundays. The Patriotic Automobile pilgrimage to Lebanon on Sept. 8, has been excepted with the understanding that those who make the run will refrain from the use of gasoline for pleasure riding for one Sunday after the federal request is rescinded, and will aid in every way in encouraging compliance with the government's request. Paste this on your windshield when you go to Lebanon, this side toward driver."

As part of its effort to unite Connecticut residents behind the country's efforts in fighting World War I, the state's Council of Defense organized a "sacred pilgrimage" that would draw a direct link between struggles for American ideals

and virtues in 1776 and 1918.

A caravan of cars from all over the state converged on Lebanon. Patriotic residents listened to hours long speeches by Governor Marcus Holcomb and Secretary of the Publicity Committee of the State

Publicity Committee of the State

Continued on page 11

Continued on page 11

Summer 2018

# Thank you for your generous donations to our 2018 Annual Appeal

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Paul & Sandra Spedaliere Harry & Barbara Teller Joe & LeAnn Thibeault

Ed Tollmann

Al & Judy Vertefeuille Brian & Linda Wagner Art & Linda Wallace Marlene Wilkinson Jim & Jacy Worth David & Suzanne Yeo

### **Calendar Of Events**



• Wednesday, August 23 • 7pm

#### **Author, Richard Radune**

Talk about his book,
Sound Rising: Long Island Sound
at the Forefront of America's
Struggle for independence.
Members free,
\$2 non-members.

• Sunday, September 16 • 2pm

#### **Croquet Anyone?**

On the lawn of the Beaumont House. We'll have the equipment & refreshments waiting for you! Event is free.

• Saturday, September 29 • 9am—3pm

52nd Annual Antique Show

on the Lebanon Green

Held rain or shine

\$5 admission

Free parking Refreshments available for purchase all day

#### **Future Events include:**

• Saturday, October 6 • I 2:30pm

Walktober Event

Airline Trail—Walk & Talk

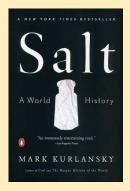
Wednesday, October 107pmHistory Book Club

• Sunday, October 14 • 1:30pm Hussars

Talk by Dr. Robert Selig on the French soldiers in Lebanon

### A Good Read

By Donna Baron



Salt A World History By Mark Kurlansky

Few of us think twice about sprinkling some salt on a baked potato, pulling a pickle from a jar or spreading rock salt on a driveway ice patch. Fortunately, author Mark Kurlansky does not look at the world as most of us would. He decided to take an in depth look at a very ordinary commodity - salt and, as a result, wrote a fascinating version of world history. Salt, it turns out, has been a major factor in international trade, industrial development, political change and even geologic disruption. Few chemicals have affected human lives in so many diverse ways and Mr. Kurlansky explores the topic with detailed research and considerable wit in a book titled Salt, A World History (2002).

His exploration of salt in the ancient world including China, Egypt, Greece and

Continued on page 7 sidebar

#### **Barstow Road**

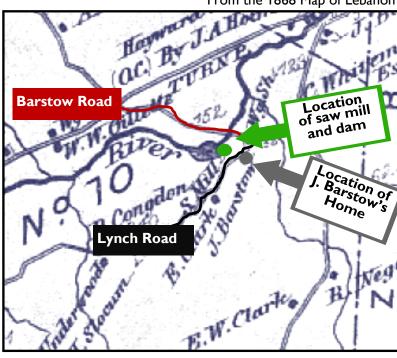
By Rick Kane

Barstow Road is located in the southern section of Lebanon running southerly from Norwich Avenue (previously known as Old Route 2 or the Norwich - Colchester Turnpike in mid 1800s) and merged with Lynch Road. This was prior to the construction of Route 2 in the late 1960 and early 1970s. Prior to the construction of the new highway, a

bridge existed to cross over the "deep brook or Yantic River so called" (from land records in 1841). In one land transaction, it was referred to as Barstow Bridge Road. This bridge can be seen in the 1934 aerial map of Lebanon and the 1957 CT Dept. of Transportation Map (not shown) of Lebanon as well. The new highway bisected Barstow Road and resulted in it becoming a dead end. Barstow was and continues to be a gravel based road.

The road is named after John Barstow who was raised in Bozrah, married Julia Bailey of Bozrah in 1837 and began to purchase land in the area in 1841. The initial transaction included the dwelling house, a saw mill and grist mill. The 1854 and 1868 maps of Lebanon show the Barstow residence to be at the junction of what we know today as Barstow and Lynch roads. Over time, John purchased additional adjacent property from neighbors – Erastus Clark, Lucinda Brown, Erastus Lathrop, and others. In total, there were 12 separate land transactions recorded in which John

From the 1868 Map of Lebanon



was the Grantee (Purchaser).

A close look at the 1854 and 1868 maps of Lebanon show the saw mill was located on the north side of what today is new Route 2, but on the south side of the Yantic River and you can see a 'ponding' of the Yantic River at that location. A site inspection identifies two stone works on either side of the river (Photographs to the right) each of which have a slot in the middle. This was a dam to provide water power to the mill. The grist mill is not identified on the maps but may also have been located near the water power source. This dam's existence is validated by a land record in which a boundary inscription read 'thence downstream of said river to old saw mill dam at corner of Grantor...'.

The boundary in some of the land transactions defined the road boundary at the time as being in the Goshen Society and the highway leading from Goshen Meeting House to the John Barstow Saw Mill. This so called highway today would be what we know as Randall Road. A

Continued on page 7

Continued from previous page

1934 CT Aerial Photograph, Connecticut State Library



Left: 1934 Aerial photograph of Barstow Road. Circle on left shows the previous location of the dam, circle on right shows the bridge built over the Yantic River, which is traced in blue.

Right: Red circle on current Google map, indicates where Barstow Road ends.

look at a current Lebanon map shows a straight line from the current Goshen Hill Church (Goshen Meeting House) south to Old Route 2 and directly opposite is Barstow Road. Another interesting transaction was his purchase of property in Goshen Society called Cedar Swamp; we know it today as Red Cedar Lake.

The land has since passed through many hands, one interesting owner was the Jewish Agriculture and Industrial Aid Society which purchased the land at the turn of the 1900s.

The 1850 and 1860 US Census listed

John Barstow as a farmer, 1870 a wagon man and 1880 once again a farmer. John, born in December 1812, died in September of 1885, age 72. Julia was born in May of 1818 to Joseph and Lydia Huntington Bailey and Julia's grandparents were Daniel and Polly Edgerton Huntington of Norwich historic names in Norwich. Julia died in April of 1900. John and Julia did have one child, William Kelley Barstow born November 1838 and who, unfortunately, passed away in May of 1843 age 4. No

evidence of any additional children. Current photos of the dam abutments on either side of the Yantic River. Note the slots in the center of the abutments.

Continued from page 6 sidebar

Rome is titled "A Discourse on Salt, Cadavers, and Pungent Sauces" in reference to Chinese salt mining technology, mummies and fish sauce. A later section examines salt's role in international fishing fleets and the exploration and settlement of the Americas as well as its importance in warfare. There are also chapters on the geology of salt, the processes used to refine salts, the current interest in "gourmet" salts and the production of salt as a contributory factor in the demise of the British Empire in India. His writing style is engaging and fun, not very much like an over-view world history course, although the book provides a lengthy bibliography and detailed index.

Having widely explored the mineral and its many impacts on human history, Kurlansky concludes by revealing that today only a small proportion of the enormous quantity of salt mined, extracted from natural brine wells or evaporated from sea water is used for food preservation or flavoring. Most modern salt ends up treating snow and ice-covered roads around the world.



### **Memorial Brick**

Honor your family, a loved one or an organization with a granite brick in our memorial walk.



For a \$100 donation we will have a granite brick inscribed with up to 3 lines of text, 13 characters per line, and have it set in our memorial walkway in the front of the museum.

Order form available on our website at www.histoyoflebanon.org



If you previously purchased a brick before we upgraded all bricks to granite, and you would like your original brick, please give us a call and in a short time we will have the brick for you to pick up.

### A Brief History of the Liberty Hill Log Cabin

Continued from page I





Hollow in Franklin and other sites where the lines had run, cut and transported the poles back to Lebanon. These poles were used to build the Log Cabin. A lot of the poles are still part of the Log Cabin today. So originally the Log Cabin was built out of telegraph poles. They opened on New Years Eve 1933 to a full house until about 3 a.m.

Everything went well, with Ben and wife Mae living upstairs, until September 1938 with the arrival of the '38' hurricane, which destroyed much of the building. Ben approached Gottlieb

Above: Liberty Hill Log Cabin showing damage from 1938 hurricane, with upper portion of restaurant and chimney top missing.

Photo taken September 21, 1938.

Left: 1933 photo of the dining room in the Log Cabin.

Laibrant, a well-known carpenter and cabinet maker from Village Hill, to see if he could rebuild the cabin and have it ready to open for New Years Eve. Mr. Laibrant agreed. With young Ben and some local hired help, reconstruction started. The building's roof was raised, and other changes made. Young Ben told me that when he was mixing concrete and handing up stone for the new chimney and Mr. Laibrant was about 2/3 of the way up on scaffolding, he hollered down to Ben "there's a rock down there that is shaped like a heart.

Continued on next page

### A Brief History of the Liberty Hill Log Cabin

Continued from previous page

send it up I'm going to put my heart in this chimney."

Can you spot the heart in the chimney? The Log Cabin opened to a full house for New Year's Eve 1939.

The Log Cabin was a mainstay in the greater Lebanon area for many years as a restaurant hosting many local organizations (Liberty Hill Men's Club, Lebanon Fire Department and many wedding & anniversary receptions and political rallies and meetings) with a 'bring your own bottle' policy. Lebanon had always been considered a dry town.

Helen Laibrant Bender relayed to me that she and Martha Stebner worked Saturday nights as waitresses while they were in high school. All they received for

The heart stone in the chimney that still can be found today.

pay were the tips left by customers after Mae took her share. Helen also told me that Ben and Mae were known for their steak sandwiches (steak, lettuce and tomato on white bread).

A menu from 1952 shows the following list of some of the items with prices:
Open steak and vegetables 75 cents, club sandwich 65 cents, crab meat cocktail 80 cents, shrimp cocktail 80 cents. Coffee was 10 cents. Milk was 10 cents. Lime Rickey 30 cents. Sunday Specials: full course steak dinner \$1.75, ham steak dinner \$1.75, and if you couldn't afford that you could get a chopped sirloin steak dinner for \$1.65. They were open for lunch from 1 p.m. till 10:30 p.m.

Ben and Mae operated the restaurant living upstairs until the 1960s when they built a house behind the Cabin on Tobacco Street and sold the cabin to Anthony and Mary Skorek of Windsor. The Skoreks ran the restaurant for three years and then in 1966, sold it to Steve Cavagnaro and his sister Anne Minicucci

the owners of Cavey's Restaurant in Manchester. Their plan was that many of their customers would travel to Lebanon for a country experience. They researched the town records and found out that there was no law or ordinance actually banning liquor in Lebanon. With this, Lebanon became wet. A dance floor was installed, the menu was updated and patrons could now order alcoholic beverages.

There have been many owners and changes since Ben and Mae opened the Log Cabin in 1933, but now you know how the "Cabin" as it's still referred to by folks like me came to be.



Your Invitation
to our 9th annual
Evening at the
Museum Gala
held on
Saturday, July 21
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.



### The 'Dutch Land Plow'

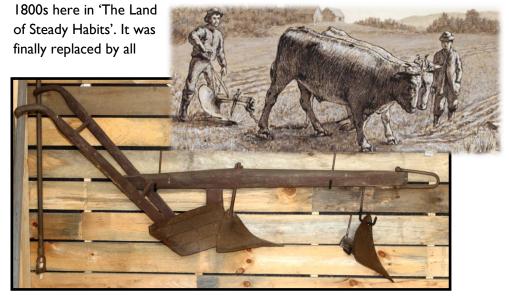
By Brian Bartizek

Upon taking up land in Lebanon, one of the first agricultural tasks for a farm family, would be clearing and plowing for a garden. The first breaking of the soil usually required a large, heavy plow, known as a 'Bull Plow,' because of the roots and rocks. After that, the Dutch Plow, lighter and easier to pull, could be used with a pair of oxen. Both designs probably arrived in England in the 17th century from the Netherlands.

The museum has a good example of the 'Dutch Plow in its newly installed farming exhibit. That plow probably dates from the 18th century, but the design continued in use well into the metal plows such as we have also in the exhibit.

The Dutch Plow has a wrought iron plowshare and sheathing on a wooden moldboard. These metal parts could be repaired by the local blacksmith if they were damaged or worn out.

The history of the museum's plow is only known back to 1969. In that year, the State of Connecticut held an auction of antique items that had been stored at Newgate Prison. The plow was among many items that my parents bought for their antique business, but, thankfully, it remained in storage until last year.



### **Pilgrimage to Lebanon**

Continued from page 4

Council of Defense, Aubrey L. Maddock.

Grainy photographs published with an article in the Hartford Courant show crowds at the War Office and the Trumbull family tomb. A booklet program for the day, also in our collection, reveals that visitors could visit the Governor Trumbull House and the Brick Meeting House or hear additional speeches at the Buckingham



House. There was band and choral music on the Green and a "Basket Lunch" with a visit to the "Barracks Field".

In 1920, Lebanon's population was 1,300. On that single day in 1918, almost five times as many people drove into Lebanon. It's hard to imagine that the town has seen that many visitors in a single day in the 100 years since.

### Our rabidly growing library collection includes:

Lebanon land records on microfilm

\_Exeter Congregational Church records on microfilm

### Early American newspapers on microfilm:

\_ The Windham Herald ( 1791-1795)

\_The Norwich Currier (1796—1820)

Some of the computerized databases include:

#### **Lebanon Births**

Barbour index to vital records
Births, deaths & marriages
(1700-1854)

#### Lebanon Baptisms:

First Congregational Church (1700-1836)

\_ Goshen Congregational Church ( 1729-1882)

#### Lebanon Marriages:

\_Early CT Marriages by Frederick Bailey before 1800 \_First Church (1816-1821 Town records (1852-1884)

#### **Lebanon Deaths:**

Town records (1851-1884)

\_ Hale Cemetery records for Lebanon , Columbia, Hebron \_Old Willimantic cemetery, Windham

First Congregational Church (1872-1840)

#### Census records:

**Federal Census** 1790, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1910

1850 Lebanon Agricultural Census

These are just some of the records in our research library.

Lebanon Historical Society
MUSEUM & VISITORS CENTER
P.O. Box 151 Lebanon, CT 06249

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History Trivia uestion

Who owned the first automobile in Lebanon? See page 3 for the answer.

There 's so much to see and do

on Saturday, June 9 at the

Lebanon Historical Society

It's our Second Saturday in June, a day of

FREE • FAMILY • FUN!

From IOam to 3pm

Ride in a Model T.

Try your hand at corn grinding, wood-turning a pen, building a birdhouse.

Watch blacksmithing, decorative painting,

broom making, spinning & wood carving demonstrations.

**Enjoy** a waffle baked over a fire.







Summer 2018

Lebanon Historical Society