



# Lebanon Provisions

The Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 2 No. 2

Winter  
2010

## Calendar of Events

All our programs are open  
to the public.

**Sat., Feb. 20**  
**10am-12pm**

**"Behind the Scenes"**

**Tour and Focus Group**

Community discussion of  
collections & growth

**Sun., Feb. 21 • 2pm**

**The Restoration**

**of Samuel Huntington's**

**Tomb**

Presentation by David Oat  
Snow date Feb. 28

**Sun., March 7 • 1pm**

**Stew & Pies Dinner**

**for Long-time Members**

*By invitation only*

**Sat., March 13 • 1pm**

**Garden Club Presentation**

Lebanon Garden Club  
presentation co-sponsored  
by the LHS

**Sun., March 21 • 2pm**

**Lutheran Church**

**Fireside Chat**

*Exhibit Opening Wed, March 3*

**Sun., March 28 • 3pm**

**Take Note Concert**

Held at the First  
Congregational Church of  
Lebanon. Donations to benefit  
the Buckingham Library move  
accepted at the door

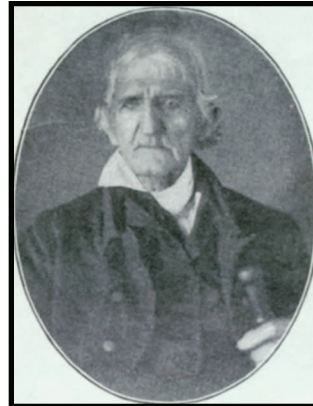
## Elisha Blackman & The Wyoming Massacre

Martha Kendall

By 1772, Elisha Blackman was settled into the Wyoming Valley. He had by then sold the last of his Lebanon property; he must finally have determined that it would be safe to remove his entire family from Lebanon to the Valley in Pennsylvania.

After all, the Pennsylvanians had been (finally) beaten back, and the settlers from the Susquehanna Company were at last making their Pennsylvania territory a community. The terrors of the French and Indian War were subsiding; there were hundreds of Connecticut settlers in the Valley, at last claiming it as their own.

A series of forts along the Susquehanna River afforded the settlers a degree of protection, as they kept nervous eyes to the north, along the upper reaches of the river, where there dwelt, peacefully for now, the Indians of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy--the Onandaga, Oneida, Seneca, Tuscarora, the Mohawks and the Cayuga. It would not do to forget the power of the Confederacy--for over a hundred years the Confederacy had conquered and subdued all of the Indian tribes of today's states of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and parts of Ohio, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and upward into Canada.



*Elisha Blackman Jr  
(1760-1845) From a portrait  
taken later in life*

The Tuscarora came into the Confederacy from the Carolinas. In some writings, the Confederacy is compared to the Roman Empire, such was their influence and their system of governance. No, it would not do to forget that power.

Elisha Blackman was a deep rooted and fairly well connected Lebanon-ite.

He was born here in 1727; his father was also Elisha, and his mother was

Susannah Higley, sister of

Hannah, who became the wife of Joseph Trumbull, the parents of the future Governor Jonathan Trumbull. Thus Elisha and the future governor were cousins. Elisha owned property in Lebanon; he married here, Lucy (Polley) Smith, a widow. His children were also born here--Lucy, Levina, Elisha, Ichabod and Eleazer.

And so, by 1772, it seemed to Elisha Blackman, and hundreds of others like him, that it would be safe to move his family there. Elisha settled into the Wilkes-Barre district. His son Elisha was now 16, Ichabod was 14 and Eleazer was 9. Two years later, in 1774, the Valley was designated by its new name, Westmoreland, with the 5 townships of Wilkes-Barre, Hanover, Kingston, Plymouth and Pittston, and annexed to Litchfield County by the General Assembly. In 1776 it was made a separate county. By 1776, a tax list of Westmoreland contained 488 names in 9 districts; together with their families they probably counted 2000 or more.

*Continued on page 4*

**The mission  
of the  
Lebanon Historical  
Society**

The mission of the Society is to preserve and to interpret all aspects of the history of Lebanon, Connecticut from its earliest inhabitants to the present day, with a special emphasis on the role of Lebanon in the American Revolution.

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## From the President

Ed Tollmann

*Greetings and My Wish for a Happy Healthy 2010 to you all.*

We ended '09 with some wonderful programs. October 15<sup>th</sup> - How to Research Your Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Immigrant Ancestors was presented by Midge Hurtuk of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Many tips were given on how to locate ancestors. The beginning of November Sara Cross demonstrated Hearth Side Cooking at the Beaumont House. Sara did a great job. I, for one, got a real feeling for what it was like to prepare meals when fireplaces were the only means of cooking.



*Ed Tollmann, Katie Lamb and Donna Baron*

Thank you Sara. September 15<sup>th</sup> Brian Bartizek organized our Appraisal Day. 50 folks brought items to be appraised. One couple came all the way from Eastford. It turned out to be a great afternoon with some folks happy when their items were appraised high. It was fun finding out what different items were worth. Thanks Brian for pulling the day together.

The end of November Katie Lamb presented a program on Defining Farming Traditions. Katie started with a short film showing pictures of farming over the years in Lebanon along with interviews with some members of lifelong farming families. This was followed by a panel discussion. Katie did the project as part of her qualifications for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Congratulations to Katie for a job well done. Our Open House, the evening of the Christmas Tree Lighting, was well attended. Donna and I stopped counting at 250. A lot of new faces. Everyone was delighted with the train display. We greeted a lot of new faces and familiar faces as well. A lot of positive comments were heard about the Fire Department exhibit and the train display. The museum looked great. Thank you to our Staff and all who helped out. The year was rounded out by our annual Christmas Party. Plenty of food and great friends made for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship.

We've had a great year. A lot of important policies and long overdue projects have been completed. Our Annual Appeal has been in full swing and everyone so far has been very generous. As I am sure you all know, all nonprofits are suffering from reduced income from dedicated funds. My goal is to end our fiscal year in May with a balanced budget. If you haven't sent in a donation yet, whatever you can send our way will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to the Staff and the Board of Trustees for their dedication to LHS. Without this dedication we certainly would have not accomplished all the things that we did in 2009.



*Bert Bosse & Ed Tollmann flank Harold Greenberg in the LVFD Exhibit. Harold is a charter member of the LVFD.*

## Director's Message

Donna Baron

Just a year ago, I started working at the Lebanon Historical Society and what a year it has been! I made so many new friends, folks I feel as though I've known for ages – friendships I hope will last a lifetime. Together we have accomplished so much and made lots of short and long-term plans. 2009 was a great year and 2010 promises to be even better.

With the Board, staff, and volunteers working together, LHS is putting the community first in programming and services. The 2009 membership drive resulted in 53 new memberships, and new memberships keep slowly rolling in. Members are both the heart and the backbone of this organization and we look forward to welcoming even more members this year.

Our program calendar has been very full this past year with a variety of different program types. Board member Sara Cross offered a demonstration of hearth cooking at the Beaumont House, high-schooler Katie Lamb present her own movie and a panel discussion about Lebanon farms, and guest speakers discussed Connecticut's 18<sup>th</sup> century economy and researching immigrant ancestors. In the coming months we look forward to hands-on workshops for adults and children, talks by notable local experts, and more Fireside Chats. Please join us.

You can find an up-to-date schedule of programs on our web site [www.historyofLebanon.org](http://www.historyofLebanon.org). Our new web site was funded by a generous donor who recognized that having an attractive and useful web site is critical to our continued success. Staff and volunteers are still working to complete the last section "Exhibits & Collections," so visit often to see what has been added.

One exciting result of the new web site has been the increased numbers of research and genealogy inquiries. In recent months we have heard from growing numbers of people around the country who are seeking our help in tracing their Lebanon ancestors. Genealogical services help raise money for the Society, though some folks choose to become members and thus gain the membership research benefits. Remember to take advantage of this to come in and do your own research.

This year we have offered several new exhibits. The St. Francis Church exhibit and the holiday "Magic of Toy Trains" were especially popular. Lots of visitors stopped by to see the volunteer fire department exhibit. This was a favorite during the 2009 tree lighting open house. This year LHS will join the Jonathan Trumbull 300<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary celebrations with a new exhibit about Trumbull as a merchant. We also are planning a series of exhibits for the multi-purpose room. Please let us know if you would like to help plan or install exhibits.

The museum shop, too, has changed over the last year. We have added new products including some hand-crafted wares. We are also trying to better publicize the shop. A simple sign out front announcing shop hours encouraged a number of people to stop in. If you have ideas about how to further improve the shop or know a craftsman who would like to work with us, please let us know.

Museum staff are looking forward to 2010 and welcoming many of the Historical Society members to programs, events, and exhibits. Please take advantage of all that the Lebanon Historical Society has to offer.

### ☞ Welcome to Our Newest Members ☞

#### ☞ Patron

Robin & Kathryn Chesmer

#### ☞ Individual

Duane Marie Chowanec

#### ☞ Family

David & Sheryl Postemski

Albert & Melissa Wilder

#### ☞ Senior

Gerald S. Davis

Edith Carney Ferrigno

Send us your recipes

## For our Heritage Cookbook

We are in the process of collecting recipes that have become traditions in local families.

Each recipe will include a family photo and a story about the original cook or family traditions or reminiscence about how the recipe was prepared or served.

Contact us & we'll get an entry form to you.

### History Trivia Answer:

Silver Lane

### Contact Us:

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

**860-642-6579**

[museum@historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)  
[www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)

### Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.  
12pm to 4pm

### Library & Research Center

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



## The Back Story

Martha Kendall

In 1772, Elisha was 45 years old; he must have been all too familiar with the troubled history of the Wyoming Valley. Over 100 years before, in 1662, King Charles II granted a charter to the Connecticut colony for a large land tract between the 41st and 42nd parallel, including the area of the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania. However, in 1681 the king, in his generosity and ignorance of the physical attributes of the American colonies, granted to the Pennsylvania colony some of the same area; never mind that the area was already inhabited by natives, the American Indian. Furthermore, the Pennsylvania grant encroached on New York lands. But nothing happened for nearly 75 years; neither Connecticut nor Pennsylvania made any claims to the Wyoming area.

Eventually, however, the pressures of land ownership began to weigh on Connecticut landowners--they were farmers in a very small state; there were fewer and fewer acres to be divided among the landowners' children. Despite the French and Indian War, traders and explorers went west into the valley, and returned

*Continued on page 5 • sidebar*

## Elisha Blackman & The Wyoming Massacre

*Continued from page 1*

However, peace was still far off. The shots at Lexington and Concord had seemed far away--but now the war was not. For the Westmorelanders, fears of Indian raids again grew; they strengthened their forts and built new ones. In August of that year, Zebulon Butler appealed to the Council of Safety for militia to be formed to protect the settlement. He wrote that a settler had lately been attacked by Indians; they had heard that the British officers Johnson and Butler had offered bounties for scalps. The Six Nations had declared their neutrality early in the English conflict, but the British were demanding their continued allegiance from the war against the French. In the end the Six Nations could not agree among themselves to stay neutral, and during the course of the war, the 4 tribes of the Onandaga, Seneca, Mohawk and Cayuga supported the British, while the Tuscarora and the Oneida provided support for the Americans.

The Westmoreland militia was raised, under Lt. Colonel Zebulon Butler, two companies commanded by Captains Robert Durkee and Samuel Ransom. All the while the Westmorelanders trained during the fall of 1776, Washington led one disastrous campaign after another in New York--Harlem Heights, then White Plains, then retreated into New Jersey. Troops were needed; Westmoreland was called upon, and in January of 1777, the two companies marched away from the Valley. Accounts vary, but in general

agree that the Valley was left with few able-bodied men, mostly the very old and the very young. However, later, that year, Elisha Blackman was appointed an ensign in the 2nd Alarm List Company in the 24th Regiment at Westmoreland, an at-home company.

The two companies which marched away saw hard service for the Revolutionary War, joining Washington's forces in winter quarters at Valley Forge, under the command of Colonel John Durkee, a Connecticut

settler in the Valley, and a veteran of Bunker Hill and other battles. They participated in battles at Brandywine and Germantown. About this same time, British Major John Butler (who was not related to Zebulon Butler) began forming his Loyalist Rangers to serve with the Indians, with whom he had continued good relations, keeping them favorable to the British cause. Following the defeat of General Burgoyne at Saratoga, Butler determined that the Wyoming settlements had to be destroyed. They supplied men and provisions for the Americans; eliminating them would open the way to the destruction of other

settlements to their east and south; it might provide a means of diverting a portion of the American troops to defend it. More important, the Susquehanna was part of Butler's planned route from Niagara to meet with a British southern army. Major Butler was born a New London, Connecticut man, but was entirely loyal to Britain. By early June, Butler had traveled as far as Tioga Point, near the New York border, and began preparing for his assault on the Valley.

This article will be continued in the Spring issue of *Lebanon Provisions*

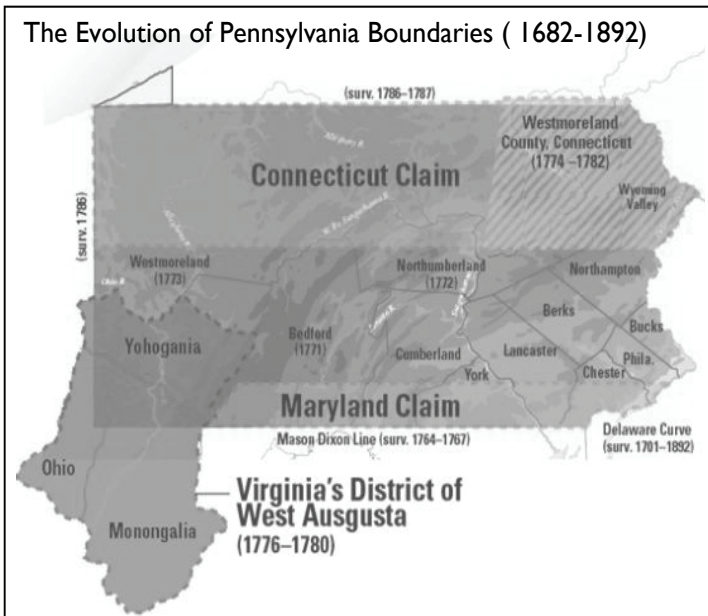


*Not-To-Way "The Thinker"  
a southern Iroquois chief.*

## The Susquehannah Company

Martha Kendall

The Wyoming Valley became the promised land for some Connecticut residents; after all, the king had granted its areas to the colony in 1662. In 1753 a group of about 100 from mostly Eastern Connecticut appealed to the Connecticut General Assembly to purchase land from the Indians some 16 miles square, on both sides of



the Susquehanna River. Some months later, the 100 were joined by 150 more, including such well known names as Eliphalet Dyer and Jedediah Elderkin of Windham (their portraits hang in the Jillson House in Willimantic), William Williams of Lebanon, Roger Wolcott, son of the governor, and formed themselves into the Susquehannah Company, intending to settle the Wyoming Valley.

In 1755, The Company purchased land in the Valley from several sachems and chiefs of the Iroquois Nation, despite the objections of Pennsylvania.

The Company believed themselves ready to go--but found themselves in the midst of two violent conflicts--that of the Delaware Indians and their leader Teedyuscung, and the French now making a last claim for English territory. Pennsylvania became a battleground for French, English and Indians of many tribes. Elisha Blackman served several terms from Lebanon during the war, along with other Connecticut men, including Lt. Colonel Zebulon Butler, a Company director, Robert Durkee and John Durkee, who would later be called upon to defend their Wyoming settlements, and their lives.

As the Delawares lost more and more land to settlers and land speculators, they began a series of raids against whites. Their resentment went back as far as 1737, and the "walking purchase," by which they lost some 1200 square miles of prized acres in eastern Pennsylvania, around the town of Easton, to the sons of William Penn. For several years Teedyuscung conducted raids against settlers in eastern Pennsylvania, until the government appealed to the Iroquois Confederacy to control him. The Confederacy didn't support Teedyuscung, ordering the Delawares away from the Delaware River and into the Wyoming Valley.

In 1762, then again in 1763, the Company had sent settlers, only to have them driven out by Indians and the Pennsylvanians; several settlers lost their lives. Finally in 1763, Teedyuscung died, and the Susquehannah Company offered free land in the valley to the first forty settlers. In 1769, the 40 arrived in the Valley--only to find that the Pennsylvanians had already occupied their settlement. This time, the Connecticut Yankees would have none of it, and with Zebulon Butler leading them, they forced the Pennsylvanians out of the area. Connecticut settlers began streaming into the Valley. They built a new fort, called the Forty, after the first settlers.

### The Back Story, continued

*Continued from page 4 • sidebar*

singing its praises--its fertile soil for farming, its smaller rivers and creeks feeding into the great Susquehanna, all surrounded by its wooded hills filled with game for hunting. It was also a hunting ground for the tribes of the Six Nations.

What was the Wyoming Valley? The eastern states have three of the country's great rivers --the Hudson, the Delaware, and the Susquehanna with its north and west branches. Although Connecticut has its own river, it was largely settled years earlier. A look at a Pennsylvania map shows the Susquehanna, snaking south from New York into Pennsylvania where it makes a great bend, flows southward, then bends quickly again north, forms an arc, then bends again south into Pennsylvania, to form the Wyoming Valley, 20 or so miles long and 3 or 4 miles across--prime farmland on either side of the river. "Wyoming" is believed to be derived from the Indian term "Meehayomy," meaning large plains. Its largest city today is Wilkes-Barre. The city sits some 60 miles from Easton and the Delaware River bordering New Jersey.



Missionaries, Mr. & Mrs. Gulek

## A Good Read

### Abigail Adams

by Woody Holton

New discoveries by the author provide fresh insights into this remarkable woman, who was entrepreneur, politician, wife, and mother.

A beautifully written biography.

Available at Jonathan Trumbull Library.

### Missionary Album

Portraits and biographical sketches of the American Protestant Missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands Sesquicentennial Edition published by Hawaiian Mission Children's Society, 1969

A goldmine of information on the 12 companies of missionaries to Hawaii supported by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions from 1819-1863. Check out the list of clothing and household articles that had to be brought out for each person (p. 2). And meant to last three years!

Available to read in LHSM library (non-circulating).

# Lebanon Missionary Legacy in Hawaii

Alicia Wayland

*This is the first in a series of occasional articles about missionaries whose callings led them from their hometown of Lebanon to service in many different countries world-wide, as well as in home ministries throughout this country.*

On April 16, 1798, a baby girl named Frances Hinckley Thomas was born to Major John and Elizabeth (Hinckley) Thomas in the Goshen section of Lebanon, Connecticut. Although known by her nickname of Fanny to friends and family, she later became famous in the annals of the Congregational missions in the

Hawaiian Islands as "the mother of missionaries."

Young Fanny was orphaned by the time she was 12 years old and spent several years living with an aunt in Goshen. With the aid of a small inheritance, she then attended Westfield Academy in Massachusetts and embarked on a teaching career in Middletown, New York.

Here she underwent a conversion experience after attending revival meetings led by Charles C. Finney, the most famous of the revivalists. Shortly thereafter, in the summer of 1827, she met Peter Johnson Gulick, a Princeton graduate from New Jersey, who had studied for the ministry but decided to become a missionary.

Peter was urged to find a wife and fortunately found a helpmate in Fanny, who became his bride on Sept. 5, 1827. A month later Peter was ordained and the next month the two set sail from Boston on the third missionary vessel to the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM).

The ABCFM Sandwich Islands Mission began in 1819. It was very successful because Hawaii's chiefs welcomed the aid of the missionaries in providing Western schools and job skills to counteract exploitation by whalers and traders.

The Gulicks arrived at Honolulu March 30, 1828, after being at sea for 148 days. Their first station was on the island of Kauai where Fanny opened up the island's first school. Peter taught the men farming skills and Fanny also taught women how to sew and make hats. After 15 years, they were reassigned to Koloa from 1835-1843 and then to Kaluaaha from 1843-1846 where Peter was superintendent of Molokai schools. Their final assignment was at Waialua, 1846-1857.

In 1857 the Gulicks retired to live in Honolulu where Peter served as a trustee of Punahou School, which was founded for the children of missionaries so they would not have to be sent back to the States for an education. Most of Fanny and Peter's children attended this school.

Peter and Fanny Gulick had eight children. Six sons became ordained missionaries and a daughter also was involved in missionary work. Luther, who earned an M.D., was stationed in Micronesia, Hawaii, Spain and Japan. Orramel served in the Hawaiian Islands and then in Japan. John was a missionary scientist in China and Japan. (Their fourth child Charles died young.) William served in Spain. Theodore was a missionary dentist in Hawaii, Siberia, and Japan. Thomas joined William in Spain, then his assignments included Cuba, Nevada as a home missionary, and Hawaii. Many of their grandchildren also became missionaries.

In failing health, Peter and Fanny moved to Kobe, Japan, in 1874 where their son Orramel was an ABCFM missionary. Their only daughter, Julia Gulick, moved with them to care for them. Peter died in 1877 and Fanny in 1883. Julia became an ABCFM missionary in central and southern Japan.

Although the majority of Peter and Fanny's grandchildren did not become missionaries, several additional generations added to the legacy of the missionary Gulicks. The Gulick name (pronounced Gyew-lick, not Goo-lick) is renowned in Congregational missionary history with an estimated 32 Gulicks serving as ABCFM missionaries for a total of 756 years, according to ABCFM executive vice president Fred Goodsell, who estimated their service in 1957.

Thus did Fanny Thomas of Lebanon become the "mother of missionaries."



# LHS Featured Volunteer Brian Bartizek

Jacy Worth and Gisele Russo

Brian Bartizek, Collections Chairperson, is our featured volunteer. He was born in Texas while his Father, a native of Lebanon, was in the military. His Mother was also from Lebanon. His family eventually returned to the area, purchasing a small farm on Bush Hill Road in 1950. Brian met Cora, his wife of 40 years, while she was up from Texas visiting an uncle. Brian has a BA in Chemistry from UConn and was sent to the Army Cold Regions Lab in Hanover, New Hampshire, after being drafted. The focus of his work there was the behavior of solid propellants at extreme low temperatures. Upon discharge he and Cora moved to Austin, Texas, where he worked as a Chemist in the State Health Lab.

Brian and Cora moved back to this area in the 1970s, and he held a position with the DEP for 17 years, troubleshooting instrumentation which analyzes ambient air samplings. They had the opportunity to purchase a two-story colonial farm house, built in 1774, on speculation. Brian's uncle sold him the home, which was known as the Browning house. In 1977 Brian, Cora and Brian's father disassembled the house and with the help of a crane, moved it to two acres on his family's property in South Windham. They still live there today and have filled the rooms with an eclectic array of antiques purchased over many years.

When asked about the origins of his interest in history and antiques, Brian attributes it to his surroundings as a youth. His parents shared a similar interest in items of a former time. Living in New Hampshire sparked his interest in New England's rich history and furniture representing early America, which is his specialty. Brian has his own library of reference books of this period and also admits to gaining knowledge through trial and error. After leaving the DEP, he became involved with the business of dealing in

antiques and owned shops with several friends in Mystic and Stonington. He continues to work in the field on a smaller scale, buying pieces at auctions and selling to those interested, and appraising on occasion. Brian has also done restoration work. He advises those who are interested in antiquing to find a niche and gain knowledge through experience.

He became involved with the Lebanon Historical Society in the 1970s attending meetings along with his parents. Brian began helping out with the antiques show during that time, assisting with the kitchen duties, and currently plays a pivotal role in soliciting dealers and coordinating the layout of the show. He has served on the Board of Trustees as Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and for many years he's been diligent in maintaining and repairing the structures owned by the Lebanon Historical Society. Brian is now the Collections Chairperson, a role in which his knowledge and expertise are invaluable. He has a reputation of always lending a hand where he is needed. Brian is most proud of acquiring for the LHS collection, the Beaumont purse, a very rare beaded article, signed and dated in 1830, and the Newcomb Chest, built by local craftsman, Peter Newcomb, in the 18th century. The Newcomb Chest is currently on display at the museum.

When Brian has free time he enjoys driving his restored 1934 Ford to car shows and in car cruises. He also takes pleasure in fishing for stripers off the coast of Massachusetts with friends. We thank him for the many years he has devoted to the Lebanon Historical Society.



Brian Bartizek

## Exhibit News

Next in our Lebanon church series

### Lebanon's

### Lutheran Church

### Community

Display opens Wed., March 3

A fireside chat is planned  
for Sunday, March 21 at 2pm

The Lebanon Volunteer Fire  
Department Exhibit  
has closed but many pieces are  
on permanent display at the  
Fire Safety Complex

### Jonathan Trumbull:

### A Merchant

### Struggling for Success

Exhibit opens Wed., March 31

April reception  
to be announced

Another  
Successful Tree Lighting  
Thanks to our  
wonderful volunteers!



What street in East Hartford is named for the fact that a French army paid its troops there during their 1781 encampment? Look inside for the answer.

History Trivia Question:

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1



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**Provisions**  
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please contact us  
860-642-6579

If you are interested in  
sponsoring  
the next issue of

**Sponsorship reminder**

Lebanon Historical Society  
Museum & Visitor Center  
P.O. Box 151  
Lebanon, CT 06249



# Take Note

## Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 28  
3PM

**At the First Congregational Church of Lebanon**  
**Reception to Follow**

This concert is sponsored by the Lebanon Historical Society  
and is to benefit the moving of the Buckingham Library

Donations to the Lebanon Historical Society will be gratefully received at the door



Programs, exhibitions & services of the Lebanon Historical Society are made possible in part by a generous grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council.