



## Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

**Sunday, February 9**

**2pm- 3:30pm**

**Make a Valentine**

Children of all ages are invited to create and decorate paper valentines.

Refreshments served.

\$2 materials fee for everyone

Members free, non-members \$2



**Sunday, March 9**

**2pm**

**From Hula Hoops to High Fashion: G. Fox in the 1950's**

A fascinating program presented by the Connecticut Historical Society on Connecticut's

premier and beloved shopping destination.

Refreshments served.

Members free, non-members \$2



**Saturday, March 22**

**1pm**

**Eggs and Chicks**

*Which came first, the chicken or the egg?*

A fun program where kids of all ages can meet a real chicken, learn the art and history of raising and showing chickens.

Make a craft. \$1 per person, children under 5 free.

Program cosponsored with the Lebanon Regional FFA

**More Events on Pages 4 & 5**

## The True Story of Captain Sluman and Sarah Gray

By Alicia Wayland

On March 22, 1865, while 400 miles off the coast of Guam, the first mate of the whaling ship *James Maury* noted in the log that the captain was taken ill. Two days later he was dead. That untimely death—which left his wife and three children stranded at sea—and the *James Maury's* subsequent capture by the Confederate CSS *Shenandoah* became the stuff of legends—*false ones, that is.*

The captain was Sluman L. Gray of Lebanon, Connecticut, age 51, whose previous voyages as whaling master included stints on the:

*Mercury* 1842-1844,  
*Newburyport* 1844-1847,  
*Jefferson* 1847-1849,  
*Hannibal* 1849-1851,  
*Montreal* 1853-1857.

Gray's career as a whaling master brought him financial success. A captain's share of the cargo was typically 1/12 of the total value of the cargo, and the returns from his vessels show sizeable quantities of whale oil, sperm oil, and whalebone brought to home ports.

After the voyage of the *Hannibal*, Gray purchased 10 acres of land in the Liberty Hill section of Lebanon, Connecticut, moving there from New London with his family. He seems to have taken a break from whaling to live the life of a country gentleman after the *Montreal* returned home in 1857.

Gray bought more land and invested in

mortgages. He also represented Lebanon in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1863.

Then, in May 1864, seven years after his last voyage, Gray signed on as master of the *James Maury* out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Accompanying him was his wife, Sarah Frisbie Gray, and their three children: Kate, 16; Sluman Junior, 10, and Nellie, 2. Only Nellie had never been to sea.

Married in 1838 at age 19, former Pennsylvanian Sarah was a pioneer whaling wife, among the first of an unusual group of women who defied



Victorian convention and joined their husbands on long and dangerous voyages to the whaling grounds. Only captains were allowed to bring their wives and families with them. Sarah accompanied her husband on every voyage except for that of the *Mercury*. She was the mother of eight children, three of whom she gave birth to while aboard whaling ships in foreign waters. Sadly, five of the eight

Continued on page 8

**The mission of the  
Lebanon Historical  
Society**

*To encourage a sense  
of community, the  
Lebanon Historical  
Society connects  
residents and visitors  
with the people, places,  
objects and stories  
of the Town's past.*

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## From the President

### Glenn Pianka

My fellow Americans.....and fellow members, as President I am elated to report that the condition of the Lebanon Historical Society Museum and Visitors Center is good. We will not rest on our laurels for there is still much to be accomplished. That is the State of Our Union.

Although the bleak and cold days of winter did not deter the Beaumont House movers from scheduling the start of the project in late December, due to an unforeseen complication, the progress on moving the house has been interrupted for a short time. Fortunately, Wentworth Construction and Magnan Foundations were able to dig and get the footings poured, however. We were also fortunate to be able to receive 320 yards of the needed 500 or so yards of fill delivered to the site.

I am pleased to hear of a couple of self-initiated projects by members. One involves research concerning how the various town roads got their names and the other is an in-depth study of one of the original cornerstones of our town---the Five Mile Rock. In order to not steal any thunder, that is all that I will mention about those projects other than it warms my heart to know that these types of things occur without assigning an individual or committee to the "task."

Our various committees are gearing up for another busy year. Some great programs are scheduled and development for "Evening At The Museum" is underway. If you missed some of these events, try to make 2014 the year that we see you there. I'll make sure that you get the welcome that you deserve.

Our Annual Appeal is going very well and I thank you for your continued support. Every group that I know of grapples with "sustainability." For 2014, some very tough analysis will be taking place as we review our budget. We have been operating with a deficit budget for quite some time and this is now of paramount importance. Our very experienced Board of Trustees will do our best to address the future ----even though we are in the history business.

*Happy New Year !!!!*

Tree Lighting Open House Dec 2013



# Director's Message

**Donna Baron**

Cold weather and time indoors has brought family photos to mind recently, the sort of photos that are in a box in the attic or tucked into a drawer somewhere. Do you have this sort of accumulation? Most families take pictures of people and the setting is just part of the background. Years later that background – a particular car, the new addition to a house, or a tree fallen down or fully grown – can help date an image or provide context for why it was taken.

As the Historical Society works on research projects, staff and volunteers often wonder if there are photographs stored in Lebanon homes that would reveal new and useful information. Almost as soon as I started working here, I heard about basketball games being played upstairs at the Grange (now the Green Store) in a hall that was also used for meetings, graduations and dances. I also heard that there are no photographs of such events, but I wonder if that's true.

Now, volunteers are trying to document how the Pastor's Library was used and what the inside looked like during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. "It's too bad," someone said, "that no one took any pictures." Did no one take pictures or does no one remember doing so?

In today's world with every cell phone serving as a camera, it is hard to recall a time when taking a photo was an event. Kodak introduced the Brownie camera in 1900, but until after the First World War, few families had their own cameras. Photos were carefully posed with action stopped and every face visible. Brownie cameras were affordable and easy to use, a real change from earlier days when photography required considerable training and was a hobby only for the well-to-do.

The golden age of amateur family photography began in the 1950s with the Bakelite-cased Brownie 127 and later Brownie Cresta. My family photos of children waiting for the bus on the first day of school and Girl Scout bridge ceremonies were taken with cameras like these. I suspect that many families have such photos and that some of these images document Lebanon as it was 50 or 60 years ago.

If you have family photos, especially of upstairs at the Grange or inside the Pastor's Library, we would love to see them and to hear your stories. We might ask to briefly borrow them to scan for the Museum archives. Your memories can become part of Lebanon's memories.

History of  
Christmas  
program  
& Carol Sing  
Dec. 2013



Spray making Dec. 2013



## WELCOME

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

~ Family~

**Bob & Lorraine Paris**  
of Lebanon

~ Senior~

**Boyd Geer**  
of Dodgeville, WI  
**Linda Haynes Hardy**  
of Denton, TX  
**Marion Beausoleil**  
of Lebanon

## History Trivia Answer:

**The three oldest  
cemeteries in Lebanon  
are:**

**The Trumbull Cemetery  
The Exeter Cemetery  
and the Goshen  
Cemetery**

The Hale Headstone  
Records, compiled in 1934,  
list the Trumbull  
Cemetery as having  
720 engraved headstones.  
Seven are field stones  
and three headstones  
which were illegible  
at that time.

720 is more than any of  
the other old cemeteries  
in Lebanon.

Exeter Cemetery has 633  
names and 6 field stones and  
Goshen Cemetery has 439  
names with 8 field stones  
and 1 that is unreadable.

## Contact Us:

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

**860-642-6579**

**museum@**  
**historyoflebanon.org**  
**www.**

**historyoflebanon.org**

## Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.  
12pm to 4pm

**Library & Research  
Center** by appointment.



## Calendar Of Events

All programs are open to the public

**Sunday, April 6**  
2pm

### **Civil War Images – Prints and Photographs by CT Artists and Photographers**

The Lebanon Historical Society and the Connecticut Historical Society present a colorful program illustrating the drama and glory of the war-time experience.

Refreshments served  
Members free,  
non-members \$2

**Sunday, April 27**  
2pm

### **May Day Tea**

Back by popular demand...  
a ladies tea for kids  
and their adults.

Tea, treats and craft  
a May Day basket

For girls ages 7 and above.  
Must be accompanied  
by an adult.

\$6 materials fee  
per basket for everyone

**Sunday, May 4**  
4pm

### **Lebanon Historical Society ANNUAL MEETING**

This year we are trying  
something new.

**Please join us!**

**4pm** LHS Business meeting

**5pm** Program

Robert Wyss presenter  
"The History of Brimfield"

**6pm** Refreshments

**Saturday, June 14**  
10am - 3pm

### **Second Saturday Family Fun Day**

Craft demonstrations, antique  
car rides and much more.  
refreshments sold

## Lebanon and the Life & Times of William Noyes

By Rick Kane

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, New Englanders (including Lebanon residents) were prolific writers. The letters and diaries of soldiers and civilians provided many of the stories underlying the new Lebanon Historical Society exhibit *"Always a Pleasure to Hear from Home."* William Noyes, whose many diary volumes are at the Connecticut Historical Society, provided innumerable details about life in Lebanon during the 1860s.

William Champlain Noyes was born on March 22, 1813 in Westerly, Rhode Island, the son of Barker Noyes and Margaret Champlain. He married Amy Gray on August 25, 1840 with whom he had a daughter Harriet and a son Frank. At the time of the Civil War, they lived on what is now Route 87/Trumbull Highway (it was then known as the Norwich Hartford Turnpike) just south of the Goshen Hill Road intersection, the first house on the left going slightly uphill toward Franklin (big white house today), which he acquired in 1849.

His diaries noted both the normal everyday activities of a Lebanon farming family and, from time to time, the special events and efforts made to support the Union and its army. As a farmer, Noyes was up at dawn and always had something to record: planting, cultivating or harvesting. Each season brought specific work for farmers. He sowed barley, oats and wheat in late April and planted strawberries in early May. He planted his buckwheat and onions

in June. He also sent away to Rochester, NY, for peach trees – he had a peach orchard as well as an apple orchard.

From late June through November, it was the picking season and Noyes made frequent trips into Norwich with his produce. He stored carrots, corn, turnips and beets in the cellar for his family's use. Other tasks ranged from putting up fencing around the newest six-acre cornfield to "coopering Apple barrels," assisting his farmer neighbors butchering hogs and setting the meat up in the smoke house. He also visited the Loomis cider mill and the Hastings cider mill over in Franklin in the fall. On



Pre 1869 photograph Looking North from the Junction of Rt 87 and Goshen Hill Road area. A scene Noyes would have seen daily on his trip into Lebanon Center  
*LHS Collection*

November 14, 1861, Noyes noted that he "hurt his finger and went to visit Dr. Sweet." (See *Fall 2013 Provisions for articles about Dr. Sweet.*)

He and many of his farmer neighbors started a Farmers Club. They met regularly and often visited each other's farms to view the experiments each was

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# Origin of Town Road Names Project:

By Rick Kane and Alicia Wayland



Photograph of Campers at Camp Mooween in 1932

LHS Collection

In the 1920s, a summer camp for boys was constructed on the shores of Red Cedar Lake. The access road at the time was no more than a dirt/gravel road. Eventually, the road became known as Camp Moween Road. The spelling of the road name was officially changed and accepted in a town meeting June 22, 1999 to Camp Mooween Road.

Camp Moween operated from 1921 to 1960 and was a summer camp for boys from New York, Springfield, MA and New Haven. The camp was abandoned in the 1970s. In 1989, it was purchased by the State of Connecticut. The remains of the camp can still be seen. The campers that went there were called "Mooweenites" and they still gather at annual events.

Peter Marteka, writer for the Hartford Courant, recalled in July 27, 2008 in his weekly Nature's Path column:

*Some of my favorite summertime memories revolve around times spent at camp. The campfire songs, the swimming, the ol' rope swing and that stuff they served to you at breakfast called oatmeal. Mooween State Park in Lebanon brings back those summer memories as visitors pass by the abandoned remains of a summer camp — an old fieldstone chimney, the*

*foundations of camp cabins and an old dining hall.*

*A sign welcoming visitors to the park seems to sum up the experience for those who may have missed out on the experience of summer camp. "To thousands of campers, this was a place of magic, care-free summers and balmy days among the cedars," the sign reads. "A place for building character, life-long friendships and sweet memories. ... By visiting these storied grounds, you are living the Mooween dream of returning to endless summer and eternal youth. Your presence here keeps the Mooween spirit alive."*

Even if you don't have any interest in visiting the camp ruins, the state park is filled with evergreen glades and rocky outcroppings to explore, satisfying those looking to escape into the natural world for a little while. The park was changed from Red Cedar Lake State Park to its present designation in 2000 after former campers asked the state Department of Environmental Protection. The DEP purchased the park in 1989.

Park visitors can pursue a variety of

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## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, July 19**  
**5pm to 8pm**  
**An Evening at the Museum**

Wine and beer tastings, silent auction and a light supper held under the stars.  
\$35 per person  
\$60 a couple  
By invitation only.

**Saturday, September 27**  
**9am -3pm**  
**48th Outdoor Annual Antiques Show**  
*held on the Lebanon Green*  
Adults \$5,  
Free Parking  
Refreshments available for purchase all day.



*If you have a suggestion for a program in the future please let us know.*

**For information on our programs, call 860-642-6579**  
**Or visit our website at [www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org)**

### **Palisades**

*On tall Red Cedars  
how your branches cast shadows  
on our campus grounds,  
And through the brilliant rays of sunshine  
We hear the mellow bugle sound.  
We campers gather 'round in council  
To contemplate this wondrous scene,  
And mingle merry hearts and voices,  
In praise of  
Camp Mooween.*

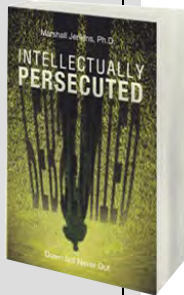
## A Good Read

By Linda Heatherly

### INTELLECTUALLY PERSECUTED Down but Never Out

*Intellectually Persecuted*, by Dr Marshall Jenkins. The first black high school principal in the State of Connecticut was hired in Lebanon.

"Dr Jenkins spent his life as a voice for civil rights in the white-dominated world of education. He fought prejudice in both the North and the South, bringing communities together and securing futures for countless children who would never have been given the chance. *Intellectually Persecuted* is the story of how he refused to succumb to critics and scoffers and overcame the effects of racism while changing the lives of thousands."



## Dr. Marshall Jenkins

By Mary Lou Beckwith

So many of us still remember when Lebanon made history by hiring the first African American administrator in the State of Connecticut! I found reading the book brought back many fond memories of a different time and era in town.

I enjoyed reading about and recalling some of the townspeople he referred to in his book, thinking about the old Lyman High building and grounds, and the exciting time of the building of the "new" Lyman High (presently Lebanon Middle School).

When I entered Lyman, with Mr. Jenkins as Principal, there were 13 teachers and 90 students in attendance. I still have such fond memories of that time: our Principal; the school building; classmates; teachers and the wonderful town we all grew up in!

I asked my sister (Louise Padewski Rheame, now of Massachusetts) of her memories:

"I recall Marshall Jenkins as a dedicated teacher and an effective administrator, always encouraging his students to do their best. He became a teacher, baseball and basketball coach at the original Lyman Memorial High School (where the Town Hall is now) when I was a Sophomore in 1956-57. He taught and served as Principal from 1957 to 1963, becoming the last Principal (1959) as the original High School closed and the first Principal of the new Lyman Memorial Junior-Senior High School when it opened in 1960. (It is now the Middle School.) After I graduated from college in 1963, I returned to the school system, hired by Mr. Jenkins as an English teacher at the Jr.-Sr. high school. He was most helpful as I began my career." *Marshall Jenkins' Principal's Message in my 1960 Lymoria*, (appropriate then, as well as in this day and age): "This year marked the beginning of a new era in education for Lebanon. It also marked, what I felt was, a great awakening in the minds and hearts of students and parents in regard to the great tasks which were and are yet before them. Having begun this school year in a new building, with new facilities, and a broader educational program we are now confronted with the tremendous task of graduating well-adjusted and learned young Americans."

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Dr Jenkins was born in Hartford CT in 1926, graduated high school there, joined the army and served his country from 1944-1946. He yearned for a college education and graduated from Florida A&M University in May of 1950. He met and married his first wife there and landed a job in a Florida high school teaching history. Seven years later he became a teaching principal in a junior high school and encountered many struggles there in the South. Several years later, he resigned and returned to Hartford CT. Back in Connecticut, he was hired to teach social studies at Lyman Memorial High School to students in grades 7-12. At Lyman, he also coached the boys' basketball and baseball teams and earned a Masters degree at UConn. He lived on Trumbull Highway across from the Lebanon Green and then moved with his wife and two daughters to McCall Road.

When the principal resigned, Jenkins was asked to interview for the position and became the first black principal in Connecticut. "Serving LMHS as principal for seven years was a wonderful experience," Jenkins remarked in his book.

One of his first jobs in that position was to oversee the construction of a brand new junior-senior high school, currently the middle school. He acted as clerk of the works and seemed to be "on call" 24 hours a day, working tirelessly for the town of Lebanon.

From a personal perspective (I was in 7th grade one of the years he was principal), I believe Dr Jenkins was very well received in town. He was a hard worker, a strong disciplinarian and an effective educator. However, when the school board decided they no longer wanted to share a superintendent of schools with two other towns and to hire their own, he was interviewed, but denied the position. He stated that he was told "a few townspeople were reluctant to have a Negro as their very first superintendent of schools." Disappointed, and hurt, he moved on to other school systems in the United States, in the North as well as the South. "Intellectually Persecuted" is a very interesting story of a black man's struggles and successes in what he considered to be a white man's world.

By Linda Heatherly





## Do you recognize this house?

### "Views of the Past, 1889" – "home of E. L. Moffitt"

The Moffitt family chose to include their dog in their photograph. The location of their home is given as "Village Hill in Lebanon, Conn." (Connecticut State Library Picture Group 320, Box 16, State Archives)

### Research by Lebanon Historical Society volunteer genealogist Lindy J. Brunkhorst Olewine

The two-story, gable-end to the street house in this photograph is located at 265 Village Hill Road. A man stands in the fence opening with a rifle in his right arm and a hunting dog nearby. A woman in a dark dress and white apron stands in front of the fence.

Research indicates that E. L. Moffitt was probably Edward L. Moffitt who was born September 1860 in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He would have been twenty-nine at the time this picture was taken. The woman may be his wife Nellie E. Card to whom he was married October 27, 1886.

E. L. Moffitt's parents, Jesse and Maria Moffitt moved to Lebanon around 1867 and purchased the farm property in this photograph. A second image taken at the same time shows an older couple in a horse-drawn buggy who may be Jesse and Maria Moffitt. According to land records, Edward Moffitt never owned this property, but lived in his parents' house with his wife and several children. Jesse Moffitt purchased this farm and the "buildings thereon standing" for \$4000 on October 2, 1867 from William H. Noyes. Noyes had acquired the parcel in 1864 from George and Susan Babcock who had purchased it in



1889 Photo of the E.L.Moffitt home located at 265 Village Hill Road  
Courtesy of the Connecticut State Library



1856 from John Foster. When Foster bought the land in 1851 from John Beaumont of Hartford (brother of Dr. William Beaumont), there were buildings on the property, but the date of the farm house has not been determined. Its architecture suggests that it was built between circa 1830 and circa 1850.

In 1916, after Maria Moffitt's death, her estate sold the farm to Louis Kaplan of Lebanon who sold it a year later to Benjamin Fishkopf of New Jersey. Since then the property has been owned by the Kusnetz, Schor, Ausburger, Krause and Flegert families.

E. L. Moffitt (then a night watchman) last appears in Lebanon records in 1914. By 1920, the census shows that he and his family have moved to Hartford.

Town Grantor and Grantee lists are an invaluable source of information when trying to trace a home's history. Begin with the current owner and work backwards.

Time consuming - yes.  
Rewarding - absolutely!

**Expand your knowledge of Lebanon's history by adding some of these books to your own library.**

- *History of Windham County, v. 1*, by Ellen Larned, reprint
- *Dr. William Beaumont*, by Keith R. Widder
- *Lebanon, Three Centuries in a Connecticut Hilltop Town*, by George Milne
- *Lebanon, Images of America Series*, Arcadia Publishing, by Alicia Wayland, Ed Tollmann & Claire Krause
- *Hussars in Lebanon!*, by Robert A. Selig
- *En Avant with our French Allies*, by Robert A. Selig et al
- *Around the Lebanon Green*, by Alicia Wayland, Photographs by Grant Huntington
- *Lebanon Recalled*, by John Sutherland
- *Connecticut Signer: William Williams*, by Bruce P. Stark

**These books and more are available in our gift shop.**

## Tidbits from our Civil War Exhibit

In Lebanon, men received draft notices and reported as required.

Amelia Bentley recorded that a number of men from Village Hill went to Norwich and were sent home for a variety of medical reasons.

Some of the men who were exempted or hired substitutes went on to hold political office and were, apparently, never criticized for avoiding military service.



On March 3, 1863, Congress passed the first federal military conscription act and on July 18, 1863, Governor Buckingham implemented a draft to help fill Connecticut's quota for soldiers.

Of the 11,530 Connecticut men drafted in 1863, about 8,000 were exempted and 2,243 hired substitutes to take their place. State records indicate that only 248 of the drafted men actually served.

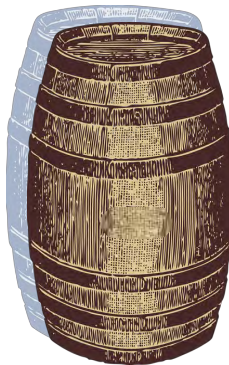
## Sluman & Sarah Gray

Continued from page 1

children died of natural causes before age three. The eighth child, born November 5, 1863, died just six months later, in April 1864. Two months later Sarah went to sea for the fifth time. Maritime historian Joan Druett, in *"She Was a Sister Sailor" The Whaling Journals of Mary Brewster 1845 1851* (Mystic Seaport, 1992), describes the typical captain's living quarters as a stateroom with head (toilet), an after cabin or sitting room, and a forward cabin or dining room that had to be shared with the mates or officers. These three cabins, one of which was shared, were the "extent of the wife's accommodations on the ship." How the three Gray children fit in is simply not known.

Druett, in several published books about women at sea, including *She Went A-Whaling; The Journal of Martha Smith Brewer Brown from Orient, Long Island, New York, Around the World on the Whaling Ship Lucy Inn* (Oysterponds Historical Society, 1993), documents Sarah's voyages through the letters and diaries of other whaling wives who mentioned her,

*the ship's cooper had made a cask and they had put the Captain in it with "spirits."*



and the diary of a cabin boy aboard the *Hannibal*. These brief glimpses indicate that Captain Gray provided lavishly for his wife and children but was also a cruel master who flogged his crew for minor mishaps. On June 1, 1864, the *James Maury*, with the Gray family on board, left New Bedford, bound for the whaling grounds of the Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

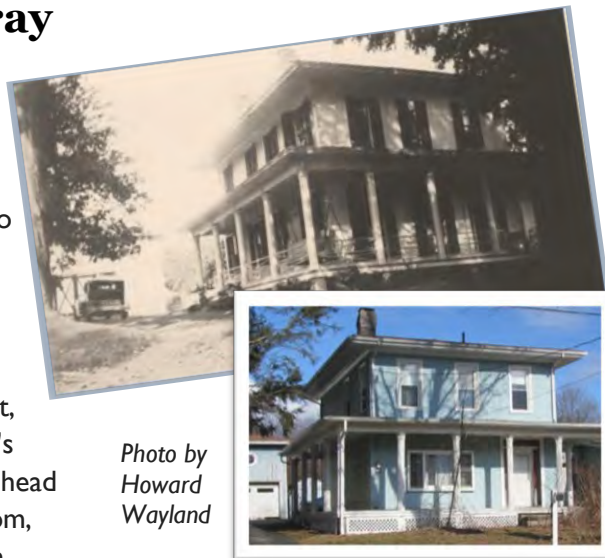


Photo by  
Howard  
Wayland

Sluman L. Gray, a whaling captain from New London, Connecticut, purchased a 10-acre lot in the Liberty Hill section of Lebanon in 1851, where he built this house in the Italianate style fashionable at that time.

However, this was one whaling voyage that Sluman Gray would not complete. On March 24, 1865, the first mate recorded "Captain Gray expired at 2 p.m. after an illness of 2 days." The next day he wrote that the ship's cooper had made a cask and they had put the Captain in it with "spirits."

While the practice was unusual, there are other instances of bodies of men who died overseas being preserved in barrels of rum or whiskey and shipped home for burial. The most famous to be so treated was Admiral Horatio Nelson, mortally wounded at the Battle at Cape Trafalgar in 1805, whose body was placed in a barrel of "refined spirits" for transport back to England.

The *James Maury* headed for Guam so Sarah could find a way back home, but there were no ships in port. She decided to remain aboard the *James Maury* for the summer season. She wrote a letter to a New Bedford whaling newspaper describing what had happened, telling of her husband's death "from an

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## Sluman & Sarah Gray

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inflammation of the bowels.” She left the letter on Guam for pick-up by the next vessel headed for New Bedford where it could be delivered. The letter appeared in the *Whalemens Shipping List and Merchants’ Transcript* on August 8, 1865.

The *James Maury* caught up with the American whaling fleet in the Bering Sea in June. And so, too, did the Confederate raider, the CSS *Shenandoah*, whose captain was under orders to find and destroy the whaling fleet as a blow to Union commerce. Under the command of James I. Waddell, the *Shenandoah* had already captured and destroyed nine U.S. merchant vessels on the rebel ship’s way from England, where it had been secretly purchased by the Confederate Navy in October 1864, to the Pacific. Waddell had heard rumors that the Civil War had ended (which it had, just weeks before) but chose not to believe this without documented proof. From June 22 to June 28, the *Shenandoah* captured 24 unarmed whaling vessels and destroyed all but a few. Those few were ransomed and then loaded with the crewmen who had been taken prisoner. Not one seaman was wounded or killed.

In his memoirs, written two decades after the event, Waddell recalled that when they took the *James Maury*, the ship’s mate reported how upset the widow and her children were and that she had “the

remains of her husband on board preserved in whiskey.” Waddell sent a message to Sarah assuring her that she was under the *Shenandoah*’s protection and that the “men of the South did not make war on women and children.” The *James Maury* was spared because of the presence of the widow Gray, her three children, and the cask containing her husband’s body.

On June 29, the *James Maury* was ransomed and ordered to sail for Honolulu with 222 of the prisoners jammed on board; they were to be released when the vessel reached that destination. Sarah and her children did not arrive home in Lebanon until March 1866. Probate records show she paid to cart the cask with her husband’s remains from New Bedford to Lebanon, where he was buried at last in the Liberty Hill Cemetery.

Sarah and her fatherless children moved to Ellenville, New York, where her two married sisters lived. Her daughter Kate attended a private school in neighboring Rosendale, where she died after a long illness at age 20. She was buried in the Liberty Hill Cemetery next to the graves of her father and five younger siblings.

Thereafter, Sarah lived with another sister and then with her newly married daughter Nellie in Rosendale, New York. Sarah died in 1892 and was buried in the Liberty Hill Cemetery with her husband and six children.

***This article originally appeared in the summer 2013 issue of Connecticut Explored. Used with permission.***



Six of the eight children of Sluman L. Gray and Sarah Frisbie Gray are buried in the Gray family plot in the Liberty Hill Cemetery in Lebanon, Connecticut. The five children who died before the age of three are buried beneath headstones capped with lambs, symbolizing innocence. Their sister Kate, who died at age 20, is buried between the large gravestone marking their parents and the gravestones of her siblings.

## ***Just a little bit more about Sluman Gray***

No diaries, letters, or memoirs written by the Grays have been located, and no photographs of any of the family members have been found. Many pieces of this family’s story have been gathered from federal census, land, and probate records, newspapers, and maritime records.

The true story of Captain Gray’s death at sea was found in the log book of the *James Maury* by Civil War buffs William and Sandra Kotrba, former residents of Lebanon, who were attempting to correct erroneous legends about the Grays in the 1970s.



*Photo by Howard Wayland*

Asher L. Gray was one of five Gray children who died before the age of three.

## ***Looking for your help with the Pastor's Library***

The interpretive planning committee

for the Pastor's Library has been hard at work researching any and all records for information on the Pastor's Library, also known as the Buckingham Library.

Our goal is to compile a detailed and complete history of the library, to furnish it appropriately and present a compelling story.

We would like anyone who has any personal recollections of the library or any photographs of the interior or exterior to contact us. Any information at all would be helpful.

Call 860-642-6579 or email [museum@historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)

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**If you are interested in being on a committee, volunteering for a project or event, please let us know who you are. You can email us at [museum@historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org) or call 860-642-6579**

## **William Noyes**

Continued from page 4

undertaking. The Farmers Club held fairs and displayed their fruits and vegetables each year in mid-September; in one entry he mentions that 200 people attended. In July of 1864, Noyes notes he mowed with the new machine and found it very successful.

During his frequent trips to Norwich with his own produce, Noyes also provided delivery service for others in Lebanon. He carried milk, butter and eggs for Sylvanus Backus of Goshen Hill, which he also delivered to Greenville and Preston before returning to Lebanon later the same day. In one diary entry, he mentions stopping by Senator Foster's home in which he was paid for "last year's bill." His trips to Norwich meant driving a horse-drawn wagon south on



Lincoln's second inauguration

Route 87. A circa 1868 photograph in the Museum collections documents the rutted stony dirt road which must have been difficult to traverse in wet or snowy weather. In addition to conducting business, however, Noyes made the trip to Norwich for entertainment too. On one occasion he visited the circus and noted he had seen a hippopotamus for the first time.

My personal perception of that period was that traveling was somewhat limited, but in reviewing William Noyes' dairies I

discovered that travel was rather common. He traveled locally to visit the "Celebrated Holbrook Spring" several times during these years. My understanding is that Holbrook Spring was in the Liberty Hill section of Lebanon and still exists today, though long since abandoned and hidden in the overgrowth. His family traveled to Newport R.I. for a long weekend. On August 8, 1861, they went to Willimantic to take the cars (these are railroad cars) to Providence, then by steamboat to Newport, arriving around 8:30 PM. While there they went to Fort Adams and then aboard the frigate "USS Constitution," which at the time was laying in the harbor for use at the Naval School.

On February 28, 1865, he and his family traveled to Washington, DC and spent several days touring the city. They visited the Senate chamber on one occasion, the patent office on another, and called on Senator Lafayette S. Foster who was from Franklin. The Noyes family attended Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration at the Capitol and the President's reception at the White House in the evening!

Based on William Noyes' diaries, life in Lebanon was as normal almost as if there were no War, not unlike today. We know we have our forces in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere but we live our lives on a daily basis, carrying on our daily chores and activities.

*Noyes' story with details of his participation in the war effort will be continued in a future edition of this newsletter.*

## Camp Mooween

Continued from page 5

recreational activities any time of year including hiking, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, fishing, boating and seasonal hunting. Parking is available at both ends —Mooween and Scott Hill roads — of the mile-long trail.

To visit the park, take Route 2 east to exit 22. At the end of the ramp, follow Scott Hill Road north and take a left on Norwich Avenue. Take a left on Camp Mooween Road and follow for one mile to the park entrance. There are no fees for the park.

When English settlers first arrived in what became Lebanon, the modern Red Cedar Lake was a white cedar swamp. Members of the Fitch and Mason families built the earliest houses in town around the edges of this Cedar Swamp. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Hayward Rubber Company harvested wood from the swamp to fuel steam boilers at its plants in Colchester and Lebanon. The firm built a dam on the Yantic River to provide water power.

## Dr. Marshall Jenkins

Continued from page 6

*The school looks to the home for continuous help in rounding out these youngsters, because it is in the home that love, respect and values should be taught. Without these important qualities, academic learning means very little.*

*You the class of 1960, the first to be graduated from our new school, should be congratulated for the many contributions you have made during your years at Lyman, both "Old Lyman" and "New Lyman." Your presence here made our job rewarding and enjoyable. I know that the reward of having taught you will become greater as we see you meet the real challenge of life and establish yourselves in positions of note.*

*Whether you enter college, join the working forces, or enlist in military service, I challenge you to do the best you can and to be the best you can. Take that which you have learned here and at home and use it.*

*God's Speed to the Class of 1960."*



August 2000, renaming ceremony for Mooween State Park  
Pictured L to R: Camper, Charles Gilman, Neil Grundman, Keynote speaker, Lt. Governor Jodi Rell, Deputy Commissioner David K. Leff and First Selectman Joyce Okonuk

Around 1870, Joseph Holmes, an engineer working for the rubber company, began buying land in and around the cedar swamp. He began the process of damming and diking water from the swamp to the Yantic River mill pond. Hayward Rubber bought the swamp from Holmes in 1882. Deeds at that time list a dam, a number of "dykes" and the "right to carry water from the reservoir to the Yantic..."

## Exhibit News

**Current Exhibits Include:**

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

**Lebanon and the Civil War**

**"Doctor Beaumont"**

**"Views of the Past"**

**"Toby Jugs"**

**"Postcards from Lebanon"**

**"Turning the Soil: The Land and People of Lebanon"**

**"Explore Revolutionary Lebanon"**

Our hands-on history room for kids of all ages



Our genealogy and research library is open if you have Lebanon ancestors you would like to research. Non-members are charged \$5 a day. Members are free.

While it's best to make an appointment, we are open from 12pm to 4pm Wednesday through Saturday.



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**History Trivia Question:** *Can you name the three oldest cemeteries in Lebanon? Which one has the most headstones? Can you guess how many?*

## *Programs you won't want to miss....*

**Sunday, March 9  
2pm**

***From Hula Hoops  
to High Fashion:  
G. Fox in the 1950s***

The Lebanon Historical Society  
hosts

The Connecticut Historical Society's fascinating  
program about Connecticut's premier and beloved  
shopping destination.

Refreshments served  
Members free, non-members \$2



**Sunday, April 6  
2pm**

**CIVIL WAR IMAGES  
Prints and  
Photographs by  
CT Artists  
and Photographers**

The Lebanon Historical Society hosts  
The Connecticut Historical Society's  
colorful program illustrating the drama and glory  
of the war-time experience.

Refreshments served  
Members free, non-members \$2



## *And we didn't forget the kids....*

**Sunday, February 9 2pm- 3:30pm**

**Make a Valentine** Kids of all ages invited to create and decorate  
paper valentines.

**Saturday, March 22 1pm**

**Eggs and Chicks** Which came first, the chicken or the egg? A fun program where kids  
of all ages can meet a real chicken, learn the art and history of raising and showing chickens.

**Sunday, April 27 2pm**

**May Day Tea** Back by popular demand...a ladies tea for kids and their adults. Tea, treats,  
and make a May Day basket

