



Vol. 11 No. 1

Winter 2018

Provisions

Newsletter for the Lebanon Historical Society

Programs & Events

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

- **Sunday, December 2 •**
6pm to 8pm

Lebanon Tree Lighting & Open House

Enjoy warm mulled cider and ginger cookies by the fire while kids make holiday crafts. View our latest exhibits and take a lantern tour of the Beaumont House and Pastor's Library

- **Wednesday, January 9 •**
7pm

History Book Club

"The Immortal Irishman, The Irish Revolutionary Who Became An American Hero"
By Timothy Egan

- **Sunday, March 10 •**
2 pm

Katharine Hepburn: From Hartford to Hollywood

Presentation about her roots in Connecticut. A Connecticut Historical Society program. \$2 admission non-members, members free

Events continued on Page 4

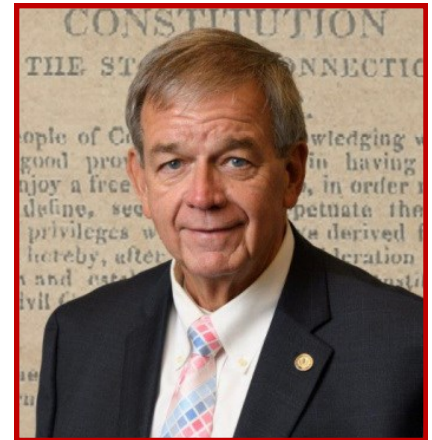
Walt Woodward Presents John Trumbull

By Donna Baron

Some speakers can make any subject interesting and some historians seem able to unearth fascinating details about even ordinary events. Whenever we invite State Historian Walter Woodward to speak in Lebanon, our audience has a great time. Walt is always informative, amusing and engaging. This fall, his presentation about the "Art of John Trumbull" was no exception.

Walt is the fifth person to serve as Connecticut State Historian, a position that was created in the 1930s in preparation for Connecticut's Tercentenary. According to the State Historian's web site, the State Historian is appointed by the trustees of the University of Connecticut and is a faculty member in the UConn Department of History. He or she is also assigned by the legislature to serve on a number of boards and commissions that promote, preserve, and/or research state history. In addition, the Office of the State Historian provides information on historical matters to the media, public, and legislature, and maintains active programs of historical research & public outreach, conducting lectures, programs, and teacher education seminars throughout the state.

Having earned a Ph. D. with Distinction from UConn in 2001, Walt was appointed State Historian in 2004. He is a scholar of Early American and Atlantic World History with special



Walter Woodward

focus on Connecticut and New England. His research interests are wide ranging including witchcraft, alchemy, music in early America and environmental history.

The State Historian's web site recounts that before becoming a historian, Walt had successful careers in both the music and advertising industries. "He was the composer of two hit country songs ("Marty Gray" and "It Could'a Been Me") in the 1970s, as well as music for film and television, for which he won two Emmy Awards and two special achievement awards from SESAC (a performance-rights organization). His advertising creativity won him 8 Clio Awards, and in 1980, he was Cleveland's Advertising Person of the Year.

A resident of Columbia and descendant of Woodwards who helped settle Lebanon in the very early 18th century, Walt has a particular interest in local history. Several years ago, he was

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Page 1

**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

Rick Kane

The 52nd Annual Antique Show was held on Saturday September 29th. As we do each year, we hoped for a sunny day. What we forgot to do this year was hope for no rain the prior week. The historic Lebanon Green was quite soggy, but that did not deter the vendors, nor the avid 'antiquers' and visitors. All in all, it was a success despite the conditions. I do want to acknowledge the committee, the volunteers and the staff for another great event.



The Lebanon Historical Society continues to enhance our campus environment. This fall we decided to solve the erosion problem and our driveway's mucky conditions in winter and spring. We had the entrance and driveway circle paved. This also provided a new handicap parking area, which was lost when we installed the rain garden in the spring.

Other enhancements to the campus buildings may be delayed until spring. The fall rain has created a backup for our contractors. The relocation of the smokehouse and roof for the broom shop may not be completed before the snow flies.

I also want to thank all the volunteers who came out on October 20th to assist with the fall cleanup. Twice a year volunteers descend on the Museum grounds to remove leaves and debris. Hopefully you all will be here again in the spring!

The program committee continues to support our mission with very well attended programs over the past several months and have great programs lined up through the spring months. Please review the upcoming events listed herein. The annual Tree Lighting event will again provide an opportunity to come to the Museum, get warm and enjoy some cookies and mulled cider. The Pastor's Library and Beaumont House will be open

to visitors.

The fall also meant 'Walktober' and this year we hosted several events in Lebanon and welcomed a good number of attendees to these events.

As I do in each issue, I ask all of our members to continue to "spread the word". The Historical Society Museum is a great town asset. The



Museum is open to the public at no charge. While we hope for increased membership to support our many activities, being a member is NOT necessary to enjoy the Museum and all it offers. Our staff and docents enjoy visitors and look forward to discussing the history of the Pastor's Library and the Beaumont family as well as the several exhibits within the Museum.

Director's Message

Donna Baron

October 2018 was a time for the Lebanon Historical Society to celebrate the town's Revolutionary War heritage and its place in two National Park Service entities: The Last Green Valley (TLGV) National Heritage Corridor (designated by Congress in 1994) and the Washington-Rochambeau (W3R) National Historic Trail (designated by Congress in 2009). Unlike national parks, which are usually owned and operated by the federal government, the land in the corridor and along the trail is owned privately or by state or local governments and both depend on the participation of community organizations and individuals.

For more than twenty years, the Lebanon Historical Society has taken part in TLGV's Walktober. Throughout the 35 member towns in Connecticut and Massachusetts, groups plan and lead walks, hikes, bike rides, canoe paddles and all sorts of special events and talks to encourage residents to explore the region. This year, the Historical Society sponsored or co-sponsored four events. With the Lebanon Rails to Trails committee and the Eastern Connecticut Railroad Museum we hosted a talk about and walk along the Airline Trail. Many thanks to Donna Koenig and Ray Axelrod who made these programs possible.

We also blended the Corridor and Trail when Dr. Robert Selig presented a talk about the Count de Dillon, one of the officers in the Duc de Lauzun's Hussars who spent time in Lebanon between November 1780 and June 1781. John Koopman III of Colchester joined the presentation in his re-enacted role as a private in the unit, sharing details about his uniform and kit. Finally, more than 30 walkers joined us to discover which of the buildings around the Green were here during the American Revolution and what structures have been demolished and replaced in the years since.



Walkober: exploring historic homes on the green

Lebanon has a rich past, filled with interesting people and important events. We are also part of a larger heritage community in eastern Connecticut. Annually participating in Walktober is a wonderful way to discover historic and natural resources throughout the region. This year we had participants from as far away as Granby and East Lyme, CT and Webster, MA.

Planning for next year's Walktober will start soon. If you have an idea of a way to explore Lebanon, please contact us at the Historical Society Museum. We welcome suggestions for ways for Lebanon to share its distant and recent past with our neighbors, near and far. We'd really appreciate your help in keeping this tradition going.

Welcome New Members!

Family
Ron Black & Family
of Lebanon

John & Barbara Robinson
of New Jersey

Individual
Dennis Goderre
of Lebanon

Trivia Answer:

According to Ellen Bliss Huntington, Lebanon's first public Christmas was held as the Civil War was beginning in 1861. The tree was set up in the Town Hall. In her diary she wrote, "The hall was beautifully trimmed and the tree heavily laden with fruit."



*Would you be
willing to sponsor
our newsletter?*

Every issue of the
newsletter costs
\$300 to produce
and mail.

Contact Us:

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

860-642-6579

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historyoflebanon.org](mailto:museum@historyoflebanon.org)

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

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Museum Hours:

Wed. thru Sat.
12pm to 4pm

Research Library
by appointment.

Programs & Events

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



- **Sunday, April 7** •
2 pm
Tales of a Yankee Peddler

Presentation by Tom Kelleher historian and curator of mechanical arts at Old Sturbridge Village.

\$2 admission non-members, members free



- **Sunday, May 5** •
4pm — 6pm
53rd Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society
Business meeting begins at 4pm followed by **"Are We There Yet?" Songs of American Transportation**
A light-hearted and music-filled program by **Rick Spencer**
Social hour & refreshments to follow



- **Saturday, June 8** •
10am — 3pm
Second Saturday in June Free - Family - Fun
Antique car rides around the Green and demonstrations by craftsmen of all types.
Held rain or shine.
Hot dogs & burgers sold

A New Way to search our collections

For the first time, guides to some of the historical resources in the Lebanon Historical Society archival collection are now available online at no charge to users. We have added six finding aids to Connecticut Archives Online (<http://library.wcsu.edu/caol/>), a website created and maintained by Western Connecticut State University. Visitors to the Connecticut Archives Online website can search our collections of

Finding Aid Project, a program provided by the Connecticut State Library, on behalf of the State Archives, and Conservation ConneCTion and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Sparks! grant.

Volunteer Abby Miner mastered the art of archival description as she converted our curatorial descriptions into the wording and format required

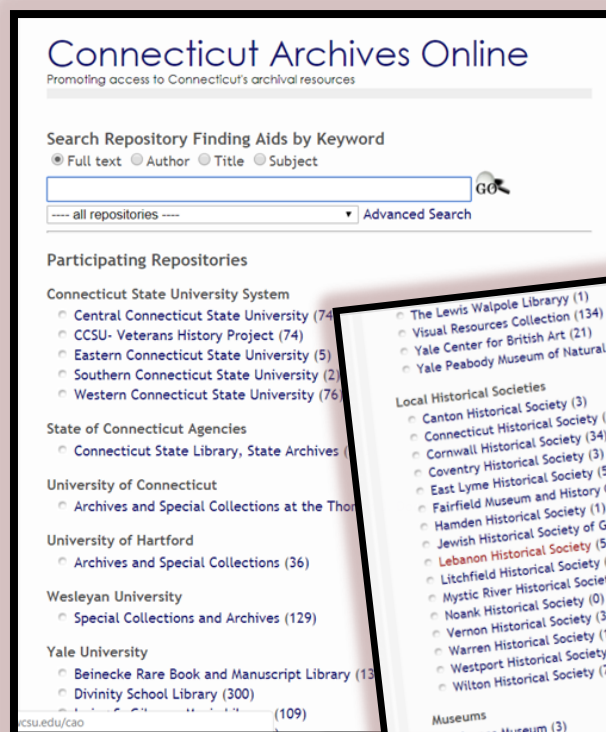
to be part of a large on-line access project.

Participation led to physically re-organizing and rehousing these collections and improving their digital catalog descriptions.

About IMLS:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Their mission has been to inspire libraries and museums to advance

innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. For the past 20 years, the grant making, policy development, and research has helped libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.



account books, 1860s photographs around the Green, the Lebanon Creamery, the Pilgrimage & Camporee, the Community in Action project and the Arlene McCaw collection, as well as browse and search all the rich archival collections held in the libraries, universities, colleges, museums, historical societies and archives in Connecticut. Lebanon Historical Society was one of 25 institutions that participated in the

Donations

Norma Geer Memorial Fund

Robert Baker
Jean-Guy & Eloise Belisle
Larry & Connie Berglund
Rose Briggs
Francoise Carbetta
Barbara Coldwell
Donna Courchaine
Elinor Devlin
Joan Feloney
Betsy Ferling-Hitriz
Richard & Karen Ferling
Darwin & Priscilla Gebbie

General Donations

Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine
Charter Oak Credit Union
Sally Stark Seal

Linda Geer & David Ferling
Gerhardt Insurance Agency
William & Joan Goba
Ronald & Carol Goldstein
Mollie Holman
Helen Malinka
Craig & Mary Randall
Stanley & Deborah Shumbo
Thomas & Sally Tate
The Living Geer Family Trust
Ed Tollmann
Alicia Watson

Genealogy Donations

Tony & Terri Brewster

Brick Fund

James & Kelley Gillespie
Maurice & Lucy Simard

~ To Our Volunteers ~

We also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for sharing their time and talents to make this historical society a wonderful place and source of pride for the whole community.

For all that you do ... thank you!

Board members
Committee members
Providing refreshments for programs
Gardening
Fall & spring clean-up
Running errands
Docenting the Beaumont &
the Pastor's Library
Leading school programs
Finding interesting program presenters
Building & painting exhibit displays
Painting rooms
Welcoming guests
Mulling Cider
Attending Programs
Attending Events
Hanging pictures
Exhibit orientation
Cleaning grills
Spraying weeds

Parking control
Gate keeping
Pie Baking
Sandwich making
Soup Cooking
Cashiering
Set up & Breakdown everything
Coordinating the antique dealers
Grilling the hot dogs & hamburgers
Contacting volunteers
Setting up tents, tables & chairs
Arranging flowers
Decorating tables
Plating appetizers
Scooping Ice Cream
Clean up
Assembling silent auction baskets
Holiday & seasonal decorating
Researching
Engaging visitors
Brainstorming exhibits

Programs & Events



• Sunday, June 23 •

2 pm

**Something Old,
Something New:**

**Connecticut Weddings
Through the Ages**

Learn where our cherished wedding traditions come from.

A Connecticut Historical Society program.

\$2 admission non-members,
members free



• Saturday, July 20 •

5pm–8pm

**“An Evening
at the Museum” gala**

Wine & beer tasting,
appetizers, dinner & dessert

Silent auction

By invitation only.



• Saturday, September 28 •

9am–3pm

**53rd Annual
Antique Show
on the Lebanon Green**

Held rain or shine

\$5 admission

Free parking

Enjoy homemade pies,
chowders & sandwiches. Grilled
burgers & dogs

**Programs in the planning
stages include:**

August

Author's Talk

September

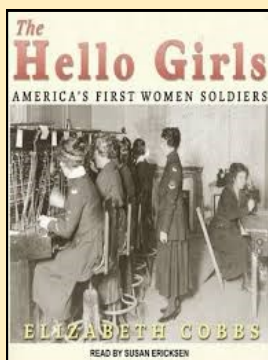
Historical Scavenger Hunt

October

Walktober Walks

A Good Read

By Martha Kendall



Hello Girls; America's First Women Soldiers

By Elizabeth Cobbs

When Merle Egan took the job with Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph in 1917 she only foresaw a great employment opportunity. But, so goes the saying, life gets in the way!

“The Hello Girls” is the story of Merle’s journey, with her telephone operator compatriots, through the United States Signal Corps contributions to World War. It’s a story entwined with women’s lives in wartime, especially women in military services, telecommunications, women suffrage and, last, of rewards promised and denied. The telephone—“the invention that revolutionized warfare and allowed women to prove their fitness as citizen soldiers.”

In 1917, as the U.S. entered into the war, the Corps began building a universal telephone system across France, recruiting women to be the operators of telephones connecting officers with those in the

Continued on page 7 sidebar

Smith Road

By Rick Kane

Smith Road is a dirt road that connects Goshen Hill Road to Exeter Road (Route 207) exiting on Exeter Road approximately across from Barker Road. In a land record from 1942, the property boundary is described as ‘bounded Easterly by the highway leading from Hinckley’s mill to the Barker Farm so called’. Remnants of the Hinckley mill foundation can still be seen at the corner of Goshen Hill Road and Smith Road, which was not identified as Smith Road at that time. A subsequent land record from September 1952 (Vol 68 pg. 36), described the property as ‘bounded Easterly by the



record in town meeting minutes nor selectman meeting minutes to indicate when it became officially so named.

So who was Henry W. Smith? From the US Census records beginning in 1870 through 1900, Henry was identified as a

“black” man living in Lebanon. He was born in Virginia (1870 US Census records) in 1845 and was married to Sarah Peckman Smith also identified as “Black” but born in Connecticut (1870 US Census records). Henry



Remnants of Hinckley’s mill

highway leading from Hinckley’s mill to the Barker farm so called’ but adds ‘commonly known as the Henry W. Smith Road.’ Folks living on the Smith Road today may be hard pressed to identify it as a highway however.

From a historical perspective, the road does not exist on the 1770 map, but does exist on the 1854 and 1868 maps of Lebanon as an unnamed lane. The 1957 CT Department of Transportation map identifies it as Smith Road. I found no

and Sarah had several children. Married in 1867, their first child Georgianna was born January 28, 1868 in Lebanon. There was no marriage record of Henry and Sarah in our Lebanon marriage records.

Given that Henry was born in Virginia and somehow found his way to Lebanon by 1868, it may be possible he was a freed slave. Henry died at St. Joseph’s Hospital Willimantic, CT on Jan 25, 1913 age 67, his death was recorded as, “Male, Black,”

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What a Map Can Tell Us

By Donna Baron

The 1772 map by Windham County surveyor Nathaniel Webb has long been a familiar resource of historians studying Revolutionary War era

Lebanon. For historians, the fact that this map includes the surname and often first initial of the head of household, provides a useful path into knowing who lived in town.

Recently, Museum staff discovered that many years ago, Alicia Wayland had donated a microfilm of papers in the Jonathan Trumbull collections at the state library which includes Nathaniel Webb's surveyor's notebook.

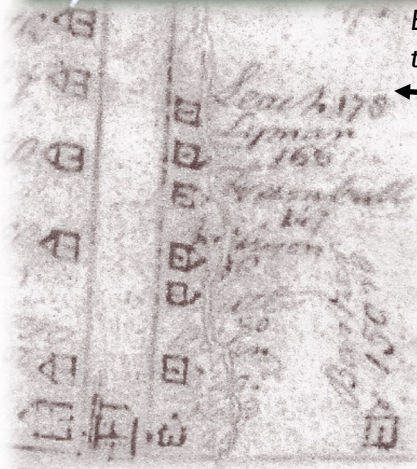
It is not clear how Governor Trumbull obtained the notebook, but as Webb walked and measured along Lebanon's roads, he included details (such as full first names) and often wrote more clearly than on the final map. Using the map and notebook together it is now possible to learn more about the families who lived in some of these houses.

For example number 730 Trumbull Highway (on the east side of the Lebanon Green) is labelled "Leach" on the map. The notebook confirmed that this very ordinary mid to late 18th century house belonged to Joseph Leach (1741-1809).



Above: Section from Webb's notes

Left: Current photo of the Leach house



Below: Section of the Webb map of the First Society surveyed in 1772.

← Leach appears at top

As the only original Revolutionary War period story-and-a-half "Cape" style house remaining on the Green, this building has much to tell us about how ordinary middle-class farming families lived. This little building is a

stark contrast to familiar two-story mansions of the period like the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House, William Williams House or even the Wetmore House (West Green Farm).

According to Joseph Leach's wife Bethia Lyman Leach's 1808 gravestone, she was the consort of Captain Joseph Leech who served as a sergeant in captain Hyde's independent company in 1776. He marched 150 miles with the company to New York City where he apparently served as the company clerk. He also served as a lieutenant of another independent company from Lebanon in the 12th Regiment of the Connecticut Militia.

Hello Girls

Continued from page 6 sidebar

field of battle, for orders and supplies. Though the Corps was military, it worked hand in hand with AT&T civilians; the AT&T recruits were civilians put into army uniforms and followed military orders, at the insistence of the army.

When Merle and her operators sailed for France, 230 of them, they faced many of the same perils as their male counterparts, including the flu epidemic that killed thousands of soldiers. They lived through the last days of the battles, witnessing and listening in on the horrific battle of Meuse-Argonne. (In France, the 100 anniversary of the battle was celebrated in September.) And yet, at war's end, the Army denied discharges to the women, claiming they were civilian contractors, denying them military benefits and recognitions.

At home, another battle was being fought, for the right of women to vote, a battle entangled with racism and states rights. Opposition in the Senate held suffrage on hold until 1920. Even then, the Army refused to treat the operators as soldiers and issue discharges to them.

"The Hello Girls" brings these important issues together for a story that Merle and 30 other women operators stayed with for over 40 years, through the administrations of 12 presidents. "The Hello Girls" is available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library.

Mariner's Corner

Excerpt from an 1977 oral history interview of Albert Pearce by William Jahoda

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



Mariner's Corner
circa 1750
1 West Town Street

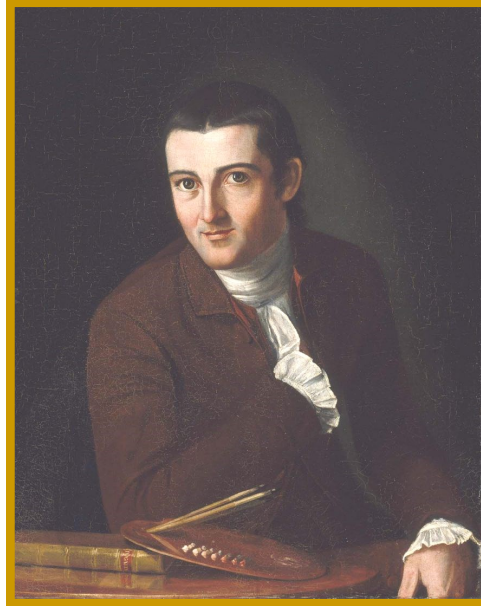
In 1902, Eugene Lyman moved his broom-making business to this property which was owned by his brother Thomas Lyman.

Eugene Lyman's broom shop was donated to the Historical Society and is located on the grounds.

Walt Woodward presents

Continued from page 1

able to purchase his grandfather's farm which had been in the family for generations. Having spent summers in Columbia as a boy, Walt delights in



Self Portrait by John Trumbull

carrying-on this legacy and participates actively with the Columbia and Lebanon historical societies.

In early November, Walt shared with us his research about one of Lebanon's more famous sons, painter, architect and promoter of the importance of the American Revolution, John Trumbull.

Trumbull's paintings of the people and events associated with American independence are how most modern citizens envision the revolutionary era.

The youngest of Governor Jonathan and Faith Trumbull, the artist had a difficult childhood. Woodward

learned that, as a baby, Trumbull suffered from repeated seizures which were eventually diagnosed as being caused by improperly over-lapping plates in his skull. Years of careful massage by his mother eventually resolved the problem, but he remained a quiet studious boy. As his interest in "limning" grew, he faced increased resistance from his father who wanted his youngest son to study for the ministry or to become a lawyer.

With stories and a clever interactive slide presentation, Walt shared an empathetic story of a young man who was sure of what he wanted to do with his life and had to resist family pressure to do something more "worthwhile." The Governor believed that "limning" was a trade unworthy of his son's social position and abilities. Walt's talk featured Trumbull's short stay at Harvard College (he matriculated in a year and a half) while also studying with painter Gilbert Stuart. The frustrated artist then served in the American Army military at Boston and as aide to General George Washington and, later, General Horatio Gates. Eventually,

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Battle of Bunker Hill by John Trumbull

To Catch a Thief in Lebanon—a Burglary in 1861

News in recent months of burglaries and attempted burglaries in Lebanon and near-by towns, brought to mind the following series of articles which Tom Beardsley found in 2004 while reading early issues of the "Willimantic Journal."

Jul 19, 1861: In Lebanon village, Saturday night, the house of Mr. W. Seger was entered by burglars, and several dollars and a watch taken therefrom. The daring of these rascals shows them to be desperate, as they entered the bedroom of Mr. S., while he was asleep, where they obtained their spoil.

Jul 26, 1861: Arrest of a Burglar. An individual, by the name of Oliver W. Tucker, who for the last two or three weeks has been breaking into houses in our village and vicinity, was arrested in the Town of Salem, New London Co., Thursday night, the 18th inst., by Officer Thresher of this village, after a vigilant search through the country for twenty four hours. It seems he has been convicted of the same offense before, and some of our citizens having seen him in the village about the time the burglaries were committed, informed Mr. Thresher, when he immediately started in pursuit of him. The house where he was arrested, is represented as a nest of thieves and robbers of both sexes of the most desperate character, and the officer knowing this, on his arrival at the house, took precaution not to let his business be known until he had reinforcements sufficient to take him at all hazards. When Mr. Thresher first went to the house he inquired of two women who came to the door, if they knew of anyone who would like to go out haying; they replied that the men folks (Tucker and a nephew) were absent in Norwich, but

would be home that evening and would be glad of the chance, and with an assurance that they would certainly return that evening, he informed them he would call



again. He did so, but in the mean time he arranged some six or seven men at a proper distance to watch the house, and to surround it on Tucker's return, which they did, when Mr. Thresher wrapped at the door and requested admittance. He

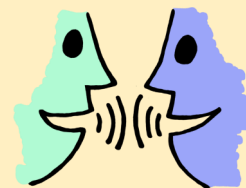
was asked who was there: he replied "an officer," and if they did not open the door very soon he would kick it down; whereupon one of the men called for his gun, but Mr. Thresher being resolute in his demands the door was opened and the outlaw captured.

There is no doubt but that he entered the house of Mr. Seger in Lebanon, from the fact that Mr. Seger's watch was found in Norwich where Tucker had left it as security for carriage hire, and we understand he has confessed to the burglary in part. He is not ensconced in Norwich jail to await his trial at the next session of the Superior Court. There is every reason to believe that he committed the burglaries in Willimantic, but sufficient proof could not be brought to indite him; but probably at his trial there will be circumstantial evidence which will convict him of all. To give our readers something of an idea of Tucker and his worthy relatives, we learn that an elder brother shot an officer when in the act of arresting him and committed suicide directly afterwards; the nephew, which accompanied Tucker to Norwich, has served out a term of years in Wethersfield, and has also graced Brooklyn jail with his presence; and the two women of the household, some time ago were jailed for hen stealing. A precious gang, indeed.

Reading & talking about history for the fun of it!

Join us for the **Lebanon Historical Society history book club.**

We invite you to join us as we select books and share our thoughts and reactions in open and engaging conversation. Refreshments served.



Our next **History Book Club** will be held at

7pm on Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Our next book will be **"Immortal Irishman The Irish Revolutionary Who Became An American Hero"** by Timothy Egan

Everyone is welcome. *Even if you haven't finished the book, you are welcome to join us!*

This books are available at the Jonathan Trumbull Library

From our Collection

Asher Pratt Smith and his son Asher Llewelyn Smith owned Redwood and its surrounding farmland for much of the 19th and early 20th century. They were renowned for their orchards, especially peaches and apples. Fresh fruit was sold locally and shipped by train from North Franklin to east coast cities.

Several years ago, the Museum was given a collection of daguerreotypes and tin types of Smith family members. This year our collection of Smith related materials grew with the donation of a marked stoneware bottle and small marked pantry box. The bottle was probably used for hard cider which was sold locally. The lack of staining inside the box suggests that it was unused. A box this size might have been packaging for berries to be sold in Lebanon.



Walt Woodward presents

Continued from page 8

despite the war, he decided to move to Europe where Benjamin Franklin provided an introduction to British/American painter Benjamin West in London. British authorities allowed this son of a rebellious Connecticut governor to study in England until the spy John Andre was captured and executed in New York. Trumbull

was then arrested and imprisoned for seven months in retaliation.

Having returned to Connecticut in 1782, by 1784 Trumbull was eager to return to London for further study with West. While there, the Lebanon native conceived an idea to honor the men and events of the Revolution in a way that would establish his own reputation as a painter. He decided to create a series of historical views. At West's studio, Trumbull painted the *Battle of Bunker Hill* and the *Surrender of Lord Cornwallis*. With support from Thomas Jefferson, Trumbull began his *Declaration of Independence* by taking small scale portraits of the signers, a five year process.

After Washington was burned by the



Surrender of Lord Cornwallis by John Trumbull

British during the War of 1812, Congress purchased four of Trumbull's nine historical paintings of the American Revolution to hang in the restored Rotunda of the United State Capital. According to Woodward, however, Trumbull was continually short of funds and found little market for his individual paintings.

In 1831, he sold a collection of 28 paintings and 60 miniature portraits to Yale University for a \$1000 annuity. During his later years, Trumbull's painting skill declined as his eyesight failed. Following his death at 87 in 1843, he and his wife were interred beneath the Art Gallery at Yale, which he had designed.

Through the presentation, Walt

described John Trumbull as a creative man forced to resist his family's disdain for his chosen career. His effort to honor the participants in the founding of the United States, historically important, rarely provided him with the living he desired. John Trumbull was, perhaps, the best known and least understood member of Lebanon's Trumbull family.



Declaration of Independence by John Trumbull

Smith Road

Continued from page 6

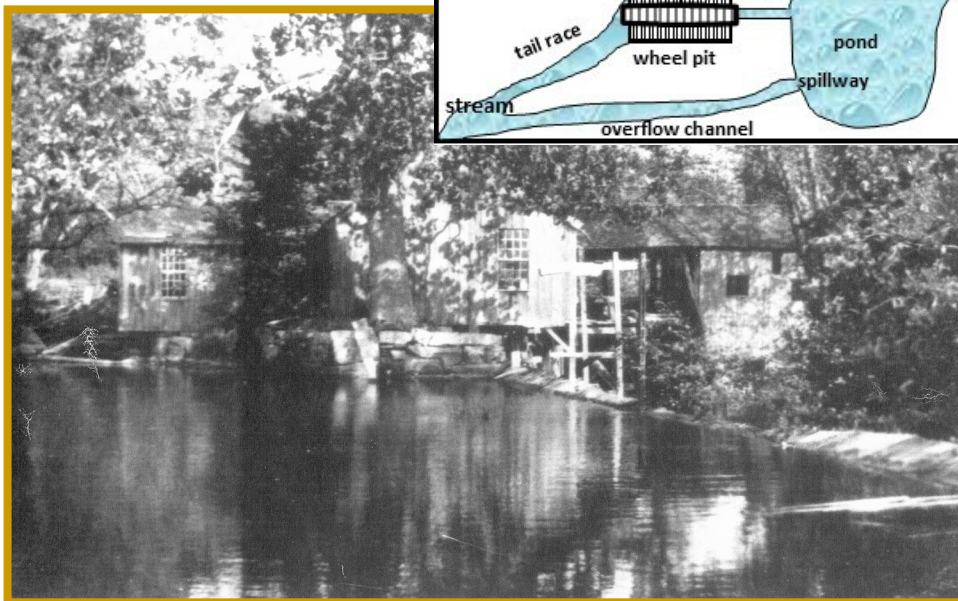
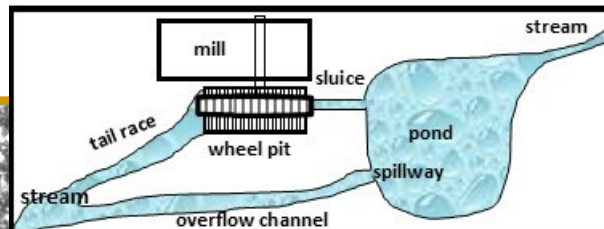
Married, occupation Labor, born May 23, 1845 in King George Co., VA son of James Walker Smith (b: not known) and Betsey Mathew (b: not known) cause of death Intestinal Obstruction, buried Lebanon, Conn / WVR Year of 1913 page 15, removal from Windham buried Jan 27, 1913 Centre, Lebanon by E. A. Caples, Sexton / Burials 1875 to Present page 19 (source – Lebanon Historical Society Genealogist Lindy Brunkhorst-Olewine). Sarah Peckham Smith was born in Connecticut but not much was known about her.

The Lebanon land records show that Henry purchased 50 acres from William Gay for \$1,000. on what is now known as Smith Road on December 17, 1880 (Vol. 38 pg. 563) The 1880 US Census recorded prior to the land purchase indicated that Henry was a farm laborer. The 1900 US Census indicates simply farmer. Henry must have been a hard worker and a diligent saver to move up from being a farm hand to owning his own 50 acre farm. The 50 acre

parcel was located on the westerly side of the highway leading from Hinckley's mill to the Barker farm (route 207). Henry sold the farm to William Robinson in December of 1903, (Vol. 42 pg. 440). In 1910, he and his remaining family were living in Willimantic. The land changed hands several times and was eventually sold as two separate tracts – one 25 acre tract and one 24 acre tract as identified in Land records and remain as such to this day.

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

Inset: Logistics of a mill site



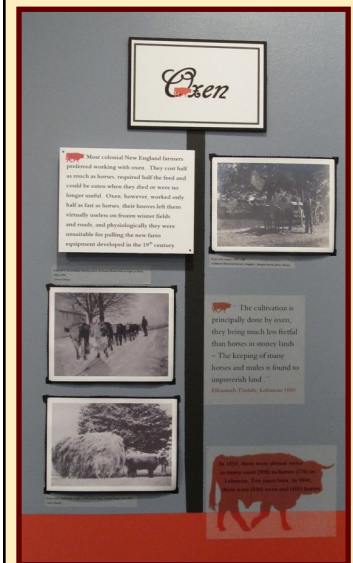
Undated photo of Hinckley's mill

A bit about Oxen ...no bull

From our newest exhibit

From Here
to There

Transportation in Lebanon



Most colonial New England farmers preferred working with oxen. They cost half as much as horses, required half the feed and could be eaten when they died or were no longer useful. Oxen, however, worked only half as fast as horses, their hooves left them virtually useless on frozen winter fields and roads, and physiologically they were unsuitable for pulling the new farm equipment developed in the 19th century.

In 1850, there were almost twice as many oxen (508) as horses (276) in Lebanon.

Ten years later, in 1860, there were (590) oxen and (405) horses.

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 **Provisions**

History
Trivia
Question: {

When did Lebanon have its first Christmas tree?
See page 3 for the answer. }



Join us for the annual Tree Lighting
and our Museum Open House
on Sunday, December 2
between 6pm and 8pm



*Lantern Tours of the Beaumont House & Pastor's Library
Holiday crafts for kids ~ Ginger snaps and mulled cider*

On your visit
you can enjoy our display
WWI Toy Soldiers



Many thanks
to the generous lenders
for sharing their
interesting collection
with all of our visitors.