



Vol. 12 No. 1

Winter 2019

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 1 • Holiday Spray-making Workshop

Choose from 4 sessions
1:00 pm, 1:30 pm,
2:00 pm, 2:30 pm

Make a spray for your door, mailbox or a centerpiece. Materials fee \$5 per spray. Non-members pay an additional \$3 to attend. Pre-registration required.

• Sunday, December 8 • 6 pm to 8 pm 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 visit the Beaumont House & Pastor's Library by lantern light.

Events continued on page 4

Lebanon's Masonic Lodge

By Donna Baron

In 1798, twenty-four members of the Wooster Lodge #10 of Masons in Colchester petitioned the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to form a new Lodge in Lebanon for the convenience of Brothers who lived in Windham and Lebanon. The petition was approved

on November 7,

1798, and the

Eastern Star

Lodge #44

was formally

installed at a

public service in

Lebanon's First

Congregational

Church Meeting

House on

November 21.

Following an

address by

the Reverend

Brother Tyler,

officers were installed and Lebanon's

Masonic Lodge began its very

brief history.

The second Lodge meeting was held

on January 28, 1799, at the home of

Brother Elijah Mason, the group's

treasurer. Surviving records indicate

that as the meeting ended, it was

adjourned to the house of Brother

Dennison Wattles for the next Lodge

night. Salmon Champion, Joseph

Metcalf and E. Tisdale were named as

a committee to "agree with Dennison

Wattles for the use of his chamber."

Since Joseph Metcalf owned the house

where Wattles lived, agreement was

undoubtedly not difficult to obtain.

The house, a sizable center-chimney Colonial, was located just off the road from Goshen to Bozrahville. It faced a lane that later led to the industrial village of Coreyville, and is today called Santa Ana Road. An 1890 centennial history of the Masons in Connecticut refers to



Illustration of Old Masonic Lodge Room of Eastern Star Lodge, No. 44

Joseph Metcalf's house as the "Santa Ana House," because of this location.

Metcalf, a charter member of the Eastern Star Lodge #44, fitted out a large second-floor room for the Lodge. The centennial history describes walls painted with "curious birds of extremely variegated plumage." There were also scriptural scenes and painted draperies. A large wooden over-mantel panel included images of Masonic officers' jewels within a pair of pillars, the "all-seeing eye," the square and compasses, a drawn sword and other recognizably Masonic iconography.

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**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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Donna Baron

From the President

Rick Kane

The 53rd Annual Antique Show was held on Saturday, September 28. It was a perfect weather day, with 60 vendors and good attendance. I want to thank the committee, the volunteers and the staff for another great event.

We also held a volunteer appreciation potluck supper on October 6. The Society is an organization heavily dependent upon volunteers, and we have been very fortunate to have many (we can always use more!) willing and able volunteers throughout the year. We wished to thank all of our volunteers, and couldn't think of a better way to do so than to invite them to a potluck supper, where they do the cooking! It was a well-attended and enjoyable event—a great opportunity to thank all of our wonderful volunteers.

The Lebanon Historical Society continues to enhance our campus environment. This fall, the Pastor's Library was scraped and painted; volunteers scraped, primed and painted the Broom Shop building; and the smokehouse was disassembled, stone by stone, and rebuilt in its new location behind the Beaumont House.

I also want to thank all the volunteers who came out on November 9 to assist with the fall cleanup. Twice a year volunteers descend on the Museum grounds to maintain the area, keeping it free of leaves and debris. Hopefully you will all join us again in the spring! A special thanks to Phil and Pam Handfield who started the week prior with the front yard and also contributed mightily to the scraping and painting of the Broom Shop.

The program committee continues to support our mission, with well-attended programs over the past several months, and more great programs lined up throughout the winter months. Please review the list of upcoming events in this issue. The annual Christmas tree lighting event will provide an opportunity to come to the Museum, warm up, and enjoy some cookies and mulled cider. The Pastor's Library and Beaumont House will also be open to visitors.

The fall season also meant Walktober, and this year we had several events in Lebanon, with a good number of attendees. Dan Moore led a group of about 20 on a walking tour through the Exeter Cemetery, and Art Wallace led a group of about 20 on a walking tour of Camp Mooween. *If anyone has specific ideas or areas of interest for future tours around Lebanon, please let us know.*

Over the next several months, we will be conducting our Annual Appeal campaign. As mentioned in previous issues of *Provisions*, the *sustainability* of the Historical Society is more important now than ever. Your help is needed to keep the Society—*your* society—financially healthy.

Keeping this incredible Town asset going is particularly important given the recent court decisions on the ownership and preservation of the Lebanon Green. On October 10, following the court decision to award quiet title to the Town for the "Northern Green," the selectmen signed documents providing for the Town's ownership of West Town Street and the remainder of the Green, north of the flagpole to the intersection of Beaumont Highway and Trumbull Highway. The court also ruled for the Lebanon Historical Society to *hold the conservation and preservation restrictions in perpetuity on this portion of the Green*, as it did on the *Town Hall and Library parcels*, which were awarded earlier this year. I also want the Society members and the Town residents to understand that the Lebanon Historical Society was the recommended choice of the Town and attendees at a focus group to be the holder of these restrictions.

The Society has been approached many times over the past several years to acquire the Town-owned Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Museum. This historic home was once

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Director's Message

Donna Baron

In 2019, our volunteer docents, Dana Kesler and John Knudsen, on Saturdays and Dan Moore on weekdays welcomed at least 71 visitors to the Pastor's Library and/or the Beaumont House. During the same period (with the help of volunteer teachers, Tony Tyler, Beth Iacampo, John Knudsen, Suzanne Yeo, Edna Pelto, Kathy Schultz and Donna Koenig), the Historical Society presented programs for 444 school children in grades 3, 5, 7 and 8. These outreach programs would not have been possible without our wonderful volunteer docents and teachers.

As our visitation slowly grows, the Historical Society could certainly use just a few more people to help with these programs. The old saying *many hands make light work* certainly applies here. Becoming a teacher or docent is very easy. There's some background information to read before shadowing one of the experienced volunteers several times. Visitors and students are very friendly and easy to please. They are also very good at asking questions, so striking up a conversation is never hard.

If you enjoy meeting people, are interested in learning a bit more about Lebanon's history and can offer a bit of volunteer time between early May and late October, perhaps you'd like to join a docent or a teacher group.

If museum teaching or docenting is not a good fit for you, you could always help us behind the scenes. Each spring before the first students arrive, the Pastor's Library and Beaumont House need to be dusted and vacuumed, and once or twice each summer, there are cobwebs to be swept out of both buildings. This kind of work keeps our programs running smoothly.

We can also use volunteer crossing guards to help school groups move safely across Trumbull Highway on their way to and from the Governor Trumbull House and War Office.

Each volunteer contributes significantly to the quality of our public outreach. Please consider joining in!



Individual Senior Membership:

Neil Bourgoin of Lebanon
Charles Foster of New Jersey
Basil Spedaliere of Lebanon
Donald B. Sylvain of Maryland
Joan Thorp of Noank
Dorée Voychick of Florida

Family Membership: Greg & Maggie Meahl of Massachusetts

Thank you to the following donors who have recently contributed to our general fund

Charter Oak Federal
Credit Union
George & Elaine Clark
Boyd Geer
Charles Foster

Phil & Pamela Handfield
John & Krys Konow
Gregg & Linda Lafontaine
Jim & Geri McCaw
Blyse Soby

Trivia Answer:

According to Henry Aspinall, this was originally the top or movable grindstone at Captain Josiah Bartlett's grist mill on the west side of Bartlett Brook.

Henry started his bus tour with the story of this millstone in 1980, but by 1985, the stone was gone, replaced with a Trumbull family obelisk.

Would you be willing to sponsor our newsletter? Full or partial contributions appreciated.

Every issue costs \$300 to print and mail.

Contact Us:

The Lebanon Historical Society
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Lebanon, CT 06249

860-642-6579

museum@historyoflebanon.org

www.historyoflebanon.org

facebook.com/historyoflebanon

Museum Hours:
Wed. thru Sat.
12 pm to 4 pm

Research Library
By appointment.

Programs & Events

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



● **Wednesday, January 15** ●

7 pm

History Book Club

*Driving Mr. Albert:
A Trip Across America
with Einstein's Brain*
By Michael Paterniti



● **Sunday, March 8** ●

2 pm

Icons of Women's Suffrage

Bev York presents six icons of the Women's Suffrage Movement and gives insight into their fascinating role through historical facts and their own firsthand written accounts
\$2 admission non-members, members free
Snow date: Sun, March 15



● **Wednesday, March 18** ●

7 pm

History Book Club

*God, War,
and Providence:
The Epic Struggle of Roger
Williams and the Narragansett
Indians Against the Puritans
of New England*
By James A. Warren

*You are welcome to join
our discussions even if you
haven't read the book!*

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From the President

Continued from page 2

owned and occupied by Jonathan Trumbull Jr., a son of Lebanon, and Connecticut's longest-serving governor. The home was purchased by Hugh Trumbull Adams and gifted to the Town. The day-to-day operations have been funded by an endowment established for that purpose by Hugh Trumbull Adams. No taxpayer dollars have ever been used to support the Trumbull Jr. House Museum. The Board of Selectmen, spanning several administrations, approached the Historical Society about this transfer based on the belief that the Town should not be in the museum business. The Historical Society has agreed to the transference of ownership of the property and the endowment. The Town approved the transfer in a special Town meeting held on October 28, 2019.

Again, I ask for your assistance on behalf of the Society. Promote membership to friends, neighbors and family whenever possible. Volunteer whenever you can—whether it's an hour a week, an hour a month, or whenever your time allows—it all helps. There is much to do to help preserve Lebanon's rich history!

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

To all our volunteers: We 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 cleanup
Running errands
Docent for the Beaumont House & 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

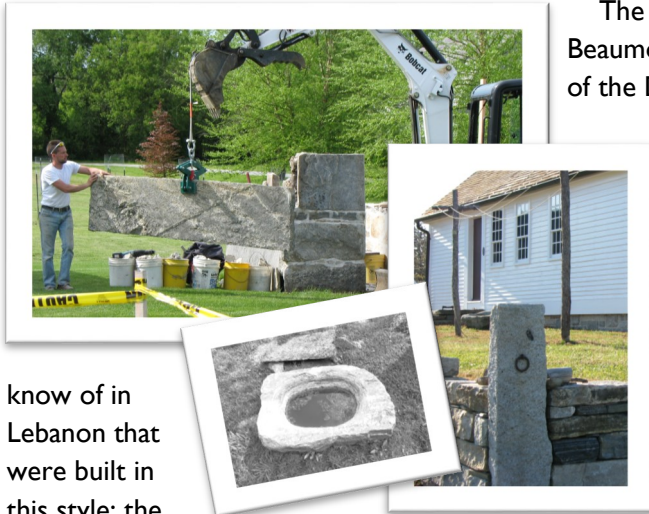
Gate keeping
Pie baking
Sandwich making
Soup cooking
Cashiering
Event setup & breakdown
Coordinating the Antique Show
Grilling the hot dogs & hamburgers
Contacting volunteers
Setting up tents, tables & chairs
Arranging flowers
Decorating tables
Plating appetizers
Scooping ice cream
Event cleanup
Assembling silent auction baskets
Holiday & seasonal decorating
Researching
Engaging visitors
Brainstorming exhibits

Our Stone Collection

By Dan Moore

Our smokehouse, after numerous peregrinations, has finally come to rest at the east end of the retaining wall behind the Beaumont house.

There are three stone buildings that we



know of in Lebanon that were built in this style: the

Palmer Grist Mill at Chestnut Hill (now gone); the Anderson Martin house at the north end of the Lebanon Green; and the smokehouse, originally located just off Clark Road, and now on the museum campus.

They were all built in a block, band and cobble method. Large thin blocks of stone were set, then braced from the inside with cobbles. When the cobbles reached the top of the blocks, they were held in place by a band of stone that spanned both blocks and cobbles. When the mortar dried, the second course was begun.

This method dates from about 1825–1827. This is when the Jillson House on the Willimantic Green was built, using the same method. Other stone buildings from that era survive in the west end of Willimantic. The American Thread Company buildings are constructed slightly differently, and were built about thirty years later.

The Historical Society collections include several other historic stone objects.

Northwest on the front corner of the Beaumont House is the well stone from the District #3 school, which stood on Babcock Hill Road. It now marks and protects a modern well.

The well stone and front walk at the Beaumont House remain as a reminder of the Dr. Sweet House, which stood where the Beaumont House now stands. These stones are in their original locations.

Behind the Beaumont House is a large stone basin that State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni identified as probably not a Native American artifact, but something made in the colonial period. Donor Rod

Dzialo acquired it at a farm on Route 207 many years before giving it to the Historical Society.

The collection includes three stone hitching posts. The one in front of the Museum with the iron ring was donated by Selden Wells in 2001. The one at the front left corner of the Beaumont House had been installed near the house when it was moved to behind the Governor Trumbull House in the 1970s, and originally came from the Hyde Mansion in Norwich, a mid-19th-century Italianate gentleman's farm. The one incorporated into the retaining wall behind the Beaumont House was donated by Glenn Pianka in 2015.

We also have the foundation veneer stones from the 1854 Harlow Robinson House, which were preserved when the house was replaced by the new office at Prides Corner Farms.

Finally, there is a natural stone formation resembling the Lebanon Five Mile corner marking rock, which is next to the Pastor's Library. This stone will be marked with "LVMC" as is cut into the original.

Programs & Events



● **Sunday, March 29** ●
2 pm

History of the Governor Trumbull House

Architectural historian Myron Stachiw reveals discoveries and conclusions about the history of the Governor's House
\$2 admission non-members, members free



● **Monday, April 20** ●
6:30 pm

Connecticut's Historic Gardens

Presentation introducing fifteen historic sites and gardens in Connecticut.
Co-sponsored by the Lebanon Garden Club
Members of the Historical Society and the Garden Club are free
non-members \$2



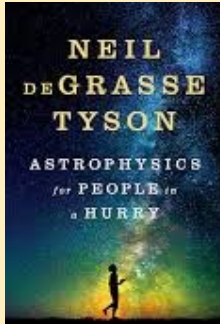
● **Sunday, May 3** ●
4 pm – 6 pm

54th Annual Meeting of the Lebanon Historical Society

Business meeting followed by "Taverns & Tavern Signs"
Program by the Connecticut Historical Society.
Social hour & refreshments to follow.
Program is free and the public is invited.

A Good Read

By Louise P. Rheaume



Astrophysics for People in a Hurry by Neil deGrasse Tyson

The ultimate historical survey, this slim volume takes us on a fascinating trip from the Big Bang (about 14 billion years ago) right up to this moment in universal, galactic history. Witty and full of easily grasped principles, as clearly told by the accomplished scientist, Neil deGrasse Tyson, we encounter vast events that occurred one-trillionth of a second after the Big Bang, along with mind-boggling extrapolations and predictions by such scientific giants as Max Planck and Albert Einstein, which are still being verified today. (Perversely, we may have Adolf Hitler to thank for Einstein's proclivities.

As a Jew, Einstein was prohibited from working in prestigious lab-based settings, and had to settle instead for the "lower" area of theory. Thus, as Tyson says, he "begat" big ideas!

Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium, host of radio and TV shows and lecture series, and the

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Growing Up On Grandma and Grandpa Kollar's Farm

Memories of Bob Chalifoux

Grandma and Grandpa Kollar's farm was the first farm on the left coming from Willimantic, after Bender Road. It sat up on a slight hill and consisted of 200 acres of land. Gunnsett Mountain was connected to my grandpa's land. We spent many hours exploring the mountain and checking out all the nooks and crannies. The farm and the buildings are still part of that scenery.

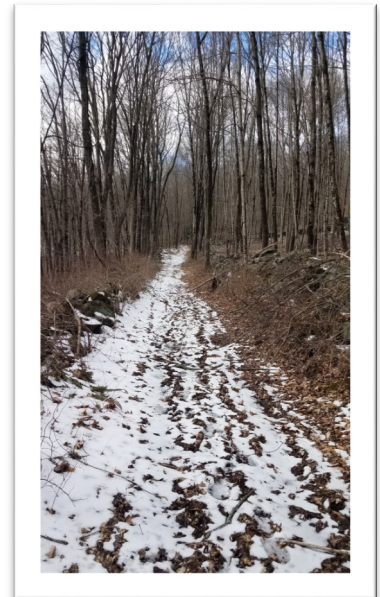
On Route 289, opposite Schalk Road, is an abandoned town dirt road. To my knowledge it never had a name. It is about two miles long and ran from Route 289 to Chappell Road. During our many romps through this wooded area, we discovered and explored the remains of a quarry, grist mill and creamery.

The quarry was in operation in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Stone from the quarry was used to build Route 289, which back then was known as the City Road, or Willimantic Road.

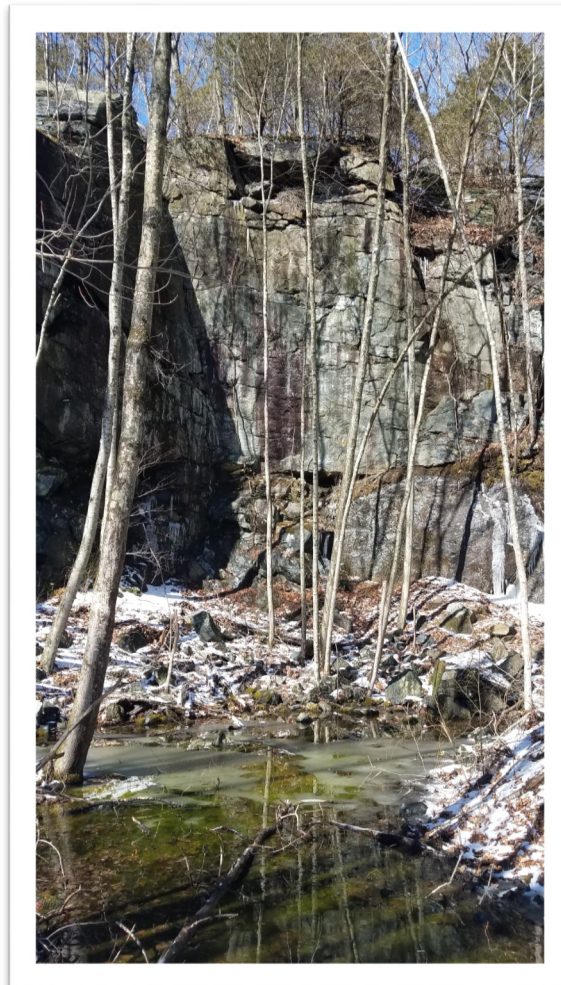
I remember the construction being done, and it was all trap rock. Prior to this, Route 289 was just a small road, similar to other old town roads.

The old quarry, of which a cement portion remains, held the machine that was used to grind stone into tiny rocks [called trap rock]. You can also still find large chunks of coal around the property, probably used for heat, or to run the grinder. One of the memories I have is of a two-inch pipe coming out of the ledge with spring water gushing out. We would always have a drink of this fresh spring water whenever we surveyed the area. The water was still running out of this pipe in the early 1970s when I would take my sons for walks up there. The pipe finally rotted away in the mid-1970s.

The grist mill was about in the middle of the abandoned road. Close by was Gunnsett Pond, which provided water power for the grist mill. The larger stone grinding wheels were there throughout the 1960s, and the stone foundation is still there. Just up from



*View of abandoned Road
opposite the current Schalk Road*



Quarry that provided stone for Route 289

Continued on page 7

n on Route 289

this spot was an old house foundation and an old stone well. I don't remember the creamery personally—only the stories I heard from my grandfather.

Farmers from all around brought wheat to mill the grain at the grist mill, and cream and milk, to make cheese and butter at the creamery. There are still visible pieces of broken pottery and glass handles from containers used at the time.



Cement remains of structures that fed the quarry rock to the grindstone

On a walk around 2012, we noticed that someone had taken the grinding stones from the grist mill area, and the ground had been dug up—probably by folks looking for relics from the past.

The road used to go right over the dam, and part of the dam is still there. When I was a kid, this pond was a great fishing and swimming hole. Although the pond no longer exists, you can see what it was like in old pictures.

We could reach Gunnsett Mountain not only by the dirt road, but also from my grandpa's farm, which bordered the mountain. The farm's boundary was about 100 yards from the north side of the mountain. We were always climbing it. At the time, the top of the mountain had a six-foot circle of rocks with ashes in it. We thought these were remains from the Indians, as many, many arrowheads were found there. One could walk around the side ledge and come across several small caves, probably used for shelter, which also had ashes and burnt wood inside.

We felt like kings on top of the mountain because of the vista: We could see the Windhams, Norwichtown and into Mansfield. We could see Mountain

Dairy Farm.

Now a large home sits atop this beautiful lookout.

Stream from pond below the sluiceway with the remnants (marked by arrows) of the gristmill foundation.



A special thank you to Bob Chalifoux Jr for sharing these wonderful photos.

Astrophysics

Continued from page 6 sidebar

author of many books, begins the journey at the instant of the Big Bang. His explanations are clear, and tell us all the basics we need to become familiar with, including such exotic concepts as the universality of physical laws (gravity, dark matter, dark energy). Science can also tell us distances to stars, racing farther away from us in this ever-expanding universe, and their speed of recession from our Milky Way. Various telescopes aided in these discoveries.

Tyson introduces us to the elements in the periodic table, and notes that our evening sky is not permanent. In a trillion years, he postulates, no one will see "our" constellations and galaxies because the fabric of the universe will have carried them away faster than the speed of light; thus, those future humans will be missing our "page" of cosmic history. (What "page" might be missing from our own current cosmic book?) His sense of wonder leads him to consider elemental mysteries; for example, two poisons, sodium and chloride, become table salt, and two combustible gases become water! Those future descendants (and extraterrestrials) might be unable to "decode" the universe using our tools (spectroscopy? chemistry?) because the objects

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Astrophysics

Continued from page 7 sidebar

(constellations, for example) that we examined will be out of sight.

Much in the universe, he notes, such as energy and gravity, conspire to make things round. The Milky Way began as a sphere; the weaker a planet's surface gravity, the higher its mountains can reach. As the Earth travels along its orbit, it plows through tons of "stuff" raining down on us from the moon and Mars and within the asteroid and Kuiper belts. We each, Tyson says, contain stardust!

Also intriguing is who previously breathed the air and drank the water we use daily? Tyson says the air we breathe came from the lungs of such luminaries as Napoleon, Beethoven, and Lincoln, among many others. Water that is in us passed through the likes of Socrates, Genghis Khan, and Joan of Arc.

This is a comforting idea to me, knowing we are intimately connected to millions of other humans. Who would you choose to think of as your cosmic ancestors?

If you have read an interesting book with a historical bent, and would like to write a review and share it with our readers, please contact the museum at museum@historyoflebanon.org.

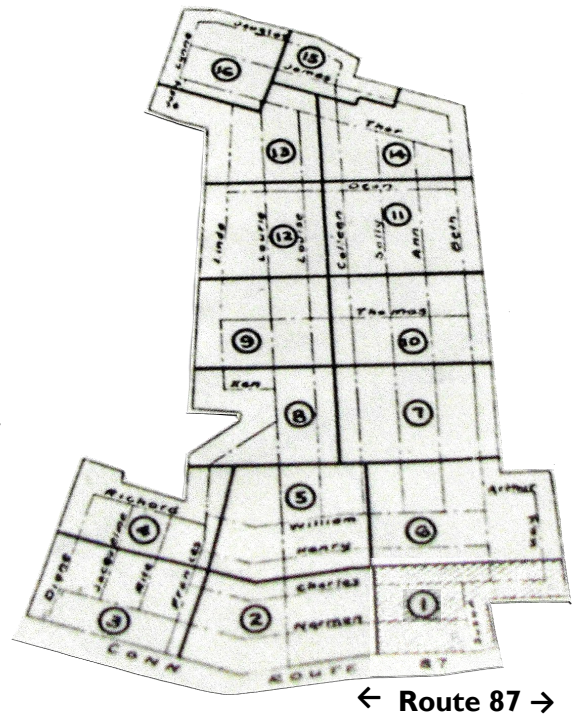
Frankel Acres

By Rick Kane

I always wonder what I will discover when I begin to research the origin of road names here in Lebanon. I start with the fear there will be "no story to tell" other than that of a family with that name who lived on the road (making it the default choice). I had the same fear this time, but found out quickly that there was indeed a story to tell, and the people involved were more interesting than the name of the road.

Frankel Acres is an area south of the town center, on Route 87, heading toward Franklin. All roads in the development are people's first names, and I have long suspected they were most likely the names of family members of either the developer or the landowner(s) involved. In reviewing the subdivision maps with the assistance of our Assistant Town Clerk, Lisa Clark, it soon became clear that Frankel Acres as it stands today is but a small portion of what was originally planned to be a subdivision eight times as large, with a total of 1,060 lots. The developer submitted subdivision maps showing sixteen segments, only two of which exist today. Many more access roads were planned, with names like Laurie Drive, Jacqueline Drive, Susan, John, William, Henry, Ann, Arthur, Charles Drive—and many more.

The property supporting this sixteen-segment development was originally owned by Jack and Judith (Liebmann) Frankel. They sold the land in 1961 to John Henry Woods and his wife Frances, from Suffield, Connecticut. John (Henry) and Frances had a son named John and five daughters: Laurie, Dianne, Susanne, Frani, and Jackie—six of the road/drive names from the planned subdivision. John (Henry) had two brothers, Arthur and Charles—two more of the planned subdivision road names—and Frances's mother, Ann, was the namesake of yet another of the



← Route 87 →
Original Frankel Acres plan with 16 divisions

planned subdivision road names.

The land record from July 14, 1967, documents the transfer to the Town of Lebanon of the portions of property sufficient for the roads within the subdivision segment we see today, for Diane, Rita, Norman, Richard and Frances. These areas were actually segments three and four of the total sixteen that were planned (please refer to segment map below). Another interesting fact is that the name on one of the street signs is not the exact name on the developer-submitted maps: Francis Drive today was originally "Frances," with an "e" (for John Woods's wife and/or daughter's name).

The truly interesting story lies with the people involved. John was a veteran of the US Navy and a building contractor. His wife, Frances, was a figure skater with the Sonja Henie Ice Shows, and was well known for her watercolor and pen-and-ink pictures of old homes in Suffield. Mrs. Woods, an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, was the first woman elected to the Suffield board of selectmen in 1967, serving as third selectman from 1968 to 1969.

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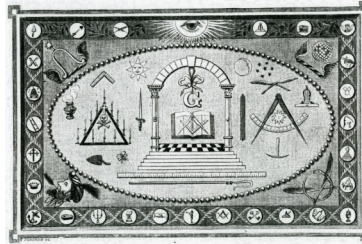
Lebanon's Masonic Lodge

Continued from page 1

As membership in the Lodge grew, more and more members lived in Windham, not Lebanon. In 1800, they petitioned the Grand Lodge to have meetings alternate between the two towns. By 1805, an upper room in Brother Henry Webb's store, a Windham Center building owned by Samuel Gray, had been established as the second meeting place.

Joseph Metcalf left Lebanon in 1802, apparently intending to move to Ohio. Eastern Star Lodge #44 records indicate that he never reached Ohio. In 1802, the Lodge voted to extend their "thanks to the Unity Lodge of New Lebanon, NY, for their kind attention to our worthy brother Joseph Metcalf in his last

Illustration of the carved wooden mantlepiece



Huntington was born about 1826, according to his listing in Lebanon's 1860 federal population census. He lived on the farm with his wife, five young sons and two hired laborers. The Huntingtons were probably responsible for dividing the meeting room into a series of small "apartments," as reported in an 1898 Masonic historical sketch, which also reported that the decorated over-mantel panel had been removed in 1883 and taken to Providence, Rhode Island. Attempts to recover the artifact for the

Connecticut Grand Lodge failed, although the owner did allow drawings to be made for publication in the centennial history.

A photograph taken of the Metcalf house in the 1890s shows that the roof had collapsed. The 1890 centennial history reports that the house "is an old structure of the anti-

revolutionary period, now uninhabited; and though built with all the clumsy strength of the period, is now rapidly falling into decay." By the mid-1930s, J. Salmon S. Hunt's "History of the Eastern Star Lodge #44" describes the site as having only a cellar hole.

That cellar hole on Santa Ana Road may be the only surviving evidence in Lebanon of the Eastern Star Lodge #44. However, the Lodge itself did survive. Still an active organization in North Windham today, the Lodge holds records which informed the various memorial histories, including notes about the Joseph Metcalf house.

History of Freemasonry

Scholars suspect that the Masonic fraternity evolved from stonemasons' guilds during the Middle Ages. The oldest document which refers to the Masons was printed about 1390. In 1717, four lodges in London formed the first Grand Lodge of England, and records kept from that point on are more complete.

Within thirty years, Freemasonry had spread throughout Europe and the American colonies. Many of the leaders of the American Revolution, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere, were Masons, as were sixteen of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and military leaders including the Marquis de Lafayette, Baron von Steuben, General Nathanael Greene and Admiral John Paul Jones.

In the 1700s, Freemasonry helped to spread the ideals of the Enlightenment: the dignity of man, freedom of worship, democratic government and public education. Freemasonry grew dramatically in the 1800s and early 1900s. The Masonic tradition of founding orphanages, homes for widows and homes for the aged provided social "safety nets" before governments began to underwrite such services.



1890 photo of the Masonic Lodge with caved-in roof

sickness." Even without Joseph Metcalf in residence, the house continued to serve as a meeting place until the Eastern Star Lodge #44 voted to move all of its meetings to Windham in 1809.

Land record research will reveal more about the 19th-century history of this remarkable building. Historic maps tell some of the story. On the 1772 Joseph Webb map, the Metcalf house is clearly labeled in just the location indicated by the 1890 Masonic centennial history. On the 1854 map of Lebanon, the owner appears to be an "H. Huntington." The 1868 Beers Atlas map clearly identifies H. B. Huntington on the site. Henry B.

HELP WANTED with Harriet King Taylor's Scrapbooks

Scrapbooks are among the most fascinating and frustrating objects in any historical society collection. Our collection includes two scrapbooks, each with Harriet King Taylor's name written on the cover, and each stuffed with newspaper articles and all sorts of other paper ephemera. While some are glued directly onto the pages, many others were always—or have become—loose inserts. Most articles are from the 1940s.

In 2010, when these volumes were rediscovered in our archives, volunteer Marty Kendall created a partial list of Lebanon-related items. Now our concern is that the paper is becoming more brittle, and the glue is continuing to let go. In order to preserve the stories, the Lebanon pages need to be scanned or photocopied.

Acid-free paper copies and/or digital scans will mean that information from these scrapbooks will be accessible for *Provisions* articles, exhibits, or sharing with genealogical researchers.

If this project interests you, please contact the Museum. With two volumes, we could use two pairs of volunteers. There is no set schedule or end date in place; it's just a gossipy sort of preservation project that will enhance our understanding of life in Lebanon during World War Two.

Lebanon Town Cemetery Projects

By Tom Meyer and Keith LaPorte,
members of the Lebanon Cemetery Commission and Lebanon Historical Society

Lebanon has 18 cemeteries, the newest and most active of which was established in 1891, and contains more than 1,000 multi-grave plots. Six other cemeteries in town contain up to 700 graves. The remaining are small family plots containing only a few burials. Some are "smallpox" cemeteries, like the Loomis Cemetery on Mack Road, entombing hastily buried smallpox victims. The earliest grave in Trumbull Cemetery is that of Reverend Fitch, who died in 1702.

Sadly, through the years, many of the tombstones in our cemeteries have fallen victim to severe weathering; they have been damaged, broken, or have toppled due to shifting ground and shallow monument foundations. Over 200 stones are lying flat on the ground, with about half of them broken. An additional 200 headstones are leaning severely, making them vulnerable to further damage.

The Town of Lebanon has embarked on an effort to perform basic repairs in the Trumbull and Liberty Hill cemeteries. The repair work will begin in spring 2020, and is funded by the Town and a Connecticut State Grant for Neglected Cemeteries. Basic repairs will include "righting" leaning and fallen stones and repairing simple fractures. The Town's Cemetery Commission has outlined a five-year plan to continue the basic repair work at other ancient cemeteries; however, funding is subject to the yearly budgeting process.

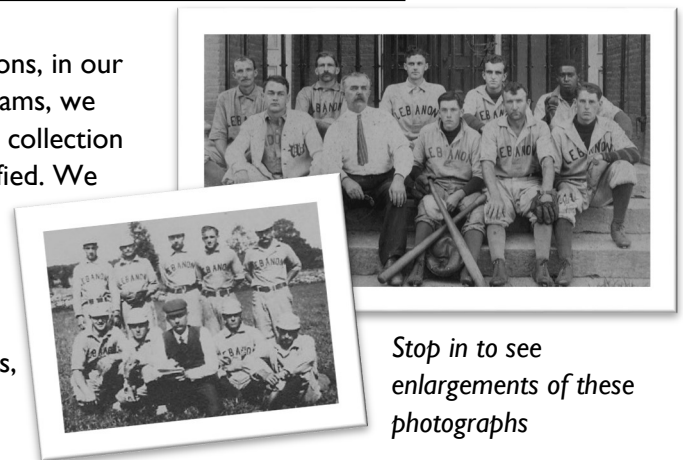
Although the basic repairs will "rehabilitate" a majority of the headstones, more-complex repairs are needed for others that are severely broken, deteriorated or weathered. A plan has not yet been developed for these conditions. The Cemetery Commission is currently trying to identify "best practices" and professional services for the various kinds of damage and types of stone.

The Town has also begun installing a commercial computer program called Cemify, to help manage our cemeteries, record vital statistics and locate individual burial sites. This program will be launched for our most active cemetery, New Lebanon Cemetery on Waterman Road, and will eventually be used for the soon-to-be-opened North Lebanon Cemetery on Synagogue Road. Cemify provides information about decedents and locates plots on a satellite image. A new survey of New Lebanon Cemetery has been completed and mapping to a satellite image has begun. Conversion of cemetery records to Cemify is well under way, and an operational program is expected by the end of 2019.

This software will be available for use by the public. The town has a multi-year commitment to fully implement the software for the New Lebanon and North Lebanon cemeteries. At this time, there are no plans to include the remaining ancient cemeteries in the software.

In the Fall 2019 issue of *Provisions*, in our article on Lebanon's baseball teams, we included photographs from our collection with some of the players identified. We incorrectly listed Frank (Bill) King, as Frank (Billy) King.

If you can identify any of the other men in these photographs, please let us know.



Stop in to see
enlargements of these
photographs

Frankel Acres

Continued from page 6

(Excerpts from John and Frances Woods's obituaries in the *Hartford Courant*, April 10, 2000, and February 11, 1998, respectively.)

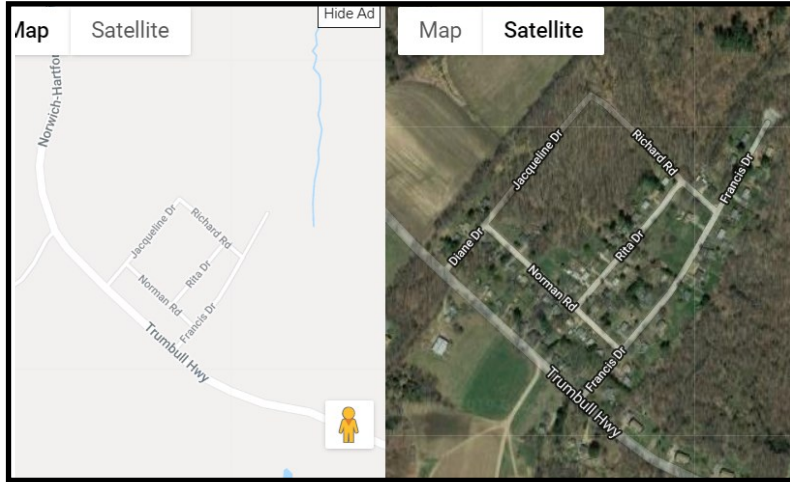
Jack Frankel was born in New York City and came to Lebanon with his parents, David Frankel and Rose Harap Frankel, who were born in Austria. Both immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Lebanon Land Records indicate that

David and Rose purchased land in the Exeter Society in 1917, but US Census records for 1920 reveal that the Frankel family still resided in New York City at this time. The property, which eventually was sold in 1961 to John Woods, was purchased by David Frankel on November 22, 1932.

The Frankel Family arrived in Lebanon and established a dairy farm, operated by Jack for 30 years. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Jack served two terms in the General Assembly as a Democratic representative. In 1962, he sold off 50 acres of the farm to John Woods, for what was to become his namesake property. Jack joined the Peace Corps, and with his wife Judith and their two children, worked as deputy director of its Iran mission for the next five years. In 1967, Jack was assigned to the agency's headquarters in Washington, DC, where he spent the next five years as an agricultural program officer. From 1972–1975, Jack was a private consultant on agricultural and economic matters in Tanzania and Brazil. He then returned to Washington and joined the World Bank, where he was a senior agriculture official until he retired. (Excerpts from Jack

Frankel's obituary, *Hartford Courant*, June 5, 1985.)

The Frankel Acres development would have seriously impacted the



Google Map and Google Earth images of Frankel Acres

Lebanon population had all sixteen segments been completed. It would have increased the school population beyond the school system's capacity. Records indicate that the total school population for all grades in 1962–1963 was 740 students. If we assume that only half of the lots would have gone to families with an average of two children each, that would have added 1,060 additional students to the school system. I believe that Frankel Acres was responsible for the creation of the Planning & Zoning Commission in 1961–1962, as there was no commission report in the 1960–1961 Town Annual Report. An interesting note in the 1962–1963 Town Annual Report: The Planning & Zoning report referred to the development as the "Frankel City Park Project."

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.

CALLING ALL WRITERS!

Do you have an interest in local history?

~ What would you like to learn more about in connection with Lebanon history?

~ What could you write about?

The Lebanon Historical Society is looking for writers to research and submit articles for upcoming issues of *Provisions*. Perhaps you have some anecdotes to share about growing up in town, or would like to recount favorite stories that a family member has shared with you. If you're a relatively new resident, perhaps you have a question about your community that you would like to research. Whatever your interest, we invite you to consider writing an article to contribute to the newsletter. You can choose from a wide range of historical periods or topics. Please let us know if you're interested, and if you'd like to access information in our research library or in our archives. We will be glad to help, and look forward to hearing from you!



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



History
Trivia
Question:

Where did the millstone, once part of the brick courtyard between the Jonathan Trumbull Library and the First Congregational Church, come from?
See page 3 for the answer.



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



Visit the Beaumont House & Pastor's Library by lantern light
Holiday crafts for kids ~ Ginger snaps and mulled cider

We hope you enjoy our exhibits while you're here!

