

Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, November 2024



PO Box 380166,
East Hartford, CT, 06138-

President's Message

Welcome to Autumn and the month of November. As I write this on Halloween the temperature is above 80 degrees so maybe global warming is real and should be accepted as reality. Our 60th anniversary celebration and the Historical Society annual dinner meeting at Savvi's Restaurant was very well attended. All who came to these events in September had a good time.

The Historical Society hosted another Autumn Tea at the Selden Brewer House in November that was first announced to membership in the September newsletter and again by e-mail and our Facebook Page. I want to thank our volunteers who organized this, especially Sue Kies.

On Veterans Day, Monday, November 11th the East Hartford Public Library will be hosting the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Dough Boy Monument at 10:30 AM on the Raymond Library lawn. I'm asking for members to attend this worthy ceremony. Our participation at this event will be our appreciative support for its continuation.

Next month the Historical Society will again participate in the Town of East Hartford Holiday Fest weekend at the Selden Brewer House. On Sunday, December 8th the House will look very festive for the Christmas season and there will be an assortment of light finger food treats and liquid refreshments available from 1 to 4 PM. Please visit with us..

We also have some encouraging news regarding the website that will be viewable using a new web-hosting platform. Our new volunteer webmaster Kathy Woznica has built a new website for us, replacing the old one that can no longer be brought up to date. Our domain name HSEH.org is not set to expire for another 6 years, so that will be moved from the old platform to the new one. We have some legal hurdles to first overcome but we hope to introduce the new website before the end of this year.

Craig Johnson, President

Please join us for a public program on the following:

Nov. 21, 2024 East Hartford Library, downstairs 6:30pm. "Before Salem" by Author Dick Ross

What happened in "our" state years before Salem, Mass. became the focus of this topic?

Like so much of the lost or faded true history that affected the original scope of what was Hartford back in the late 1600's early 1700's, this subject is an important one. Connecticut did have 50 cases and at least 11 people hanged, the first in 1647, for actions that were considered to be "working on the devil's side". Come and hear about those that were involved in these Witch hunt cases long before Salem, right here in our own area. Dr. Ross is a historian that has worked on this topic and those close to it for many years. He will also be displaying his book "Before Salem" on the topic and his latest book "American Body Snatchers" for sale. These topics were much more a part of those times then we realize today. Come join us and learn about our history.

For more info on author and books: [Before Salem - McFarland](#) or for Witchcraft topic in general [Witchcraft Materials - Colonial Records & Topics - LibGuides Home at Connecticut State Library](#).

Contact Ruthie Brown for more information shapbrown@cox.net . subject EH talk

CHRISTMAS CAROL USA

TIS THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND ALL THROUGH THE SERVICE
NOT A DAMN MAN IS MOVING AND WE'RE ALL GETTING NERVOUS
GREAT PLANS AND NEW SYSTEMS ARE EVOLVED EVERY DAY
RELEASING THREE MEN; MAKING TWO MILLION STAY.

FOR GEORGE THE "MARSHALL" WITH HIS NAUTICAL MATE
ARE DEFENDING ~~THE~~ PEARL HARBOR JUST FOUR YEARS TOO LATE,
OUR HEADQUARTERS HERE IS NO LONGER LONELY,
FOR THE " PINEAPPLE PENTAGON" HAS "STANDING ROOM ONLY"

MACARTHUR THE "MIGHTY" GREW PURPLE WITH WRATH,
SCREAMED HE "GENERAL, THEY'RE MOVING TOO FAST"
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO MAKE MOST OF THEM STAY,
SO "GOD WITH FIVE STARS TOOK OUR SHIPPING AWAY"

FOR A WHILE PUBLIC PROTEST WAS GETTING TOO LOUD,
SO THE POWERS TOOK ACTION TO QUIET THE CROWD;
S AID THE GENERAL (THENA COLONEL), "WHY, WHAT COULD BE FINER
THAN TO START A REBELLION IN CHINA.

OF COURSE THEY HAVE REASONS TO KEEP US ALL HERE
FOR AS LONG AS WE STAY THEY WON'T HAVE TO FEAR.
THAT THEY'BL LOSE ONE OR TWO OF THEIR PRECIOUS STARS,
OR THEIR EAGLES OR OAK LEAVES REVERT TO GOLD BARS.

NOW JOE DOAKS THE WELDER, IS FILLED WITH DELIGHT
FOR JOE'S 26 AND TOO OLD TO FIGHT,
THUS TO DRAFT THIS OLD MAN WOULD BE QUITE A CRIME,
SO HE MARCHES ALL DAY IN A LONG PICKET LINE.

OUR TONY PALCOTA IN FOOTBALL FOUND FAME,
HE'S MINUS IN POINTS BUT HE'S HOME ON A PLANE.
BUT POOR BROWN, THE PRIVATE, WILL HAVE TO WAIT,
(HE'S ONLY A FATHER AND CAN'T DRAW A GATE).

FOR ALL GOOD LITTLE OFFICERS WHO POLISH THEIR BARS
SANTA'S NOT WEARING WHISKERS, BUT THREE SILVER STARS,
THE REDRUITS ARE SCREAMING, "LET US GO AND FIGHT",
AND TO ALL WHO MIGHT LISTEN , I SAY, "BARNUM WAS RIGHT."

This little piece of paper came flying out of a pile of old newspapers.

We have no idea where it came from or who wrote it.

Because it is November, a month devoted to Veteran's remembrance,

I thought it appropriate to share this in the newsletter.

Ruthie Brown

It is November and elections are a current topic.

Here are some pieces from the inherited "Dowd Collection;"
Capt. Thomas Dowd became East Hartford' town treasurer
from 1865 that served 5 terms.

He was also an assessor, tax collector

and 1st registrar of voters created in 1868. ...

Below are from his Town notes; per Thomas Dowd files.

Estimate of Town Expenses for 1872

State tax = \$3,361.93

County Tax \$450.00

Military Commission \$544.68

School expenses \$5,224.07

TOTAL of ALL Expenses \$23,553,33

TOTAL RESOURCES \$32,143,77

Electors' meetings were held then in March to make additions and Corrections to the list.

In 1871 Thomas Dowd and E. S. Goodwin were the Registrars.

Names are listed by the district they lived in and noted as to whether they qualify to vote or are still awaiting approval. The following is an example of these listings.

Qualified to Vote in 1871

Surnames of East Hartford that have more than 10 names (all male of course) listed.

Brewer.....32	Burnham20	Forbes21	Goodwin.....11
Olmsted.....19	Roberts.....22	Risley.....27	Vibert.....11

The following are still on holding list for approval to be added:

Anderson – 8	Beaumont—4	Bidwell—4	Comstock—6	Lester –9	Pitkin—7
	Porter—5		Pratt—7		Treat—7

One list of no definite date (early 1870's) shows 40 Republicans and 66 Democrats in East Hartford. Sept. 20th 1870 and the 1873 list shows a total of 746 Voters with 53 to be made and 18 more to approved by the end of March.

This is a list of names written on the back of a Sept. 30th 1872 page – so Ruthie is assuming these were additions coming in for that year; listing those names that are legible as 34 Democrats:

Clarke Barrows	P. Foran	R. Roberts	G. Carney	M. C. Thompson
Andrew A. Perkins	Horace Thompson	John Porier	Joseph Carroll	William Daily
L.S. Richards	Dennis Quinn	Richard Welch	Giles Putnam	Fred Putnam
E. Chapin				
P.S. Ranney	J.H. Ranney	Fredrick Bragg	Charles E. Baker	J. Mackintosh
R. W. Thompson	James Risley	Henry Risley	Henry Cotton	Geo. W. Johnson Jr.
Warren Lincoln	P. Mclsloan	Philip McCormick	Frank Bragg	L.S. Munford

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Compare this to present day listings – WOW

ESTIMATE	
OF THE	
<i>EXPENSES OF THE TOWN OF EAST HART-</i>	
<i>FORD, FOR THE YEAR ENDING</i>	
<i>SEPT. 30TH, 1872.</i>	
State Tax,	\$3,361.93
Military Commutation,	544.68
County Tax,	450.00
SCHOOLS.	
Tax of 2¼ mills for school, voted Oct. 1871,	\$3,889.07
Receipts from State School Fund, about	1,000.00
“ “ Town School Fund,	00.00
“ “ Town Deposit Fund,	- 335.00

From East Hartford Historical Society collections. R.S. Brown

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This season has hit our membership with several family deaths, esp. our board members. Our condolences go out to all and in many cases the absence of members is felt by many of us who have worked together for so long.

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Gaining new memberships is very important to any non-profit organization.

Our membership is growing but we certainly would love to increase it especially in our upcoming fiscal year. If anyone would love to join and participate in our Historical Society of East Hartford the form is posted below.

The annual dues of any amount can help to increase our revenue.

Please consider becoming a member and helping us remain the active organization we have been since 1964.

Renewals of current memberships will begin again as of September 1, 2024.

Judy Hillmann, Membership Chairman
Historical Society of East Hartford

We appreciate your support through your membership dues! As prices rise, we have decided to keep our dues low! Membership Dues for the upcoming year - Sept 1-Aug 31 2025.

**You can pay in person any Saturday from 10-1 at the Brewer House,
165 Main Street. Or mail your check to:**

**Historical Society of East Hartford
PO Box 380166, 860-568-8342
East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166**

Any questions or inquiring to make a visit to research some information? - call us at 860-568-8342. This is the number at the Brewer House office— please leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Please include the following information with your membership check:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

TOWN _____ STATE _____ Zip Code _____

EMAIL: _____

For Newsletter mailing:

Can we send by email? Y ___ N ___ or if you do not have email Postal Delivery Hard Copy Y ___ N ___

Membership annual dues are as follows please circle the one you choose: \$20 Individual \$10 Student
\$50 Patrons \$25 Family/one address \$250 Lifetime member

AMT ENCLOSED: _____