

Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, January 2023



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and Friends.

Happy New Year! Let it be prosperous, fruitful and full of understanding and peace.

The activities at the Brewer House during the Holiday Fest were quite a success. We had over one hundred visitors to enjoy the decorations, refreshments and comradery. This event is getting better and better every year.

Please come to our membership/business meeting on January 18 at 2:00 at the Brewer House. Vice president Johnson has a special presentation planned. Looking forward to seeing you.

Plans for an Easter Egg Hunt at the Brewer House are in the works for April. Anyone out there interesting in coordinating this program? Of course, we will help you with promoting this event.

The furniture for which we had the Bakeless Bake Sale is now with the upholsterer. It should be ready by late January early February.

Our membership is up to around seventy-five. It continues to grow.

We would like to plan some activities at the Brewer House and at Martin Park during the next few months and in the summer. Let us know your ideas. We would love to implement them if possible.

Again, Happy New Year 2023.

As always, stay well, prosper, be safe, and keep moving forward.

Respectfully,

Steven Strange, President, Historical Society of East Hartford

JANUARY 18th MEETING AT THE SELDEN BREWER HOUSE & PROGRAM

The Historical Society will have its regular meeting at the Selden Brewer House on Wednesday, January 18th at 2 o'clock. Members are invited to attend the business meeting. Starting at one o'clock, we plan to have a program given by author Aaron Elson on the Battle of the Bulge, a pivotal battle during World War II that happened 77 years ago during the Winter of 1944 / 1945.

I tried to reserve us a meeting room at the Raymond Library however there is a long-standing reservation on Wednesday afternoons with Adult Ed. Perhaps for the March or May meetings, we may be able to schedule a possible program at the library. It would have to be on another weekday or weekend afternoon, separate from our business meeting held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If we have a winter storm, icy or snowy weather, this meeting will be canceled.

Craig Johnson, Vice President & Program Chair

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM BUILDINGS AT MARTIN PARK

The Makens Bemont House had some minor rain damage to the upstairs ceiling prior to the roof replacement in 2018. The plaster and finish near the vaulted dormer windows in the bedrooms had been peeling, cracking and getting worse. The 1772 Foundation does offer funding via a 1:1 matching grant made available to non-profit organizations such as us for eligible preservation projects. Once a year in December a letter of inquiry can be sent to Preservation Connecticut in hopes of receiving an invitation to submit a full application. We sent a letter of inquiry for 2023 but unfortunately the grant request was denied due to the large number of requests and limited state funds.

In a follow-up on the progress of the Goodwin Schoolhouse, Glastonbury Restoration, LLC has provided the Town with a quote on the roof replacement using the red cedar shake shingles that were donated to the Historical Society now stored inside the schoolhouse. We are offering the Town at no cost \$5,000 worth of roof shingles, more if necessary to complete the job. For this historic 1821 structure, the cost to the Town will be in the labor of stripping off the old roof shingles and installation of the new roof with a possible extra cost of replacing any damaged underlayment or flashing materials. Thanks to the efforts of Sean Dwyer a new replacement tarp is now covering the old roof to get us through the winter. We hope and pray the work might be completed by June 2023 when we reopen for the Summer season.

Craig Johnson, Vice President

NADEAU FAMILY PHOTOS OFFERED TO HUGUENOT HOUSE (MAKENS BEMONT HOUSE)

This past summer while doing our Martin Park House tours we had some very interested visitors. Many came to visit because of family connections as “my mother used to do tours here...” or “or I remember when they first rebuilt this house here...”, sometimes people came because they were thinking that might have a family tie to the genealogy.

Well, back in August we had a visitor that came out of curiosity. He had lived in East Hartford for most of his life and was curious about the Huguenot connection because his family also had a French background. He married in 1947 and in 1967 his family moved down to the U.S. from Canada.

After spending a couple years in Massachusetts, they moved to the Dutch Point area in Hartford with other family members.

Their next move was when he purchased a house in East Hartford on Mohawk Drive.

Fernad Nadeau of East Hartford finally came to visit the Huguenot house at the age of 96!

On his first visit he stayed for almost 2 hours, and was very impressed with Craig’s knowledge of the history of the house and the family. He came up with many questions and Craig sorted out the details as best one could. Fernad was excited and decided to offer us a gift of some dated pliers for the Blacksmith Shop.

On the following Sunday Fernad showed up to say thank you again, he felt so surprised with all he had learned that he felt a definite connection to the Huguenot history. As a token of that connection and as a gift to all the work we do, he then offered us two late 19thc oval framed photos with domed glass.

These were photos of his father-in-law; Hector Nenine who had 8 children; and the other of his son Leon and his wife.

Fernad decided that the best way to express his interest was to bring his memories here where they had that French connection to the history of this house, might be a proper place to leave them.

Feeling that they would be respected and appreciated and not just forgotten old photos. That they would be at “home” here and perhaps help to address the culture and ties to East Hartford. ...

A nice reward for the work we do and his way of saying thank you.

Here is 96 yr. old Fernad Nadeau on his visit to the Huguenot house, sitting with our new secretary, Diane Pansullo, honoring us with the old photographs of his in laws.



Submitted by Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Director -----

LOOKING BACK
***HARTFORD COURANT* AUG 4 1939**

“Trolley May Soon Fade Into History

“Conn. Co. Will Ask Permit to Substitute Buses to Manchester; May Keep Rails For Freight

“East Hartford

“Trolleys in East Hartford will pass into history if a petition of the Connecticut Company asking substitution of bus service to South Manchester for the present trolley service is approved. The State Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing on the matter at the State Office Building August 14 at 10:30 a.m.

“If the commission also approves the petition which asks that tracks from Connecticut Boulevard and Main Street to the Taylor-Atkins plant in Burnside be retained for the purpose of transporting freight, then only the occasional freight service to Burnside and Glastonbury will travel over tracks once used by cars traveling to many towns.

“At the present time, a section of tracks on the Glastonbury line is maintained for transporting freight from the Williams plant, and the South Manchester line petition asks that the section of track running from Connecticut Boulevard and Main Street through Main Street, Church Street and Burnside Avenue to the plant be kept. The company plans to use a gas-electric locomotive to switch steam railroad cars on the line.

“The rest of the track would be torn up and poles, wires and appurtenances removed form the entire distance of the line, which measures slightly more than nine miles.

“Since the South Glastonbury line was discontinued in favor of buses a short while ago, the Burnside Avenue line has been the only line left of a former trio which ran to Manchester, Glastonbury, and South Windsor.”

“Lymber Named to Committee.

“Nicholas G. Lymber was named Thursday by President Jack Schaaf of the Merchants’ Division of the Chamber of Commerce to the publicity committee of the division as contact man for the extensive drive heralding the coming East Hartford Shopping Days.

“Mr. Lymber’s task will include visiting merchants of the town and aligning them in a common front for the success of the East Hartford Days, Mr. Schaff said..

“Mr. Schaff said Thursday he hoped all merchants of the town would fall behind the plan, originated with the purpose of stimulating local trading and inducing townspeople to patronize East Hartford stores. The East Hartford Shopping Days this month will be held August 24 and 25.”

“Notes

“The Ladies Aid Society of the Hockanum Methodist Church will hold a food sale at Evans’ roadside stand Saturday beginning at 10 a. m. Mrs. Ruth Johnson is chairman of the sale, the proceeds of which will go into the general fund of the society.”

Items from Susan Barlow, *The Hartford Courant* (1923-1984); Aug 4, 1939; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *Hartford Courant* (1764-1985) pg. 18

Historical Society of East Hartford

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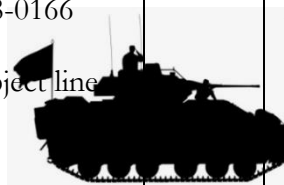
Email: webmaster@hseh.org put ‘ehhs’ on subject line

Web site: <http://www.hseh.org>

Membership: 860-528-0716, Sept 1-Aug 31
indiv \$20, 1 address \$25, student \$10,
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

Deadline Mar Newsletter – Feb 28, 2023

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January Meeting

Date - Wed, Jan 18, 2023

Program – Battle of the Bulge

Speaker - Aaron Elson

Time – 1 pm ← ← ←

Business Meeting – 2 pm ← ← ←

Where – Brewer House

Address – intersection of Main
and Naubuc

Info - Craig, 860-869-4642