
LEFFINGWELL INN NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 1 Members

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

Friends

Winter 2007

Call for the Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 6, 2007 -- 7 PM

Norwich Senior Center

8 Mahan Drive, Norwich CT

Presentation to be Announced

Craft Time

On the calendar, April 21st, from 10 – 2 or possibly Noon to 4 PM, but still in the planning stages is a “Craft Intensive Workshop” at the museum. An “intensive” is when students and teachers spend the day working on a particular craft skill or project. A small tutoring session.

In the colonial kitchen will be Joyce Brewster demonstrating the art of pie making. From choosing the fruit to knowing what the pie dough should feel like and ultimately taste like in your mouth. Actual baking will not be done on site though.

Then we would like your input as to what you would like to learn and practice for an afternoon. Suggestions have been Book Binding (Does anyone know one who might be willing to spend the day with us?), Chair Caning (We need a teacher), felt making, spinning, weaving. Is there something in particular you would like to lead and share? Something in particular you would like to spend an afternoon learning and practicing?

At this point in time we are thinking \$20.00 per person \$15.00 for paid members of the Society of the Founders and materials extra as they would depend on the individual craft and what is being done by the participant.

If we had volunteers to make sandwiches and or a dessert, lunch could be included. Many people have suggested more fundraisers and this could be an easy and interesting one to participate in. Call Beryl at 887-9000 with your suggestions, questions and ideas or to make a reservation. Or e-mail her at berylfishbone@yahoo.com.

Gardening Party

A “Gardening Party” will be held on May 5th, 2007. We are inviting one and all to bring their clippers, gardening gloves, rakes, hoes, spades, shovels, edgers,

wheel barrows and a rototiller would be fabulous and help us prepare the grounds for the summer season.

The museum is also looking for help and donations for the gardens we have been discussing over the years. In addition to money we can use donations of plants, fertilizer, mulch, peat moss, top soil, raised bed frames and volunteers to weed and prepare for drying.

In tribute to Christopher Leffingwell’s chocolate factory in Norwich – there will be a “chocolate garden” filled with ‘Midnight Sweet Pea, Chocolate Orange Rudbeckia, Chocolate Viola, Painted Tongue, “Milk Chocolate” Foxglove and “Chocolate Soldier” Columbine and more.

Also a modern “Pizza Garden” with Oregano, Thyme, Rosemary, Parsley, Sage and other edible herbs used in colonial and modern times.

Linda Greaves is currently researching what we will need to plant “A Garden to Dye For”. A garden filled with plants that can be used to dye and paint material, wools and thread.

Also a “Colonial garden” filled with easy to care for vegetables, flowers and herbs.

If you can’t help with the cleaning and the planting can you help us with the care the gardens will need throughout the summer and the bedding of the gardens in the fall? Can you sponsor the purchase of some of the plants or a months worth of the water bill?

Monetary donations are tax deductible and should be sent C/O J. Deming Treasurer, Society of the Founders of Norwich, PO Box 13, Norwich, CT 06360.

For further information and to volunteer for the “Gardening Project” please contact Beryl Fishbone, 887-9000. It would be highly advisable if you are interested in this project to contact Beryl so we can develop a proper plan. It is absolutely necessary to create a low maintenance garden that will not hamper the volunteer landscape maintenance crew.

Historic Map Works

We recently received an email from 'Historic Map Works', (www.historicmapworks.com), they provided a fully paid 1 year membership that "Offers Collection of 19th & Early 20th Century City and Town Maps". Contact the museum at: info@leffingwellhousemuseum.org, for access to this site.

News from the Registrar

The Registrar is working on a project of entering the original applications for certification of descent of the Founders of Norwich, CT into a computer program, and then onto CD, she is then filing the original in separate labeled folders for better storage. So far descents #01 to #200 (from 1901-1932) have been entered. If you have a family member that is a descendant of the 35 original Founders of Norwich and would like to become a member of the Society of the Founders of Norwich you can e-mail the registrar at gencal@snet.net or at the museums address. The Registrar will send you a cover letter and an application to include your genealogy information. There are over 500 members of the descents Founders of Norwich and we invite you to join. Daniel E. Brown was accepted as a decent of founder Robert Allyn in August 2006. Applications and instructions were sent to two people in January one from Kansas and the other from Texas .

Story Time Update

McLoughlin Brothers Inc was a New York publishing firm that pioneered the systematic use of color printing technologies in children's books, particularly between 1858 and 1920. The Leffingwell House Museum would like to begin a story program using a book from our library called "Wonderful Animals" Printed in 1875 by McLoughlin Brothers, NY. It is time that the stories "King Donkeys Doings", "Dogs Dinner Party", "King Gobblers Feast", "Wandering Bunny", "Spoilt Piggy Wiggy", and "Cat's Party" were heard aloud once more. We need your help though.

Our current electrical system does not allow us to run the lights and our new fireplace inserts at the same time. Let's face it, atmosphere adds a lot to a story.

The electrical breaker box needs to be updated and grounded so that additional lighting for evening programs can be installed safely. An estimate has been received for \$1,050.00 for installing the box including labor but not including any light fixtures. Can you help by making a donation to the story time fund? \$5, \$10 any amount will help. Please send your donation to Treasurer, Society of the Founders of Norwich, PO Box 13, Norwich, CT and identify what how it is to be used.

Wine Making and Tasting

Water was not always an option to drink in colonial days. Milk was not always available. Wine, cider, ale and beers were potable, portable and available. Then came prohibition and then came President Jimmy Carter who signed the federal law allowing each adult in a given household to make 100 gallons of beer and wine annually. In a two adult household that works out to be more than 1,000 bottles of wine.

On Saturday, April 28th from 5 PM – 8 PM Nancy Thomas and friends will be leading us through the easy art and science of wine making using a wine making kit at home. The new products are post-vintner. This means that a professional wine-maker has already analyzed the juice and concentrate, balancing it for acid, pH and sugar so home winemakers enjoy the ease and convenience of complete ready-to ferment products. There will also be wine tasting with an expert explaining what we should look for in homemade and commercial wines.

All of your favorite styles of wine are available in kit form including, Merlot, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chianti, Pinot Noir, Blush, Riesling, and many more – Fruit Wines, Sherries, Ports, Brandies, and Ice Wines too. Each kit contains all the necessities to make more than two cases of superb hand-crafted wine you can serve and enjoy with satisfaction and joy. The kits may also be used as the basis for customized recipes with the use of oak aging, herbs and spices, and other fermentables such as honey or various fruits and flavorings.

We will not be selling the wines or the kits but we will tell you of a local retailer of the kits. Please join us if you are already using the kits and making wines at home and would like to meet other home vintners or would like to share your wines or would just like to try some others you haven't made yet.

Wine and other refreshments will be served. This is a fundraiser for the museum. \$25.00 per person \$20.00 per person if a current member of the Society of the Founders. All monies will be used to benefit the museum facilities and its programs.

Antlers you say?

In Colonial Times wildlife was a major source of protein and venison was probably more abundant then than now. Here are some basic facts and a future opportunity.

Antlers are the fastest growing tissue known in the world. They are bony outgrowths that develop from and are attached to two protuberances called pedicles on top of the skull. While antlers are growing a furry skin covering called velvet cover them. The growing antlers and the velvet are supplied with oxygen and nutrients by a network of blood vessels. Growth and hardening of the antlers is completed in late July or August.

In August, increased production of testosterone cuts off the blood supply to the antlers and velvet. The velvet dies, dries up, and peels away. Further removal of velvet from antlers occurs during the rut. Among the testosterone-induced rut activities of the male, which begin in late August or September, is the thrashing of antlers against sapling trees and shrubs, which rubs off the velvet and polishes the antlers while staining them. Deer antlers can grow an astonishing .38 inches per day.

Deer meat called venison was a significant source of protein in colonial times. Museum visitors will have the opportunity to examine a set of adult deer antlers thanks to the donation of Genevieve Calcasola.

Properties and Grounds

Currently Norwich Public Utilities has been offering free CFLs, Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs to all their customers and we have taken advantage of the offering. We have replaced all the 60W and 100W bulbs and stored a few for replacements.

Recently an excessive accumulation of dust and dirt on table and floor surfaces in the basement caused us to be concerned about possible termite or carpenter ant ac-

tivity. We contacted a local exterminator who went over the exterior and interior of the building before offering an opinion. The feeling is that there are no active insects and the dust and dirt are probably the result of the 'working' of the building from the wind and volunteers moving about the upper floors. However as spring arrives we should be alert for any new evidence and to preserve it, don't disturb it, for timely inspection.

Although it is quite cold this week, the winter has been kind to us and we will be launching a spring appeal for funds to catch up with our utility and maintenance bills.

2007 Leffingwell House Calendar of Events

April 7, 14	Spring Cleaning Exhibit Freshening	Noon - 4, Volunteers Needed
April 21	Craft Intensive Day Fund Raiser \$20 Materials Fee. Pie Making, etc.	
April 28	Wine Making 101 fundraiser, wine tasting & refreshments	5PM - 8PM, \$20 per person
May 5	Work on Garden/landscape	
May (TBA)	Opening of On-Loan Exhibit	
May (TBA)	Spring Story time Activity	Storytellers, cookies and cocoa. 6 PM and 6:30 PM. \$5.00 per family
May (TBA)	Docent training and intro to new policies and procedures	
May (TBA)	Jr. docent training, intro to new policies	
May (TBA)	Painting touch-ups inside and out	
June 6	Annual Meeting	Speaker to be announced, Docents & Jr. Docents welcome
June 9	Season Opening of the Museum and CT Museum Open House Day	Docents needed
June 16	Fencing Demo, NFA Fencing Team	
June 23	Felting with Pat Little	Felt Making
June 30	Colonial Doll Dressmaking with Lydia Blacker	
July 7	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
July 14	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
July 21	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
July 28	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 4	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 11	Saturday Summer Activity, Opening of the Text Book Exhibit, Members Picnic on the grounds	
August 18	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
August 25	Saturday Summer Activity	TBA
September 1	Saturday Summer Activity	Labor Day / TBA
September 8	Autumn Fair	Close official season. Pie contest. Colonial Games
October	Walking Weekend	TBA
October 6	106 th Anniversary Celebration	Cake and Punch
October 13	Fall Cleaning of the Museum and Grounds	Noon - 4 PM
October 14	Fall Cleaning of the Museum and Grounds	Noon - 4 PM
October 27	Fall Story Time Activity	Storytellers, cookies and cocoa 6 PM & 7 PM. \$5.00 per family
November 4	Craft Fair	Need; Docents, Tour guides, Room monitors, Museum Store Clerk
December 1 or 2	Holiday Craft Fair and Story time	

The following are excerpts from the Norwich Packet of 1773 - 5

Broke into the pasture of the subscriber about the first of September last, yearling mare colt, of a forrel colour, and half a, white spot on her face. The owner may have her again, on paying chargef.

NORWICH, Nov. 20.
JOSEPH AYER.

BROKE out of the subscriberf inclosure, about three weekf ago, a white barrow fhote, of about 100lb, weight, no mark artificial or natural, only a fhort tail and a ring in hif fhout, any perfon that can give intelligence of the faid fhote, fhall be handfomely rewarded.

By their humble fervant.

BENJAMIN BUTLER.

N. B. *Al there if yet a small part of the colony tax, unpaid on the lift for 1772. Those indebted to the fame, are desired to settle with the subscriber, to avoid trouble.*

B. BUTLER, *Collector.*

Charles Geddes,

Clock and Watch Maker, and Finifher, from LONDON, At hif fhop below the fhign of Admiral Aternon In King Street, BOSTON, Makef, mendf, cleanf, repairf, and finifhes all fort of Clockf and Watchef, in the beft and neateft Manner, and upon the moft reafonable Termf.

WANTED Immediately, Two fhmart active BOYS, af Apprenticef to the Saddling Bufineff; the One between Twelve and Fourteen, the other, between Ten and Twelve Yearf of Age----Enquire of the Printerf.

TWO DOLLARS REWARD,

RUN away from the subscriber, in *Canterbury*, an apprentice Boy, named Samuel Cook, (twenty yearf of age,) five feet eight inches high, well fet, a black fmith by trade. Had on and carried with him, a claret coloured coat and jacket, green ferge ditto, with a pair of leather breechef, a beaver hat, and fundry other articlef. — Whoever takef up faid boy,

and conveyf him to hif mafter fhall have the above reward, and all reafonable chargef paid by *DANIEL JUETT*

Canterbury, Nov 30, 1773

NOVASCOTIA Peaf, Wheat, Rye and Oatef. Also, Pickled and Smockt Salmon, to be Sold by Chriftopher Leffingwell, Efq;

A MASTIFF DOG,

Haf been miffing fix dayf, hif Markf are, Brindle Body, white Legf and Feet, Earf cropt, and anfwerf to the call of HERO: Whoever will find and return faid Dog to the subscriber in Norwich, fhall have one Dollar reward,

Norwich Feb 9 1774.

JOHN PERIT

Chriftopher Leffingwell
WANTS to PURCHASE a Number of fhmall,
young,
PACING HORSES, for fhipping.
Norwich, 28th July, 1774