
LEFFINGWELL INN NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 5 Members

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

Friends

Summer – Fall 2008

LEFFINGWELL

Are you a

LEFFINGWELL?

Are you a

LEFFINGWELL DESCENDANT?

Do you know a

LEFFINGWELL?

Do you know a

LEFFINGWELL DESCENDANT?

If you can answer “YES” to any of these questions, would you be willing to help Robert L. Leffingwell in his genealogical research project?

He and his lovely wife, Victoria, visited the Leffingwell Inn Museum this summer and I was fortunate to have been their “hostess” for their tour. I’m

sure I learned as much from them as they did from me.

Mr. Leffingwell is composing a [Backwards Foreword](#) which is a look into the Pre-Colonial Leffingwell Family.

If there is any way you can assist him, he can be reached in any of four (4) ways:

Write:

Robert Leffingwell
10200 Altamirano
Trujillo, Spain

Email:
BackwardsForward@gmail.com

Write to me:

Mrs. David L. Cannon
93 Route 2-A
Preston, CT 06365

Email me:

acannon1959@comcast.net

Writing to me will save you foreign postage and I will be happy to forward your information to Mr. Leffingwell, with your permission to do so.

I hope to hear from as many LEFFINGWELL connections as possible. What a wonderful way to share and preserve a family story! Thank you in advance.

Ann Cannon,
President

2008 Staycation Season Report

The season began with the Guns of Norwich show in the spring. There was a great turnout and a lot of interest in the phonebooks that were loaned to us from AT & T for part of the "Commercial Growth of Norwich, CT" exhibit. While visitors enjoyed looking at the memorabilia from the 17 and 1800's what captured the imaginations of many was looking through the phonebooks from the 1950's and 1960's for familiar names. While some people thought they had to be sneaky to take

a photo, we were happy to help others capture the page photo and other information available in the telephone books. Old telephone books are a treasure for people looking for people, addresses, advertising, immigration, and general information. In preparation for our planned library expansion of resource materials we are collecting used telephone books from the 1920's through 2008. Please leave a message at 860.887.9000 to arrange drop off or pick up.

The "Commercial Growth of Norwich, CT" materials re-

mained on exhibit throughout the season in the basement of the museum.

The South Parlor was filled with memories of the "Past Celebrations of Norwich, CT." Our assistance to Vivian Zoe of the Slater Museum for her lecture/presentation series took on a life of its own as more and more information, scrapbooks, materials and memorabilia from the early 1800's to 1984. Surprisingly, the greatest interest in the exhibit was not by Norwich locals but by residents of other cities and towns. The exhibit

was replaced into storage at the end of July.

Pam Chaplin began entering the church sermon collection into PastPerfect to make information searching easier. With permission of Director Vivian Zoe, the staff of the Slater Museum was very helpful as Pam and Jay learned not only the how-tos but helpful hints as well. This is a very long term project and anyone interested in helping is asked to contact Jay or Pam.

While it was a wet season, our gardens were colorful with flowers, fragrant with the scent of herbs and filled with a harvest of squash, pumpkins and peppers. Kristy Quarto, Greg Stott and a band of friends expanded the kitchen garden to include more vegetables and herbs. It's not quite the memorial garden planned back in 1977 but we are planning on being able to include more information of the daily life outdoors during the colonial period. Wes Betler kept the identity gardens weed less and the yard spotless. But more help, hands and funds are needed. Donations of the vegetable plants from the local greenhouses come very late in the season and we would like to get an earlier start but need your help. Extra plants and funds to purchase heritage plants are greatly appreciated. Did you know area of the museum was raised 30 feet when the house was moved into its current location? That means that we have mostly sandy, rocky fill beneath the

grass and we will also be needing donations of dirt and manure in the spring to expand some of the areas we would like to have controlled growth in.

Changes to the inside of the museum have been small but substantial. We have been adding more and more written explanations of objects so hosts, guides and guests can tour with more facts and details at their fingertips than ever before. Georgette and Karen Jordan have been vigilant in their fight against cobwebs and dust every weekend. Mommy and Daddy Longlegs have had no weekends to rest this season!

It's a Mystery

In 1832, Sarah Cornell, a pregnant mill worker was found hanged in the small New England town of Fall River. The investigation implicated a prominent Methodist minister. The trial demonstrated one of the earliest attempts by American lawyers to prove their client innocent by assassinating the moral character of the female victim. The mother of Sarah Maria Cornell was Lucretia Leffingwell, daughter of Christopher Leffingwell. Lucretia became a "poor relation" when she married fortune hunter James Cornell. To learn more about this read [Fall River Outrage](#) by David Richard Kasserman.

Mike Przygoda "Painting With Light" Photograph Exhibit

The Leffingwell House Museum and the Society of the Founders of Norwich is delighted to present a photograph exhibit by Mike Przygoda of "Painting With Light." On May 2nd 2009 we'll be opening the exhibit at Noon with a cake and punch reception to honor and thank Mike for taking lovely photos that will be available for purchase of the museum and its various events.

Working with the Schools

OK Folks it's been done and it's official. The Leffingwell House Museum and the Society of the Founders of Norwich have embarked on an educational path together.

Yesterday I met with the coordinator, teachers and students of the after-school program called Bridges for the first introduction to the students of colonial history. I brought lots of "stuff" which included brochures of the museum, walking tours of Norwich, rulers, pencils, book marks, clothes pins and the little colonial clothes pin man, 4 bent nails, and 5 complete sets of post cards. Then we talked about each of the rooms of museum, when it was built, by who, lack of electricity and then compared what they had back then with what we have today. Even cartoons! Although their super hero's and today's are a little different. Two of them

have made working Jacob's ladders so they will be able to write the directions up so be included in the "Traveling Trunk".

Some modifications may need to be made before the "Traveling Trunk" is ready for another class but at least we have started and now we'll have to see where the path will lead us.

CT History Day Competition

History Day in Connecticut is part of the National History Day program. This annual competition engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of researching and interpreting a historical topic of their choice related to an annual theme. Working individually or in small groups, students are encouraged to find primary and secondary sources on their subject through research in libraries and museums, interviews, and visits to historic sites.

Students use their research to create a project to share with the public at one of five district History Day competitions held across Connecticut in the spring. Local historians, educators, and other professionals judge the students' entries, and winners are eligible to participate at the state competition held Saturday, April 4. State winners are invited to attend the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland with over 2,000 other students from across the country.

The History Day program challenges participants to write

their own history and fosters their creative talents. Students develop important research, thinking, and presentation skills that they will use throughout their lives.

CT History Day Statewide Competition on May 9th is looking for judges. Please review the information at www.chs.org or call Beryl at 887.9000 for further contact information.

You are invited!

On May 16, 2009 you, your family and friends are cordially invited to attend the first Leffingwell House Museum Gardening Party! Dress is casual but hats and work gloves are suggested as we gather together to prepare the grounds and soil for the largest gardening ever attempted at the museum. We are not asking for an all day commitment. We just ask that you come by with a little encouragement and support for 30 minutes or spend the day with us as we rake away the winter debris. Break and condition the soil for the plants and seeds. Please check with the gardening team before dropping off any plants and seeds though. Whenever possible we are hoping to plant older varieties and some of the new "heritage" varieties as well.

Founding Mothers Exhibit

Who were the women who stood beside the men who founded Norwich? Where did they come from? How did they demonstrate their strength?

What did they do? Pam Chaplin and Genevieve Calcasola will lead us through the development of Norwich through the eyes of the strong and brave women who were the first to make homes out of the houses they first had to build. On May 23rd we'll be hosting a tribute to these women with a tea from 1 to 3 and the opening of the first ever exhibit all about the "Founding Women of Norwich, CT" on the first floor of the museum. Extra hosts will be needed, please let us know if you are willing to help. No previous guide experience is needed.

Volunteers wanted

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

Beryl Fishbone

berylfishbone@yahoo.com

Closed until May 2009

We are looking for volunteers and members so our season and open availability times can be expanded. Currently we are open Saturdays May - October and by appointment.

We have a number of projects for people to help us with - a colonial program for distribution to local elementary schools, a catalogue and photography project of our museum contents, the referencing of our genealogy library and files, herb, spice and flower gardening, fundraising, programs and demonstrations. Any project someone would like to take responsibility for!

We are open and available for new ideas and suggestions!

Our spring will bring "Painting with Light" a photography exhibit by Mike Przygoda on May 2, 2009. The "Founding Mothers Exhibit" May 9, 2009, A "Gardening Party" on May 16, 2009 and a Vegetable planting party on May 30, 2009. Lots of hands make lighter work so please feel free to join us in any of these activities.

Gratefully submitted,

Beryl Fishbone
860-245-3837
860-887-9000

June 3rd Annual Meeting

Mark the evening of June 3rd on your calendar as the evening of the 108th Annual Meeting of the Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT.

Norwich is one of the few cities in the state with a "Society of the Founders" that dates back to one of the original societies that was organized back in 1901. Around the turn of the century each town and city chartered such a Society so the town could be certain that its history would not be lost. The membership was never restricted to only descendants of the original Founders as the popular haughty name always led people to believe. Rather the societies were organized to do genealogical research and present locally researched

papers on residents, visitors, events and places using an historical perspective. It is hoped that our exhibit of the "Founding Mothers of Norwich" pays honor to that goal.

Today your membership in the Society of the Founders supports the physical upkeep of four historically important buildings in Norwich, their insurance, a museum, a library, care of the relics of the past and programs built with an eye toward the education of the future residents and visitors to our area.

The Leffingwell House Museum is still a home of the 1700's on display. But if you haven't visited within the last two years, you've not seen some very important display changes that bring visitors from other museums and other countries. The museum is far from state of the art but our displays are historically accurate and so we remain one of the finest examples of colonial Americana in the country. The museum is open on Saturdays from Noon – 4 May through October and by appointment. Plan on spending an afternoon there this year!

Norwich Deed Signing Re-enactment Help Wanted

On June 6th the City of Norwich will be sponsoring a re-enactment of the signing of the deed of Norwich on the corner of Sachem & Washington Sts.

Members of the City Council and the Mohegan Tribe repre-

sentatives will be in period costume. The Women's City Club members Kate Disch and Elaine Malchman have generously agreed to have the Women's Club members be in costume at this event to act as guides, ambassadors, etc. and to make it more authentic. They may even be willing to make (sew) additional costumes for other participants.

Anyone interested in joining this committee is asked to contact Evelyn in the Mayors office at 860.823.3742.

Mailing Option

If you would like to receive this Newsletter via the internet, send us an email to info@leffingwellhousemuseum.org. Use 'Leffingwell Newsletter' as the Subject. I will verify your address and record before setting it up. The Newsletter will be available as a PDF via an email link that will be distributed when the Newsletter is available.

I'm offering this option as a way to save on mailing costs. At present it costs approximately 17 Cents a copy. If the address is wrong or a forwarding address is available there is a cost of 97 Cents each for the returned mail. On top of this the annual fee for the Bulk Mail Permit is \$180 per year. Your help in the matter will be greatly appreciated.

Austin Jay Deming
Editor, Circulation Manager

Please reserve and join us at the Leffingwell House Museum on some of these 2009 dates. TBA stands for "To Be Announced" and I am hoping to be able to fill those in soon. If you would like to be a demonstrator on any of those dates please call me as soon as possible at 860.887.9000. Thank you!! I am looking forward to seeing you soon. -

Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Type
4/4/2009	12:00 pm	Museum Spring Cleaning - Basement Level	Reunion
4/11/2009	10:00 am	Spring Cleaning on the main floor	Other
4/18/2009	10:00 am	Spring Cleaning on the 2nd Floor	Other
4/25/2009	10:00 am	Docent and Host Review Session	Meeting
5/2/2009	12:00 pm	Painting With Light - Mike Przygoda Exhibit	Meeting
5/9/2009	8:00 am	CT History Day Statewide Competition for Schools	Other
5/9/2009	12:00 pm	Founding Mothers Exhibit	Other
5/16/2009	11:00 am	"Gardening Party"	Party
5/23/2009	12:00 pm	Founding Mothers Exhibit	Other
5/30/2009	12:00 pm	Vegetable Planting Party	Party
6/3/2009	7:00 pm	Society of the Founders Annual Meeting	Meeting
6/6/2009	12:00 pm	Docent and Host Review Session	Meeting
6/13/2009	12:00 pm	CT Museum Open House Day	Other
6/14/2009	10:00 am	Guns of Norwich Show	Other
6/20 – 9/19/2009	12:00 pm	To Be Announced	Other
9/26/2009	12:00 pm	Society of the Founders Volunteers Picnic	Party
10/3/2009	11:00 am	Clear and clean the grounds and gardens day	Other
10/10/2009	1:00 pm	Society of the Founders 108th Birthday	Birthday
10/17/2009	8:00 am	Fall Festival Contests, Games and Fun	Other
10/24/2009	10:00 am	Clean and Close the museum for the season.	



In an effort to create a positive cash flow and to pay our bills we have purchased a limited number of these 'Portable Desk Organizers'. They display the Time, Date, Day of the Week and the Temperature. The lower portion displays a logo stating 'LEFFINGWELL HOUSE, HISTORIC MUSEUM, CIRCA 1675' and includes a profile of Christopher Leffingwell. One can be yours for a donation of \$100 or more. They make a great holiday gift. Send your donation today!

Submit this page with you donation.

ANNUAL DUES: June 1, 2008 - May 31, 2009

Annual Rates

Norwich, CT 06360-0013

- Student \$10.00
- Senior Citizen (over 65).... \$15.00
- Individual 20.00
- Family 30.00
- Sustaining..... 60.00
- Patron 150.00

Donations to the Philip A. Johnson Endowment Fund dedicated to the upkeep of the Museum \$_____

Donation to the general fund for use to maintain the other properties, offset activities costs, stock the gift shop, etc. \$_____

Name _____

I have included the Leffingwell House Historic Museum (Society of the Founders of Norwich in my will.

Street _____

I am interested in including the Society of the Founders of Norwich in my will.

City, State, Zip _____

Please check your address above for accuracy or necessary corrections. Make checks payable to: **The Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT, Inc.**, and send to:

(All contributions above the amount of membership are tax deductible)

Mrs. Walter Green
c/o The Society of the Founders of Norwich, CT, Inc.,
P.O. Box 13,

Please save us follow-up postage by sending your dues promptly. They are payable June 1, 2008 for the 2008 – 2009 Year.