



The Society of the Founders of Norwich, Connecticut, Inc.

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

2006 - 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Call for the Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

7:00 PM

Norwich Senior Center, Mahan Drive, Norwich CT

Presentation

Light refreshments will follow.

The President's Annual Report 2006 – 2007

Dear Friends,

The past year has been filled with "ups" and "downs" for the Society of Founders. The "ups" have been heartening and the "downs" have worked out to be not too discouraging.

During the summer, thanks to the generous and determined efforts of board member Beryl Fishbone, there were activities at the Leffingwell Inn **every** Saturday of the summer. There were diverse presentations from quilting to woodcarving, and from flower arranging to needlework.

Although there were no "casts-of-thousands", the groups who participated were enthusiastic and looking forward to the next series.

There have been times when I could expect to be called at any time during the day or night, to answer a fire or burglar alarm at the Inn. That pretty much ended when the alarm system was changed and improved so a gust of wind at a window wouldn't cause an alert. So it was a real shock when on September 23rd my phone rang at 11:30 PM with the message that a water main had ruptured **and water was pouring into Leffingwell Inn**. You can well imagine my panic. What to do!

Thankfully, my husband David, concerned for my state of mind, got dressed and drove me to the Inn, where we found the situation in the very

capable hands of the City of Norwich officials. Even though water was pouring down the hill from the road, miraculously it was flowing **around**, on both sides of the building, and **not into it!**

During the endless ride to Norwich, I had visions of the Inn as an ark, with priceless pairs of antiques, floating away into oblivion.

Once I realized the biggest help I could be was to encourage everyone -- and myself -- to go home so the crews could do its job without our "help".

Thankfully, water damage in the Inn was minimal, and promptly handled by Jay Deming, Beryl Fishbone and a professional moping up crew.

We remain very grateful for Joe Loracano, and the Norwich Public Works Department, and John Bilda and his Department of Public Utilities for the restoration of the driveway and grounds around the Inn. They were most solicitous and helpful in "making things right" after the flood.

There were several activities planned during the winter months but we did not draw the attention we had hoped to have. I think we finally have realized that the Inn is too dark and too cold to be hospitable in winter weather.

In January, the City of Norwich and the Society of Founders lost a good friend and supporter with the untimely death of Richard Sharpe, Norwich architect and historian. It had been his own wish that gifts in his memory should be made to the

Leffingwell Inn. Thanks to the generosity of Dick Sharpe's many friends and associates, and the assistance of board vice president, Ralph Learned, we have begun the process of up-dating our very "antique" and dangerous electrical wiring system. We will miss Dick Sharpe, but we will think of him wherever we use his sage electricity.

Sandy Brindamour has been actively seeking and applying for grants to help with our various needs and projects. Unfortunately, many other organizations are also applying for funds, so we have to wait our turn for consideration.

One project for which we needed no special funding, but for which I am personally very appreciative, is the additional steps into the Inn's front door. Board member Greg Stott, and his Dad, were able to match the original granite step with two others, so that no one needs to be "hailed" up and over, and into the building -- or have to use a pole vault!

Respectfully submitted,
Ann-etta N. Cannon, President

OFFICERS, MANAGERS, CHAIRS

OFFICERS 2006 - 2007

President Ann-etta Cannon
 Vice-President Ralph Learned
 Secretary Gail Deming
 Treasurer Austin Deming
 Archivist Vacant
 Librarian Linda Kate Edgerton
 Registrar Genevieve Calcasola

MANAGERS

Ralph Learned
 Walter Green
 Judith Hamblen
 Stanley M. Lucas, Esq.
 Anne Masterson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2006 - 2007

Annual Report Austin Deming
 Buildings & Grounds Walter Green &
 Austin Deming
 Gift Shoppe Vacant
 Hostess Chairman Vacant
 Grant Writer Sandra Brindamour
 Membership Calista Green
 Nominating Ralph Learned
 Newsletter..... Austin Deming
 Program Coordinator Beryl Fishbone
 Public Relations Vacant
 Publications Vacant

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2006 - 2007

Annual Meeting Louise Stott
 Resource Center..... Stanlely M. Luscas, Esq.

Volunteer, become a member of the Board, we need your support.

NOMINATIONS 2006 – 2007

The nominating committee will present nominations for elected positions at the annual meeting

2007 Leffingwell House Museum Calendar of Events

Month	Date	Activity	Docents/ Hosts	Jr. Docents/ Hosts
May	5	Gardening – Bring your gloves, clippers and spades	Hosts, Docents, Jr. Docents, Family and Friends – Please help us from 10 AM – 3 PM.	
	12	Museum Cleaning Day		
	19	Museum Cleaning Day		
	26	Docent & Host Training – We have some new items, exhibits, policies & procedures.	Everyone	Everyone
June	1	Opening of On-Loan Exhibit	Needed	Needed
Wednesday	6	Annual Meeting at Rose City Senior Center 7 PM	Everyone please attend	Everyone please attend
	9	Open House & CT Museum Open House Day	All hosts are needed	All hosts are needed
	16	Fencing Demonstration by NFA Fencing Team	Needed	Needed
	23	Felting with Pat Little	Needed	Needed
	30	Colonial Doll Dressmaking with Lydia Blacker	Needed	Needed
July	7	Rope Making & Knot Tying	Needed	Needed
	14	Beginner Crochet	Needed	Needed
	21	Herb Drying & gardening	Needed	Needed
	23 & 24	Cities In Bloom National Judges Tour of Norwich & Museum Gardens & Grounds		
	28	To be announced	Needed	Needed
August	4	To be announced	Needed	Needed
	11	Grandmothers Flower Garden Quilting w/ Ingrid Skinner	Needed	Needed
	18	Opening of Text Book Exhibit Members Bring your own Picnic on the Grounds	Needed	Needed
	25	Rub-Dub Washboard Scrubbing	Needed	Needed
September	1	Beginner Knitting	Needed	Needed
	8	Corn Husk Doll Making	Needed	Needed
	15	Autumn Fair	Needed	Needed
	22	To be announced	Needed	Needed
	29	To be announced	Needed	Needed
October	6	106 th Society of the Founders Anniversary Cake & Punch	Needed	Needed
	13	Fall Cleaning noon – 4 pm	Needed	Needed
	20	Fall Story Time Fundraiser	Needed	Needed
	27			
November	4	Crafters Fair	Needed	Needed

Thank you for attending events, volunteering and donating time and money to make 2007 wonderful!

The calendar is a work in progress and subject to adjustment and change.

Please check the Web Site for the Latest.

<http://leffingwellhousemuseum.org/>

Chair Ropes

Approximately 150 feet of 1 inch wide ribbon or rope is needed to refresh the rope-off's on the various chairs located throughout the museum. Some chairs have a fancy rope, some have ribbon, some have a belt from someone's dress from long ago, some have

nothing at all. Wouldn't you like to see a cohesive look to all the chairs? Wouldn't you like to see the chairs treated with the same dignity and respect their age alone should bring them. Please help with this exhibit facelift.

Lace Collection

Members of the New England Lace Group will be meeting and demonstrating various types of lace making during Open House Museum Day June 9th.

New England Lace Group is comprised of a community of lace enthusiasts living in the New England states.

We meet every third Saturday in the Joshua Hyde Library in Sturbridge, MA. Programs at meetings vary from visits from lace dignitaries to showings of lace-related videos and informal lace-ins. On June 9th the Leffingwell House Museum will have a collection of lace on display.

Open House Day Connecticut – June 10th

On Saturday, June 10th, just three days after the annual meeting the Leffingwell House Museum participated in Connecticut's 2nd annual Open House Day and what it a day it was! Ann Cannon, Sarah Cannon and Beryl Fishbone led a record 62 visitors on tours of the Inn in just four hours.

Buoyed with exposure by the State of Connecticut in the Ctvisit advertisements in print and on the internet individuals and families took the opportunity to explore and rediscover the historic and cultural treasures of the Inn.

Through the tavern room with the Orange Bowl and clay pipes, to the parlors with needlework on display, with a stop in the kitchen to learn how brooms were made, past the silver collection and on up the stairs to revere the wolf skin rug and craftsmanship of the sliding shutters, spinning wheels and rocking horse then on down to the basement to see purses and weapons and a tooth puller Ann, Sarah and Beryl with individuals and groups of 10 circled the Inn time and again telling what they knew and learning from another visitor about one of the oldest stands of Eastern Pine Trees still standing in the State being on his property.

Members of the Society of the Founders of Norwich CT are encouraged to tour the Inn for free and to become part-time docents.

Wax Wheel turns again

The wax wheel sat quietly and in still in the summer colonial kitchen until "Chili Bob" Whatley, Revolutionary War Time Period Historical Re-enactor took an interest and has

brought it back to useful life. Wicks, newly strung through the holes of four of the paddles now hold freshly dipped candles. To illustrate the process one paddle of wicks was dipped into a mixture of paraffin and bees wax five times, another paddle of wicks was dipped 10

times, another paddle of wicks 15 times and yet another paddle of wicks 25 times so the growth of the candle can be observed even though we are not currently dipping candles. Chili Bob says each candle should burn slowly and last 5 to 7 hours.

Candles in Colonial times were usually made in the spring and in the fall when the weather and the temperature permitted. If the weather was too cold the candles would set too rapidly and then crack or burn too quickly. If the weather was too warm the wax would not set correctly with the wick and they would again burn too quickly or the wick could be pulled out.

A second "T-bar" wax dipper that has had empty wicks for many years has also been restored with new candles by "Chili Bob".

Just like in colonial days, the museum tries never to let anything go to waste and so we are collecting the ends of old used candles for Bob to make new candles with. All of the candle ends are heated to melting point and then strained to remove any solids or wick pieces before new wicks are dipped in and new candles made. Please join us in our efforts and bring your candle pieces to the annual meeting or even better, bring them to the museum when you attend one of the Saturday demonstration or classes.

Treasurer's Report

In addition to the Financials shown above we own three buildings, The Inn, The Silversmiths Shop and The Greenleaf House.

Income & Expense	Balance Sheet
June 1, 2006 through May 4, 2007	As of May 4, 2007
Ordinary Income/Expense	Assets
Income	Current Assets
Museum 460.50	Checking/Savings
Contributions, Donations 7,379.00	Soc. Of the Founders 20,858.37
Membership Dues 3,510.00	Total Checking/Savings 20,858.37
Miscellaneous Inc 2,580.58	Other Current Assets
Other Income 4,481.45	Inventory 928.15
Total Income 18,411.53	Total Other Current Assets 928.15
Expense	Total Current Assets 21,786.52
Program Printing 1,314.81	Total Assets 21,786.52
Maintenance 21,666.46	Liabilities & Equity
Professional Fees 7,678.75	Liabilities
Insurance 9440.81	Current Liabilities
Equipment Purchase 359.98	Escrow 900.00
Miscellaneous Exp 141.16	Payroll Liabilities -23.89
Total Expense 40,601.97	Total Current Liabilities 875.11
Net Ordinary Income -22,190.44	Total Liabilities 875.11
Other Income/Expense	Equity
Other Expense	Opening Bal Equity 144,239.71
Other Expenses 248.00	Retained Earnings -100,889.86
Total Other Expense 248.00	Net Income -22,438.44
Net Other Income -248.00	Total Equity 20,911.41
Net Income -22,438.44	Total Liabilities & Equity 21,786.52

Gift Shoppe

The Gift Shoppe is continuing to stock Leffingwell Tee Shirts in adult sizes, Colors: red; white; blue, Sizes: Medium (8.00) Large (10.00) and Extra Large (12.00).

We also carry Leffingwell House notepaper priced at \$2.50 per package. We have Red and Gold Founder's Lapel pins \$5.00 for members only.

We will fill mail orders for the above list items.

Make checks payable to: The Society of the Founders of Norwich.

Mailing address:

Society of the Founders of Norwich
Gift Shoppe
P.O. Box 13
348 Washington St
Norwich, CT 06360

Postage and Handling:

Orders up to \$25.00	- \$3.50
\$25 to \$50.00	- \$4.50
\$50 to \$100.00	- \$5.50

Report from Registrar

The Leffingwell Museum Web site was updated recently to include the Registrar's e-mail address gencal@snet.net descents from Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, New Jersey, and Texas, have contacted me and many submitted documentation. The 35 founding fathers would be very proud that their ancestors were interested in how they established the City of Norwich. My goal this summer is to verify the 12 applications I have received from January 2007 to this printing.

Another project the Registrar is working on a project of entering the original applications for certification of decent of the Founders of the Society of Norwich, CT into a computer program, then filing the original application in separate labeled folders for better storage. So

far descents #01 to #230 (years 1901-1937) have been completed. There are over 500 descent member applications

Genevieve recently attended the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in late April 2007 in Hartford, CT. The three day conference was full of interesting workshops from professionals. It was a comprehensive learning experience for me. Knowledge learned will help me in my work at the Leffingwell Museum.

This has been my 2nd year as Registrar of SFN and I have enjoyed working closely with the board members, managers, members, descents, volunteers, docents, guests and community.

Genevieve W. Calcasola:

James L. Smith at Yale University

80 Copies of the Society of the Founders Book "James L. Smith" will be used as a text for National Endowment for the Humanities 2007 Landmarks of American History Culture workshop for schoolteachers "Beyond Amistad: The African American Struggle for Citizenship 1770-1850 June 17-22 and July 22-27, 2007 at Yale University at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.

Textile History Event

Please watch for the Saturday date and time announcement Tora Sterregaard will be returning to the Leffingwell House Museum.

Southeastern Connecticut is believed to be the center for elaborately quilted wool or silk petticoats dated from the 1750's to the early 1800's. These Heavy petticoats are of special interest to Ms. Sterregaard as she pursues an

advanced degree in Textile History. Petticoats and information about an 18th century source are most welcome. They are an important part of early quilting history and are unique to this area.

With over 15 years experience Tora will examine your antique or vintage bed quilts for clues of overall style of the quilt, fiber type, dye, fabric print technology, etc. a bit more about the history of your quilt.

OnLine Books

We recently discovered, our WEB Designer found, that the 1895 book '**Old Houses of the Ancient Town of Norwich 1660-1800**' by Mary Elizabeth Perkins is available on-line. A

copy from the Harvard University Library of the 1874 book by Frances Manwaring **Caulkins History of Norwich CT**: From its possession by the Indians to the year 1866 is also available on line. To locate them go to: Google Book Search.

Colonial Women

Who were the colonial women? What made them strong? Ever wondered what they thought about as they went about their days? Were their thoughts, dreams and plans really as dismissed as we have been led to believe? Were they truly uneducated?

Martha Laurens Ramsay died in Charleston, S.C. on the 10th of June, 1811 in the 52nd year of her age. She was married to Dr. David Ramsay for sixteen years and bore eleven children, eight survived. To none of them did she mention until ". . . in the full view of death, and only three days before its fatal stroke. She then announced the drawer in which they were deposited, and at the same time requested, that after they were read they might be kept as a common book of the family, or divided among its members. They appeared, on perusal, to be well calculated to excite serious impressions . . ."

"The impressions made on my mind by the perusal of these Memoirs of Mrs. Ramsay, and extracts from her Diary, have irresistibly led me to wish and earnestly to desire that they may be permitted to appear in print." (From a letter from the Rev. Dr. Keith, to Dr. David Ramsay. Charleston, S.C. June 28th, 1811)

The copy preserved by the Leffingwell House Museum is the 1812, third edition of her Memoirs published by David Ramsay, M.D. complete with an appendix containing extracts from her diary, letters and other private papers and also from letters written to her by her father Henry Laurens.

To learn more about Martha and other colonial women we need your financial support to build a new home for our ever expanding library. The Society of the Founders is a Not-for-Profit organization and donations are income tax deductible as allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

CERTIFICATE OF DESCENT

Again we list the names of the original founders of the Town of Norwich from whom the Society deems it necessary that one be able to trace a line of descent for Membership by descent.

The original proprietors are:

Dea. Thomas Adgate Robert Allyn William Backus, Sr. Lt. William Backus, Jr. John Baldwin Dea. Thomas Bingham John Birchard Thomas Bliss Morgan Bowers John Bradford Hugh Caulkins	John Caulkins Richard Edgerton Rev. James Fitch John Gager Lt. Francis Griswold Thomas Howard Christopher Huntington Dea. Simon Huntington Samuel Hyde William Hyde Lt. Thomas Leffingwell Maj. John Mason Dr. John Olmstead	John Pease John Post Thomas Post Josiah Reed John Reynolds Jonathon Royce Rev. Nehemiah Smith Sgt. John Tracy Lt. Thomas Tracy Robert Wade Sgt. Thomas Waterman
---	--	---

ANNUAL DUES: June 1, 2007 - May 31, 2008

Annual Rates

Norwich, CT 06360-0013

- Student.....\$10.00
- Senior Citizen (over 65)\$15.00
- Individual 20.00
- Family 30.00
- Sustaining 60.00
- Patron150.00
- Life Membership500.00

- 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. \$_____
- I have included the Leffingwell House Historic Museum (Society of the Founders of Norwich in my will.
- I am interested in including the Society of the Founders of Norwich in my will.

Name _____

Street _____

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:

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

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

Please save us follow-up postage by sending your dues promptly. They are payable June 1, 2007.