
LEFFINGWELL INN NEWS

Volume 4, Issue 1 Members

www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org

Friends

Annual Report 2008

The President's Annual Report 2007 - 2008

Dear Members and Friends,

Ten years ago I wrote in the Annual Report that I had spent time "getting my feet wet" because I had unexpectedly become president of the Society. Then I was concerned about being "in over my head" and working to "stay afloat."

Strangely enough I am still experiencing all three of the above! It is amazing that there is still so much to learn, use, and pass on, concerning the Society and the treasure of the Leffingwell Inn Museum.

Many of the concerns of the past seem to have been resolved. The Museum roof and exterior paint are holding up well. The exhibits continue to excite visitors. The electric "fires" in the fireplaces offer a welcoming (if not warm) touch of authenticity. We have not suffered any frozen pipes or other of winter's possible misfortunes. The added front steps, installed by Greg Stott and his dad have made entering the building much easier on visitors' knees -- both young and old!

The increased activity at the Museum has given the building extended "life" as happens to old buildings which are lived in and appreciated.

The activity is largely due to the tireless efforts of Beryl Fishbone and her "troops" (I secretly believe that these volunteers are in reality conscriptees who couldn't say no to Beryl).

Beryl also arranged for classes in colonial crafts held every weekend throughout last summer. Some of the most popular offerings were quilting, wood carving, knot tying, and stenciling.

This season, Beryl is not only working on the gardens outside the Inn, she is also collecting artifacts from inside hiding places to use as special displays in connection with the celebration of Norwich's 350th Anniversary.

The Society owes a great deal the Beryl for her

The Society of the Founders of Norwich Annual Meeting and Program

Wednesday, June 4th, 2008

**Rose City Senior Center
8 Mahan Drive * Norwich, CT**

**7:00 P.M. Business Meeting
Election of Officers and Directors**

**7:30 P.M. Special Program
with
The Rev. Canon Robert G. Car-
roon
BA, M.Div, MA, D.Litt (Sussex)**

**"ALIAS JOHN BOLTON"
George Washington's Spy Master
in the American Revolution**

**Dr. Carroon currently is the
President of
the Society of the Cincinnati,
in the State of Connecticut**

Public in invited – No admission

research, concern and energy on our behalf. Thank you! Thank you, Beryl!

We have been the recipient of several lovely gifts from friends, members and benefactors.

In October, Board Member Louise Stott gave us an excellent copy of Old Houses of the Ancient Town of Norwich, 1660 -1800.

This spring Patricia Walters from Landenberg, PA sent us a copy of Norwich Memorial: '61-'65. It is a record of all of the Norwich men who served in the Civil War, so many of whom are still very well known today.

James O. Justice, CDR USA (Ret.) contacted me early in the fall. He was offering a chair to the Society that had "lived" in the Museum when his family owned the building. We of course accepted with great appreciation, and the chair now is happily back home.

Mr. Justice has also given us two portraits of George Washington. They are very impressive and will be an important part of our collection.

We were delighted to host several Leffingwell descendants over the year. They are always really impressed with the building and its presentation.

Unfortunately, not everything is so positive.

We still are in serious financial distress. Much as we hate to have to ask for additional financial help, it has been necessary. Insurance alone is a very costly expenditure at over \$6,000 a year.

Although Beryl Fishbone and her crew did all manner of insulating and sealing, the cost of fuel oil to maintain even minimal heat has sky-rocketed for us, as it has everywhere else.

Even though electricity is not a major concern for us, the proposed increase in rates is not happy news either.

The number of visitors is holding well, but even so, the income from our guests and membership is not sufficient to meet our expenses.

Unfortunately, it is obvious that a much needed and anticipated grant from the State of Connecticut, for continuing work at # 2 Town Street (the David Greenleaf House) is in real jeopardy, given the State budget shortfall. That grant was meant to be used for the David Greenleaf House, thereby freeing up some money for the Museum ongoing expenses.

We still "cut corners" and "tighten our belts" wherever and whenever possible, but it is understandable that we get discouraged with having to appeal for more financial help so often. We do sincerely appreciate the generosity of all of those who responded so nicely in our time of need. Thank you all.

The Board is still feeling the loss of Walter Green. His death last spring left a void in the makeup of the Board and the Society that will not soon or easily, be refilled. His, and Calista's wise counsel and unfailing support, were and are precious gifts to all of us fortunate enough to have known and worked with them. Both Walt and Calista provided gentle leadership regardless of what the task might be.

The Museum was always ready to celebrate the Christmas Season because the Greens had put candles of welcome in the windows and hospitality wreaths on the doors.

They were always ready to answer security alarms no matter what the time of day, -- or night. At times when Board meetings were without a secretary, Walt graciously became secretary pro-tem. His skill with sign calligraphy is evident throughout the Museum.

While we join Calista in missing Walt, we also join with her and the family, in remembering the many things he had accomplished for his family, the Society of Founders, and his many, many friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann-etta N. Cannon,
President

Treasurer's Report

Income & Expense
June 1, 2007 through May 18, 2008

Balance Sheet
As of May 18, 2008

Ordinary Income/Expense		Assets	
Income		Current Assets	
Museum	1,082.50	Checking/Savings	
Contributions, Donations	16,912.29	Soc. Of the Founders	20,363.46
Membership Dues	2,674.00		
Miscellaneous Inc	4,114.08	Other Current Assets	
Other Income	5,515.04	Inventory	928.15
Total Income	30,397.91	Total Current Assets	21,291.61
Expense		Total Assets	21,291.61
Program Printing	270.00		
Maintenance	13,794.10	Liabilities & Equity	
Professional Fees	4,983.67	Liabilities	
Insurance	9,309.37	Current Liabilities	
Miscellaneous Exp	2,500.00	Escrow	900.00
Total Expense	30,857.14	Payroll Liabilities	-23.89
		Total Current Liabilities	875.11
Net Ordinary Income	-459.23	Total Liabilities	875.11
Other Income/Expense		Equity	
Other Expense		Opening Bal Equity	144,215.71
Other Expenses	225.00	Retained Earnings	-123,114.98
Total Other Expense	225.00	Net Income	-684.23
Net Other Income	-225.00	Total Equity	20,416.50
Net Income	-684.23	Total Liabilities & Equity	21,291.61

Membership Report

New Members
2006 – 2007

Gail Patricia Calkins Beckham	CT
Wesley H. Betler	CT
Lydia L. Blacker	CT
Sandra Brindamour	CT
Jon B. Chase	CT
Andy Derr	CO
Taryn Marsh	CT
Lee W. Michon	CT
Mary Louise Calkins Muscarella	CT
Robin Tavares	CT
Christine Thumm	CT
John E. Idenden	NJ
Joyce Thomas	CT
The Slater Memorial Museum	CT

2007 – 2008

David B. Collier & Family, Norwich,	CT
Cecelia Norwid, Yantic,	CT
Ross G. Perry, Arlington,	VA

Deceased Members

Martha S. Baldwin	July 13, 2006
Lucy H. Barnes	July 1, 2006
Marjorie L. Coffill	2008
Walter A. Green	May 8, 2007
James R. Hanna	2006
Alma P. Lukoff	July 4, 2006
Harrison C. Noyes	January 11, 2007
Mrs. Shepard B. Palmer, Jr.,	July 24, 2007
Doris S. Royce	2007
Richard Sharpe	January 1, 2007

In the years 2006 - 2008 we welcomed 19 new members. We noted eight deaths and one resignation.

Just a reminder, dues are payable May 31, 2007 for the coming year. It saves money on postage if we receive the dues promptly.

Calista Green
Membership

OFFICERS 2007-2008

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

MANAGERS

Ralph Learned
Judith Hamblen
Stanley M. Lucas, Esq.
Anne Masterson
Robin Tavaras

COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2007 - 2008

Annual Report Austin Deming
Buildings & Grounds Greg Stott
..... Austin Deming

Gift Shoppe Vacant
Hostess Chairman Vacant
Grant Writer..... Austin Deming
Membership Calista Green
Nominating Ralph Learned
Newsletter..... Austin Deming
Program Coordinator Beryl Fishbone
Public Relations Vacant
Publications Vacant

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2007 - 2008

Annual Meeting Louise Stott
Resource Center..... Stanley M. Lucas, Esq.

Please! Isn't obvious we need volunteers to fill positions, too few people are doing too many jobs.



A copy of the Norwich Packet from 1777 was on display in the tavern room. The words, printed 230 years ago, are all still there for all to read.

Activities from Last Season

Exhibits

In August we had our third, that's right, third special exhibit of 2007. Our first special exhibit played up the items on loan to us from other museums such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Athenaeum in Hartford and the Slater Museum here in Norwich.

The second exhibit showcased the hand and machine made lace collection of the museum and was high-lighted by lessons and a demonstration of lace making by members of the New England Lace Group.

The last exhibit of the season, which will last through the end of October, is the text book exhibit. From deep in the museums own vault we have brought up the math workbooks of John (age 11) and Sarah Bliss and from our own Library shelves, examples of colonial period textbooks of literature, geography, grammar, spelling and more from 1708 thru 1812!

Photos

40 photographs of the museum and many of our events are available for purchase and will soon be available on our website courtesy of Mike Przygoda. That's right, our web site has a whole new look and soon web-surfers will have access to the museum store, special photos, and a listing of the contents of our library. At this point we can't digitize our collection but we'll have a listing thanks to April Calhoun and College Intern Angela Cardinal.

College Intern

Angela Cardinal is our college intern this summer from Colchester, VT. Looking to gain experience in museum operations she spent Saturdays helping April Calhoun catalog and photograph the contents of the Society of the Founders Genealogical Library housed in the basement of the museum.

Docents and Junior Docents

Vacations, summer camps and various visits by family and friends have rotated our volunteer staff and kept us all hopping. It takes about three Saturdays volunteering to be an old hand at being a host

or guide. The first Saturday is spent learning how to weed the garden, dust, become acquainted with the displays and to accompany an experienced host on the tours of the day throughout the Inn. The second Saturday is spent doing some of the tour with an experienced guide and the third Saturday and beyond is hosting tours. It's late, but, still come and learn the ropes and join us next year. Come and spend a few Saturdays with us we have plenty of room and work to get done.

Last year we averaged eight tours per Saturday.

Blowing in the wind

We have a new banner that changes below the large lawn sign facing the Harland Road Corner. The banner lets everyone know that we are open on Saturdays from noon to 4 and there are workshops from 1 to 3.

It's a sign

Our signs have issues from rotting edging to peeling paint. We need donations from you of money, time, talent or sponsorship. It would be wonderful if we could also update the sign at the top of the driveway to include a board that could be read from the east and the west of what the activity of the week or season will be.

Fiber Artists

The term "Fiber artist" is a 21st century term for people who create lace, spin cotton and flax thread and wool, weavers of cloth, rug hookers, braiders and makers, crocheters, knitters, felters, hand and machine quilters. We'd like to provide a space for groups to meet, practice, create, teach, learn and preserve the handcrafts of yesterday for the generations of tomorrow. Your support is needed. Please send your contribution to Treasurer, Society of the Founders, PO Box 13, Norwich, CT 06360.

Our grateful thanks to Tora Sterregaard for her quilt program and Lydia Blacker for demonstrating colonial doll clothes making and Stenciling on Velvet demonstrations and to the members of the New England Lace Group for bringing their program to the museum.

Yahoo Travel Review

Yahoo Travel has two contributor reviews of the Leffingwell House Museum. The first review is from 2004 and the latest, five stars of a possible five stars, review is from July 2007. "Our walk through the house was guided by a very friendly and informative volunteer. I learned things about early American industry I hadn't known before. She showed us how small household and daily things worked. The \$5 suggested donation was worth every penny! Great little museum!"

Have you seen a clue?

The Connecticut Gravestone Network would like your assistance in their search for any clue that would reference the cutting, making, installing, selling, paying for or even a probate listing that one has left masonry and stone cutting tools in their inventory. These references may be a clue they can use to build on the history of these craftsmen. Sometimes even the documentation of where they lived or visited is very helpful.

Old account books and business records of any stone cutter, mason or sculptor or quarry records, maps, deeds and partnership information are also of great importance.

Information and inquiries should be sent to ctgravelady@home.com. Further information of the information collected so far can be viewed at www.ctgravestones.com.

Read all about us

Our gratitude and admiration to Elissa Bass, writer for The Day paper Vacation Buzz column and photographer Tim Cook for their article on and photos of the museum on Saturday, July 21, 2007 in the Daybreak section of the paper.

It's in the Papers of George Washington. *Washington's Revolutionary War Itinerary and the Location of His Headquarters, 1775 - 1783*. On April 8th, 1776 George Washington was to be Norwich Connecticut for meetings at Leffingwell Inn and Jedidiah Huntington's House. To read more about

it view the Papers of George Washington at <http://gwpapers.virginia.edu>.

Penny Pot

A penny is the father of the dollar. A penny short and you don't have a dollar; you just have a pocket full of change. A penny more than a dollar and you have a dollar and change.

The Leffingwell House museum is asking for your help in turning pennies into dollars by helping us fill our "penny pot." Our "penny pot" has a cute and funny story. To learn the story, stop by the museum with your pennies and your change. Donations of larger denominations are also accepted with gratitude.

Hempsted Houses

During August, Rick Spencer, Site Administrator of the Hempsted Houses in New London and a new resident of Norwich, visited the museum. He was very impressed with what we have and what we have done with it.

He is also interested in working on some projects together. I have assured him that the Society of the Founders would be delighted to work on such plans.

National Wildlife Certification

The grounds and the backyard of the Leffingwell House Museum has received notice and a plaque, that it is now an official Wildlife habitat by the Na-

tional Wildlife Federation and will soon be receiving a "Certificate of Achievement."

In the days of Christopher Leffingwell lawns were not common but gardens, meadows, natural growth areas and places for wildlife to live, eat and hide were certainly everywhere.

The backyard wildlife program encourages the same colonial practices in our modern setting for historic education and for education and preservation of nature for the future.

Registrar's Report

The Society of the Founders of Norwich web site, www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org, generates many of the contacts of descents seeking membership and certificate information. This past year eight descent applications have been received processed and certificates given. Another seven people asked for applications. There were also many inquires about other early Norwich Families, sliver markings, and various history of the area questions.

This coming year my goals are to have the web site updated to include the descent application. I will be asking the Museum Board to increase the Descent Application Fee of \$50.00, which includes membership at the associate level, to a more appropriate fee.

I am about to start my 4th year as Registrar and I thank the support of the Board and the Members for their vote of confidence for the work I do.

Genevieve Calcasola

Registrar & Secretary

Editor's Note

There was no Spring Newsletter due to availability of Funds. The Spring Fund Appeal has been very successful and for those that didn't respond to the initial request a second mailing was made. We want to thank you again for your support. Please note that we are searching for Grants to support Museum Programs and activities with local schools. As mentioned above there are too few people filling too many jobs, please consider joining our staff. With computers and the Internet it is quite possible to do some of these jobs from remote locations.

Respectfully Yours
Austin Deming

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

Annual Rates

Student.....	\$10.00
Senior Citizen (over 65)	\$15.00
Individual	20.00
Family.....	30.00
Sustaining	60.00
Patron	150.00
Life Membership	500.00

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,
Norwich, CT 06360-0013

..... 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.

(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, 2008.