

# The Courier

NOVEMBER 2014

VOL. 50, NO. 1

A quarterly publication of the Manchester Historical Society, Inc. / 175 Pine Street / Manchester, Connecticut 06040 / (860) 647-9983

## A Message from the President

*by Dennis Gleeson*



I would like to thank all who attended the annual meeting last month, either by being present in person or by returning a proxy form. The revisions to the bylaws were approved as presented to the membership. The slate of officers and directors was elected as presented. Thank you for demonstrating your confidence in me by reelecting me as president once again. I would like to welcome new board members Karen DePauw, Benda Lowther and Kent Schwendy.

October marked the beginning of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The Society was incorporated October 1, 1965 and has grown exponentially over the years. We now operate four properties and conduct many events each year. We are fortunate to be able to preserve as much of Manchester's history as we have.

Beginning in November we will be changing the hours when the History Center and Old Manchester Museum will be open to the public. **The History Center will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Old Manchester Museum and Cheney Homestead will be open the second Sunday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m.** Both the museum and Homestead will continue to be available by appointment by calling 860-647-9983. The Old Manchester Museum will again be closed for the winter season beginning mid-December through April 2015.

The new fiscal year began as of October 1, and with it begins the Annual Appeal for 2014-2015. As the Society continues to grow and become ever more active, the need for financial help also increases. Your continued support is very important and is greatly appreciated. Please consider making a generous contribution this year.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the Cheney Homestead has undergone some repairs and repainting of the interior. The southeast corner room on the ground floor was repainted and now represents what it would have looked like when used by Electa Cheney in her later years.

We have reprinted the *Miracle Workers* booklet and it is again available. In addition, we now have available new t-shirts featuring the Meadowbrook Dairy barn at the Woodbridge Farmstead. A unique new holiday ornament is also available showing the Meadowbrook Dairy barn.

The restoration of the Woodbridge barn is now in the process of receiving and reviewing bids for that work. As part of clearing the interior of the barn, the horse drawn sleigh was lowered from the rafters. It was placed there in 1920 following an accident and had not been down since then. It will be part of our display for the upcoming Holiday Gala.

I would like to thank the volunteers who helped us with our Festive Tea event in September and with the mailings for the annual meeting and bylaw revisions, and the many volunteers who have helped us throughout the year. Our Society has much to be thankful for.





## Drop Us A Line...

You can contact Society President  
Dennis Gleeson at  
president@manchesterhistory.org,  
or our Executive Director  
Eileen Sweeney at  
executivedirector@manchesterhistory.org

## The Courier

*A newsletter of the  
Manchester Historical Society*

Online at: [www.manchesterhistory.org](http://www.manchesterhistory.org)  
E-mail: [info@manchesterhistory.org](mailto:info@manchesterhistory.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/  
ManchesterHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety)

### OFFICERS

Dennis Gleeson, President  
Marsha Gunther, Vice President  
Rita McParland, Secretary  
Mya Bowen, Treasurer

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Cooney  
Karen DePauw  
Kevin Ferrigno  
Patricia Hetzel  
Brenda Lowther  
Terry Parla  
Kent Schwendy  
David Smith

### DIRECTORS EMERITI

Susan Barlow  
George Beauregard  
Douglas Edwards  
Vivian Ferguson  
Joseph Sobanski

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eileen Jacobs Sweeney

Design & Printing by Minuteman Press.

We encourage our members to patronize the  
companies that have helped us in many ways  
and are Corporate Members of the Society.

**Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.**  
**Highland Park Market**  
**Manchester Road Race Committee**  
**Royal Ice Cream Company**

## Meet Your New Directors

**Karen DePauw** is currently employed by the Connecticut Historical Society as the Research and collections Associate, specializing in costumes and textiles. She is a member of the Costume Society of America. Her interest is to help us continue to develop the Society as a vibrant organization on the path to do great things.

**Brenda Lowther** is a grants and contracts specialist with the University of Connecticut. She has spent a large part of her career working and volunteering with non-profit agencies. Brenda attended Manchester schools but moved away after she married. She decided to come back to Manchester because she loves the "small town" feel. She and her husband live in a nearly 150 year old house currently undergoing restoration. We welcome Brenda to our Board of Directors.

**Kent Schwendy** is the Chief Operating Officer at the Corporation for Independent Living in Hartford. His expertise includes real estate development, mobility planning and green infrastructure focusing on the creation of walkable, livable and sustainable communities. Previously he worked for many years at Fuss & O'Neill and became senior vice president and partner. He served in the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of captain. Kent lives in Manchester with his wife and three children.

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## Cheney Homestead Remodeled

*by Dennis Gleeson*

In a letter written in 1844 by Mrs. Ward Cheney to her brother-in-law Charles Cheney in Ohio she reported:

*"The boys (or rather Seth) have been enlarging the little bedroom that goes out east into a fine large room for mother's sleeping-room, so it may be comfortable, and she not obliged to go upstairs. Seth did nearly all the work himself. I never saw such a fellow; he can do anything and everything. He laid all the brick, built the chimney up to the top, did the plastering and most of the carpentry, and has put a fine yellow wash on the room, and hung pictures, and arranged plants, and you can't imagine what a delightful room it is. I never go into it but it reminds me of a picture."*

At this time Electa Cheney was 63 years old and was able to enjoy the room for another 9 years until her death in 1853. Seth was 29 years old when he remodeled the room for his mother.

The results of this 1844 remodeling can once again be seen in the Homestead. Recently the corner room, used as Electa's sleeping room 150 years ago, was repainted and repairs made. The walls have been repainted with a sunny yellow color. Located on the southeast corner of the house, this room is once again a very pleasant room.

# Annual Meeting of the Society

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held Sunday, October 19 at the History Center. Some 25 persons attended the meeting and over 100 proxies were submitted by mail. The minutes of last year's meeting were approved. Following the report from the president the election of officers and directors was held. The following persons were elected:

President	Dennis Gleeson	
Vice President	Marsha Gunther	
Secretary	Rita McParland	
Treasurer	Mya Bowen	
Directors	John Cooney	Karen DePauw
	Kevin Ferrigno	Patricia Hetzel
	Brenda Lowther	Terry Parla
	Kent Schwendy	David Smith

The proposed revisions to the Society bylaws were presented and discussed. The revised bylaws were approved by the membership as presented.

Treasurer Mya Bowen made a detailed presentation for the Treasurer's report, which included the auditor's report from the previous fiscal year.

Eileen Sweeney presented the Executive Director's report and recognized the efforts of the volunteers.

After the meeting refreshments were served.

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## We Will Miss....

**Marian Camp**, a lifelong resident of Manchester, served on the Society's Board of Directors for several years. She was an active volunteer and also volunteered with the Manchester Band Shell. Professionally she was associated with the Anne Miller Real Estate firm.

**Richard Egan** was the ninth president of the Manchester Historical Society. He had the distinction of serving as president with split terms. Dick first served from 1979 to 1980 and then again from 1989 to 1993, before and after the Society acquired the use of the museum building on Cedar St. He also served as president of the Pitkin Glass Works. During World War II Dick served in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific, and later worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

**Albert Harris** died in July in Dennis, MA. Al served as the fourth president of the Manchester Historical Society, from 1970 to 1972. This was a period when the organization had recently received the donation of the Cheney Homestead from the Cheney Family and was beginning its slow but steady growth. Al also served on the Manchester Board of Education and as president of the Manchester Bicentennial Bandshell Committee.

**Anna Litke**, a longtime member of the Society and active volunteer for many years died several months ago. She worked as a teller at the Savings Bank of Manchester and the Connecticut Bank & Trust Co. until she retired about 20 years ago. Anna and her late husband Norman served as docents at the Old Manchester Museum many times.

**Pat Matrick**, a dedicated volunteer with our Society died in October. Over the past several years she spent a lot of time tending the flower gardens at the Woodbridge Farmstead, as well as helping with many of our events. She served on the Woodbridge Committee and the Events Committee of the Society. Pat will be greatly missed

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## Giving Thanks

During this special time of year, we at the Manchester Historical Society would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all our members and volunteers.

Cheney Brothers had a long history of honoring and giving thanks to their workers – and the community at large. At this time, we are continuing this tradition by lifting our hats and giving honor to those who have gone before us.



★★★★★ *The* ★★★★★★  
**CIVIL WAR**  
 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
 ★★★★★★



## Civil War Notes

by Ron Schack

### MANCHESTER'S BATTLES AND CASUALTIES

November, 1864 through January, 1865

#### November 1864

**November 2, 1864** - Secretary of State **William H. Seward** warned the mayor of New York City of rumors that Confederate agents in Canada were planning to set fire to the city on Election Day. A number of regiments were detached to New York including Connecticut's 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments. Later in the month an attempt to burn the city was made, but failed.

**Manchester** soldiers in this contingency were: William S. Marble from the 7th, George G. Barrett, Henry N. Barrows, Charles I. Green, Henry C. Hill, John Horsley, Albert W. Keeney, Valette C. Keeney, William J. Lyman, Henry Potter, David Ross, George Schieldge, Thomas Schofield, and Arthur F. Slate, all from the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**November 8, 1864** - President **Abraham Lincoln** was elected to a second term over **General George B. McClellan**. Lincoln and his running mate Andrew Johnson won over 55 percent of the popular vote and carried all but three participating states. His strongest support came from active duty soldiers where he garnished 78 percent of their votes.

**November 16, 1864** - **William Tecumseh Sherman** began his "**March to the Sea**", from Atlanta Georgia. He led his Union army through Georgia to the coastal city of Savannah. His base of supply and communication lines was cut off leaving his troops to live off the land. They destroyed railroads and property that might help the Confederate cause.

Connecticut's 5<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry Regiment was involved in the march. Manchester soldiers with the 5th during this timeframe were: James P. King, William Pickering, David Ray, Daniel Rose, and Gilbert Saunders.

#### December 1864

**December 15-16, 1864** - Confederate General **John B. Hood** was defeated by Union General **George Thomas** Thomas at Nashville, Tennessee. The Confederates successfully set up a naval blockade on the Cumberland River, until they were driven out by the Union cavalry.

**December 21, 1864** were involved in the battle. Members of the 7th from Manchester, Connecticut included: **Thomas Bagain, William Marble, David Porter,** and **Darwin Thompson.**

**John Couch** was killed in action during the battle on August 15, 1864.

He was working in Manchester as a farm laborer when he joined Company A, 7th Connecticut Infantry Regiment on September 5, 1861.

**Dennis Mahoney** - General Sherman's army occupied **Savannah, Georgia**. On December 22, Sherman sent President Lincoln a telegram: "I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, accompanied by 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

#### January 1865

Manchester soldier **Hobart D. Bishop** died on **January 1, 1865**. He had been a prisoner of war at Andersonville prison, Georgia. Hobart enlisted with Company L, 1st Connecticut Volunteer Cavalry Regiment on January 5, 1864. He was promoted to full sergeant on February 1, 1864.

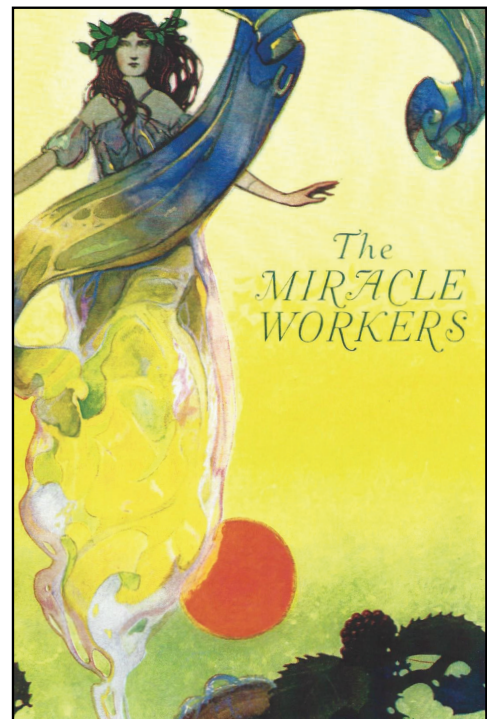
On **January 12, 1865**, Union ships bombarded **Fort Fisher** near Wilmington, North Carolina. The bombardment continued until mid-day on January 15, when Union troops stormed the fort. A few hours later it was captured. Connecticut's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiments and the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry Regiments were involved in the capture of the fort.

**Manchester** soldiers with the 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiment were: James C. Battersby, Charles O. Brown, George Burnham, Loan A. Chapin, George E. Clay, John Fagan, Henry H. Hollister, Hugh Johnson, John W. Kennedy, Woodford Martin, James May, William S. McLean, John L. Morgan, Gilbert B. Norton, George R. Risley, Paul Schoefler, Theron Shepard, Eugene Sullivan, Frederick J. Welton, and Thomas White. Manchester soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy Artillery Regiment were: John Burns, Johnson S. Dow, and James M. Price. William S. Marble of the 7<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry Regiment was also in this battle.

The **Carolinas Campaign** began on **January 19, 1865**. Major General William T. Sherman advanced north from Savannah, Georgia, through the Carolinas to link up with Union forces in Virginia.

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Sources include: Manchester Historical Society Civil War data  
 The Civil War Day by Day, edited by John S. Bowman  
 Hartford Courant Archives  
 Wikipedia website





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Lectures usually take place at the Manchester History Center at 175 Pine St. Parking is available along Pleasant St. and along the Forest St. side of the building. Parking for people with disabilities is available in the small lot next to the History Center. The building is accessible. The costs for most lectures and walking tours are \$2 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Free for children under 16.*

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**Sunday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m., Iwo Jima presentation at the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine Street** by Gary Roy of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation, Inc., with photos and introduction to the memorial, which is located in Newington, CT. Information on the two Manchester survivors of Iwo Jima will be presented.

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**Tuesday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m., the Historical Society's Genealogy Group** will host a "Round Table Discussion: Using Veteran's Records" for amateur and more experienced genealogists. We will meet at the Manchester History Center. The Genealogy Group consists of Historical Society members, but non-members are also welcome, \$3.00 fee. The group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the History Center.

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**Sunday, November 9 and the second Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4, Cheney Homestead open to visitors:** View this 1785 house at 106 Hartford Road, and hear commentary about this interesting residence, which was donated to the Manchester Historical Society in 1968. Admission and guided tour by donation.

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**Saturday, November 29, at 1:00 p.m., Salter's Pond history hike,** meet in the parking lot of Salter's pool, Lydall St., Manchester for a one-mile walk around historic Salter's Pond. Commentary on Lorenzo Salter, who with Mr. Strong, developed a paper mill along Lydall Brook. Rough and somewhat hilly terrain, so some athleticism is needed. No dogs, please. Takes about 60 minutes. Rain or shine, but extreme weather cancels.

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**Friday, December 5 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., the Society's Annual Gala:** A fund-raiser for the Society and its programs. With glamor, gifts, good fellowship, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. Live auction, music, and some surprises.

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**Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 to 3:00 p.m., Open House:** Throughout the historic district -- all are invited to visit the Cheney Homestead, History Center, and Old Manchester Museum. The museum stores will be open.

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**Sunday, December 14, from 1 to 4, Cheney Homestead open to visitors:** View this 1785 house at 106 Hartford Road, and hear commentary about this interesting residence, which was donated to the Manchester Historical Society in 1968. Admission and guided tour by donation.

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**Saturday, December 27 at 1:00 p.m. Highland Park history hike and climb,** for the athletic hikers, starting at the parklet next to the small parking lot on Spring Street near the bridge and waterfall, not far from the intersection of Spring Street and Glen Road, Manchester. We'll start with commentary on the Case Brothers National Historic District and then visit the paper mill and mansion areas on our way to the summit of Case Mountain. Steep, bumpy, and rocky terrain, but worth the effort, especially on a clear day, when the Heublein Tower is visible to the west. Please dress warmly, wear sturdy sneakers or hiking boots, and bring water. No dogs, please. Rain or shine, but extreme weather cancels. Please check the street signs carefully before parking. There are several trailheads for the Case Mountain Recreation Area and hiking trails -- this hike starts at the trailhead on Spring Street three-tenths of a mile from Exit 4, off I-384.

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**Thursday, January 1 at 1:00 p.m. History Walk in the Cheney District,** starting at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road. Park at Fuss & O'Neill, 146 Hartford Road, Manchester. This one-and-a-quarter-hour walk will proceed along the streets to view historic mansions, schools, and a church, with a visit to the nine acres purchased by the Town in 2005 for open space and historic preservation. Historical Society members Tom Ferguson and Susan Barlow will comment on the historic landscape and buildings. There is some steep and uneven ground, so participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots. Extreme weather cancels, but the walk will be held in light rain or snow flurries.

## A Message About Volunteering

How would you like the opportunity to share your time with the Manchester Historical Society as one of our valued volunteers? We would like to have you join our team to help keep history alive in Manchester. Some of the benefits you enjoy as a volunteer include meeting and working with other volunteers who share the same interests and helping us to educate others about the history of our town. Duties might involve working as a docent or helper for the Old Manchester Museum, the Cheney Homestead, or the History Center building on Pine St. Volunteers are also involved in helping with special events, maintenance, archiving, and clerical work. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

Please stop by the History Center at 175 Pine St. to sign on, or call the office at 860-647-9983.

We look forward to hearing from you and getting you involved with our volunteers.

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## Did You Know?

**EVERY ADDRESS LABEL TELLS A STORY.** Just a reminder that by checking the address label on the back of the newsletter, you can easily see when your membership expires. The date that appears on the address label tells you when it is time for you to renew.

**YOU CAN NOW FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.** The Historical Society is on Facebook and we currently have over 500 friends. You can follow us at: [www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety).



The Manchester Historical Society  
 175 Pine Street  
 Manchester, Connecticut 06040

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**Your Membership Expires on: xx/xx/xx**

## MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please print and fill out this form, and mail it with your check to:

**The Manchester Historical Society, 175 Pine St., Manchester, CT 06040**

Name: (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Individual	\$45
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student (under age 18)	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Family	\$75
	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Individual	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Couple	\$400		

**I would like to make an additional contribution for**

<input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Building Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Farmstead Endowment	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Endowment Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Barn Restoration	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheney Homestead Endowment	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeney Schoolhouse Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	\$ _____		

I have enclosed a matching gift form

***Make checks payable to: Manchester Historical Society***

*Membership Dues and Donations to the Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

# MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual Gala

### “Winter Wonderland”

Friday, December 5, 2014

6:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Manchester History Center

175 Pine Street

**Guest Host: Irene O’Connor**

WFSB TV Channel 3

 *Join us for:*

Live Auction Items



Silent Auction Items

Entertainment

Food and Beverage

Items for the Silent and Live Auction are still welcome – including decorated wreaths, product/gift baskets, and hand-knit small items for the *Giving Tree*.

Further information at 860-647-9983

# Manchester Historical Society

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala

### “Winter Wonderland”



Reservation Form

\$25 Member \$30 Guest

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) @ \$30 each



Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Manchester Historical Society  
175 Pine Street ~ Manchester, CT 06040

Information at 860-647-9983