



The Courier

SEPTEMBER 2014

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Woodbridge Barn Restoration Project



Photo by Dave Smith

The Society has been awarded a \$78,000 Historic Restoration Funds Matching Grant from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of preserving and restoring the late 18th-century barn at our Woodbridge Farmstead property. The former Meadow Brook Dairy Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Farmstead has three barns, with the late 18th Century barn believed to be among the oldest in the area. The barn had stabilization work completed two years ago to ensure its survival until a full restoration could be undertaken. This was partially funded by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. Crosskey Architects of Hartford is aiding the organization in planning for the next stages of the barn's restoration.

Recently, volunteers have rejuvenated the grounds, including maintaining existing perennial plants, and planting an organic vegetable garden and fruit trees. Wooden bridges have been

repaired and built over the Bigelow Brook that runs through the property. A limited number of public events and tours have taken place to educate and inform the public of the Society's vision of creating an agricultural museum in the barn to showcase the town's agrarian history. In addition, the Society partners with town schools to conduct annual third-grade tours for students to enhance the local history curriculum.

The Society is in the process of raising matching funds for the \$78,000 grant, and will be launching a major fundraising drive soon. In the meantime, local businesses and members of the original Woodbridge family are helping to plan other fundraising events at the Woodbridge property to raise awareness for the project and to encourage potential contributors.

So stay tuned for more details about our "barn-raising" fundraiser!





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*

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A Message from the President

by Dennis Gleeson



The Society continues to move forward with activity on so many fronts that at times it seems overwhelming.

The Governance Committee has made revisions to the bylaws which will be presented to the membership for approval at the Annual Meeting which will be held Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m. at the History Center.

As reported elsewhere in the Courier, The Highland Park Family Foundation has made a significant donation of \$3,500 for replacing the wood roof at the Keeney Schoolhouse. The current roof is nearly 40 years old.

Renovation of the rooms on the top floor of the History Center continues. Room 4 has had the walls and window interiors recently repainted by Yusuf Bawwab and David Brown. Room 3 is now being renovated.

The Woodbridge barn restoration project is now out for bid. It is hoped that a contractor will be in place this fall and the work can begin before the winter. Major fund raising has begun.

At the Cheney Homestead, the room used by Electa Cheney has had some repairs made to the ceiling and the roof over it. Water leaks last winter forced us to make some major repairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank the caretakers of our two properties, Woodbridge Farmstead and Cheney Homestead. Barbara and Yusuf Bawwab at the Farmstead and George Hakkila and Caroline Ford at the Homestead have kept both places looking well maintained and shipshape. Both properties cover a lot of ground and need special care.

A full calendar of events is planned for this fall.

Please remember to attend the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 19.

We continue to seek volunteer help for repairs and maintenance of our properties. Please call me at 860-647-9983 on any Monday or Tuesday.

Cookbook Recipes Sought

As part of our fundraising efforts for the Woodbridge barn restoration



project, we are planning on producing a cookbook featuring old-time, tried and true recipes as well as modern recipes. If you have a recipe (or more than one) that has been handed down in your family or a recent one that you are especially fond of and will become a family classic that you would like to share

with others, please send it to us. You can either email it to us at info@manchesterhistory.org or send it to us at 175 Pine St. 06040. A picture of the completed dish and/or a photo of your mother or grandmother who used the recipe would also be appreciated and may be included in the cookbook.

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

Cheney Homestead News

by David Beal, Chairman

Summer at the Cheney Homestead started with a bang of activity at our June Open House. It was a fantastic success, hosting 247 enthusiastic visitors who enjoyed guided tours and commentary on the historic house museum. The tours owed their success in large part to our gracious volunteers who donated their time to make our guests feel right at home. Thanks goes out to Cynthia Barlow, Malcolm Barlow, Doti Dienst, Jean Lamenzo, Rita McParland, Jeffrey Smith and Rosemary Smith who all served as docents and made our guests feel welcome. Also an extra thanks to our resident caretaker, George Hakkila who graciously helped with both preparation before and cleanup after the tours. We would also like to thank the Manchester Garden Club who added special accents to the house to make it inviting for our guests.

As soon as our June Open House wrapped up, it was project time at the Homestead. After a series of harsh winters, the

house was in need of some special attention. Water damage caused by ice buildup on the East-facing roof, left the house in need of both external and internal repairs. During June and July these repairs were completed and we are currently in the process of finishing related cosmetic improvements to the first floor bedroom. While completing the work we've taken the opportunity to restore this room to a yellow color that it likely had circa 1844, when it was occupied by Mrs. Electa Cheney. We anticipate the house to reopen for tours by September 14. Stop in to visit and learn about the fascinating history of the Cheney family.

The Cheney Homestead is always looking for new volunteers to join our team. If you would be interested in becoming a docent, training to be a tour guide or otherwise helping out at the Homestead, please contact us at: cheneyhomestead@gmail.com or call (860) 281-1850.

Keeney Schoolhouse Roof to be Replaced



Photo by Marsha Gunther

The Last month the Society received from the Highland Park Family Foundation a donation of \$3,500 to cover the cost of replacing the wood shingle roof on the Keeney Schoolhouse. The current roof is nearly 40 years old and

has reached the point where the wood shingles have deteriorated and no longer effectively shed rain water. The one-room schoolhouse was reclaimed and rebuilt in the mid-1970's as part of the Bicentennial celebrations, using as much of the original structure as possible.

The schoolhouse is an important part of the third grade school tours each year. Hundreds of students get a chance to experience what it was like to attend school when all six grades sat together in one room. They learn that pupils had to keep the school room and grounds clean and bring firewood to keep the wood stove going in cold weather. Punishments for misbehavior were sometimes harsher than those of today.

In addition to the new roof, the exterior of the school has been repainted and deteriorated wood replaced.

President Dennis Gleeson accepted the donation from Molly Devanney of the Highland Park Family Foundation.



Save the Date for the 11th Annual
Historical Society Holiday Gala
Winter Wonderland

Friday, December 5, 2014

Plans are underway for the Historical Society's 11th Annual Holiday gala fundraiser. We are looking for some special items to help make the evening a financial success as well as being fun-filled. Do you have a special antique, collectible, service or artistic item that you could donate to the auction part of the program? Cottage rentals, timeshares, dinners, concert tickets and gardening consultations are all popular auction items.

We are also looking for sponsors, such as local businesses and advertisers for our Gala Program booklet. We would appreciate any help in soliciting them. It is not too early to donate wreaths and baskets for silent auction bidding. Donations will be accepted at the History Center, 175 Pine Street, Manchester, from now until November 30th. We want the 11th Annual Gala – “Winter Wonderland” – to be our best ever. We look at it as one of our major and biggest fundraisers. Please contact us at 175 Pine Street, Manchester, CT 06040, or phone 860-647-9983 to let us know what you can donate or if you can solicit a business sponsor.

Mark your calendar for the festive evening! Wine, hors d'oeuvres, coffee and dessert will be served. You'll enjoy music, auctions, and a few surprises. The Museum Store will be open to purchase local history gifts. Look for further details such as donations of decorated wreaths and baskets in our November *Courier*. Other information may be obtained by phone at 860-647-9983.

Winter Wonderland Gala

Feeling a bit creative? Want to help out the *Winter Wonderland Gala* and be amazed at what busy hands can do all together?

You are invited to attend one or both of our upcoming workshops at the History Center on **October 9 and October 16 at 10 a.m.** It's FREE and coffee and tea will be waiting for you. So bring a friend and let's have some fun making snowflakes. Let's get those knitting needles and crochet hooks doing their magic!

Learn how to make 3D snowflakes that will amaze you and look fantastic when they become a showpiece for this year's *Winter Wonderland Gala*. All you need is a pair of scissors and we will teach you how to make these magical snowflakes!

For those who love yarn, we need gloves, hats, mittens, you name it for the **Giving Tree**. Bring some yarn, share your talent and let's get together and knit and crochet.

Wanted Items for the *Winter Wonderland Gala 2014*

Pinecones, Old Ice Skates – any condition

Old Sleds, Unwanted artificial trees

Old Watering Cans, Old Milk Bottles

Unwanted milk glass, silver plate, mercury glass

Burlap Feed and Seed Bags

Please call 860-647-9983 to find out where and when to bring the items you wish to contribute.
These items will be used for decorations.

Will You Leave a Legacy for Future Generations?

June is Leave A Legacy month, and it reminds us to think about how we can benefit future generations and help them to learn about and appreciate our history.

Help preserve our town's past by
Including a bequest to the Manchester Historical
Society – When
Thinking
Of your Last Will and Testament
Remember to include us in
Your estate plan!

The language in your will may be a plain as: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Manchester Historical Society, a nonprofit corporation in the State of Connecticut, Town of Manchester, the sum of \$ _____" OR "_____ shares of stock in _____ company."

Please consult with your estate planner/attorney.

The size of the legacy you wish to pass on to future generations is not as important as is the desire to do something that will have a positive impact.

The current and future members and friends of the Manchester Historical Society thank you for your support!

★★★★★ *The* ★★★★★★
CIVIL WAR
 150th ANNIVERSARY
 ★★★★★★



Civil War Notes

by Ron Schack

MANCHESTER'S BATTLES AND CASUALTIES

August, 1864 through October, 1864

August 1864

Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama On August 5, 1864 Admiral David G. Farragut's Union Fleet of eighteen ships entered Mobile Bay. They were greeted with heavy gunfire from Forts Gaines and Morgan. After passing the forts, Farragut forced the Confederate naval ships in the area, under the command of Admiral Franklin Buchanan, to surrender.

Frederick Munsell from Manchester, Connecticut, had joined the Navy and was assigned to Admiral Farragut's flagship, the **USS Hartford**. Munsell was killed in action from gunshot wounds received during the battle.

Thomas Stanbrook from Manchester was drafted into Company K, 20th Connecticut Infantry Regiment on August 25, 1863. He died from wounds received in battle at Chattanooga, Tennessee on August 7, 1864.

John W. Shaw from Manchester was working for Cheney Brothers when he enlisted in the army on February 29, 1864 and joined Company B, 10th Connecticut Infantry Regiment. John died from typhoid fever at Chesapeake City Hospital, Virginia on August 10, 1864.

Orrin J. Cushman from Manchester enlisted in the army on April 1, 1864 with Company K, 1st Connecticut Cavalry Regiment. He died in the service of his country on August 12, 1864.

The **Richmond - Petersburg Campaign** included the **2nd Battle of Deep Bottom, Virginia**, from **August 13 through August 20, 1864**. Gregg's Union cavalry division under the command of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock crossed the James River at Deep Bottom. Union assaults were initially successful, but Confederate counterattacks drove the Federals back.

Connecticut's **6th, 7th, and 10th Infantry Regiments** 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 was working in Cheney Brothers when he joined Company B, 10th Connecticut Infantry Regiment on September 30, 1861. He died on August 16, 1864 from gunshot wounds received during the battle.

September 1864

On **September 2, 1864** the City of Atlanta was captured by Sherman's Army. This victory helped president Lincoln's bid for reelection a few months later.

James M. Keith, a resident of Manchester, Connecticut, was working as an engineer when he joined Company H, 16th Connecticut Infantry Regiment as a corporal on August 24, 1862. He was promoted to sergeant on March 29, 1863. James was captured at Plymouth, North Carolina on April 24, 1864. He was sent to **Andersonville Prison, Georgia** and died there on September 12, 1864.

Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign

The **Battle of Opequon, Virginia** occurred on **September 19, 1864**. The battle engaged 39,240 Union soldiers against 15,200 Confederate soldiers. Confederate Lt. General Jubal A. Early renewed his raids on the B&O Railroad at Martinsburg, Virginia. Union Major General Philip Sheridan advanced towards Winchester. Casualties were very heavy. General Early eventually ordered a retreat.

Connecticut's 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment, and 12th and 13th Infantry Regiments were involved in the battle. Manchester soldiers in the 1st Cavalry Regiment were: **Emulous Coleman, Dennis Griswold, Henry W. Robertson, Robert Sherman, and Daniel Wright**. **James M. Price** was in the 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment.

John Sullivan was also a member of the 1st Cavalry Regiment. In his early military service John was badly wounded. He came to the aid of Edward W. Whitaker, who later became a general. Whitaker was about to be attacked by a Confederate soldier who had been taken prisoner. John's quick action subdued him, saving Whitaker from harm and possible death. John received a promotion to sergeant for his efforts.

The **Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Virginia** occurred on the **29th and 30th of September, 1864**. Union forces crossed the James River to assault the Richmond defenses north of the river. They were successful at New Market Heights and Fort Harrison, and able to hold off a Confederate counter offensive.

Connecticut's 1st Light Artillery Battery was involved in the battle. Manchester soldiers in this unit at the time were: **William J. McGee, William M. McNary, Frank Miller, John Monarch, and Thomas Moriarty**.

October 1864

The **Battle for Darbytown and New Market Roads** occurred on **October 7, 1864**. After routing the Union cavalry from their position covering Darbytown Road, General Lee's troops assaulted the main Union defensive line along New Market Road, but were unsuccessful so Lee pulled back to his Richmond defenses.

Manchester lost two of its soldiers in this battle. **Charles Robinson** enlisted with Company C, **10th Connecticut Infantry Regiment** on December 9, 1863. He was killed by a musket ball passing through his abdomen.

Amandor C. Keeney enlisted with Company B, 10th Connecticut Infantry Regiment on April 9, 1864 at the age of 18. During the battle, the regiment on the right of the 10th broke in confusion. This left the 10th's flank unprotected. As shots rang out, Private Keeney fell mortally wounded. As he was dying, he called out, "Fire away, boys". His comrades heeding his request stood over him and fired at the retreating enemy. Amandor died a hero that day, leaving his family which included brothers Maranthon and Albert, who were also in the Civil War.

Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia - On **October 19, 1864**, the Confederate Army, under General Jubal A. Early, surprised and routed the Union Army at Cedar Creek. General Sheridan arrived in the afternoon and launched a counterattack, recovering the battlefield. Connecticut regiments involved in the action included the **1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment, and the 9th, 12th, and 13th Infantry Regiments**.

Manchester soldiers from the 1st Connecticut Cavalry that fought in the Battle of Opequon, also fought in the Battle of Cedar Creek. Other Manchester soldiers in the battle included: **James M. Rice** from the 2nd Heavy Artillery Regiment; **Michael Fox** and **James Orr** from the 9th Infantry Regiment; **Dennis Connor, Bruce E. Fox, Andrew J. Gleason, and James Touhy** from the 12th Infantry Regiment.

cont'd. on page no. 7

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.

Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m., the Historical Society's Genealogy Group will present information on the genealogical and historic resources available at the Historical Society. We will meet at the Old Manchester Museum at 126 Cedar Street, and Dave Smith, Curator, will describe the collections there.

Saturday, September 13 at 1:00 p.m. North End walking tour, starting at the parking lot of the Eighth Utilities District office building, corner of Main and Hilliard Streets. We'll see buildings that formerly housed the Manchester Herald printing company, Mather Electric, and Orford Soap, makers of Bon Ami soap and scouring powder. We'll walk along the old Cheney railroad north to Union Pond. Rain or shine, but extreme weather cancels. About 1.5 hours, with some bumpy terrain. No dogs, please.

Sunday, September 14, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Festive Tea at the Manchester History Center. We are starting early — kicking off our 50th-anniversary celebration in 2015 with tea, food, door prizes, teacup auction and a local history presentation called "Then and Now" by curator Dave Smith. \$19.65 per person (\$9.65 for children under 10). Door prizes and auction items include a gift certificate to Center Perk on Main Street, a three-pound cookie platter from Mozzicato Bakery. The public is welcome.

Sunday, September 28, at 1:00 p.m., Schooldays "Chat with the Past" at the Manchester History Center. All are invited to this informal cracker barrel-type chat, where guests talk about their memories of Manchester in the old days. The theme of this particular chat is "Schooldays," so bring memories and photos of old schools, or really any memories of old Manchester. Free admission — donations for refreshments requested

Saturday, October 11, 37th annual walking tour of the Cheney Historic District with commentary by Dr. Chris Paulin of Manchester Community College, 1:00 p.m. Popular history walk starting at Fuss & O'Neill, 146 Hartford Road (plenty of parking in their lot west of the building). Find out about those huge brick buildings that remain from the days of the world-famous silk mills. The walk takes about two hours with a distance of a mile or so. No rain date, so bring umbrellas if weather is iffy. Extreme weather cancels. The walk is free, but donations to the Manchester Historical Society are welcome.

Sunday, October 12, Woodbridge walk and Manchester Green 1:00 p.m.

We'll view The Green from a "then and now" perspective, taking in the sights of very old buildings as well as newer ones. Meet at 1:00 p.m. on the front steps of the Senior Center (former Green School), 549 Middle Turnpike East. Park in the Center's parking lot -- entrance on Vernon Street, near corner of Middle Turnpike East. At the Woodbridge Farmstead, Tim McCann and the Woodbridge committee will show us the grounds and barns of the Woodbridge Farmstead, a gift to the Historical Society by Ray and Thelma Woodbridge.

Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m., Annual Meeting of the Historical Society

at 175 Pine St., to hear annual reports, elect officers and Board members, etc. After the business meeting, there will be a short presentation on a local history topic.

Sunday, October 26, a Family Halloween Happening 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the History Center, 175 Pine Street. Children's activities and treats, and of course parents are most welcome! Debut of "The Misunderstood Witch and Scarecrow," which is not too scary after all -- suitable for children up to age 14. \$2.50 per person, \$10.00 family maximum. Come celebrate an old-fashioned Halloween at the History Center.

Sunday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m., Iwo Jima presentation at the Manchester History Center, by Gary Roy of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation, Inc., with photos and introduction to the memorial, which is located in Newington, CT., near the New Britain town line. Also presented: Information on the two Manchester survivors of Iwo Jima.

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.

(cont'd. Civil War Notes)

Chester H. Loomis of the 12th Connecticut Infantry Regiment was captured during the battle. While a prisoner, he enlisted with the 8th Confederate Infantry Regiment. He was recaptured by the Union Cavalry and released on July 6, 1865 after taking the United States Oath of Allegiance.

On October 20, 1864, President Lincoln, in the midst of a Civil War, formally established **Thanksgiving** as a National Holiday.

Sources include: Manchester Historical Society Civil War data; Wikipedia website, Hartford Courant Archives

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.

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.



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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 Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Endowment Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Endowment Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheney Homestead Endowment	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeney Schoolhouse Endowment 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.