

# CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

**Volume 36, No. 1 (Rev.)** **Spring / Summer 2013**

## PROGRAM

**Monday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.**

**“The Connecticut’s Irish Regiment, The Ninth Regiment C. V.”**

**Robert Larkin, Board Member**

Robert Larkin’s talk will focus on the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment’s history during the Civil War ( 1861-1865 ), a number of related Civil War monuments and selected soldier stories. The monument discussion will include Cheshire’s own dedicated in 1866 as well as the Connecticut Monument honoring the 9<sup>th</sup> dedicated in 2008 at the Vicksburg National Military Park with help from Cheshire connections. Soldier stories will be presented, in addition to new found information on the soldiers' places of birth as well as their final resting places in addition to specifics on some of the eleven Cheshire men of the 9<sup>th</sup> proudly included on the Cheshire monument plaques. Bob will show a number of photos and charts. He will also have an exhibition table with a few storyboards as well as Civil War artifacts including the uniform and sword of Captain O’Brien.

**Monday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.**

**“A Farmer’s Diary - Cheshire in 1873”**

**Jeanné Chesanow, Town Historian**

Our Town Historian will share highlights from a Cheshire farmer’s diary, making a fabric of one man’s journal entries. This fascinating story shares in a very real and personal way what life was like in 1873, after the Civil War and before World War I. Franklin Hall's diary is only one of several sources used including censuses of 1870 and 1880, Beers 1868 map, Bailey 1882 map, Booth 1865 map, list of church members (First Congregational Church) supplied by Martha Lape, cemetery records, diaries of Ellen Linsley Hall, land records, agricultural and land use histories of CT, and more. Some of the ideas that are explored are those embodied in small communities of that time: devotion to family and work; strong religious beliefs and practices, giving to the community and getting back (barter, working with and sharing with others), and making do rather than buying new.

**Would you like to create an ORAL HISTORY?**

**Page 5 will get you started!**

**If your membership is still unpaid for 2013  
you’ll find a dues envelope enclosed.**

**— Please Remit —**

## SPRING CALENDAR

Except for holiday weekends, the Hitchcock-Phillips House will be open to the public every Sunday, 2-4 p.m. from April through the end of the year. It is also open by appointment on other days. Call 203-272-8771 to schedule a visit.

March 25	Monday 7:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting SPEAKER
April 7	Sunday 2-4 p.m.	House reopens for Sunday visiting hours
April 15	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
April 22	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting SPEAKER
May 20	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
May 27	Sunday	House closed for Memorial Day Weekend See us in the Parade!
June 8	Saturday Strawberry Festival	Antiques & Collectible Sale Boutique-in-the- Shed Grand Opening
July 7	Sunday	House is closed for July Fourth Weekend
September 1	Sunday	House is closed for Labor Day Weekend
September 29	Sunday	First Annual Cheshire History Trolley Tour!

*Starting June 9 through October, the Boutique-in-the-Shed will be open during Sunday visiting hours, 2-4 p.m.*

## BOUTIQUE TO OPEN JUNE 8

The Boutique-in-the-Shed is getting ready for its Spring opening on Saturday, June 8, along with our annual Antiques & Collectibles Sale and the Strawberry Festival. All of the proceeds go back into programs and upkeep of the Society. Come on in and poke around! The prices are right, and you never know what you might find. We have been collecting treasures all season and have brought in many unusual and interesting items. After June 8, the Boutique will be open summer Sundays through October. Don’t forget we are always looking for items, too. If you have collectible items that you wish to donate, call Assistant Curator Kathleen Connolly, 860-518-6156.

## DING! DING! DING! HERE COMES THE CHESHIRE HISTORY TROLLEY!

Director Pat Vita, has joined with Betsy Fox, Chairperson of the Historic District Commission, and Jeanné Chesanow, Town Historian, to organize a very special trolley tour. Based on the very popular annual North Haven Historical Society event, the Cheshire Historical Society and the HDC will host a narrated tour of historic sites, properties, and activities in our town, specifically the historic Cheshire-Street area. The event will be held on Sunday, September 29th. Tickets are \$20, seating is limited. For information or to reserve a space call 203 272-2574.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT ... DEMOLITION DELAY FAILS AGAIN

There is no better example of how politics and preservation come head to head than the proposal of a demolition delay ordinance. The Cheshire Town Council's Ordinance Review Committee voted against forwarding the most recent demolition delay proposal to the Town Council. The Cheshire Historical Society had supported this proposal. Betsy Fox, Chairperson of the Historic District Commission, shared this with me:

**A demolition delay ordinance provides a short window of opportunity for community members to try to find ways to retain or at least to study historically important buildings. Once an historic building is taken down without review, it is gone often without even a photo. As these visible records of people and events are destroyed, the landscape and character of our town is forever changed.**

It seems that every decade, preservationists make an attempt to submit a demolition delay proposal to our Cheshire Town Council. I'm certain we will continue to do so and someday we will be successful.

However, we all can at least address what Betsy Fox mentions above: we can record history with photos and stories. This newsletter provides information on recording oral history. Please consider this. Time passes quickly—capture what you can now.

Commenting on the value of Demolition Delay:

**“Let's create opportunities to review properties before they disappear.”**

- Jeanné Chesanow, Cheshire Town Historian



**Happy 100 Birthday  
to long-time member  
Richard Miller!**

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter.

Ellen Angus, 218 Mansion Rd., Cheshire  
Patti Flynn-Harris, 260 Carlton Dr., Cheshire  
Capt. Edward Holtzman, 1227 Wolf Hill Rd., Cheshire  
John & Alexandra Kelly, 1161 Tucker Rd. Cheshire  
Clare Leake, 82 Jinny Hill Rd., Cheshire  
John & Jean Murphy, 22 Old Towne Rd., Cheshire  
Ruth Podgwaite, 353 Mt. Sanford Rd., Cheshire  
Meredith Guilford Sturges, 22 Ives Hill Ct., Cheshire  
Agnes Wnuk, 1075 Marion Rd., Cheshire

## SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Warm thanks to the following members who made special contributions in addition to their 2013 dues payments.

### Major Contributors

Mary B. Hobler-Hyson  
Jean McKee

### Supporting Members

Dr. Thomas Anderson  
Jay & Carole Cunningham  
Ray & Mary Ellen Morgan  
John & Rosanne Purtill  
Tim & Kristen Slocum

### Other Contributors

Peg Boutwell  
Gerald & Adoria Corcoran  
Robert & Ann Fennelly  
Steven & Joyce Mulholland  
Bob O'Brien  
Louis & Mary Ann Ricciuti  
Jane Richards  
Richards Chevrolet  
Joan Rinaldi  
Lori-Ann Rusnack  
David & Sally Schrumm  
Inge Venus  
Ray & Eleanor Verner

## STUDENTS SHINE AT CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT:

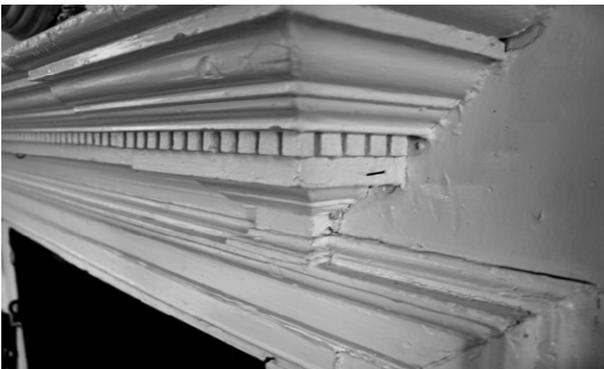
#### Morgan Dent, Junior at Cheshire High School, Takes Photos of H-P House

Morgan Dent has a gift for photography. Morgan was interested in doing a photographic documentary of the Hitchcock-Phillips House and began her project in November 2012. Morgan said she is “really excited to be working on this project.” Morgan has spent many hours taking photographs. She shared that she is “happy to be giving back to the Society.”

“I feel like I'm learning about history as I go through the house. I haven't been to the Historical Society for a while so it's interesting to go back and spend so much time there. One of the pieces I saw at the Historical Society that was the table that President Lincoln used; I think it's so cool that in our little town of Cheshire we have a table that was used by one of the Presidents of the United States. Seeing things from so long ago makes history seem so much more real to me and I am really enjoying it. I think my experience made me appreciate the Historical Society more and has really made me interested to learn more about the items found inside. I am really glad that I am able to do this for the Historical Society; it's lots of fun and extremely interesting.”

Morgan is using the updated “The Cheshire Historical Society, Hitchcock-Phillips House, Information for Guides,” a 70-page document prepared by our Curator providing room-by-room contents descriptions. Morgan will provide us with all of the photos she has taken in a logical and searchable format or grouping as possible.

Morgan's finished product will be a bound full color book that will be kept in the Society's Front Parlor. This will enable visitors to see the entire house at a glance, and for those visitors who perhaps can't manage our second floor, a glimpse at what is in the upstairs exhibits. Other copies will be donated to the Cheshire Public Library and the Cheshire Town Hall, and one copy kept off site as an inventory for insurance purposes (that we hope we will never need). We are so pleased with the work of this gifted young photographer and hope you will be able to see her work at your next visit to the Society.



### EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT:

#### Stephen Mulholland Installs UV Protection on Windows at H-P House

Perhaps you read the recent article in the Cheshire Herald which described an Eagle Scout project that is being undertaken by Stephen Mulholland at the Cheshire Historical Society. In the Spring of 2012, Stephen, a sophomore at Cheshire High School and a Life Scout in Cheshire's Boy Scout Troop 51, set his mind on attaining the next and final rank of Eagle Scout. In order to attain Eagle Scout, a candidate must complete an Eagle Scout project that represents the culmination of the Eagle Scout candidate's leadership training. According to the rules of the Boy Scouts of America, an Eagle Scout project must not be commercial in nature, but instead must benefit the community.

The selection of the Eagle Scout project was a very important matter to Stephen. How did Stephen choose to focus on the Society when there are so many competing community needs? Stephen's grandfather is an avid genealogist and has impressed upon Stephen throughout his young life the importance of family and community history. Stephen's family moved to Cheshire just 10 years ago, and was happy to learn that their family had a historical tie to Cheshire in their relative Reverend John Foote (the second pastor of the Congregationalist church and grandfather to and Flag Officer [Admiral] Andrew Hull Foote). Stephen's common ancestor is the immigrant and colonist and founder of Weathersfield, Nathaniel Foote. For these reasons the Cheshire Historical Society caught Stephen's attention as a possible beneficiary of an Eagle Scout Project. He approached Society President Diane Calabro and offered the Cheshire Historical Society his services.

Diane not only agreed to accept Stephen's services, but also, recognizing something special about this young man, offered him a position as our Student Liaison on the Board of Directors. Since eagerly accepting Diane's offer Stephen has participated in the Board meetings and has taken on the responsibility of updating the status of the Society's Facebook page. (Reminder, if you haven't yet "liked" the page, please do!) He also worked to connect Diane with the Cheshire High School's Business Department that approves and promotes internships in the hope that other students might volunteer their time at the Society. Stephen completed the docent training offered by Mary Ellen Kania over the course of two Sundays. He is hoping to use those skills and knowledge by volunteering to assist Ms. Kania on Sundays. Finally, his Eagle Scout project is underway. Stephen obtained approval from the Boy Scout council of his project plan. He raised the money to purchase UV film and tools and sought out volunteers and training. He has begun the slow process and careful process of installing removable UV film to 19 critical windows of the Hitchcock-Phillips House in order to protect the contents of the building. Stephen is looking forward to the completion of the project, because he believes that he is making a meaningful contribution to the Society's efforts to preserve Cheshire history.

*Left: An example of Morgan Dent's efforts: seeing details with extraordinary skill. Fireplace molding in the Parlor.*

## BECKWITH'S ALMANAC

### Chronicling the Years

By Bob Belletzkic, CHS Volunteer

Among the projects at the Cheshire Historical Society is the cataloging of an extensive collection of almanacs dating back to the early 1800s. Preeminent within these prized holdings is a significant run of one by George Beckwith (1810-1880) of New Haven (photo on right).

Knowledgeable in phonography (shorthand), surveying, mathematics, astronomy, navigation, and civil engineering, Beckwith was a bon-vivant, teacher, and writer. He began his almanac in 1848 and, when he died in 1880, the tradition was carried on by his daughter and granddaughter after her until 1934. Perhaps immodestly, the cover featured a progression of jaunty visages that showed the graceful aging of the man himself. This long-lived publication included all the usual elements: monthly astronomical tables (he did his own calculations), tide charts, lists of government officials, and something of a novelty, a chronology of the year's events. It would have been adequate enough for Mr. B. to confine himself to his local area, but, resourceful and energetic, he read widely and covered events across the state and beyond.

Beckwith is described in Mary Rebecca Woodruff's *History of Orange* as "somewhat eccentric, and his usual costume was a long-tailed coat and white beaver hat. He was always barefooted..." An interesting speaker, she says, he was "eagerly welcomed" at Victoria Grove in the Tyler City section of Orange, a place known for its soap-box orators and anti-establishment leanings. Indeed, he was an opponent of slavery and an early advocate of women's right to vote. An outspoken teetotaler, Beckwith frequently added chiding comments to reports of barroom brawls and injected humor and moralism elsewhere. Once telling of a robbery in his own neighborhood, he says of the thief: "He probably knew me and knew that I had nothing worth stealing, and so did not visit my house. Blessed be nothing(!). The exclamation point is ours.

For Cheshire itself, there are many nuggets to treasure for their news and the wry Beckwithian perspective.

Of more local interest, here are some Cheshire nuggets: June 4, 1879 "Mrs. Mary Samantha Douglass, widow of Samuel Benham of Cheshire died in New Haven, born March 19, 1803. I went to school to her in the west district of Meriden in 1820-21. I used always to bring water for her, and she used to call me her "best boy." She taught in the northern part of Cheshire, near Beltina Clark's where I worked in 1824 ..."

November 22, 1879 "Mrs. S. T. Martyn, an authoress, died in New York...Buried in Cheshire. She wrote several works of religious history, was for several years editor of the *Lady's Wreath*, and in the last twenty years more than 20 volumes of her writings have been published by the American Tract Society.



Her funeral took place at the residence of her son-in-law R. W. Wright, in Cheshire, formerly of New Haven."

September 19, 1884 "The house of E. S. Thompson of Brooksvale fired, and a cider brandy distillery near by, his family were almost suffocated with the smoke and barely escaped with their lives. Loss \$10,000."

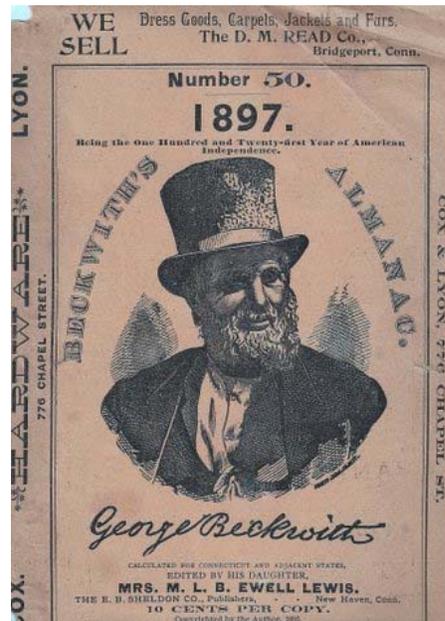
October 28, 1892 "Wallace house of Cheshire burned – many of the inmates (*i.e.* hotel residents) lost their clothing. A serious fire, and Cheshire has no bonnie lads to fight that element."

July 2, 1897 "A hard thunder storm – Cheshire peach orchards suffered badly; the Cheshire Brass Co.'s barn was carried over a bank, fifty feet, into the river, and the barn of Mr. Andrews in Mixville was deposited on the opposite side of the street, also Mr. Wooding and son who were in it, unloading hay."

November 1, 1921 "New Haven chosen as state military center. Many units of reserve to be here... Jacob D. Wal-

ter (Cheshire) for many years of the county commissioners to be United States Marshal for District of Connecticut"

If you are of a mind to read a chronicle of Connecticut and Cheshire historical events from the Beckwith perspective, make it a point to stop by CHS and we will sit you down to boxes full!



Photos: The first, top, (from the Cheshire Historical Society collection) was given to the Society in 1960 by the late Fred Fowler. The second, above, is a copy of the 1897 almanac.

## CURATOR'S NOTES

By *Mary Ellen Kania, Curator*

New items which will be featured in the Exhibit Room when the house reopens in April: original box and a set of 1930s metal outdoor doll furniture—lawn swing, umbrella table, two chairs and a settee—from Past President and long-time collector **Ralph Edson**. The box cover indicates they were made by “BAL-SO, the Ball and Socket Mfg. Co. of West Cheshire.” Also from Ralph, an original copy of an invitation to the “Anniversary Sociable of the L. U. Society at Town Hall, Cheshire, December 16, 1875.” The ticket cost is “One Dollar” and the Committee—C. A. Brooks, G. A. Steele, A. Bristol. So far, we’ve been unable to find any information about the “L. U. Society”. It does not appear to be a ladies’ group. Any ideas?

Member **Gail Collins** has given us a “Cheshire Doll,” created and sold at the time of the 1994 tercentennial (1694-1994). She is a rag doll, 20” tall, wearing a calico dress and apron decorated with buttons and a watch, and holding a tiny pot plant. Her tag indicates she was “handmade by Cabbage Rose, Cheshire, CT.” Again, any additional information on the doll or the identity of Cabbage Rose would be welcome.

*(Continues on Page 8, the last page of this newsletter)*

## Creating An ORAL HISTORY

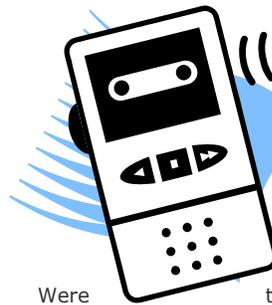
By *Diane Calabro,, CHS President*

Oral histories are something we should all do, especially with older family members. You probably have a good sense of who your parents are and what their childhoods were like. You may even have been bored by cautionary and instructive tales such as the mile long walks to school, barefoot through the dire winters, uphill in both directions. But have you heard the stories of your parents (or grandparents) hopes and desires as younger people, their triumphs, their heartbreak? Will you be able to share these stories with your grandchildren, or great grandchildren?

I was a particularly clueless young person but I did get a notion that I wanted to know more about my grandmother, my Polish “Babu.” I showed up in her kitchen with a tape recorder. She was apprehensive but did what she always did: Babu made tea and she talked. I had no organized sense of what I was doing, just a compelling need to know my grandmother’s story and to have it when she would no longer be there. She told me remarkable things! She said that her mother begged her not to leave Poland when she was fifteen. My Babu had her heart set on the trip to America on the new ship she’d heard of. She’d saved her money working at a factory. She was ready. But to respect her mother, she waited a year, not taking this new RMS Titanic. I would never have known if I hadn’t asked this precious woman for her history.

You will need a tape recorder. I checked with our local office supply store. Tape recorders start at twenty dollars for units that use microcassettes, thirty dollars for units that use full sized cassettes, and eighty dollars for units that can take what you have recorded and plug that recorded file into your computer.

As you consider who you want to interview, you’ll want to have a broad goal such as, “I want to know more about Grandma’s childhood.” It is helpful to ask questions as putting a recording device on the table and asking someone to speak is a surefire way of creating uncomfortable silence. The internet is an amazing resource for oral histories. If you Google “Oral History” you will find a number of great articles on how to proceed. Kimberly Powell’s webpage, “Fifty Questions for Family History Interviews, What to Ask the Relatives,” is very good. As a sample, here are the first twelve of fifty questions that you can use in your interview:



What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?  
When and where were you born?  
How did your family come to live there? Were there other family members in the area? Who?  
What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?

Were there any special items in the house that you remember?  
What is your earliest childhood memory?  
Describe the personalities of your family members.  
What kind of games did you play growing up?  
What was your favorite toy and why?  
What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?  
Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?

To see the rest of these questions, go to

<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/oralhistory/a/interview.htm>

Another good guidance site is “Step by Step Guide to Oral History” © Judith Moyer 1993, Revised 1999

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/links/pdf/chapter6/6.3.pdf>

I like this site because it shares some etiquette tips, such as being respectful and not embarrassing the person you are interviewing.

Our Town Historian reminded me that “the wonderful, useful book that the late, great Eleanor Herrmann penned includes a full chapter [Chapter Six] on doing oral history. That was one of Eleanor’s passions.” This is: Lewenson, Sandra B., and Eleanor Krohn Herrmann. *Capturing Nursing History: A Guide to Historical Methods in Research* (2007). The Historical Society has a copy.

Once you have completed the interview, you now have the daunting task of transcribing that interview. Plan at least ten hours transcribing one hour of information. Again, in terms of formatting and style, an internet search will help you. I found this brief, “How Do I Transcribe Oral History Recordings,” to be quite useful. <http://www.le.ac.uk/emoha/training/no15.pdf>

I encourage you to try oral history. Make a point of asking older relatives and friends if they would like to share an hour of their time with you for some casual questions and conversation about their “good, old days.” It will be the best hour you ever spent.

*Diane has compiled a notebook of these and other useful internet references—available in a binder in the Meeting Room at the Cheshire Historical Society.*

## BACKGROUND TO THE 1873 DIARY OF FRANK N. HALL OF CHESHIRE CONN

By Jeanné Chesanow, Cheshire Town Historian

*Plan to attend the April 22nd Speaker Meeting  
where our Town Historian will present this Diary*

Early New England settlers acquired land and farmed it to provide food for their family and to provide future land for their sons to inherit. No farms were totally self-sufficient; all were involved in a tight network of community bartering with occasional selling to outside markets. If there were surpluses, they exchanged goods and services with their neighbors and tradespeople in the community. And if there were surpluses beyond that, they sold them in the nearby towns, where often on the same day they received cash for their produce, they purchased goods that were not available in their town stores. These face to face obligations and exchanges were necessary for survival. Sometimes medicines from the doctor could be gotten in exchange for butter or eggs. Mowing someone's field could be bartered for some hay from that field, or for the repair of some tools.

This was the way of life in New England all through the 1700s when many farmers chose to migrate to better, larger pieces of land in Ohio and western New York State. Farmers who stayed here often had smaller pieces of land or fallow lands and needed to intensively farm their remaining land to feed their families and have a small surplus. Some farmers took up trades such as tinsmithing or barrel-making to supplement their farm income. When the canals came and later the railroad, men of means turned their farms into businesses: their crops were commodities for marketing and trading near and far. When mechanization came, they were ready to up the ante even farther, expecting and getting high production and earnings from thriving agri-businesses. Today's bedding plant industry is an example of that.

Frank N. Hall, who kept a diary during 1873, was a young farmer whose family lands were somewhat smaller than they had been. He did not have a trade and relied on his farming skills and those of his brother to provide food for the Hall family of six. Frank, the younger unmarried son, had the daily help of his older brother Charles and a neighbor Mr. Carey who sometimes let them borrow his oxen for

heavy work. In other words, they lived the same life, used the same tools, and related to a tightly woven community in the same way as earlier generations. For their barn raising 25 neighbors came to help. Frank's diary shows the extent and intensity of his workload. In addition to farming he attended church, Bible classes, Sabbath School, sang in the choir and planned a church picnic; he also ran a one-room school, served on boards and committees and very occasionally went to a party. Twice he sat up or kept vigil all night with a friend, perhaps watching a body. In 1873 he had interactions with over 150 people in Cheshire.

He was the last of his family to work the land. His sons chose to work and live in New Haven and Hamden. By the early 1900s, many pieces of the Hall family land were in the hands of heirs who then sold them. The family house at 376 Wallingford Road, which in the 1970s was still owned by a Hall descendant, is now up for sale on 1.54 acres, surrounded by subdivisions.

The entries are culled from the 1873 diary of 24-year old Franklin Nichols Hall, living at home with his parents (*George* and *Harriet*) and married older brother *Charles* who has a wife *Betsie* and a baby *Milton*. The Hall House, built by Frank's Grandfather in 1792 still stands, but the barn is gone.

The diary was transcribed by Frank's Great Grandson, Wallace E. Burnett who, in 2002, donated it and other Hall papers to the Cheshire Historical Society.

*Revised 3/13  
Editor error corrected*

## THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT! Town Center History at a Click

Our Town Historian has been working with the Historical Society to obtain a Pre-Development Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (PD/HPTAG) to create a virtual tour of Cheshire's Town Center, accessed by mobile devices. This will put within reach of anyone with a mobile device - anywhere, anytime - the beauty and history of the Town Center. Bringing the past to life, along with descriptions of architectural details still in place, will be a lively experience, one we hope will enhance interest in town history and the Society's work. We'll keep you posted on this innovative project.



## SOCIETY WINS CHESHIRE GARDEN CLUB AWARD

*By Inge Venus*

The Cheshire Garden Club's 58th annual holiday door decorating contest was concluded on Sunday, December 16th, and winners in six categories were declared. Judging the over 20 entries took several hours by club members Leni Cruess, Ginni Donovan, Carol Goertz, and Inge Venus. Winners included private homeowners who were recognized for decorating their homes and yards, including vintage homes,



youth motifs, their entire yards, and their doors. The Public Building Award was presented to the Hitchcock-Phillips House for the very creative front entrance decorations fashioned by members of the Suburban Garden Club

which included Pat Archibald, Susan Dillman, Ginni Donovan, Jessica Fischer, Rita Giannotti, Lucinda Perry, and Tony Poitras. Curator Mary Ellen Kania (right) and Cheshire Historical Society President, Diane Calabro (left), are shown accepting the award. *The Cheshire Herald* published photos of the award winners in their December 27, 2012 issue.

*Photo courtesy of Inge Venus.*

### Moss / Morse Family Brochure: “Welcome to Cheshire Connecticut Where The Moss/Morse Ancestors Began Their Journey in The USA”

Vicki Ortiz, mentioned in our Fall 2012 Newsletter, traveled from Nebraska to research her Moss family roots. She offered to create a brochure to help future Moss family researchers. Copies are in the document rack in the CHS entrance.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Cheshire Historical Society is actively looking for new members—Members are our strength! Please ask friends and neighbors to join the Society! Details can be found at [cheshirehistory.org](http://cheshirehistory.org) or by calling 203 272 2574

**SPECIAL STUDENT RATE AVAILABLE**

## SITE VISIT CONCLUDES THE DISASTER PLAN WORKSHOP

You may notice the Knox Box on the left side of the Hitchcock-Phillips House front door. This was purchased and installed by our Cheshire Public Works Department following the recommendation of the Northeast Document Conservation Center's Disaster Planning workshop facilitator, Donia Conn. Diane Calabro attended this three part workshop which ended with a site visit on January 22, 2013. The Knox Box contains access keys that the Fire Department can use, if they need to (we certainly hope they never do), rather than bursting through the original 1785 double doors with their bulls-eye glass panes.

## E-MAILS FOR HISTORY QUESTIONS

**Town Historian:** [cheshirehistorian@cox.net](mailto:cheshirehistorian@cox.net)

**Our CHS Curator:** [maryellenkania@cox.net](mailto:maryellenkania@cox.net)

### *In Memoriam*

We mourn the loss of the following long-time member:

Claire Wallinger

Aug. 24, 2012

### Looking For Honey Pot, The '50's and '60's?

Part Two of this Cheshire golf course story will appear in our Fall 2013 newsletter.



“As a Moss/Morse family researcher, your quest to find more information has led you [to Cheshire CT]. We hope that you will find your visit warm, welcoming and very informative. There is a great deal of information to be found here...”

*From Ortiz's Brochure*

## Think Spring!

After all of the snow we've been inundated with, our thoughts turn to spring. Soon the flowering pink dogwood tree and the redbud tree in the backyard of our H-P House will burst into color

Right, "Storm Nemo" Below, photo courtesy of Inge Venus.



## Curator's Notes (Continued from Page 5)

We will also display handsome, new barite sample from Asst. Curator **Warren Van Almkerk**. He says he found it many years ago while walking at a mine site near Peck Lane.

**Exhibit Cases:** While we have been closed, we have been able to have the sliding glass doors on both exhibit cases repaired and new lighting installed in one case. It was a bigger job than we anticipated, but the repairer was able to secure a new track for one pair of the doors, and both sets are now in excellent working condition.

A beautiful exhibit of **Lee Pelz's** collection of miniatures, will be on display in the south case. This is the first time we have been able to show the whole collection. It includes 49 different miniature sets—a lifetime of collecting fun for Lee, who is now in Masonicare, Wallingford. The other case will continue to display the late **Frank Papendrea's** trumpet and mandolin, shown only briefly in December, and a selection of wash-drawings for Landmarks of Old Cheshire by Kathleen Gagnon.

**CHEERS for Bristol Insurance Agency** as it completes 141 years of management by the same family! The company, now merging with Ferguson & McGuire, Wallingford, began in 1871 under Alfred Bristol, President Bill Shay's great grandfather. (Note that A. Bristol is listed as a committee member on the L.U. Society invitation, above). The agency has been managed continuously by a member of the Bristol family for four generations.

Cheshire Historical Society  
PO Box 281, 43 Church Drive  
Cheshire, CT 06410

# SPRING 2013



Use this QR code to quickly visit our CHS website.



LIKE us on FACEBOOK!

Visit our Website  
[www.cheshirehistory.org](http://www.cheshirehistory.org)

### Society Officers

#### President

Diane Calabro

#### Vice President

Janice Yusza

#### Secretaries

Joyce Mulholland

Brad Zambruski

Joseph Robinson

#### Treasurer

Ed Kania

#### Board of Directors

Shirley Brady

Robert Cawood

Robert Davis

Robert Larkin

Cara Luciana

Marshall Robinson

Art Sides

Lois VanAlmkerk

Pat Vita-Garber

#### Student Liaison & Facebook Editor

Stephen Mulholland

#### Curators

Edgar Johnson, *emeritus*

Mary Ellen Kania

Warren VanAlmkerk, *asst.*

Kathleen Connolly, *asst.*

#### Webmaster

Diane Calabro

#### Newsletter Editor

Mary Ellen Kania

Diane Calabro, *asst.*

## MARCH MEETING - Monday, March 25

**7:30 p.m. at THE CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**"Connecticut's Irish Regiment, the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment C. V."**

**- Robert Larkin, Board Member**