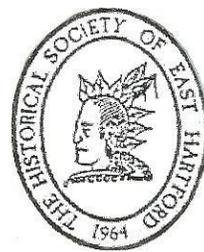


Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, November 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are indeed fortunate that the end of October was less dramatic than last year's super storm Sandy and the previous year's fluke snowstorm where many of us had lost power. November begins the close of the East Hartford Public Library for the long-awaited renovation and expansion. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on October 31st. The lower level of the East Hartford Community Cultural Center will serve as its relocated home until the old Raymond Library reopens again sometime in 2015. For so many years the Historical Society has held its regular meetings there. We wish the project success and we look forward to the grand reopening. We will continue to hold our regular Historical Society meetings at the Selden Brewer House during the Library renovation. We are also exploring the use of the Hillstown Grange as another possible alternative if a larger sized facility is ever needed.

For those who attended the September annual dinner meeting and program at the First Congregational Church another tasty buffet was provided by Becker's Catering. The slate of officers and directors put forth by the nominating committee was approved and once again I would like to thank Ruth Shapleigh-Brown who agreed to a new 4-year term as a Director of the Board. The Huguenot House and other museum buildings are now asleep for the winter season as the water has been turned off at the Park. Thanks to members Jeff Cummings and Greg Daraskevich, a new outside door has been added to the front of the Huguenot House. This was needed to prevent further rotting to the bottom of the inside door. A thank you is also deserved for the Town of East Hartford Parks and Recreation Maintenance for repairs made to the collapsed front brick walkway. I trust the gophers will find a new home somewhere else in the Park.

The Historical Society expressed its opposition to the planned demolition of Center Hose Company #1 at 26 Bissell Street which was the first East Hartford Fire Department headquarters established in 1893. The Historical Society Executive Committee unanimously agreed upon a resolution that was in an article that appeared in the September 26, 2013 edition of "The Gazette." Although the Town has placed a temporary hold on its planned demolition, it would take a miracle for this historic building to be saved.

On November 20th, the day of our regular meeting at the Selden Brewer House, Program Chair Bette Daraskevich has put together another interesting program for us to see. Bette has also organized a Historical Society program that we are doing this month for the East Hartford Women's Club. More information on both programs is in the newsletter.

Craig Johnson

"NEW YORK TO BOSTON: FROM FOURTEEN DAYS TO SIX HOURS" **Historical Society's November Program**

Please join us at the Selden Brewer House on November 20th at 7 p.m. Our guest speaker is Richard DeLuca, who will give an overview talk on his latest book which will be titled, "New York to Boston: From Fourteen Days to Six Hours".

As you know, the Connecticut River bisects all of New England from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound, so all of the Eastern area had to cross the Great River to reach the Western side. A considerable amount of traffic has flowed through Hartford and East Hartford in the form of stages, ferries, railways, trolleys, busses and eventually-cars, during the past 350+ years. The talk will cover the period from the post rider (c.1700) to the Merritt Parkway (1938) and Richard will use examples from the East Hartford area wherever possible. Mr. DeLuca will also have copies of his previous book Post Roads & Iron Horses" for sale.

The Historical Society will exhibit the two photographic albums recently donated that cover the burning and

reconstruction of the Bulkeley Bridge, known previously as the 'Hartford Bridge'.

There is no charge for this presentation. The public is welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the lot in front of the Brewer House and on the street.

VINTAGE FASHION SHOW Sponsored by the EHWC and the HSEH

The Historical Society will be the featured program for the November meeting of the East Hartford Woman's Club on Tuesday, November 12th. The EHWC has been very generous with their annual donations to help us archive our collections. The program will involve a short history of the Historical Society and its objectives, followed by a vintage fashion show. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes Street starting at 7pm. The Woman's Club meetings are open to the public, so if you would like a peek at what we've been storing at the Brewer House for all these years, please feel free to attend. Parking is located in the rear of the church.

PRINT OF EAST HARTFORD'S GOODWIN PAPER MILL



Goodwin's Paper Mill
East Hartford

The engraved print was made in the mid 1930s as part the Hartford printing company's promotional series with the following caption:

"A scene of the mill of G. Goodwin & Sons about 1830. taken from a picture on their package wrapper."

The engraving was made by noted illustrator Morton C. Hansen for The Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company Hartford, CT.

This print is from the Raymond Library Historical Archive.

Ray Tubbs

SOME ACTIVITIES IN MANCHESTER

Susan Barlow, a member of our Society, is also an active member of our neighboring Historical Society in Manchester. She sent an email with suggestions for programs there that might be of interest. On Nov 10 at 1pm at the History Center, 175 Pine St, Ulrich Birkmaier, Chief Conservator at the Wadsworth, will give a presentation on "The Conservation and Restoration of Paintings", what should be done, what shouldn't be done, what's valuable, what's not, \$4 non-members. Interested in genealogical research? Join their group's next monthly meeting on Nov 12 at 10am at the History Center, non-members \$3. And visit the Historical Society Booth at the free Genealogy Road Show at Manchester Town Hall, 41 Center St, on Nov 23, 9am - 1pm. For more information on these and other doings visit their web page at http://www.manchesterhistory.org/MHS3_Home.html.

CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, MAY 22, 1863 - JUNE 30, 1863¹

- May 22-July 4, 1863 Vicksburg Siege: almost constant shelling of Vicksburg by US Navy from Mississippi River, Grant's forces surrounding the city
- May 22-July 4, 1863 Vicksburg Siege: in city shells destroy people, houses, possessions; inhabitants live in caves for some protection; food dwindles; civilians, soldiers will eat rats, mules, even shoe leather
- May 22, 1863 Washington: War Dept establishes Bureau of Colored Troops to organize the raising and the managing of black regiments throughout the country
- May 22-July 9, 1863 Port Hudson, LA Siege: critical Confed stronghold on the Mississippi; with Vicksburg 240 mi north, protects Confed traffic across the river, controls Union traffic on the river; Federals lay siege²
- May 27, 1863 Port Hudson, LA Siege: all-out federal assault by white, black forces fails; fierce fighting; Union Gen Banks' officially praises blacks' determined fighting; highest officer yet to do so: 'blacks fight well'³
- June 3, 1863 NY City: large peace convention held; sympathetic to secessionist ideas
- June 3, 1863 Gettysburg Campaign (C): Lee's 75,000 man ANV starts north from Fredericksburg, VA through the Shenandoah Valley to PA; no troops to Vicksburg; draws Federals away from MS, VA
- June 4, 1863 Washington: War Dept reduces black soldiers' pay to that of black laborers (\$10/mo), set in Militia Act, July 1862; counters its own equal pay policy of Aug 1862 (\$13/mo); black soldiers refuse pay
- June 7, 1863 Milliken's Bend, LA: Union supply area 15 mi nw of Vicksburg; 2 black regiments with little military training, 2 gunboats, Iowa regiment stop Confederates, protect Grant's supply line; blacks again fight well
- June 8, 1863 Union Gen Hooker hears rumors of major offensive, sends cavalry to find Confed Gen Lee
- June 9, 1863 Gettysburg C, Brandy Station, VA: for 1 day 18,000 AOP & ANV cavalry fight largest cavalry battle of war; Confed victory; but Federal morale is good, it has held its own against storied Confed cavalry
- June 10, 1863 Washington: Lincoln strongly reminds Gen Hooker that the ANV, not Richmond, is to be his target
- June 13, 1863 Gettysburg C: Hooker has reliable reports, starts pursuit of Lee from Falmouth, VA; will keep his AOP, 93,000 strong, between Lee and Washington; armies' routes north will be at least 50 mi apart
- June 14, 1863 Port Hudson, LA: Gen Banks orders 2nd all-out assault on Port Hudson, 7,000 Confederates vs 6,000 Federals; assault fails; siege continues

¹ See The NY Times, The Opinion Pages, Opinionator, Disunion: The Civil War
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/10/29/opinion/20101029-civil-war.html>

The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY; 2011.
The Civil War Chart, Contributing Writers Martha Graham, George Skoch; Consultant William C. Davis, Publications International Limited, Lincolnwood, IL., 60646.

Footnote, Shelby, The Civil War, a Narrative Fredericksburg to Meridian, Random House, NY, 1958.

Eyewitness to the Civil War, The Complete History from Secession to Reconstruction, Edited by Neil Kagan, Narrative by Stephen G. Hysop, Introduction by Harris J. Andrews, National Geographic

² Information on Charles Lathrop at Port Hudson is from the Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut published by J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago, 1901, pg. 1088-1089.

Charles Lathrop was born in 1833 into a large farming family in Lebanon, CT. At 18 he went to work with his uncle in Goodwin & Co's paper mill in East Hartford. In 1855 he bought the company's team and began his own trucking business.

In 1862 he enlisted in Co A, 25th CVI. He served under Gen. Banks in Louisiana and was at the siege of Port Hudson. During this siege, he recalled, he and 6 others were on wagon duty at Springfield Landing one afternoon. Raiding Confederate cavalry captured all wagons and supplies except for Mr. Lathrop's. He eluded their hot pursuit for 4 miles and brought his wagon, team and supplies safely home. He remembered a bullet striking a forward wheel in the chase and dozens of bullets whistling by his ears.

He returned to East Hartford where he continued to increase his trucking business until he sold it in 1892. He also served on the town board of selectmen. He died in 1902 and is buried in Center Cemetery with his wife and family.

³ As black soldiers entered the Union forces questions were widely asked about their fighting ability. Would they fight? And how? The reports until now on their fighting prowess had come from civilians and officers in small scale conflicts. But after the all-out assault on May 27th on Port Hudson, Union Major Gen Banks wrote in his official report of his black regiments' determined, even heroic, actions under harsh fighting conditions. The widely read and influential *NY Times* picked up on this and on June 11, 1863 printed the editorial "Negro Soldiers the Question Settled and its Consequences"
<http://www.nytimes.com/1863/06/11/news/negro-soldiers-the-question-settled-and-its-consequences.html>. The question 'would the black soldier fight well?' was answered 'yes' by the military. In time other official commendations from high ranking officers would follow. Over the next 2 years the Union would accept perhaps 200,000 black soldiers in its armies.

- June 16, 1863 Gettysburg C: as Gen Lee moves north his Confeds defeat Union Gen Milroy at 2nd Battle of Winchester; captures 4,000, takes stores, clears his way north
- June 16, 1863 Gettysburg C: Lincoln again tells Hooker: pursue Lee aggressively, clarifies Hooker – Gen in Chief Halleck relationship: Halleck in charge of all armies, Hooker in charge of 1; Hooker to obey Halleck
- June 17, 1863 Georgia: Union navy captures ironclad CSS Atlanta; considered superior to the CSS Virginia; blow to Confed pride; will be assigned to Union blockading squadron
- June 17, 1863 Gettysburg C: Union cavalry, seeking Lee, drives Confeds from Aldie, VA; Union cavalry's George Custer leads heroic charge; at 23 promoted to brigadier General, youngest in Union army
- June 17, 1863 Vicksburg C: besieging Federals protect themselves from Confed guns in caves outside Vicksburg; a good one costs about \$250
- June 18, 1863 Gettysburg C: Gen in Chief Halleck asks Hooker 'Where is Lee?'; after battle of 2nd Winchester, Hooker not certain, can only reply 'moving north in the Shenandoah'
- June 20, 1863 Washington: 50 western counties of VA are admitted into the Union as the State of W VA; in its constitution: 'children born of slaves after July 4, 1863 are free'; all slaves free on 25th birthday
- June 22, 1863 Gettysburg C: ANV starts to cross the Potomac
- June 22, 1863 Vicksburg C: Union forces dig tunnel for explosives under Vicksburg fortifications; explosion forms crater; 48 hours of fierce fighting follow but Federals can not move past crater and withdraw
- June 23, 1863 Tullahoma Campaign: Union Gen Rosecrans starts campaign against Confed Gen Bragg; will keep Bragg from sending forces to aid Vicksburg and will drive him from central TN east to Chattanooga
- June 25, 1863 Gettysburg C: certain that Lee is north of the Potomac, Hooker starts sending his forces into MD
- June 26, 1863 Gettysburg C: 200 Confeds, Gen Early enter Gettysburg, PA; want cash, supplies town does not have; take liquor, harm railroad, leave; Confeds enter Chambersburg, PA send blacks back to slavery
- June 26, 1863 Gettysburg C: PA Gov Curtin calls for 60,000 to repel the invasion; Gen Hooker's army near Fredericksburg, MD
- June 27, 1863 Gettysburg C: Gen Halleck refuses to give Gen Hooker the Harper's Ferry troops he asked for; will pass his alternate request for removal to Lincoln, Lincoln sees McClellan in Hooker and accepts
- June 28, 2013 Gettysburg C: Gen Meade ordered to take command of AOP; he is prickly, his troops call him 'snapping turtle'; those who know the general call him 'old reliable', he is steady and competent
- June 28, 1863 Vicksburg C: Confed soldiers now eat a biscuit a day, bit of bacon; send Gen Pemberton a letter: if you can't feed us than surrender, that is better than to have this army disgrace itself by desertions
- June 30, 1863 Washington: Whitman writes his mother of seeing Lincoln drive by each evening for the cooler air at the Soldiers' Home "He looks more careworn even than usual...curious looking man, very sad"⁴
- June 30, 1863 Gettysburg C: Confeds look for rumored shoes in Gettysburg; withdraw after meeting Federal troops; believe only Union cavalry there; will come back in the morning looking for those shoes
- June 30, 1863 Gettysburg C: Union Gen Buford, 2 cavalry brigades search for Lee; at Gettysburg learn Confed patrols had been there; confident ANV near; Gen Meade tells him to hold, infantry coming next day

Historical Society of East Hartford

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Membership 860-290-1869

indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,
patron \$50

Deadline Jan Newsletter – Dec 30, 2013



November Programs

Program: Vintage Fashion

Date: Tue, Nov 12

Time: 7pm

Where: S Congregational CH

Program: New York to Boston

Date: Wed, Nov 20

Time: 7pm

Where: Brewer House

⁴ The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War, Wagner, Margaret E., Little and Brown & Co., NY, NY, 2011, pg 139.