PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thank you once again for your support in re-electing myself and several members to the Executive Board. I’m certain we will have another good year and we are looking forward to working together.

It was a pleasure to see so many of our members at the Annual Dinner in September. The meal, prepared and served by Becker’s Catering, did not disappoint. It was truly appetizing - as it has been for several years. Matt Becker provided his delicious turkey stuffing and our diners spent an enjoyable evening listening to stories and songs with the return of Tom Callinan, the first of the Official Connecticut State Troubadours.

In August, we were honored with a large donation from the East Hartford Rotary Club to help us with the removal of the old hatchway door located at the rear of the Huguenot House; and the installation of a Bilco steel cellar entranceway that bolts from the inside. Our old wooden door was no longer a deterrent to break-ins, injury or vandalism, so this gift from the Rotarians is much appreciated for the security it now allows for the building. President Craig Johnson and Director Ruth Shapleigh-Brown met and worked with the contractor straight through to the installation. A big thank-you to Craig, Ruthie, and especially to the East Hartford Rotarians, for making it a reality.

Both the Town of East Hartford and the Historical Society suffered the loss of two extremely dedicated and hardworking citizens when they passed to their eternal reward this summer. Both Ed Carlson and Roy Spiller had served as Treasurer for this organization and shared their many talents with numerous town committees and organizations. They were two of the most uns elfish gentlemen I’ve ever met. They shared a deep love and concern for the past and the future of this town and always gave generously of their time.

Ed was not only a brilliant engineer who worked on NASA’s Space Program, he was also an accomplished musician; serving for many years as the organist at Faith Lutheran Church. He made his financial acumen available to the Boy Scouts, the Soup Kitchen, East Hartford Interfaith Ministries, among others; and of course to our Historical Society. He died May 31st.

Roy spent 33 years working at Pratt & Whitney. He served on various town committees and gave 30 years of volunteer work to the East Hartford Rotary Club, coordinated the First Congregational Church Food Bank; and was the President of the Raymond Library Association. He was a member of the Orient Lodge AF&AM, as well as a longtime member of the Historical Society. Roy died August 30th.

These two men had totally different personalities - Ed was a quiet, unassuming man who measured his words carefully. Roy was outgoing and loved a lively conversation. Combined, they contributed over 125 years of service to their community – because they shared one common trait - they cared. They were known for getting things done and they touched a lot of lives.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marie and Peg; and their respective families. Thank you for sharing your two special guys with us.

Our sympathy and condolences are also extended to our Hospitality Chair, Mary Johnson, on the recent loss of her mother, Polly Scaglia, who died after a brief illness on October 24th. Polly was also a member of the Historical Society, contributing her time to many of our activities when needed. She was a lovely gracious lady.

Bette M. Daraskevich, President

NOV 19th PROGRAM TO FEATURE DR. GLENN S. GORDINIER, BOOK AUTHOR

The Historical Society is pleased to present as its guest speaker author and historian Dr. Glenn S. Gordinier of Stonington, CT. Dr. Gordinier is the author of a recent non-fiction book entitled The Rockets’ Red Glare: The War of 1812 and Connecticut. He will give an illustrated presentation based on his book commemorating Connecticut’s role in the War of 1812, this being the second war with Great Britain. The war was not too popular in the New England states because of its economic impact. The presentation covers the hardships endured by
Connecticut as a result of the British Navy’s blockade of Long Island Sound and shows how Connecticut citizens fought back. It also covers the British attacks made against the Connecticut shoreline that occurred in 1814. We are now commemorating the 200th anniversary of these engagements.

Dr. Gordinier is the senior historian at Mystic Seaport where he teaches for the Williams College maritime studies program. Specializing in maritime history, he is also on the faculty of the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. Following the evening program, Dr. Gordinier will offer for sale copies of his book. The Wednesday, November 19th program, 7:00pm, will be held at the Selden Brewer House, 167 Main Street, East Hartford and is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served and parking is available in the lot at the Brewer House.

For any questions, please call Craig Johnson at 860-568-2884.

Craig Johnson, Vice President/Program Chair

FRIENDS OF CENTER CEMETERY NEWS

We will close this year not doing some activities that we usually do however our group, small that it is, has accomplished quite a lot and we are proud of it.

This year we repaired the long broken Abigail Pitkin Stone and the stabilizing 5 table stones belonging to the family of Pitkin, Hills, Maken, Easton and Wells. Another major undertaking has been to bring our history full circle with today’s technology by creating a Pod Cast Tour. Although we are still working to finish the virtual connection you can visit the cemetery and view the 3 dozen post with plaques displaying the key information about the person it is placed near. The end result will be that these informational pieces will be enjoyed by those walking through with or without a smart phone. However with an electronic connection visitors will be able to pass their device over the QR code printed on the sign and instantly receive a video and recording to tell them about our history. The ultimate connection is that this virtual tour can also be viewed through a website, making it easier to reach out to those that are not living in our local area. Keeping this history alive and intact for future generations is purpose.

This November after Veteran's Day and with some help from the local grange, we are planning to plant a line of daffodils along the roadway that leads up to the Civil War Monument. If you would like to donate towards this project with a gift of bulbs or volunteering to help us do the planting please call Ruthie Brown for more details 860-643-5652 or email her at shapbrown@cox.net.

Reminder if you have ancestors buried at Center Cemetery and have not sent in your membership dues($15) please do so soon. Our address is Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc., 70 Canterbury Street, East Hartford, CT, 06118

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

JOSEPH O. GOODWIN’S “NOTES FROM MY JOURNALS”

Sometimes a humble transcript, like a humble individual, has a long, eventful and interesting tale to tell. Such a find is the most recent acquisition of the Historical Society’s; consisting of a thin, handwritten journal in the neatly scripted prose of one of East Hartford’s most distinguished town employees. The journal was once the property of member, Jessie Slade, and donated by our dear departed friend and former Treasurer, Roy Spiller. It is a composite of notes excerpted from several journals kept by the author, Joseph Olcott Goodwin, b: 1843 - d: 1923 in East Hartford. He is buried in Center Cemetery and was the Town Clerk for many years.

Joseph Goodwin chose to preface this journal with tales that cover his life beginning with his birth in East Hartford and continues through his experiences as a young man, his long career of service for the town and touching events of his family life. The journal ends abruptly in 1890, but includes the descendant genealogy of his family beginning with Ozias Goodwin, one of Hartford’s original founders.

I made an effort to encapsulate some of the more interesting aspects of Goodwin’s notes to humanize the gentleman who became such an icon in our town history. Because of the length of the diary, I chose to record this in installments beginning with his birth.

Bette Daraskevich, President

“Notes From My Journals” Joseph O. Goodwin – July 1881 The Early Years

“I was born Sunday, Apr. 16, 1843 at about 12 o’clock noon. In an old house, long afterward occupied by our family, on a site where Mother now lives.(circa.1881) This house was sold and moved to Woodbridge Avenue by G.H. Richardson"
A fat, chubby lad. Went to school first to Miss Mary Wells in lower room of old school building that stood in front of Center Burying Ground. (south of the Main St. entrance) Afterwards, in same room to Miss Juliette Roberts, (Goodwin’s mother’s half sister; later Mrs. J.B. Smith) my aunt. Mr. Brown taught upstairs and boarded at our house. Afterwards, upstairs to same Miss Roberts, and to others. Later to Deacon Edward Hayden. Miss Isham (summer teacher) came and two other females. In winters to John B. Smith. To Mr. Stone, (cadaverous, consumption) Edward Raymond, Joseph O. Hurlburt.

I remember Father’s old tailoring room in old house, and town clerk’s office being in same room.

1853: Father began store-keeping and post office (Jared Ayres removed) under President Pierce’s administration about June 1st, 1853. Lost P.O. through S.G. Phelps under President Buchanan about July 1, 1858. I assisted in store and post office from a little boy continuously, as soon as old enough, until March 1862; except going to school and frequent play spells.

Two winters to school to Salmon Phelps, at his residence, opposite Cong. Church. My parents had both been his pupils years ago. Spent my last Thanksgiving at Grandfather Robert’s house in 1858 or 1859. ‘Disgusted with society and my own awkwardness’. (Joseph O. Goodwin’s observation of himself; he is now age 16)

Mother speaks of Sam and I when we were boys at play—unusually quiet, intent and had few differences. Our self-made toys. I - the maker…and both had same or equivalent. Would disappear into the garden for hours together – a murmur of voices only heard. (But we did fight fiercely sometimes.)


Sept. 3, 1860: First ride in cars with Hayden to Vernon. Walk to Rockville and Snipsic Pond; and to Ellington and about school premises. Walked back to Vernon, eating our lunch on the way. By railroad to Willimantic, and New London. Call on Brown, Hayden’s schoolmate. We lodge at Bacon’s Hotel.

Sept. 4, 1860: Up at 6 and over to Groton Monument and Fort. Back to hotel. Up to Brown’s and then down to the lighthouse, Fort Trumbull and Pequot House. To Lyme by R.R. and across (the River) by ferry. Saybrooke to Essex on foot. Hayden goes to New York by boat at 8. I doze in hotel office and on chilly wharf in moonlit fog til one a.m. or so, then take the boat upriver to home, sleeping on seats in the saloon. I get a ride from Hartford; grimy and sleepy.

Cost: carfare $2.30, ferry, fort and boat $.33, hotel lodging $.37 and steamboat $.75.

1861: School in new Elm Hall building (somewhere on Main Street), then to Jos. O Hurlburt in winter of 1861, til March of 1862. About Oct. 26th to Nov. 2nd, hunting and camping excursion to North Coventry with Case, Deming, Aug. Roberts. Went off to learn printing trade at Calhoun’s in Hartford on March 10th. Presswork at first; learning typesetting at intervals. Then working typesetting continuously til 1868. Wages were board and payments starting at $33 - $100 in my third year. Calhoun’s wound up paying $45 - $150.

May 18, 1863: First issue of “Elm Leaf” (East Hartford’s first newspaper) by Olmsted, Goodwin and Wales. Worked and issued, by our own labor, six issues until Oct. 1863.

Aug. 11, 1863: Drafted to the Army. Paid $300 commutation; both Father and I. (this possible due to an $150 advance from Calhouns and Town allowing me $150)

Jan. 1864: Reissue of the “Elm Leaf”; worked for two months and then S. N. Olmsted took it elsewhere. I’m still writing for it occasionally. We have a new cricket club in town this year. I’m playing; games are with other towns.

Jan. 1865: Skated to Middletown (At one time the whole Connecticut River would freeze over)

Mar. 1865: Journeyman for Calhouns $10 per week. (Literary dreams and discontent) (Goodwin is age 22)

...............to be continued...............
4 Deacon John B Smith b: 1813. Made Deacon of First Congregational Church. Son of Rufus Smith of East Hartford; married into the Roberts family. Remitted to 1st Congregational Church in New Britain, CT.
5 Collins Stone b: 1812 CT. Graduated from Yale Univ. in 1832. Lived and taught at the American Asylum for Deaf and Dumb at Asylum Hill in Hartford.
6 Joseph O Hurlburt, b: 1823 in Hartford. Merchant and teacher. Member of 1st Congregational Church. Moved from East Hartford to Wethersfield.
9 Ozias Roberts, b: 1798 in Hartford. Lived most of his life in E. Hartford; a farmer and Moderator at 1st Congregational Church.
13 Built by Wasson Manufacturing Company, horse-drawn trolley cars went into service in 1860’s for the area’s Horse Rail Roads. They remained in continuous service until 1895 and were replaced by electric power. The earliest automobiles in CT were not available until well after 1877.
15 Augustus Roberts B: 1846 in E Hartford. Son of Hezekiah Roberts. Farmer His Father became a Methodist and left the Congregational Church. Distant cousin to Goodwin family.
16 Calhoun’s Printing Company, State St., Hartford. Specialized in posters, flyers, postcards, commercial advertisements.

Sources: ‘East Hartford, Its History and Tradition’ by Joseph O Goodwin; ‘Historical Gazetteer of the United States” by Paul T Hellman; and Ancestry.com

CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, APR 1864 – MAY 1864

Correction
Mar 8, 1864 CT: 29th CT Vol Inf (colored) mustered into US service; 1st from CT; served in SC, VA: Cos C,G first infantry to reach Richmond, Apr 3, 1865; after war in TX; discharged Nov 25, 1865 Hartford

Spring 1864 DC: Without military victories Pres Lincoln believes he may lose the coming election to someone willing to negotiate with the South, North’s gains will then be mitigated
Spring 1864 DC: Gen Grant, Lincoln and colleagues develop strategies for the coming year: Union armies will attack Confed armies in unison, keep Confeds from supporting each other, destroy them, end war
Spring 1864 Strategy in VA: Gen Meade’s AOP, accompanied by Grant, will invade VA, attack Lee’s ANV head on, take Richmond; capable cavalry commander Gen Philip Sheridan will come east to assist
Spring 1864 Strategy in VA: Gen Butler from the VA Peninsula will move his Army of the James up the James River, take Richmond form the south, and attack Gen Lee’s ANV from the rear

The Civil War Chart, Contributing Writers Martha Graham, George Skoch; Consultant William C. Davis, Publications International Limited, Lincolnwood, IL., 60646.
Spring 1864 Strategy in western VA: Gen Sigel will take control of the Shenandoah Valley, VA's breadbasket, and threaten Lee's left

Spring 1864 Strategy in west: Union Gen Sherman to go south from Chattanooga, attack Gen Johnston's army, (South's 2nd largest), take manufacturing center, rr hub of Atlanta, destroy anything of military use

Spring 1864 Strategy in south: Gen Banks to finish action on Shriverport, leave Gen Steele & navy to defend Red River; start action to take Mobile, AL; will keep Confeds from helping Gen Johnston

Apr 8, 1864 Red River Campaign: Union Gen Banks defeated at Mansfield, LA 150 mi up the Red River by Gen Taylor; Banks retreats, no attack on Shrevport

Apr 10, 1864 Persuaded by Napoleon III Maximilian, Austro-Hungarian archduke, and his wife Carlotta accept crown of Mexico; Napoleon hopes to control Mexico through him; Maximilian's policies are liberal

Apr 12, 1864 Fort Pillow, TN: Confed Gen Forrest, 1500 men take fort with 262 black, 295 white defenders; 20% blacks, 60% whites march away as prisoners; called a massacre of blacks; Congress will investigate

Apr 17, 1864 2 conditions cause Gen Grant to halt prisoner exchanges: 1 is insistence on no distinction between black, white soldiers in exchanges; Confed rejects this; future prisoners will overtax systems

Apr 18, 1864 Poison Springs, AR, part of Red River Campaign: Gen Steele's men, escorting foraging wagons, badly defeated by Confeds; number of black guards in Gen Steele's 1st KS Inf murdered

Apr 30, 1864 Jenkins Ferry, AR, part of Red River Campaign: at Saline River fight Gen Steele's black 2nd KS Inf charges Confeds shouting "Remember Poison Springs", murders Confed wounded

Apr 30, 1864 Richmond, VA: 5 year old Joe Davis, son of Confederate Pres Davis, is seriously injured in fall from porch of Confederate White House; his parents hold him as he dies; they are overwhelmed

May 2, 1864 Richmond, VA: 1st Confed Congress mostly secessionist; new 2nd Confed Congress - secessionists, Unionists, men from Union controlled areas; Confed faces shortages, oncoming Union armies

May 4, 1864 Overland Campaign', (OC) VA: Gen Meade's AOP (with Grant) crosses Rapidan River, plans to get between Gen Lee's ANV, Richmond, destroy Lee; moves slowly, camps in area called Wilderness

May 5, 1864 Atlanta Campaign (AC): Union Gen Sherman left Chattanooga May 1 crosses GA border; Sherman's 3 armies perhaps 100,000 strong, Johnston's perhaps 60,000 strong

May 5-6, 1864 OC, VA: Wilderness, area 70 mi north of Richmond of dense, dry woods, heavy underbrush; brutal fighting between AOP, ANV; burning woods tragically kill unreachable wounded

May 6, 1864 OC, VA: Wilderness: AOP, 100,000 men, ANV, 60,000; casualties high - AOP 18,000, ANV 11,000; friendly fire seriously wounds Confed Gen Longstreet (déjà vu Jackson 1 yr ago); but he will live

May 6, 1864 Bermuda Hundred Campaign (BHC), VA: Union Gen Butler, Army of the James, 30,000 strong, entrench 4 mi from James River to Appomattox River, 15 mi se of Richmond, 7 mi ne of Petersburg

May 7, 1864 OC, VA: Wilderness: AOP starts south to get between Lee, Richmond; AOP elated as it realizes it is not retreating as in past; "On to Richmond!" is the cry; Grant has told Lincoln he will not turn back

May 7, 1864 AC, GA: Rocky Face Ridge near Dalton: Sherman clashes with Johnston, sends 1 army around Johnston; Johnston retreats; Sherman moves south to Atlanta; action will be repeated over & over

May 8, 1864 OC, VA: Spotsylvania Meade moves 10 mi se, finds Lee already there; daylong piecemeal attacks; Grant is frustrated with AOP: "Don't worry about what Lee will do! What will you do?"

May 9, 1864 OC, VA: Spotsylvania: Beloved Union Gen Sedgwick tells soldier ducking sniper's shots "They could not hit an elephant at that distance", is himself then killed by a shot; body returns home to CT

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2 http://www.civilwarhome.com/redriverrecords.html “Red River Campaign (10 Mar – 22 May, ’64)”
8 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta_Campaign
May 9, 1864  BHC, VA: Gen Butler moves toward Petersburg, is defeated at Swift’s Creek, damages railroad, returns to Bermuda Hundred

May 10, 1864  OC, VA: Spotsylvania: Assaults on Lee’s lines fail; Union Col Upton sends battering ram of 12 regs, each in 3 columns 4 rows deep; breaks through at salient, Muleshoe; no backup, fails; casualties grow

May 11, 1864  Richmond, VA: realizing Union forces are approaching, citizens go into “convulsions of worry” over the capture, pillage and destruction of the city; every citizen is called to arms, to do his duty

May 11,1864  Yellow Tavern, VA: 6 mi n of Richmond Union cavalry under Gen Sheridan fights, mortally wounds legendary Confed cavalryman Gen Jeb Stuart; Sheridan leaves: taking Richmond would be too costly

May 12-15, 1864  BHC, VA: Gen Butler leads 18,000 men to Drewry’s Bluff on James River, part of Richmond’s outer defenses; cavalry wrecks sections of railroads from Petersburg

May 12, 1864  OC, VA: Spotsylvania: 4:30am 20,000 massed Union troops attack Confeds at Muleshoe apex, “Bloody Angle”, temporarily break Confed lines; desperate hand-to-hand fighting; ends at 3am

May 12, 1864  Richmond, VA: in evening 31 year old Confed Gen Stuart dies at his brother-in-law’s house; he was daring, skillful, fun loving; Gen Lee can barely think of him without tears

May 13, 1864  DC: Walt Whitman writes to his mother “…the badly wounded are coming in…I …believe…Grant is going to succeed, and that we shall have Richmond…but O what a price to pay for it.”

May 15, 1864  New Market, VA: Confeds defeat Gen Sigel; 257 VMI cadets in fight, 67 casualties, become heroes in the South; Confeds can now help Lee; Gen Sigel replaced by Gen Hunter

May 16, 1864  Drewry’s Bluff, VA: Confeds attack, force Butler back into his Bermuda Hundred fortifications; Confeds will entrench in front of Butler’s lines, bottle him up

May 18, 1864  OC, VA: Spotsylvania: Grant again attacks Lee’s lines, finds them impregnable; news of Sigel’s defeat, Butler’s “bottling up” reach Grant: AOP will fight Lee alone; AOP, ANV 30,000 casualties

May 20, 1864  OC, VA: Spotsylvania: once again Grant starts to move south hoping to get between Lee, Richmond; Lee anticipates this, sends ANV to defensive position on North Anna River, 25 mi south

May 23-26, 1864  OC, VA: North Anna River: Grant finds Lee too strongly entrenched, halts piecemeal attacks to stop “slaughter of our men that even success would not justify”; 2 armies’ casualties 4,000

May 26-27, 1864  OC, VA: Hanover: Grant pushes se 30 mi to Hanover, 17 mi ne from Richmond; he has access to supplies at White House from Chesapeake Bay

May 26-Jun 4, 1864  AC, Dallas, GA: Sherman’s forces drive Johnston’s back; perhaps 5,000 casualties; Sherman has moved 120 mi from Chattanooga to 30 mi nw of Atlanta with perhaps 17,000 casualties

May 28, 1864  OC, VA: Haw’s Shop: Union, Confed cavalry forces scouting for armies collide in sharp, day long battle; armies continue moving southwest toward Richmond; 744 casualties

May 29-30, 1864  OC, VA: Totopotomoy Creek: Lee guesses Grant’s route to Richmond, sets up strong defensive works on creek; Union forces probe works on 29th; on 30th Lee attacks, is repulsed; 2,200 casualties

May 31, 1864  OC, VA: Cold Harbor: Union cavalry takes, holds the crossroads here, few mi from Richmond; both sides race to this area, dig in

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**Historical Society of East Hartford**

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

**Deadline Jan Newsletter – Dec 31, 2014**

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**November Program**

**Date:** Wed, Nov 19, 2014  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Program:** Dr Gordinier on CT & the War of 1812  
**Where:** Brewer House  
**Fee:** No cost  
**Info:** Craig, 860-568-2884  
**Flag from Dr Gordinier’s book The Rockets’ Red Glare**

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10 Ibid, pg 186  
11 Ibid, pg 187