

Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, March 2013



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of March is here and we look forward to the beginning of the spring season. The blizzard of 2013 gave us quite a wallop. However, it could have been much worse. We did not lose electric power as was the situation during the freak snow storm of October 2011.

Our January 16th meeting at the Selden Brewer House featured a very interesting program by Thomas Duff, Jr. also known as "the bottle searcher" who brought with him some fine samples of early American bottles including some Pitkin glass. The Museum of Connecticut Glass also brought along some great exhibits. Because it snowed the night before, the attendance was very light because of the weather and maybe some thought the meeting was canceled. If one of our programs is canceled due to winter storm conditions, it would be announced on WFSB channel 3 and WVIT channel 30 in the cancellation notices at the bottom of the television screen. If you don't see a cancellation notice, our meeting and program goes on as scheduled.

At the January meeting, the open one-year term on the Board of Directors was filled. I am pleased to announce that Ruth Shapleigh-Brown is our newest Director voted onto the Board. Ruthie is the founder and executive director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network. She received many recognition awards over the years on historic cemetery preservation and studies, the most recent was a prestigious award bestowed by the Association for Gravestone Studies, an international organization.

The March 21st meeting will again be at the Selden Brewer House which has a seating capacity of 35. Bette Daraskevich has a very distinguished guest speaker lined up for our program, so please do not arrive too late. When you stop by, check out the 100 year old wind-up victrola located just to the right of Selden Brewer's portrait hanging over the fireplace. March 21 is the first day of spring, so let's all hope for good weather and we'll see you then.

Craig Johnson, President

"THE LONG JOURNEY HOME FOR ALBERT AFRAID OF HAWK"

Thursday Night March 21st at the Selden Brewer House

While performing with Buffalo Bill Cody's, "Wild West Show", a handsome, long-haired, Lakota Sioux Indian died suddenly in Danbury, CT in June of 1900. This is all according to a diary entry in the 1900 Route Book of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Exhibition. His name was Albert Afraid of Hawk.

He was buried in an unmarked grave in a local Danbury cemetery and remained there until records were discovered in 2008 documenting the location of his grave. With several members of his tribe, he had left his reservation in South Dakota in the late 1800's to perform in the showbiz extravaganza that brought cowboys and Indians East to be viewed by throngs of the curious and city-bound.

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, Connecticut's State Archaeologist and an Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut visits the Historical Society of East Hartford to recount the life and untimely death of Albert Afraid of Hawk in the story of the Lakota people. Family members requested that Albert's body be returned to Pine Ridge Reservation for burial according to Lakota traditions. Dr. Bellantoni brings a PowerPoint presentation documenting the exhumation and the repatriation of Albert's remains and his part in that process. He will also examine some of the local Indian artifacts donated to the Society over the years and offer his comments and suggestions.

This presentation will be held at the Selden Brewer House, 167 Main Street, East Hartford on Thursday evening, March 21st, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served following a short business meeting. The public is invited to attend. Parking is available in the front lot and on Naubuc Avenue. To conserve parking space we ask that members please share rides.

Bette M. Daraskevich, Vice-President /Program Chair, 860-568-5188

Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium 2013



Saturday – April 6th
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

South Senior Center, 70 Canterbury St.
East Hartford, CT

Co-sponsored by
The Connecticut Society of Genealogist
The Friends of Center Cemetery, Inc. EH, CT

Displays & exhibits from various historic groups.
Vendors with books, T-Shirts, Mourning Jewelry and other cemetery novelties.
Even a stone carver working on site if you'd like to try your hand at it.

Lecture Topics

"Old Cemeteries 101 for First Timers & Genealogist"
9:30 am – By Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, *Exec. CGN Director*.
An introduction for new attendees. What has changed over the years, how to take a GOOD photo, do's and don't do's in cleaning the old family stones.

"The Mysteries of the Peet Cemetery in New Milford"
10:45 am – by Melanie Marks Consultant/Genealogist and
Morley Boyd/Historian
They will take us on a visual tour of Connecticut's most unusual family burying ground. A boulder where it is said the original 18th century settler, Samuel "the Hermit" Peet, prayed several times a day. Six generations of the Peets lived on this hauntingly beautiful land. Melanie and Morley have uncovered startling new information about the family and will discuss some of their findings as they relate to the lore surrounding this hidden piece of history.
(This lecture was scheduled for last year's Symposium but had to be postponed at the last minute due to a death in the family.)

Lunch Break 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

snacks & beverages are available for a donation.
time to visit displays and vendors.

"Cemetery Resources at the State Library"
1:15 pm by Richard Roberts.
After the Barbour Collection, what many genealogists next associate with the Connecticut State Library is the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions. Learn about how that collection came to be plus an overview of the Hale Collection and many other cemetery-related resources available at the Connecticut State Library

"Silas Brainerd; Stone Carver of East Haddam"
2:30 pm By Dr. Karl Stofko

Dr. Stofko, is a resident and historian of East Haddam. The Brainerd (Brainard) family is most interesting, and a major influence in the town and the stone carving trade during the 19th c. and one of Karl's favorites to talk about.

"Halloween Business Events: The Social Side of Scaring"
3:30 pm. By Chris Kullstroem

This talk focuses on how Halloween celebrations at businesses and non-profits can provide intrinsic benefits for individuals, families and communities. Demonstrated from scarecrow festivals to cemetery lantern tours, this presentation gives event organizers, volunteers and business owners the tools to enhance the well-being of their entire community.

Admission: \$10 Pay at the door
\$5 for CGN/FCC/CSG members

Directions: South Senior Center, East Hartford, CT
From route 2 east – exit 5c, Maple Ave. turn left, (under hwy), turn left at stop sign onto Handel Rd. 2nd right will be Canterbury St., road is a cul-de-sac with school/now senior center at end. Going west on Rt.2 or Int. 91 use exit for Route 3 –and Main St. Glastonbury, then head north to Maple St., which will be a right turn at the first intersection after the plaza. Follow signs for Symposium.

" It's a matter of Respect "

For details contact Ruth Brown at 860-643-5652 or shapbrown@cox.net
or CGN web site www.ctgravestones.com

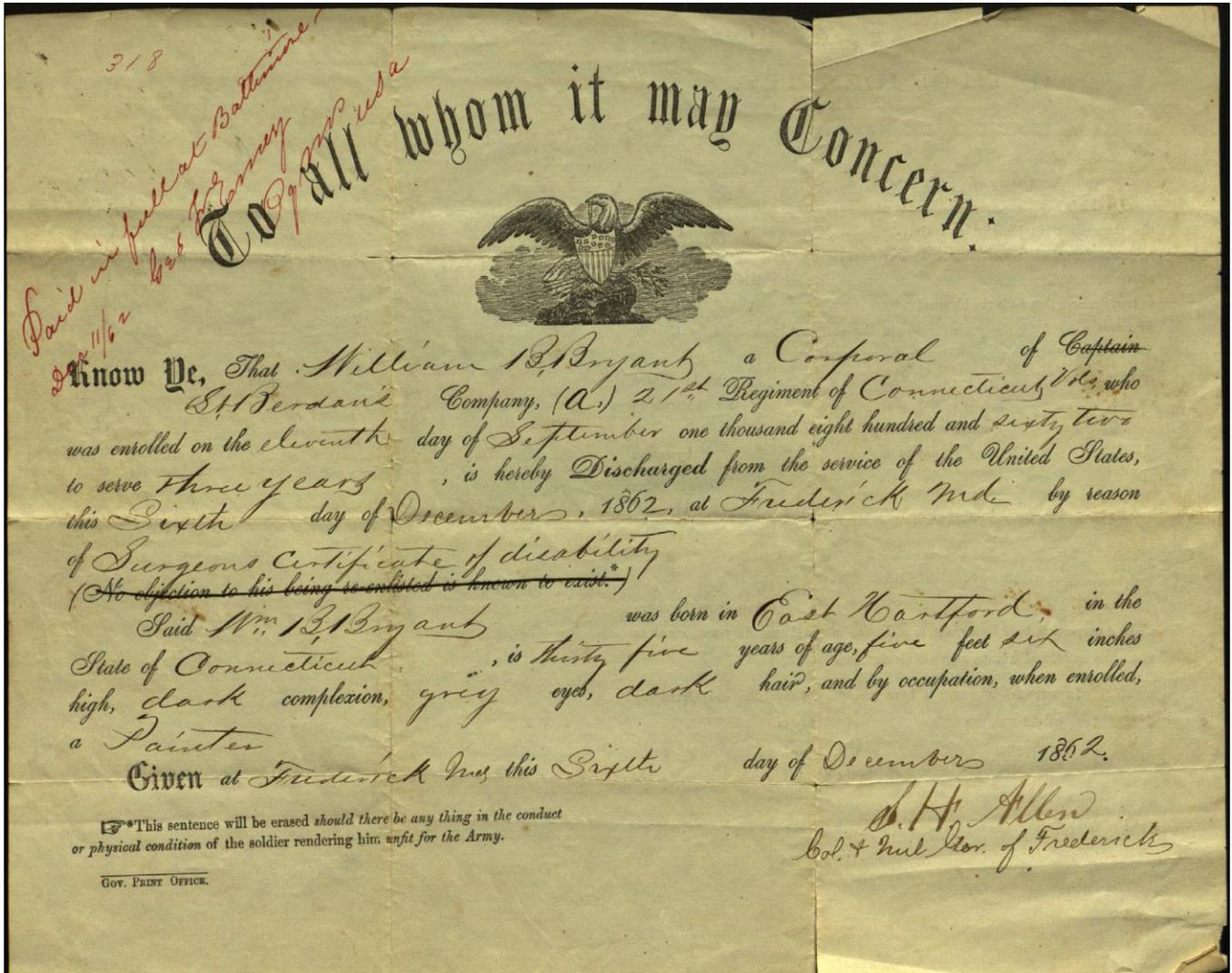
21ST CENTURY PODCASTS COMING TO OLD CENTER CEMETERY

To give Center Cemetery a role and means of connection attractive to the needs of the coming generations of the 21st century, Friends of Center Cemetery is in the process of updating and converting its 28 page Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour booklet of Center Cemetery into a Podcast format with permanent signs embedded with FCC website address and QR code scannable by a smart-phone device. Each of the initial 28 sites will be marked by a smaller version of the sign (designed to last decades) now in front of the Raymond Library telling of the Rochambeau march. Each podcast will consist of a 90 second telling of the story of the personage

interred spoken by variety of voices such as that of Mayor Marcia Leclerc. About half the sites now have sponsorship from various individuals and organizations such as Pratt & Whitney (Civil War Monument), Goodwin College, (freed slave Pomp Equality), Rotary Club (Rev. Samuel Woodbridge), but many personages of historical significance remain such as the young Civil War soldier, Alvin Flint, with his poignant story; Independence Rogers, chief engineer of the steamship *Artic*; colorful privateer of the Revolutionary War, Gideon Olmsted.

So there is still time for you to acquire such a special and unique sponsorship with inscribed designation in your own name, or in honor of or in memory of a cherished family member or friend. The cost is \$250 or \$225 for paid FCC members. More information or a full list with descriptions can be acquired from me or through FCC and HSEH members, Craig Johnson, Eileen Driscoll or Fern Strong.

Ray Tubbs, FCC President (860 528-2987, brairtontubbs@aol.com)



December 6, 1862 discharge for Corporal William B. Bryant, Co A, 21st CVI. This paper is from the William Bryant papers at the Connecticut Historical Society: MS Civil War Box II, Folder 12. It is printed with permission of the CHS.

CORPORAL WILLIAM B. BRYANT, CO A, 21ST CVI

William B. Bryant was 23 when he married Sarah E. Harding in May 1850 in East Hartford, CT. According to the 1860 census he and Sarah had 2 children, 9 year old Mary and 7 year old Hannah. He earned his income as a painter. He owned no real estate but he did have some personal property valued at \$100. In 1861 the Civil War began. On Aug 11, 1862 he enlisted in the 21st CVI, Co A, with the rank of corporal. The 21st reached Washington

on Sept 13, 1862 and was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. That fall the regiment was at Falmouth, VA. The winter was a brutal time, the regimental history writes. The regiment had no tents. The men were exposed to terrible storms; they slept covered only by thin blankets on frozen ground or in mud. Death and disease became so common the camp was called Camp Death. Was this perhaps the cause of Corporal Bryant's discharge on Dec 6, 1862? His discharge only says he was discharged "by reason of Surgeons Certificate of disability". William returned to East Hartford. The 1870 census says his family now included 3 year old George and, it seems, William's brother Henry. William was still listed as a painter. His real estate had grown to \$4000 and his personal property to \$400. William died on May 9, 1875. He and Sarah now lie in the Bryant plot in East Hartford's Center Cemetery.

CIVIL WAR SNAPSHOT, AUG 1862 - SEPT 1862¹

- Aug 1, 1862 Black American John Rock asks why Lincoln has not used his powers to free the oppressed and to use their help to save the nation; query is printed in Garrison's abolitionist paper, *The Liberator*
- Aug 4, 1862 Lincoln calls for 300,000 militia to serve for 9 months; if a state cannot fill its quota, the required men shall be drafted by the state from the militia; CT will form the 22nd – 28th CVI
- Aug 6, 1862 Confeds fail to retake Baton Rouge, LA capital; small battle, important symbolically; Mrs Lincoln's half brother, brother-in-law fall; crew burns damaged ironclad CSS Arkansas, ending a 23 day career
- Aug 9, 1862 Northern VA Campaign (Aug 7 – Sept 1): 2 Union armies, Pope in north VA & McClellan on the Peninsula, are widely separated; Lee fights to remove Pope; Jackson stops Union at Cedar Mtn, VA
- Aug 10, 1862 Confed military kills about 30 Unionists from Fredericksburg, TX on way to Mexico at Nueces River; will kill many more in Fredericksburg area; largest killing of disloyal citizens by Confederacy
- Aug 12, 1862 Congress' congratulations to his fleet on the capture of New Orleans reach Farragut along with his promotion to Rear Adm; he is among the nation's first Rear Adms²
- Aug 14, 1862 Lincoln talks with respected black leaders, says the white race is unwilling to live with the black, has funds for black emigration to Central America; some can accept his plan; many will strongly reject it

¹ See <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.

Foote, Shelby, The Civil War, a Narrative from Sumter to Perryville, Random House, NY, 1958.

Antietam, <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/antietam.html>.

Antietam, <http://www.nps.gov/ancm/index.htm>.

The Maryland Campaign, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maryland_Campaign.

Macdonald, John, The Historical Atlas of the Civil War, Cartographica Books, NY, 2012.

Geer, Walter. Campaigns of the Civil War, A Photographic History, Konecky & Konecky, CT, copyright 1926.

² One outcome of the naval organization of 1862 (which was implemented to utilize more effectively the extra manpower available and work generated by the civil war and to give senior naval officers commensurate rank with senior army officers and foreign naval officers) was the creation of the new rank of rear admiral. At this time this would be the highest rank in the navy, this rank being equivalent to that of major-general in the army. On July 16, 1862 four flag officers were commissioned with this new rank: David Farragut, Louis M. Goldsborough, Samuel F. DuPont, and Andrew H. Foote. Eight retired officers were also named rear admiral.

Farragut has often been referred to as our "first" rear admiral, "first" having some special distinction. But there doesn't seem to be any record of any special distinction given him. Meredith Hindley sparked this topic with her article "The Making of a Rear Admiral" [http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/14/the-making-of-rear-admiral-farragut/...](http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/08/14/the-making-of-rear-admiral-farragut/) For more information check the creation of the rank of rear admiral in the Congressional act of July 16, 1862, "establishing and equalizing the grade" of naval line officers: United States. Congress. *The Congressional Globe: Containing the Debates and Proceedings of the Second Session of the Thirty-Seventh Congress*. Washington D.C. UNT Digital Library [http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc30813/...](http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc30813/) For an official listing of the new 1862 rear admirals see the *Register of the Commissioned, Warrant, and Volunteer Officers of the Navy of the United States Including Officers of the Marine Corps and Others, to January 1, 1863*, pgs 19-20. The rear admirals are ordered seemingly by date of entry into the service. Farragut did have the longest time in the service. He is listed first... The Library of Congress referred us to the Journal of the Proceedings of the Senate... for Dec 5, 1862 the day Lincoln nominated Farragut and the other 3 to the new rank of rear admiral. He gave no special distinction to Farragut.

In 1864 Farragut was promoted to become America's first vice admiral. In 1866 he became our first full admiral.

- Aug 14, 1862 Heartland Campaign: Confed Gens Bragg & Kirby Smith have 2 pronged plan to invade KY and to bring KY into the Confederacy; army under Smith leads 10,000 men from Knoxville, TN into KY
- Aug 14, 1862 Northern VA: 2 weeks after receiving orders, Union Gen McClellan begins moving his army to northern VA to help Pope's Army and protect Washington
- Aug 19, 1862 Horace Greely prints his strong pro emancipation editorial "The Prayer of Twenty Million" addressed to President Lincoln
- Aug 20, 1862 After years of substandard gov't treatment and broken treaties, trouble explodes in MN when 4 Sioux braves, stealing eggs, kill 5 whites; more killings will follow; militia, volunteers will fight Sioux
- Aug 21, 1862 In response to rumors that the Union is enlisting black soldiers, Confed army headquarters orders the execution of any officer of black troops captured
- Aug 22, 1862 Lincoln responds to Greely's editorial of the 19th: his primary object is to save the Union by freeing all, some, or no slaves as necessary, this is his *official* view; *personally* he wishes all men could be free
- Aug 24, 1862 Capt Raphael Semmes, Confed navy, takes command of the newly built steam barque Alabama; will be its only commander; will capture and burn 55 union merchantmen worth millions, bond others
- Aug 25, 1862 Union War Dept authorizes Gen Saxton, military governor of the SC Sea islands, to raise 5 regiments of black soldiers with white officers; same pay as "volunteers in the service" til mid 1863
- Aug 22-28, 1862 Northern VA Campaign: Lee's Confeds drive Pope's forces back toward Washington; seize huge Union depot and supplies at Manassas, VA; threaten communications with Washington
- Aug 28, 1862 Heartland Campaign: Confed Gen Bragg starts 30,000 men of Army of Mississippi from Chattanooga toward Munfordville, KY; Union Gen Buell's Army of the Ohio will follow
- Aug 27-30, 1862 Despite repeated orders Union Gen McClellan, in the DC area with 2 corps, refuses to send troops to Pope; he will defend DC; Stanton, Chase call this 'treasonous', Lincoln 'unforgiveable'
- Aug 29-30, 1862 Northern VA Campaign: Confed victory at 2nd Battle of Bull Run; fought on same ground as the 1st battle 1 year earlier; Pope's forces retreat to strong position at Centreville, VA
- Aug 29, 1862 Annie Etheridge shelters Union wounded on the battlefield during 2nd Bull Run; she wears woman's clothes; she and her husband James came to the army in 1861; he deserted after 1st Bull Run
- Aug 30, 1862 Heartland Campaign: Confed Gen Smith defeats Union Gen Nelson's raw recruits at Richmond, KY; Federal casualties are 5300 of 6500 troops, Confeds 450 of 6800; opens way to capital Frankfort
- Sept 1, 1862 Northern VA Campaign ends, Battle of Chantilly, VA; Pope's army starts retreat to Washington; Confeds fail to cut off Pope's retreating army or destroy it; Lee controls most of northern VA
- Sept 1, 1862 MD Campaign: Richmond is relatively safe, farmers in the Shenandoah are free to bring in their crops; Lee will fight Union army in the north, hopefully defeat it, & move toward winning the war
- Sept 2, 1862 Lincoln gives McClellan control of Union forces in VA and DC; he will reorganize and revitalize these troops; Pope will go west
- Sept 3, 1862 Heartland Campaign: Confed Kirby Smith enters Frankfort, KY; governor & legislature have fled; only northern capital taken by the Confeds
- Sept 4, 1862 MD Campaign: Lee's army starts into MD near Leesburg; he believes 1 victory on northern soil will have more effect on the north on gaining southern independence than many victories in the south
- Sept 5, 1862 MD Campaign: Lee writes Davis he will offer the people of MD a chance to free themselves with his help; if unsuccessful (where he is, MD is Unionist) at least he will "annoy and harass the enemy"
- Sept 5, 1862 MD Campaign: McClellan is headquartered at Rockville, MD; his Army of the Potomac (AOP) is on the march; he is searching for Lee's Army of Northern VA (ANV)
- Sept 7, 1862 *New York Times*, echoing the north in the face of its battlefield losses, asks if the north will have only defeat to show for its sacrifices
- Sept 8, 1862 MD Campaign: Lee tells Davis: propose peace now & let the coming northern elections decide for peace & southern independence or war; Britain may offer recognition if south wins in MD
- Sept 12, 1862 MD Campaign: AOP enters Frederick, MD; welcome is friendly, tumultuous; but where is Lee?
- Sept 13, 1862 MD Campaign: McClellan gets Lee's plans; he moves cautiously; Lee learns McClellan has his plans, moves quickly to cover route through South Mtn he believes AOP will follow to move against him
- Sept 14, 1862 MD Campaign: Battle of South Mtn (Union victory) Union cavalry begins the battle in the morning; during the day Union forces continue to arrive; skirmishes continue; 10pm Confeds withdraw
- Sept 15, 1862 MD Campaign: Lee, at Sharpsburg, MD near Antietam Creek, learns Harper's Ferry with its 12,000 men, artillery, etc has fallen to Jackson; Jackson's troops will rejoin Lee; Lee decides to fight here

- Sept 15-16, 1862 MD Campaign: AOP marches into position at Antietam 87,000 strong; ANV is 45,000 strong
- Sept 17, 1862 MD Campaign, Antietam: battle starts at dawn; Union attacks Lee's left across the Cornfield; hours of fierce attacks & counter-attacks follow; dead fall on corn sheared by intense gunfire; the left holds
- Sept 17, 1862 MD Campaign, Antietam: later after hours of terrible fighting Union forces pierce Lee's center at Sunken Road; no Union advances will follow; so much blood is spilt the road is called Bloody Lane
- Sept 17, 1862 MD Campaign, Antietam: at 1pm Union forces finally fight their way across Antietam Creek bridge; start to turn Lee's right; 4pm more forces arrive from Harper's Ferry & drive them back; battle ends³
- Sept 17, 1862 Heartland Campaign: Confed Gen Bragg takes Green River railroad bridge at Munfordville; disrupts Union communications/transportation; moves on to Bardstown to rest; plans to join Kirby Smith
- Sept 18, 1862 MD Campaign, Antietam: McClellan does not attack Lee; Lee and his wounded cross the Potomac to VA; for her work at Antietam Clara Barton is called "Angel of the Battlefield" by AOP Dr Dunn
- Afterwards MD Campaign, Antietam: battle ends in a draw; about 22,000 casualties (killed, wounded, missing, captured), 12,000 Union, 10,000 Confed; Sept 17th is still the bloodiest day in American history
- Sept 19, 1862 Matthew Brady's employee Alexander Gardner starts photographing the dead at Antietam; in Oct in NY his display will bring reality of war to a horrified/fascinated public for the first time in history
- Sept 22, 1862 Antietam is a victory to Lincoln; as commander-in-chief he issues a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation: will declare free on Jan 1 slaves in states that do not return to the Union by that date
- Afterwards British leaders prefer the south but will not support slavery; will wait and watch events; Union aims now become the restoration of the Union without slavery
- Sept 24, 1862 Lincoln subjects to martial law all "discouraging volunteer enlistments, resisting militia drafts..." suspends writs of habeas corpus for those under military arrest
- Sept 27, 1862 Confederacy puts into effect the 2nd Conscription Act: expand military service to white men, ages between 18 and 45; allow pacifists to avoid military service with substitute or \$500 tax
- Sept 27, 1862 1st black unit officially enters Union service in New Orleans, 1st Regiment LA National Guards of free black Louisianans and freed slaves; has black officers; organized by Gen Butler

MEMBERSHIP

Please consider joining or rejoining the Historical Society of East Hartford. Work with us in sponsoring our guest speakers and programs open to the public, preserving East Hartford antiques, and funding this newsletter. Membership fees cover the year from Sept 1, 2012 to Aug 31, 2013. The fee for an individual is \$15, for all at one address is \$20 and for a student is \$15. Make your check payable to **The Historical Society of East Hartford** and mail the check to **Historical Society of East Hartford, PO Box 380166, East Hartford, CT, 06138-0166**.

Historical Society of East Hartford

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Web site: <http://www.hseh.org>

Deadline May Newsletter – April 30, 2013



March Program

Date: Thursday, March 21

Time: 7pm

Where: Brewer House

Program: Albert Afraid of Hawk

³ One particularly poignant East Hartford story is that of the Flint family. In the 1860 census the family consisted of Dr Alvin Flint, his wife Lucy, daughter Evaline, sons Alvin Jr., and George. Teenaged Alvin Jr joined the 11th CVI on Sept 28, 1861. Consumption was a killer then, Lucy would die of it in Dec 1861 and teenager Evaline in Jan 1862. Alvin Sr and young George (barely into his teens) would enlist in Aug 1862 in the 21st CVI. On Sept 17, 1862 Alvin Jr would be killed at Antietam. His regiment was one of those who fought to gain possession of the Antietam Creek bridge now called the Burnside Bridge after the Union general directing the fighting there. In Jan 1863 both Alvin Sr and George would die of disease in VA within a few days of each other. By the end of Jan 1863 this family was no more.

A very interesting website with images of some Flint Family civil war related images is John Banks' Civil War Blog, <http://john-banks.blogspot.com/2011/09/civil-war-under-my-nose-flint-family.html>. Also see William A Frassinito's book Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day.