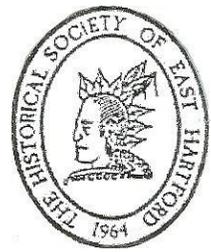


# Historical Society of East Hartford

Newsletter, November 2017



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to thank all members and guests who attended our September annual meeting at the First Congregational Church and welcome our new Historical Society memberships. The Society is also grateful to welcome to its executive board Karen Johnson who agreed to assume the vacant 2-year Director term and Ruth Shapleigh-Brown who agreed to a new 4-year term as a Director. And for another year we all enjoyed another delicious buffet meal provided by Becker's Catering.

During the months of September and October, we hosted several paid events that raised some much-needed revenue for the Historical Society. A bus of visitors from eastern Pennsylvania were entertained on September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup> and tourists from Ontario, Canada received a guided tour of our three museum buildings on October 19<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank all of our volunteers who helped out on those days. We also appreciate the thoughtfulness of Hartford Fine Art & Framing, especially Maryann Meade and historian Tom Hogan, on hosting the World War I exhibit fundraiser event to benefit the Society on September 28<sup>th</sup> that gave us \$290 in donations. We also had 3 new memberships. Recently, I even gave a private tour of the house to a descendant of Makens Bemont who lives in North Carolina. He donated \$20 to us. The revenue raised will be used toward the cost of the new roof. Every little bit gets us closer to our goal.

The application for our first grant was hand delivered to the SBM Charitable Foundation in September and I have been corresponding with them. I'm hopeful that even though we are much smaller and less well-endowed than other's competing for grant money, we still stand a fair and equal chance. The asking grant was for \$5,000 but if we get all or any portion, no matching amount is required. Under the 1772 Foundation Connecticut Matching Grants in Historic Preservation, a maintenance and repair grant will be submitted by year end. This will require a one for one match. If all goes well, roof replacement work could be started during the spring of 2018. With all of the heavy rain last month and to prevent more water damage, I've asked the town to place another patch on the existing roof.

*Craig Johnson, President*

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM - REVOLUTIONARY WAR CAPTAIN BUCKLAND

The Historical Society of East Hartford will hold its November business meeting at the **Veteran's Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge Road**, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on November 15th, 2017.

Our speaker will be Lance Kozikowski, who will perform in the uniform of one Capt. Stephen Buckland. Mr. Kozikowski will present an interpretation of an Orford Parish blacksmith who went off to the Revolutionary War and came home to find his shop in ruins and with no money to pay his taxes. Captain Buckland was part of the family that gave its name to the area now best known as the Buckland Hills Mall in what became Manchester, CT. At the close of the Revolutionary War, he signed on as the captain of a privateer's ship, and was captured by the British brig, *Perseverance*, in April, 1782. Along with his crew, he was placed in the prison ship, *Jersey*, where he died May 7 of the same year at the age of 39; a victim of starvation and torture.

Lance has been a guest speaker for the Society in the past. His program as a Tinsmith mirrors his work as a Demonstrator at The Big 'E', the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. He is also a Museum Assistant at the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.

There will be a short business meeting of the Society, followed by refreshments and the evening's presentation. The program is open to the public; all are welcome.

*Bette Daraskevich, Vice President/Program*



## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

For existing members who have already renewed their memberships for the 2017 – 2018 year we want to extend special thanks, especially to those who have renewed at the Patron level. Not only does it help to offset the cost for honorariums paid for programs but it supports the cost of this newsletter that members receive 5 times a year. Please support us by renewing your membership now. Due to expected increases in postage next year, this may be the last newsletter you receive if you have not renewed your membership since before the 2015 – 2016 year. Membership fees are \$15 for an individual, \$20 for all at one address, \$10 for a student, \$50 for a Patron and \$250 for Lifetime.

*Craig Johnson, President*

## COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fall is here and we have just finished up our bus tour schedule for Martin Park's three historic houses and I'm happy to report that we had three successful busloads of visitors from Canada and Pennsylvania and made at least \$500 in donations through these efforts. Thanks to those who came out and helped: Craig Johnson, Bette Daraskevich, Karen Johnson, Vicki Hart, Wayne Skidgel, and Betty and Bill Knose

Having this longer stretch of warm weather has also been a plus except for the afternoon of the last tour. The last tour was Sunday Oct. 23rd and, thank goodness, a morning visit. We were quite surprised to see the park become a parking nightmare by 2 pm in the afternoon, with all fields and available picnic areas full to capacity! Games were playing on all fields concurrently and players' and visitors' cars were parked in every available space. At one point, even the Huguenot House yard started to fill with cars temporarily blocking in the Society's members.

The inventory of the collection at the Brewer House is progressing well thanks to Karen Johnson's constant efforts and interest and the rearrangement of space is coming along well, although somewhat slower than planned and will hopefully be finished up before the end of the year.

The plans for a Christmas social similar to what we did last season is in the works and will be announced at our most entertaining November meeting about one of our Revolutionary War Heroes, who will be excellently portrayed by our host reenactor and speaker. Please join us to learn more about our own Captain Buckland.

Thank you all for your support.

*Collections Committee: Jeff Cummings and Ruthie Brown*

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### Historical Society of East Hartford

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indiv \$15, 1 address \$20, student \$10,  
patron \$50, lifetime \$250

**Deadline Jan Newsletter – Dec 30, 2017**

**Clipart:** <https://publicdomainvectors.org/en/free-clipart/US-Revolutionary-war-soldier-silhouette-vector-image/13933.html>



### November Program

**Date:** Wed, Nov 15, 2017

**Program:** Capt Stephen Buckland,  
program with Lance  
Kozikowski

**Where:** Vets Memorial Clubhouse,  
100 Sunset Ridge Road

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Fee:** No cost

**Info:** 860-568-5188