

ALMANAC



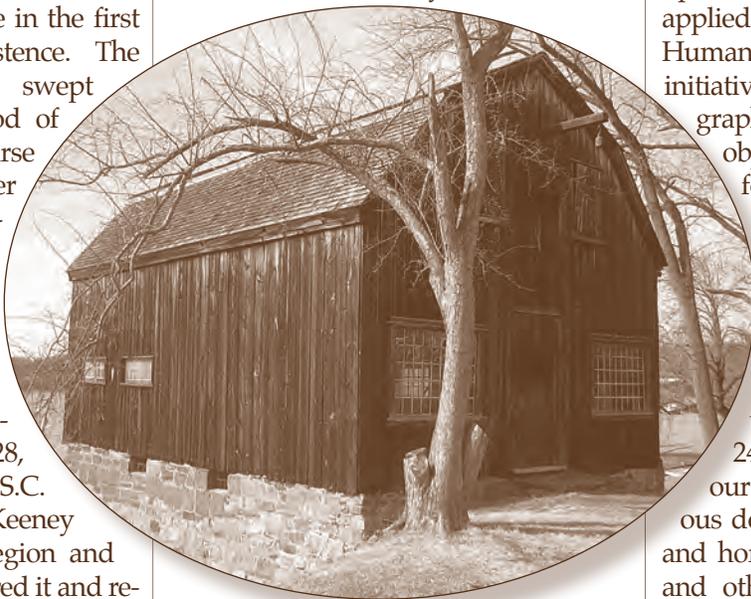
THE WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ■ VOLUME 40 ■ NUMBER 2 ■ SPRING 2014

GRAND REOPENING CEREMONY PLANNED FOR COVE WAREHOUSE

The venerable Cove Warehouse on our Wethersfield Cove dates to the late 17th century; it is the last remaining of six warehouses that stood on the river's edge to accommodate Wethersfield's brisk shipping trade in the first century of the town's existence. The other warehouses were swept away in the massive flood of 1697 that changed the course of the Connecticut River and created the Wethersfield Cove we know today. The Warehouse had been moved to the back of a house on Main Street sometime in the 19th century, and was being used as a barn. In 1928, the Russell K. Bourne D.S.C. Post (now the Bourne-Keeney Post), of the American Legion and Jared Butler Standish restored it and returned it to its original location on the Cove. It was dedicated as part of the Town's 300th Anniversary celebration in 1934. It became a Wethersfield Historical Society museum in 1962. The Warehouse is owned by the town and leased to the historical society for the annual rent of one rope of red onions.

As many of you learned from the article in the Hartford Courant, our Cove Warehouse Museum was broken into and vandalized sometime during the last two weeks in January. About two-thirds of the items displayed in the museum were stolen, including maritime tools, barrels, an ox yoke, a

wooden chest, some wooden stools, interactive teaching objects and all of our exhibit graphics. Happily, members of our community have come to our aid and donated items to replace those that were stolen. In many cases we have



received items that are better than the ones that were taken. Mark Sheldon donated a Connecticut shipwright's tool chest with tools, Frank Winiarski donated a barrel, Martha Smart donated a small barrel and a block and tackle, Judy Keane is donating an ox yoke, Palmer Hedly has donated an adze and an augur, Cindy Brown is donating another block and tackle, John Taber and Sal Tarantino are each donating wood clamps, the cooper at Mystic Seaport has donated a small barrel and a wooden bucket and will be making an interactive hands-on teaching tool for us

and Gouveia Vineyards in Wallingford has donated two large wine barrels.

With all of this generosity, we are reinterpreting and reinstalling the Cove Warehouse to have it ready for the upcoming summer season. We have applied for a small grant through CT Humanities' "Connecticut at Work" initiative to help us pay for new graphics and interactive teaching objects, and we have arranged for a group of Coast Guard cadets to help us clean and repair the Warehouse to make it ready for the new exhibit.

We will be celebrating the new Warehouse exhibit with a grand reopening ceremony on the afternoon of Saturday May 24 (time TBD). We hope to have our elected officials, our generous donors, reenactors with cannons and horses, our community members and other special guests to help us rededicate this very special building that symbolizes Wethersfield's agrarian and maritime past as well as its ongoing commitment to historic preservation. The Cove Warehouse is proudly depicted on Wethersfield's Town Seal. May 24 will be 80 years to the day that the restored Cove Warehouse was originally dedicated in 1934. Following May 24, the Cove Warehouse Museum will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm, through October 5, free of charge. We hope that all of our friends and neighbors will come out to help us celebrate!

FORECAST...Our Community

Margaret Mead said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Eighty-two years ago, a small, thoughtful group of committed citizens formed Wethersfield Historical Society, and we have grown over the years and changed our corner of the world – that of our Wethersfield community.

When the historical society was founded in 1932, the town was looking forward to its 300th anniversary at the same time it was experiencing unprecedented growth in the wake of post- World War I technological advances. New homes were being built, the town's population was increasing, and residents realized that little by little, the community's history was beginning to disappear as historic homes were torn down, and farms were built over to make way for progress.

The roots of historic preservation began in Wethersfield with the Russell K. Bourne D.S.C. Post (now the Bourne-Keeney Post), of the American Legion restoring and returning the Cove Warehouse to its original home on the Wethersfield Cove in 1928. The Wethersfield Women's Sunday Afternoon Club raised a considerable amount of money which they contributed to the Colonial Dames to help purchase the Webb House so that it could be preserved as a historic house museum in 1919. The heirs of Cynthia Standish donated (sold for \$1) the Deming-Standish House to the Town "to preserve the rare setting and appearance of a most typical New England Village" in 1928. By 1934, the Historical Society's founders were able to collect an impressive amount of local historical objects and exhibited them in two rooms in the Center School (now the Keeney Center).

If it had not been for the work of these Wethersfield residents and those that came after them, such as Jared Butler Standish, Howard and Jane Dunham, John C. Willard, Chauncey Devereux Stillman, Eleanor Buck Wolf, Emma Keeney, Jim and Dorcas McHugh, Lee and Anne Kuckro and many others, our Town would not have the special character that has been preserved in it today. We would simply be just another suburb of Hartford. How fortunate we are that these people gave of their time, talents and money to make this possible. We, as present day Wethersfield community members, have the responsibility to maintain and build upon their efforts so that our future generations will be able to enjoy the same beautiful community we do.

Wethersfield Historical Society's mission is "to preserve and promote Wethersfield's history and culture to inspire people today and tomorrow." Please get involved with the work of the society – we have numerous types of volunteer opportunities that will allow volunteers to enjoy themselves while they are serving our community. The more involvement we have from our community members, the stronger we are, and the better our community will be.

With warm wishes for a happy Spring,



Amy Northrop Wittorff *Executive Director*



WETHERSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The *ALMANAC* is a publication of
Wethersfield Historical Society,
a 501(c)3, non-profit organization chartered in 1932.

Wethersfield Historical Society:
Preserving Wethersfield's history and culture
to inspire people today and tomorrow.

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KEENEY KOOLERS SUMMER CONCERTS

Free outdoor concerts for all!

The Keeney Koolers Series begins Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30 pm. The Society invites all to attend free of charge and bring your chairs and picnic refreshments. Enjoy the great music and community camaraderie with all those gathered on the front lawn of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. In case of rain, the concerts will be held inside the Keeney Center in the Ballroom on the second floor.



July 8-Paul King Orchestra

Under the leadership of Paul King, the Paul King Orchestra has become one of the finest Big Bands in the state of Connecticut. In addition to original music, the band also plays the arrangements of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Ray Anthony, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, and Duke El-

lington, as well as Frank Sinatra standards sung by vocalist Mark Lanzieri. The Band has performed in various towns for summer concerts and has played at the State Capitol for opening day activities of the General Assembly and State Senate.

July 15-Coast Guard

Dixieland Jazz Band

The United States Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band was organized in 1970 to perform classic jazz, blues and rags with a "New Orleans" flavor. The Dixieland Jazz Band has entertained audiences across America, in the former Soviet Union, England, Japan, and Taiwan. The Band appeared at prestigious traditional jazz festivals in Sacramento, California; Sun Valley, Idaho; and Washington, DC. The six member group has also performed on numerous radio and television broadcasts across the nation, including CBS News This Morning and Fox and Friends.



July 22-Latanya Farrell and the Bookman Styles Band

Latanya Farrell and The Bookman Styles Band is a contemporary ensemble featuring 2003 Connecticut Star Search champion, Latanya Farrell. Latanya Farrell and The Bookman Styles Band exude a mix of high energy and elegance, with a repertoire that includes soul, blues and dance classics. Performances also feature some of Latanya's best known original music from her debut album "Feelin' Alright". Covering various musical styles and genres, their stage presence is defined by an exciting combination of incredible vocals, amazing instrumentation, and grooves so deep they make you want to move out of your seat and dance.



WALKING TOURS

Burying Ground Tours:

\$5 for non-members, members are free. Starting at the Ancient Burying Ground in front of the red barn, 250 Main Street.

Thursday, June 26 at 7 pm

Saturday, June 28 at 10 am

Thursday, Sept. 4 at 7 pm

Saturday, Sept. 6 at 10 am

Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 1 at 10 am

Walk Around Wethersfield:

\$5 for non-members, members are free. Start at the Keeney Center, 200 Main St. and learn about many important buildings in Old Wethersfield.

Thursday, May 1 at 7 pm

Saturday, May 3 at 10 am

Thursday, July 10 at 7 pm

Saturday, July 12 at 10 am

Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7 pm

Saturday, Sept. 20 at 10 am

Prison Walking Tours: \$5 for

non-members, members are free. Begins on the lawn of the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Avenue.

Hear fascinating details about Connecticut's former state prison.

Saturday, May 10 at 10 am

Saturday, June 21 at 10 am

Saturday, Sept. 13 at 10 am

CONTRIBUTE TO THE LISA BROBERG QUINTANA FUND

A fund in memory of Lisa Broberg Quintana has been established at Wethersfield Historical Society to be used for collections and exhibitions. Many members will fondly remember Lisa from her time here as Curator from 1987-1990. Those wishing to contribute to the fund may contact Lisa Walsh at 860.529.7656.

Friends and family of Lisa Broberg Quintana invite everyone to celebrate her life and spirit at a memorial service Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 1:30 pm.

It will be held at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street, Wethersfield, CT.

Further information about the memorial service may be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/events/402451093232376> or by calling Marina Mozzi at 860.368.8641.



UPCOMING EXHIBITS

All School Art Exhibit: This annual exhibit, which opens Tuesday, May 1, showcases the artistic talents of Wethersfield's public school children grades K-12 through many forms of media. Admission is free to all during this exhibit which will run through Memorial Day weekend.

Wethersfield Art League: Once again the society will host the annual show of the Wethersfield Art League. The show will open to the public with a reception on Friday evening, June 6. The exhibit will run through June 28. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm and Sunday, 1-4pm.

Community Partners in Action: Prison Art Exhibit: Community Partners in Action will open an art exhibition with works created by prisoners on Tuesday, July 15 during the Keeney Koolers Concert. The Prison Arts Program promotes self-examination and self-esteem in Connecticut inmates through participation in visual arts classes, exhibitions and publications, and brings the talent and creativity of the prison population to the community at large.

CONNECTICUT OPEN HOUSE DAY

The Connecticut Office of Tourism is sponsoring the 10th annual Connecticut Open House Day on Saturday, June 14. The statewide event is designed to showcase Connecticut's diverse world of history, art, and tourism.

Wethersfield Historical Society is proud to participate in this event again this year. As part of the Connecticut Open House Day, all of the Society's properties will be open to the public free of charge.



Times and locations:

Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main Street: 10 am – 4 pm

John Francis House, 120 Hartford Avenue: noon – 4 pm

Hurlbut-Dunham House, 212 Main Street: noon – 4 pm

Cove Warehouse, Cove Park at the end of Main Street: noon-4pm

KEENEY KIDS SUMMER HISTORY PROGRAM

*Children will learn-by-doing
that history is fun!*

“Keeney Kids” explores Wethersfield history through historical activities, tours, stories and games at the Wethersfield Museum at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center and surrounding historic sites.



8:30 am to 1:00 pm Grades 1-8

Monday, July 21 through
Friday, July 25, 2014

or Monday, July 28 through
Friday, August 1, 2014

“Mini Mariners”
Entering Grades 1-3

“Young Patriots”
Entering Grades 4-6

One Week Only:
July 28-Aug. 1, 2014
“History Detectives”
Entering Grades 7 and 8*

Monday	Ship to Shore	Read All About It: <i>The Society’s Archives</i>	Night at the Museum
Tuesday	My First Memory Book	Sailing the Sea	History Detectives
Wednesday	Canine Capers	Colonial Craftspeople	Prison Break
Thursday	On the March!	A Soldier’s Secret Code	The Patriot
Friday	Old Fashioned Fun	Making Memories, <i>Then and Now</i>	Treasure Hunters <i>*Minimum of 8</i>

**Program Fee: \$90.00 non-members \$75.00 for society members
(after July 7 the price will increase to \$110 non-members and \$95 members)**

For more information, please contact Mary Pat Knowlton, Educator, at 860.529.7656 or email marypat.knowlton@wethhist.org

MUSEUM TEACHERS NEEDED!

We have very popular education programs for all grade levels. We are now booking programs for Spring but we are facing a shortage of museum teachers. The qualifications are easy: a love of history and a love of children! Educator Mary Pat Knowlton will be happy to train anyone interested in our fun-to-do and easy-to-learn education programs. Please contact her at 860.529.7656 or marypat.knowlton@wethhist.org if you have any questions or if you would like more information.

“CASTLE ON THE COVE: CONNECTICUT STATE PRISON AND WETHERSFIELD” EXHIBIT OPENS SEPTEMBER 17

“**Castle on the Cove: Connecticut State Prison and Wethersfield**” exhibition will open on the evening of Wednesday, September 17 with an opening reception. Details and invitations will be sent this summer.

This exhibit has been in the planning process for a year and a half with informal surveys, a temporary exhibit “**Connecticut State Prison: Open Storage**” (July 2013-March 2014), community feedback, Winter Lecture Series, Prison Tour walks, the gathering of objects and recollections along with a plethora of research funded by the Greater Hartford Art Council’s United Arts Campaign and the Robert Allan Keeney Memorial Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The staff has been pleased to learn that the community is so interested in the Connecticut State Prison. Residents and visitors alike are curious about everything from the evolution of incarceration to notorious prisoners to debating whether or not the lights flickered.

“**Castle on the Cove: Connecticut State Prison and Wethersfield**” will explore the prison during the years it stood in Wethersfield from 1827 to 1963. The exhibit will be dedicated to the correctional officers, past and present, who perform a dangerous job that is critical to our safety. The exhibit will be funded by a pending grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council.

CT AT WORK PRISON LECTURE WITH FRANK WINIARKSI ON MAY 5

On Monday, May 5 local prison historian Frank Winiarski will present a lecture “**Working at the Connecticut State Prison**” as part of Connecticut Humanities “**CT at Work**” initiative at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. Admission is \$5 for non-members, free to members.



BE AN EXHIBIT SUPPORTER WITH A T-SHIRT OR TOTE BAG

T-shirts and tote bags are available at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, Old Academy and online in our shop. The design was created from a photograph of the prison tower adapted by Phil Lohman. T-shirts are \$20 each and Tote Bags are \$15 each. Purchase your shirt or tote bag today and be an exhibit supporter!



BURYING GROUND DIGITIZATION PROJECT COMPLETED

The Burying Ground digitization project on our website has been completed by Allison Golomb and an army of volunteers. For the last three years Allison has worked to record every stone in the entire Ancient Burying Ground and Village Cemetery for public access. Now researchers can search for their ancestor on our website.

The Burying Ground digitization project was launched in March 2012 on our website, www.wethhist.org, but had only recorded the Ancient Burying Ground and part of the Village Burying Ground. For the last two years volunteers continued to work to document the entire site. This resource can be a starting point for researchers at home on their computers or in the burying ground to locate a stone on their smart phone or GPS unit.

A hearty thank you to all the volunteers who aided the success of this project by documenting, photographing, funding or supporting our efforts:

Whitney Ceramicoli
Marc and Katie Maio
Marcus Cinotti
Meg McDonough

Allison Golomb
Martha Smart
David Kelly
Heather Turek

Bryant Zilinski
Beverly LeConche
Wethersfield Cemetery Association
Ben Lepo

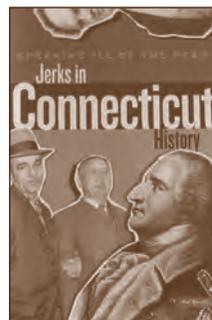
MR. HANMER'S GIFT SHOP

Spring is in the air and so are some fantastic finds at the Hanmer Gift Shop at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. The shop has some wonderful reads on the shelves. For the mystery lover, we have the historical fiction of author Kitty Burns Florey. *The Writing Master* is the story of Charles Cooper, a penmanship teacher trying to come to terms with the untimely death of his wife and child in a tragic accident and the brutal murder that occurs just outside New Haven in which Charles Cooper plays an unlikely role in its solution. Another great read is Professor Lawrence Goodheart's *The Solemn Sentence of Death* which coincides with our current Prison exhibit. It is an engrossing case study of capital punishment in Connecticut. Or you can



pick up a copy of Ray Bendici's *Speaking ill of the Dead: Jerks in Connecticut History*. It profiles 15 of Connecticut's bad guys and gals who were misunderstood visionaries but made vast impacts on Connecticut history.

For the kids we have a variety of historical toys like mind teasers, paddle ball and Jacob's Ladders. For the collector, we offer our wonderful ornaments, mugs, magnets and afghans featuring various Wethersfield scenes such as the Hurlbut-Dunham House and the James Francis House. But remember supplies of these items are limited, so get your favorites soon while supplies last. Gift shop hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm and Sunday 1 pm-4 pm. For more information, please contact us at 860.529.7161 or email us at society@wethhist.org.



SEASONAL PROPERTIES TO OPEN

The Cove Warehouse and Hurlbut-Dunham House are set to open for the 2014 season on Saturday, May 24 through October 5. Their hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 pm. Admission is free.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the new members who have joined the Society since the last Almanac:

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brislin

Cynthia Gworek

Michael Horan

Mr. and Mrs. John Kinabrew

Mr. and Mrs. Damon Mitchell

Joanne Mueller-London

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nevins

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Peltier

Gordon and Rebecca Scruton

Robert H. Smith

Anthony Tedeschi

Tom and Lisa Walsh

Joanne Wheatley

We love our new members! Do you know someone who is new to Wethersfield or even someone who is interested in Wethersfield history? Invite them to become a member of the Historical Society.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Society will take place Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 pm in the Keeney Ballroom. It will be preceded by a reception at 5:30 pm and the Annual Dinner at 6:30 pm also in the Keeney Ballroom. Notices will be arriving in your mailbox soon.



Wethersfield Historical Society
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Non-Profit Organization

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

- May 1, 3 **Walk Around Old Wethersfield:** Keeney Center
- May 5 **“Connecticut State Prison Guards”** Lecture: 7 pm Keeney Ballroom
- May 10 **Prison Walking Tour:** 10 am, Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave.
- May 20 **Annual Meeting:** Keeney Ballroom, 5:30 pm reception
- May 24 **Cove Warehouse Grand Reopening and Keeney History Day for Families**
- June 6 **Cove Warehouse/Hurlbut-Dunham House** open for the summer
- June 14 **CT Open House Day:** 10 am-4 pm, Keeney Center, all other properties noon-4pm
- June 21 **Prison Walking Tour:** 10 am, Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave.
- June 26, 28 **Burying Ground Walking Tours:** 250 Main St. (in front of red barn)
- July 8 **Keeney Koolers,** Paul King Big Band
- July 10, 12 **Walk Around Old Wethersfield:** Keeney Center
- July 15 **Keeney Koolers,** Coast Guard Dixieland Band
- July 21-25 **Keeney Kids History Program:** Grades 1-6, 8:30 am-1:00 pm, Keeney Center
- July 22 **Keeney Koolers,** Latanya Farrell and the Bookman Styles Band
- Jul 28-Aug 1 **Keeney Kids History Program:** Grades 1-8, 8:30 am-1:00 pm, Keeney Center
- Sept. 17 **“Castle on the Cove: CT State Prison and Wethersfield”** Exhibit Opening