



The Acorn

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEDYARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume VIII Number VI

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June 2012

Annual Meeting June 12th Pot Luck Supper Returns

The Society will conclude the 2011-2012 season with our annual meeting and election of officers. There will be reports from all committees, including an update on our project to put a significant portion of our archives on line. The traditional pot luck supper is back by popular demand.

The meeting will be held at **the Ledyard Senior Center on Tuesday, June 12th**, beginning at **6:00 PM**. The Senior Center is located at **12 Van Tassel Drive** in Gales Ferry. Come and bring your favorite dish, and a friend.

Midweek Independence Enjoy an Old Fashioned Fourth

This year Independence Day falls on a Wednesday. Our family-oriented "Old Fashioned Fourth" is an ideal way to celebrate if you are not leaving town to visit family or friends. Come to the Nathan Lester house on **July 4th**, at any time from **1:00** through **4:30 PM**.

Enjoy lawn games, take a hike and explore the gardens, tour the house and barns. Bring a picnic and spend the afternoon. In case of inclement weather there will be indoor activities. Come and bring the family. Hosting visitors at your house? Bring them along, too.

The **Nathan Lester House and Farm Tool Museum** is located at the intersection of **Long Cove and Vinegar Hill Roads** in **Gales Ferry**.

Quakertown is here Volume VI of Ledyard history available

The latest volume in the Society's Ledyard History series, *Quakertown*, is now available. Devoted to the Quakertown section of Ledyard and its Rogerene residents, the book is in a format familiar to readers of recent volumes. Taking a genealogical approach, it traces the families, their activities and their homes during their residency in Ledyard.

Priced at \$20.00, it can be purchased at Ledyard's libraries and on the order page of the Ledyard History website:
<http://ledyardhistory.org/publications>

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, June 12, 2012: Annual Meeting, Pot-Luck, reports and elections. Ledyard Senior Center, 6:00 PM.

Tuesday, June 26, 2012: Executive Board, Bill Library, 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, July 4, 2012: Old Fashioned Fourth, picnics, fun and games at the Nathan Lester House, 1:00 to 4:30 PM.

Can You Help on the Fourth?

In order to make our Old Fashioned Fourth a success, we'll need the help of a number of members. Needed are **volunteer docents** in the house and barns, **games leaders**, and some organization of **indoor activities** in case of rain.

Members can help by bringing **lemonade and cookies**, and we would welcome the loan of equipment for **croquet, bocce**, and other **outdoor games**. Call **Andrea Buka** at 464-8540 if you can help, or email events@ledyardhistory.org.

Historical Awards Presented at Ledyard High School

Each year the Society presents a book award to a student in the Junior class who is selected by the Social Studies Department for excellence in history. This year's prize was awarded to **Kayla Fowler**.

For the past three years, we have also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating Senior. Selection is made by the Society, and is based on community involvement and academic achievement. Our selection committee has named **Adam Butters** as this year's recipient.

Congratulations, Kayla and Adam. The awards were presented by Society president Kit Foster at the Ledyard High School Awards Night on June 5.

The Acorn

MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW

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Kit Foster, editor, telephone 860-464-6466,
email acorn@kitfoster.com.

Items for inclusion should be submitted by the first of July, September, November, January, March or May.
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Ledyard Historical Society Nominating Committee 2012

The Society's 2012 Nominating Committee, has presented the following slate of committee chairs and Executive Board Members-at-Large. Officers serve two-year terms. Committee chairs and board members-at-large serve for one-year terms.

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | Kit Foster |
| Vice-president | Vin Godino |
| Secretary | Lee Moore |
| Treasurer | Deborah Vessels |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Membership: | John Bolduc |
| Programs: | Ellen Fossum |
| Education: | Opportunity |
| Historian: | Jan Bell |
| Publications: | Rusty Godino |
| Newsletter: | Kit Foster |
| Publicity: | Opportunity |
| Curator: | Bill Fossum |
| Second District Schoolhouse: | Bill Fossum |
| Hospitality: | Opportunity |
| Information Tech. | Andrea Buka |

Executive Board Members at Large

Gail Milroy

Election will take place at the Annual Meeting, June 12th.

Highlights from Recent Society Meetings

Executive Board, March 13, 2012

The Board met at the Bill Library. Present were President Kit Foster, Vice President Ellen Fossum, Secretary Lee Moore, Publications Chair Rusty Godino and Members at Large Vin Godino and Andrea Buka, and guest Louisa Watrous.

- Plans for the upcoming program were discussed: Tales Out of

- School on April 10 at the Ledyard Senior Center.
- The annual meeting and election of officers with a pot luck supper will be held June 12, at a location to be announced [later confirmed as Ledyard Senior Center].
 - A “Grandma’s Attic” sale will be held on April 28 at the Nathan Lester House. Rain date will be May 5.
 - Louisa Watrous thanked the Society, in particular Jan Bell, on behalf of Kate Dimancescu for help with her forthcoming book *The Forgotten Chapters*, about her Ledyard ancestors.
 - Louisa also gave a presentation on her progress in cataloging the Society’s archives, showing how to navigate both the *Past Perfect* archival software and the LION library data base. We are, to our knowledge, the only organization to combine archives with a library data base, allowing greater access to the documents.
 - Rusty Godino reported that the new book, *Quakertown* is available at both town libraries. Two copies have been donated to each of the Town’s libraries, one for research and one for circulation.
 - The scholarship for a graduating Ledyard senior will be offered again this year. Application deadline has been extended to April 20.
 - Ellen Fossum and Nancy Avery were appointed to a nominating committee to submit a slate for elections at the annual meeting. All officers, committee chairs

and members-at-large are up for election.

- Andrea Buka will create a display of artifacts from the Lester House, to be on exhibit at the Bill Library during June.
- The stargazing program postponed from August 2011 cannot be rescheduled, because the necessary telescopes cannot be made available.

Membership Meeting, April 10, 2012.

The membership meeting convened at the Ledyard Senior Center. Present were President Kit Foster, Vice President Ellen Fossum, Secretary Lee Moore, Treasurer Nancy Avery, Historian Jan Bell, Publications Chair Rusty Godino, and members at large Vin Godino, Jeanne Allyn and Andrea Buka. About 50 other members and guests were present.

After brief reports on financial accounts, membership, upcoming meetings and activities and publications, the meeting was adjourned to the program “Tales Out of School,” which featured a short presentation about Ledyard’s former one-room school houses. Many audience members shared their memories of those school days, and some brought photos from their personal archives. The entire program was recorded on video for future reference.

The above reports are condensed from the official minutes taken by secretary Lee Moore, condensation by the editor.

REMEMBER, the Nathan Lester House is available for use by small groups of up to 35 people. Contact caretakers Scott and Andrea Buka at 464-8540, or email nathanlesterhouse@yahoo.com for more information or for tours out of season.

Proposed Society Budget for 2012-2013

Our Society by-laws call for the membership to adopt a budget at the annual meeting. The following proposal for the year 2011-2012 has been submitted by the treasurer to the Executive Board, and will be presented for discussion, amendment and action at the meeting. Current year figures are shown for

comparison, and it should be noted that since our fiscal year does not end until June 30, the year-end totals are projections.

There will be an opportunity to pose questions, entertain discussion and offer amendments prior to the vote.

| Receipts | Budget 2011-2012 | Actual to May 8 | Proposed 2012-2013 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Book sales | \$1,000.00 | \$1,672.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Membership dues | \$900.00 | \$644.00 | \$800.00 |
| Fund raising | \$1,000.00 | \$606.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Contributions | \$150.00 | \$281.05 | \$150.00 |
| Misc sales | \$250.00 | \$27.25 | \$100.00 |
| Royalties | \$25.00 | \$32.94 | \$25.00 |
| Interest received | \$20.00 | \$14.33 | \$15.00 |
| | | | |
| Total operating receipts | \$3,345.00 | \$3,277.57 | \$3,090.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Publication projects | | \$4,500.00 | |
| Fund Raising | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Programs | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Sales tax | \$75.00 | \$28.00 | \$40.00 |
| Insurance | \$425.00 | \$0.00 | \$425.00 |
| Dues & fees | \$250.00 | \$320.00 | \$275.00 |
| Research room | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Cataloging | \$2,100.00 | \$1,730.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Computer equip/IT | \$500.00 | \$0.00 | \$500.00 |
| Newsletter | \$1,100.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| Schoolhouse | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Awards (Ledyard HS) | \$50.00 | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Scholarship | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Contributions | | | |
| Curatorial Supplies | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Map restoration | | | |
| Shelving | | | |
| Miscellaneous | \$300.00 | \$0.00 | \$150.00 |
| | | | |
| Total operating exp. | \$6,900.00 | \$6,578.00 | \$6,590.00 |
| | | | |
| Net Gain/(Loss) | (\$3,555.00) | (\$3,300.43) | (\$3,500.00) |

History in Small Helpings

Club Opening Enjoyed

The opening of the new club house of the Gale's Ferry Country club on Saturday afternoon and evening provided a social attraction for a large gathering of summer residents from Norwich, and an auto party from that city were also in attendance. The building was prettily decorated for the occasion, with bunting and flowers, and music on an Edison phonograph was a feature of the evening's entertainment. Ice cream, cake, lemonade and home made candy were on sale, and the affair was a success both socially and financially.

Nuggets of News

Miss Florence Geer of Ledyard and her guest, Miss Olive Hiscox of Norwich, visited the home of Mrs. Ellen Stoddard Thursday and Friday.

Mrs. E.V. Mann of Providence arrived Saturday to spend some time with her sister, Mrs. Franklin H. Brown, at Redfern cottage.

Mrs. Fred Richards and her daughter, Miss Evelyn, of Norwich, visited in the village Saturday.

Frank Aplin, who has been spending his vacation at the summer home of his parents in the village, returned to Mt. Vernon Sunday evening.

Fox Got 30 of Chickens

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene LaFontaine of the Allyn's Point district met with a loss last week, about 30 of their half-grown chickens being killed by a fox.

The Day, July 18, 1916

The Gales Ferry Country Club building, which burned in January 1948, was located on the site of the former Gales Ferry Fire House, which is now a private home. Gales Ferry Village, especially The Bluff, was a fashionable summer colony, particularly for prominent Norwich families, into the early part of the 20th Century. — Editor.

Pay your dues, recruit a member?

Our membership year runs nominally from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. **Dues for 2012-2013 are now due and payable.** If your dues are paid through 2013 (check your mailing label), please use this form to recruit a new member.

Ledyard Historical Society Membership Year 2012-2013

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name _____ | _____ Senior \$5.00 |
| Address _____ | _____ Senior Couple \$8.00 |
| _____ | _____ Individual \$10.00 |
| Telephone _____ | _____ Family \$15.00 |
| E-mail address _____ | _____ Patron \$25.00 |
| Special interests or comments _____ | _____ Life \$150.00 |
| _____ | _____ Life Couple \$200.00 |

Mail to: Ledyard Historical Society
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THE LEDYARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 411
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Who's Who at Ledyard Historical Society 2011-2012

President: Kit Foster 464-6466
Vice President:
 Ellen Bothamly Fossum 464-2575
Secretary: Lee Moore 572-7084
Treasurer: Nancy P. Avery 464-9574
Membership: Kit Foster 464-6466
Historian: Jan Bell 464-2061
Newsletter: Kit Foster 464-6466
Publicity: Barbara Duncan 464-2200
Curator: Bill Fossum 464-2575

Second District Schoolhouse:
 Bill Fossum 464-2575

Hospitality:
Information Technology:
 Scott Buka 464-8540
Publications: Rusty Godino 464-6314

Board Members at Large

Vin Godino
Andrea Buka
Jeanne Allyn