



The Acorn

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEDYARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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June 2014

Hear Ye, Hear Ye Let the Celebrations Begin Popular Pot Luck to Precede Annual Meeting

The Ledyard Historical Society will mark a full half century in October, but we're going to begin celebrating early. At our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1st**, we will have some mementos from our very early years and hope that members will have some stories to share.



It will be a social time, preceded by a business meeting at which revised by-laws will be considered for adoption, officers elected and a budget set for the coming year. After observing some memories, we will sit down for a time-honored tradition, a pot luck supper.

We will return to our meeting place of tradition, the Cy Anderson Fellowship Hall at Ledyard Congregational Church. The business meeting will come to order at **3:00 PM**, with the food to follow.

The Congregational Church is located at **722 Colonel Ledyard Highway in Ledyard Center**. Come, join in the celebrations, and bring a friend.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, June 1, 2014: Annual meeting, Pot Luck, Fellowship Hall, Ledyard Congregational Church, 3:00 PM.

Friday, July 4, 2014: An Old Fashioned Fourth: fun, games, food, music, hearth cooking demo, animals and much, much more. Nathan Lester House, 1:00 to 4:30 PM.

Wednesday, July 9, 2014: Executive Board meeting, Gales Ferry Community Center, 7:00 PM.

Ledyard Historical Society Nominating Committee 2014

The Society's 2014 Nominating Committee, has presented the following slate of officers, committee chairs and Executive Board members-at-large. Officers serve two-year terms. All others serve for one-year terms.

President	Kit Foster
Vice President	Vin Godino
Secretary	Lee Moore
Treasurer	Neal Ganz

Committee Chairs

Membership:	John Bolduc
Programs:	Ellen Fossum
Publications:	Dan Ryan
Newsletter:	Kit Foster
Curator:	Bill Fossum
Second District Schoolhouse:	Bill Fossum
Archives	Andrea Buka

Executive Board Members-at-Large

Rusty Godino

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting, June 1st. Vacancies remain for members-at-large. Come and volunteer at the meeting.

REMEMBER, the Nathan Lester House is available for use by small groups of up to 35 people. Contact caretakers Lee Moore and Dan Weaver at 860-464-2040, or email nathanlesterhouse@yahoo.com for more information or for tours out of season.

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MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW

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Items for inclusion should be submitted by the first of September, November, January, March or May.

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Old Fashioned, fun-Filled Fourth to be better than ever

For the past six years, the Society has held an Old Fashioned Fourth event at the Nathan Lester House on the Fourth of July. Initially relaxed afternoon with games, walks, picnics and refreshments, last year it blossomed into a full-fledged *event*. This year will add yet more attractions for our nation's holiday.

We are pleased to announce that famed folk singer Rick Spencer will perform throughout the afternoon. As a soloist and with others Rick has performed throughout the US, in Canada, England, Portugal, France, Poland, Germany and the Netherlands. He is recognized as a composer and writer of songs that run the range from delicate and sensitive to humorous and irreverent.

Additionally, the Sisters of Song duo, Judy Applegate & Sharon Kuehlewind, will perform a program of patriotic songs.

Other plans include:

- Nutmeg Fife and Drum Corps
- Hearth cooking demonstration
- Small animals...sheep, goats, miniature donkeys.
- Tea Table
- Blacksmith.
- Colonial era-inspired baked goods sale
- Hot dogs
- Magician
- Butter churning

Come to the Nathan Lester house on Friday **July 4th**, at any time from **1:00** through **4:30 PM**, 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.

Archives R Us

Catch, Scan, Release, Continue

The Archive Committee has held “Catch & Release” events on April 12th and May 10th, the latter of which netted us (pun intended) the opportunity to scan and return a scrapbook kept by Marie Engelman when she helped with Fred Allyn, Jr.’s campaign for State Representative. We also had the opportunity to communicate our mission with several people who came into the Bill Library meeting room, where we were set up, to say hello or to see what we were doing. Marie told us that seeing the event on the library signs and in the Ledyard Libraries newsletter drew her to us. Gale Bradbury, the library director, was kind enough to include these Society activities in the print and e-newsletters, and also on the libraries’ website. We will be holding further sessions on the second Saturday of each month, including **June 14, July 12 and August 9, 2014.**

We hosted Arlene Danielson, a curator from the Coast Guard Archive in Washington, D.C. on the 15th of May, exploring the Satterlee collection. Arlene and her colleague are researching Charles Satterlee and his father, Charles Avery Satterlee, both veterans of the Coast Guard and Revenue Service during World War I and the Civil War, respectively. They found out about our collection via the Society’s website and the library catalog. We are going to arrange a visit with Judge Gertrude Smith, who donated many of the Satterlee Collection items, and hope to photograph her with them and a travel trunk she also gave to the Society.

We have tallied up nine research inquiries answered so far this year, and currently have four more in progress, which works out to an average of just under one per week. Most of these are initiated via

email, addressed to research@ledyardhistory.org.

The photo scanning work is progressing. Rusty Godino and Louisa Watrous completed scanning and cataloging Box 1, which contains several hundred photographs. We were very excited to reach this milestone!

We have realized the need for a digital camera to use when digitizing items which are too large, bulky, or fragile to put on the scanner. We are exploring buying a digital camera that will connect to wi-fi, so that we may easily send digital images directly to the laptop for insertion in Past Perfect.

If anyone is interested in seeing our projects, or would like to be a helper, we can always use another hand. There are many projects in the Janice Bell Research Room, and not all require technical skills. If you would like to help and are willing, we are happy to teach you technical skills, as well.

Andrea Buka, Archive Committee Chair

Revised By-Laws to be Voted

The last complete revision of the Society by-laws took place in 2001, and we have evolved and matured since then. As we approach our 50th anniversary we find that more flexibility in activities and committees is necessary, and the revision accommodates and enables this method of operation. The entire text of the proposed by-laws, together with a side-by-side comparison with the current wording, appeared in the April *Acorn*.

The revised by-laws will be considered and voted upon at the Annual Meeting on June 1st. Copies will be available at the meeting, along with a proposed budget, for review prior to the vote.



THE LEDYARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Box 411
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Pay your dues, recruit a member?

Our membership year runs nominally from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting. **Dues for 2014-2015 are now due and payable.** If your dues are paid through 2015 (check your mailing label), please use this form to recruit a new member.

Ledyard Historical Society Membership Year 2014-2015

Name _____	_____ Senior \$10.00
Address _____	_____ Senior Couple \$15.00
_____	_____ Individual \$15.00
Telephone _____	_____ Family \$20.00
E-mail address _____	_____ Patron \$50.00
Special interests or comments _____	_____ Life \$250.00

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