



The Acorn

NEWSLETTER OF THE LEDYARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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October 2014

The Past Comes Alive Kate Dimancescu to Speak at October Meeting

Our October speaker will be independent scholar and author Katherine Dimancescu, whose recently-published book *The Forgotten Chapters: My Journey into the Past* has its genesis in our own Janice W. Bell Historical Research Room.

Kate Dimancescu, a Society member and descendant of the Stanton, Williams and Larrabee families of southeastern Connecticut, is a graduate of Denison University with a BA in History, and has Master's degrees in International Relations from the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom, and in Political Science from the London School of Economics. Research for *The Forgotten Chapters* began with a visit to Jan Bell in our research room in the early 1990s.

Kate's talk will focus on how history is brought to life for modern day visitors in house museums across Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. She will also talk about the important role town historical societies play in preserving both historical and genealogical records and making this information accessible to the general public. She looks forward to sharing stories of how house museums can inspire curiosity and interest in colonial New England's past that resonates long after one's visit is over.



Katherine Dimancescu – The Forgotten Chapters

The meeting, which will also observe the Society's 50th anniversary, will take place on Sunday, October 19, at 2:00 PM in the Bill Library Meeting Room. The Bill Library is located at 718 Colonel Ledyard Highway in Ledyard Center. The public is invited and refreshments will be served. Please come and bring a friend.

TIME TO PAY DUES

Our 2014-15 membership year has begun. If you have not yet paid your dues, please use the form on page 5 to renew. Your membership helps us to bring you more history, more often!

Norwich in the Gilded Age **Author Patricia Staley to Speak to** **Library Friends**

Patricia Staley, author of the recently released *Norwich in the Gilded Age*, narrate a virtual walk of Norwich's "Millionaires' Mile," as part of the Ledyard Library Friends lecture series. She will recount the stories of the wealthy merchants and industrialists who built the magnificent mansions in the Rose City. Prominently featured will be the estate of Henry Bill, our library benefactor, which still stands today. Books will be available for purchase and signing. The talk will be held at the **Bill Library meeting room** on Monday, **September 22**, beginning at **7:00 PM**. It is free and open to the public. The Bill Library is located at 718 Colonel Ledyard Highway in Ledyard Center.

Local History Fair in Groton **Area Organizations Gather Sept. 27**

The Groton Public Library will be hosting their **Fifth Annual Local History Fair** on **Saturday, September 27**, from **1:00 to 4:00 PM**. Our Society will join a number or area history organizations to meet the public, share our common history, distribute literature and sell publications. The **Groton Public Library** is located at **52 Newtown Road in Groton**, and the event is free and open to the public.

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MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW

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Rose Hill Hike Sunday, October 12 **Part of "Walktober" Series**

Each autumn, the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor sponsors "Walktober," a month-long series of interpretive and walking events in eastern Connecticut. This year, we're pleased to have a Ledyard hike as part of the program. On Sunday, October 12, Anne Roberts-Pierson of the Avalonia Land Conservancy and Ledyard town historian Kit Foster will lead a walk in the Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Located both north and south of Rose Hill Road, the RHWMA comprises some 600 acres in Ledyard and Preston managed by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. This hike will explore the southern section, following old lanes over stone bridges, and exploring the remnants of abandoned farmsteads. Refreshments at the conclusion of the walk will be courtesy of the Ledyard Library Friends. We will step off at 1:00 PM from the parking area on the south side of Rose Hill Road, approximately one-quarter mile west of Mathewson Mill Road (or one mile east of Colonel Ledyard Highway). Wear comfortable footwear, sturdier hiking wear if you plan to explore beyond the pathway, and allow two hours for the adventure. Please register with Ledyard Libraries at 860-464-9912.

Deck the Hall! **Celebrate the Season at the Nathan** **Lester House, Dec. 7**

Sleigh bells ring, are ya listenin'? Well, not yet, but they will be. The Society's annual **Yule Social** will be held at the **Nathan Lester House on Sunday afternoon, December 7**, from **1:00 to 4:30 PM**. The house will be festive with holiday decorations, open for tours and refreshment provided for all. Bring a friend, and some snacks to share.

The Smithsonian is Coming

The Smithsonian Institution is coming to Groton...and you can be part of the excitement. The Groton Public Library is one of seven sites across the state chosen to host *The Way We Worked*, an exhibition created by the Smithsonian Institution that traces the history of work life in America. The exhibit will be on view at the Library from November 8 through December 21, 2014.

The Way We Worked exhibition is planned as the foundation of a statewide initiative, [CT at Work](#), sponsored by [CT Humanities](#) to engage Connecticut residents in an in-depth exploration of work. Displays, walking tours, films and presentations have already been planned throughout the region and we would like to add your programs to the calendar.

The Library, in conjunction with the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition, is reaching out to organizations and businesses to bring a wide variety of work-related programming to our region from September through December, 2014.

Please contact Betty Anne Reiter at the Groton Public Library (breiter@groton-ct.gov) or Wendy Bury at SCCC (W.Bury@CultureSECT.org) for more information.

To learn more about the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, visit www.CultureSECT.org

Membership & Annual Meeting June 1, 2014

President Kit Foster called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. In attendance were President Kit Foster, Vice President Vin Godino, Treasurer Neal Ganz,

Membership Chair John Bolduc, Member-at-Large Rusty Godino, Committee Chairs Bill & Ellen Fossum, Andrea Buka, and other members.

Treasurer's Report: Neal Ganz submitted a fiscal year-end Balance Sheet showing Total Assets/Net Worth of \$12,192.45 with no liabilities. Ending balances were \$10,656.57 in the savings account, and \$501.75 currently in the checking account.

Committee Reports:

Membership-John Bolduc reminded everyone that dues need to be paid now for the coming year. We have 86 active members, of which 13 are overdue in their payments.

Programs: Old Fashioned Fourth-July 4th at the Lester House, from 1-4:30.

Ledyard Fair, September 6th-8th.

LHS Birthday Celebration & guest speaker Kate Dimancescu, author of *"The Forgotten Chapters"*, October 19th. 2:00 PM, Bill Library

Archives reported on the continued cataloging being performed, noting there are several hundreds of pictures now online for viewing. She also reminded the members of their Saturday "Catch & Release" sessions held in the Bill Library to scan photos and documents brought in by the public. She stressed the need for any items related to the past 50 years...our inventory is quite low for that time period.

2nd District Schoolhouse: Bill Fossum reported the schoolhouse still needs paint on two sides, everything else is fine

Curator: No new acquisitions

Nominations: Kit presented the current slate of officers & committee chairs as:

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

- Membership Chair, John Bolduc
- Programs Chair, Ellen Fossum
- Publications Chair, Dan Ryan
- Newsletter, Kit Foster
- Archives Chair, Andrea Buka
- Curator & 2nd District Schoolhouse Chair, Bill Fossum
- Member-at-Large, Rusty Godino

Old Business:

Bylaws: A full discussion of the proposed bylaws began. The omission of “student” category was added to Article III, Section 1 the first paragraph, and again in the paragraph beginning: “The annual dues for...” Other grammatical changes were made, and then Carol Bacon moved the amendments be accepted to the proposed bylaws.

John Bolduc motioned the bylaws be accepted as revised...seconded by Rusty Godino, and approved.

New Business:

Elections: As the newly-amended bylaws were approved, a new committee was formed encompassing the Curator & 2nd District Schoolhouse under the Artifact Committee. Kit opened the floor to additional nominations. Andrea stood to nominate Rusty Godino as a candidate for Artifact Chair...Sharon Butler seconded the motion, and was accepted.

Scott Buka offered to serve as another Member-at-Large.

Jeanne Allyn motioned that the Nominations be closed...seconded by Vin Godino, and approved. John Bolduc then proposed the slate presented be

accepted by acclamation...seconded by Jeanne Allyn.

Kit decided to hold a voice vote for all positions except the new Artifact Chair, which would be by secret ballot. The voice vote was for unanimous acceptance.

Kit then appointed Walt Watrous, Chris Butler, & Carol Bacon to act as tellers for the ballot vote. The vote was 12 votes for Rusty & 5 votes for Bill.

Budget: The Proposed 2014-2015 budget shows Operating Receipts of \$2,240 right in line with the current year. The Operating Expenses total \$4,025 largely for cataloging, programs, Research Room, newsletters, and insurance. This would incur a net loss of \$1,785. John Bolduc moved to accept the budget as proposed...seconded by Claire Bolduc, and approved by the members.

Ledyard Fair, September 6-8:

Volunteers were asked to contact Ellen Fossum. Scott proposed the Society pay for an ad in the Ledyard Fair Bulletin at a cost of approximately \$45...seconded by Sharon Butler, and approved by the members.

Bylaws Committee “Thank You”: Louisa Watrous asked that the minutes reflect a heart-felt thank you to the committee members who worked so many hours on creating the new bylaws. ***A lot of hard work by the few was very much appreciated by the many!***

Motion to adjourn was made by Lee and quickly seconded! The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Moore

Secretary

Call Me Lizzie!

Stephanie Jackson to Portray Elizabeth Keckly at February Meeting

For our February membership meeting we will partner with the Ledyard Library Friends to sponsor Stephanie Jackson, as she portrays **Elizabeth Hobbs Keckly, dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln**, wife of the President. Born into slavery, Lizzy managed to purchase her freedom and make her way to Washington, D.C., where her skills became well known. Hired by Mrs. Lincoln, she was often present with the Lincolns in some of their most private and difficult moments. The one-hour program, "They Call Me Lizzy," will take place at the **Ledyard Senior Center**, 12 Van Tassell Drive in Gales Ferry, on **Sunday afternoon, February 22, 2015 at 2:00 PM**. Directed by Kandie Carle, who has enlightened and entertained us in recent years, it relates a human story, at times tragic, sometimes triumphant and always fascinating.

Get to Know Our Town

Lee Moore to Channel Nathan Lester

Ledyard will be reprising the popular "Know Your Town" program again this year. A seven-week series on Town government, history and civic affairs, it will kick off at the Nathan Lester House with our own Lee Moore giving a first-person glance at history through the eyes of Nathan Lester, the farmer who built our town-owned historic house and begat generations of Ledyard citizens.

Enlightening for residents and essential for newcomers, it will be held on Sunday afternoon, September 14 at 2:00 PM. The Ledyard Library Friends will provide refreshments. Register at the Bill Library, 860-464-9912 or on line at <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=LEDYARD&curApp=events&curMonth=9&curYear=2014&SelectedDate=9/14/2014#9/14/2014>

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 _____	_____ Student \$5.00
Address _____	_____ Senior \$10.00
Town State Zip _____	_____ Senior Couple \$15.00
_____	_____ Individual \$15.00
Telephone _____	_____ Family \$20.00
E-mail address _____	_____ Patron \$50.00
Special interests or comments _____	_____ Life \$250.00

Mail to: Ledyard Historical Society
P.O. Box 411
Ledyard, CT 06339-0411

Check here to receive our newsletter
by e-mail.



THE LEDYARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
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Who's Who at Ledyard Historical Society 2014-2015

President: Kit Foster	464-6466	Artifacts: Rusty Godino	464-6314
Vice President: Vin Godino	464-6314	Archives: Andrea Buka	235-2387
Secretary: Lee Moore	464-2040	Publications: Dan Ryan	464-6723
Treasurer: Neal Ganz	464-9441		
Membership: John Bolduc	464-0366	Board Member-at-Large	
Newsletter: Kit Foster	464-6466	Scott Buka	
		All area codes 860	