

## NOTES

The 7<sup>th</sup> Historical Collaboration in The Last Green Valley took place on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017 at the Lebanon Historical Society Museum in Lebanon, CT.

Despite the threat of thundershower 23 people from historical organizations such as the Finish American Heritage Society, Governor Samuel Huntington Trust/Huntington Homestead, Columbia Historical Society, Preston Historical Society, Ashbel Woodward House and Franklin Historical Society, New London Public Library History Room, Chamberlain Sawmill in Woodstock, and TLGV Rangers and Members attended.

Following introductions with those in attendance, Lebanon Historical Society Museum Director and Host Donna Baron described the town of Lebanon and the society. Here are some interesting things of note:

- Lebanon has always been a small town though in 1790 there were 4000 people in town, and 7000 today.
- Lebanon has an independent education system with its own High School – instead of joining one of the regional High Schools.
- The Lebanon Historical Society Museum is one of four heritage organizations on the Lebanon Town Green. The others include the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House and Wadsworth Stable owned and operated by the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, War Office owned and operated by the Connecticut Sons of the American Revolution, and the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House owned and operated by the Town of Lebanon. The Lebanon Historical Society Museum and Visitor Center is a private 501 c 3 non-profit organization.
- Lebanon Historical Society was founded in 1965 and the land where it stands was purchased in 1996 and the museum building opened in 2000.

- Along with the main building with formal exhibits there are several other historical structures and a collections storage building on the museum property.

Following the instruction and general remarks from Donna we toured the other buildings on the museum grounds starting with the beautiful Ministers Library that was constructed in Lebanon in 1869 and moved to the museum in 2014.

We viewed the stone smoke house from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, hearse shed and 19<sup>th</sup> century horse drawn hearse. The shed was built as part of an Eagle Scout project and is based a hearse shed in a nearby town. The hearse is one that was used in Lebanon. We also toured the collections storage facility – filled with artifacts from Lebanon or with provenance to the town.

We then toured the newly re-opened Beaumont House. The house has been owned by the society for several years but was located adjacent to the Governor Jonathan Trumbull House on the other side of the town green. The society was fortunate to purchase a lot adjacent to the museum and the Beaumont house was moved to that location. The house has been completely restored and refurbished based on an 1830's Beaumont family probate inventory. The ribbon cutting and grand opening was this past June 17<sup>th</sup>.

All-in-all it was a wonderful early evening in Lebanon. The rain even held off until we were back on the road heading home.

We enjoyed an exceptional behind-the-scenes and up-close tour of the museum and buildings with Donna Baron, and extend our heartfelt thanks to her for her hospitality.

