

Notes from The Last Green Valley Historical Collaboration!

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What: Historical Collaboration in The Last Green Valley

When: Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 2 - 4 p.m.

Where: Leffingwell House Museum, 348 Washington St., Norwich, CT.
(visit Leffingwell's website <http://www.leffingwellhousemuseum.org>).



More!

Who: All History Lovers! Historical societies, librarians, or other like-minded organizations & individuals that focus on preserving, enjoying and passing on our history.

Topic: The Leffingwell House Museum (Circa 1675) is one of the finest restored examples of New England Colonial architecture. Catch a glimpse of early 18th-century life in our private tour of this living museum. By the mid-18th century what was built as a simple two room house in 1675 had evolved into an elegant home. The house is filled with a fascinating assortment of pieces representative of its architectural evolution. Every item in their entire collection was donated! Salute the 13-star Centennial Flag. *Long-time partner with TLGV, Leffingwell offers diverse events throughout their season, April – October, including some Walktober events!*

Why: Rich history exists in our National Heritage Corridor. Stories beg to be passed on, places need to be visited, and we can share our skills & talents!

Schedule:

2:00-2:15 p.m. Arrive & Mingle

2:15-2:30 p.m. Brief Introductions – tell us who you are & where you from

2:30-3:45 p.m. **Private Tour of the Leffingwell House Museum.**

3:45-4:00 p.m. Q&A, Refreshments, Wrap-up

RSVP: to marcy@tlgv.org or call 860-774-3300. Secure your spot now!

*Join us for the 2nd Historical Collaboration in The Last Green Valley in 2017!
...2 years and growing STRONG!*

THE GOAL?

*To offer a quarterly event, featuring an exciting & informative historical topic each session,
presented by each of you! Show off your specialty.*

Instead of working alone & duplicating efforts, let's pitch in to work & learn together!

After all, HISTORY is OUR STORY.
Together we care for it, enjoy it and pass it on.
Join the collaboration to conserve our history in the National Heritage Corridor.

Secure your spot now! RSVP TO marcy@tlgv.org or call 860-774-3300.

NOTES

The 6th Historical Collaboration in [The Last Green Valley](#) took place on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at the [Leffingwell House Museum](#) in Norwich, CT.

This collaboration was held the day after their marvelously successful season opening day at Leffingwell. ([See Norwich Bulletin coverage of opening day.](#))

45 history lovers, from diverse groups such as Friends of Ashbel Woodward House & Franklin Historical Society, Brooklyn Historical Society, Governor Samuel Huntington Trust/Huntington Homestead Museum, Heritage Information Radio, Joshua's Trust/Henrietta House B&B (the Josias Byles house), Killingly Public Library, Plainfield Historical Society, Roseland Cottage/The Pink House (Historic New England), Thompson Historical Society, along with lots of members of The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) attended.

Friends from Smith's Castle at Cocumscussoc, located in Wickford, RI (a village of North Kingstown) attended, too, with an invitation for "exchange visits." History organizations from our region are welcome to arrange a visit to Smith's Castle, and our groups should work to arrange visits to our museums & historic homes, too! Smith's Castle contact info is: smithscastle55@gmail.com and you can [visit their website for a sneak peek here](#). (*SIDE NOTE: Ranger Marcy grew up in this town in RI, although in the north end of town village of Davisville. I've visited Smith's Castle often, grew up just a few doors down from and babysat the children of the current secretary, Ms. Gail Burda!*)

During the introduction we learned of some of the struggles over the years at [Leffingwell](#):

- Having to move the house due to a new road being built (Route 32), without harming the structural integrity of the building
- Every new group that came in and took the museum over had to virtually start from scratch with their collections & record keeping
- Donations of items; much has been received over the years, but most without accompanying information
- Confusion about the different history organizations in Norwich, mainly The Society of the Founders of Norwich and the Norwich Historical Society. Toss in the Guns of Norwich Historical Society and it can be confusing, yet each is their own organization with a different focus, mission & goals
- Volunteers; for board of directors, to guide tours & assist at events, cataloging, social media, press releases, memberships, etc. (I'd say that from the volunteers we witnessed on Sunday, Leffingwell is doing a great job with their volunteers hosting tours!)

Attendees were divided up into groups, and each started in a different room. We were guided through the tavern room and the kitchen on the first floor. Upstairs on the second floor we visited the bedroom and the exhibit room, which is changed out every month or two. In the basement we enjoyed the summer kitchen, the tool display and the arms display. WOW! What a collection! We urge you to return to Leffingwell again, as there is plenty to see and compelling events going on throughout the season!

Handouts:

TLGV was offered literature/brochures through the National Parks Service, and TLGV board member, Donna Baron, director of the Lebanon Historical Society Museum & Visitor Center hand-picked topics she

felt were important & would be helpful to our region, such as energy efficiency, exterior and interior paint & woodwork, handicapped accessibility, reporting, and preservation tax incentives. If you did not attend, but would like to receive a packet of this information, please email marcy@tlgv.org.

- [See this post on The Last Green Valley's facebook page](#)
- [View the video of Ranger Marcy's tour earlier this year on The Last Green Valley's facebook page](#)
- [Watch on TLGV's youtube page](#)

[The Last Green Valley](#), together - together, we can care for, enjoy and pass on our National Heritage Corridor.

Save the date Wednesday, August 2, 2017 from 4-6 pm for the next historical collaboration at the Lebanon Historical Museum & Visitors Center, 856 Trumbull Hwy., Lebanon! Everyone welcome – Free!

Email marcy@tlgv.org to reserve your spot now!

[More Historical News in The Last Green Valley](#)

[*View all of our historical partners*](#)

These events were inspired and driven by requests from local historical societies. They are open to anyone interested in the places and the history. Consider becoming a member of a historical society or museum supporter and/or volunteer if you are not already.

The Last Green Valley is a National Heritage Corridor, made up of 35 towns in eastern CT & south-central MA, and our region's history one of the unique pieces for our designation by Congress in 1994.

Many historical societies & museums have been working away over these years, many with the same sorts of struggles, and some solutions. It just makes sense that we all work together.

Together, we can learn from each other, and we can work to pass on the wonderful places & stories we have in our 35 towns.

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is a destination, thanks to our history & our museums.

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