



Notable and Notorious

Historically interesting people from
The Last Green Valley

NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR



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Connecticut East Regional Tourism District

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Connecticut still revolutionary

Notable & Notorious

A Selection of Historical Characters from
The Last Green Valley, a National Heritage Corridor

www.thelastgreenvalley.org

CONTENTS

Characters listed by last name	5
Characters listed by town	6
A Brief History of The Last Green Valley	8
Colorful Characters	10
Soldiers, Statesmen & Spies	20
Entrepreneurs	36
Artists	52
Writers & Historians	60
Activists & Advocates	72
Medical Marvels & Scientists	80
The Requisite Quiz	86
Map	88

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ancient and authentic landscapes of The Last Green Valley have produced so many *Notable & Notorious* characters that their selection has been tortuous for the editor. Each entry is but a brief look into the life of a fascinating person from the past and the reader is invited to discover more of the engaging history of the region by exploring all of its local museums, historical sites, libraries and archives. Visit the website, www.thelastgreenvalley.org, for on-line resources including attractions and museums, publications, town resources, maps, and other educational materials.

Dedicated local historians, enthusiastic historical societies, and generous museums have provided information and illustrations for *Notable & Notorious*, in addition to the sources cited. We especially thank Robert Briere, Jim Conrad, Marge Hoskin, Kaz Kozlowski, Larry Lowenthal, David Oats, Janet Robertson, Alicia Wayland, Sally Whipple, Vivian Zoe and the staff at The Last Green Valley for their assistance.

And, yes, there will be a quiz!

Charlene Perkins Cutler

CHARACTERS BY NAME

Click link to view

A

John Capen "Grizzly" Adams	10
Dr. Harry Ardell Allard	62
Anshei Israel Congregation	78
Benedict Arnold	21
James S. Atwood	42

B

William Barrows	47
Clara Barton	73
Dr. William Beaumont	83
Captain George G. Benjamin	43
Gabriel Bernon	41
Elmer Bitgood	17
Henry Chandler Bowen	48
Martha Wadsworth Brewster	60
Margaret Wise Brown	61
Celia Burleigh	72

C

Winthrop Chandler	59
Benjamin Chaplin	36
Moses Cleaveland	22
Hezekiah Conant	38
Ebenezer Craft	31
Prudence Crandall	76
John Denison Crocker	58
Mannaseh Cutler	69

D

Charles J. Dow	46
Lorenzo Dow	12
Walter Dropo	19

E

William Eaton	25
-------------------------------------	--------------------

G

Charlotte Perkins Gilman	79
Isaac Glasko	49
Sarah Gray	14
Beriah Green	74

H

Nathan Hale	27
Ann Hall	59
Benjamin Hanks	36
John Hartshorne	55
William Lincoln Higgins	11
Samuel Huntington	33

I

Benoni Irwin	54
------------------------------------	--------------------

J

Emeline Roberts Jones	81
Dr. Elliot Joslin	80

K

Mary Dixon Kies	40
Thomas Knowlton	23

L

Ellen Larned	70
Dr. Samuel Lee	84
Christopher Leffingwell	32
Rev. Abiel Leonard	34
Rev. Martin Lovering	66
Gen. Nathaniel Lyon	28

M

Cornelius "Connie" Mack	13
Rufus Malbone	12
Samuel J. May	75
Samuel McClellan	35
Jedidiah Morse	71
Dr. William Morton	82
Louise Chandler Moulton	65

N

Amasa Nichols	37
Dr. Rev. Samuel Nott	18

P

Captain Chauncey Paul	24
Dr. Elisha Perkins	85
Sarah Perkins	55
George Dennison Prentice	63
Israel Putnam	26

R

Alice Ramsdell	16
The Ray Family	14

S

Samuel Slater	50
James L. Smith	67
Constant Southworth	15
Amasa & William Sprague	45
John Spurr	20
Henry Hale Stevens	38
Charles & Augustus Storrs	40
The Sweet Family	84

T

Thomas L. Taylor	21
Edwin Way Teale	64
The Tiffany Family	39
Uriah Tracy	29
Boston Trowtrow	16
John Trumbull	56
Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.	30

W

Gertrude Chandler Warner	68
Theodore Dwight Weld	77
The Wells Brothers	51
George Washington Wells	44
John Gregory Wiggins	52
William Williams	31
James Abbott McNeil Whistler ...	53

CHARACTERS BY TOWN

Ashford

[Thomas Knowlton](#) 23

Brimfield

[William Eaton](#)..... 25

Brooklyn

[Celia Burleigh](#)..... 72

[Samuel May](#)..... 75

[Israel Putnam](#)..... 26

Canterbury

[Margaret Wise Brown](#)..... 61

[Moses Cleaveland](#)..... 22

[Prudence Crandall](#)..... 76

Chaplin

[Benjamin Chaplin](#)..... 36

Charlton

[John Capen "Grizzly" Adams](#)..... 10

[Dr. William Morton](#)..... 82

[John Spurr](#)..... 20

Coventry

[Lorenzo Dow](#)..... 12

[Nathan Hale](#)..... 27

[William Lincoln Higgins](#)..... 11

[Benoni Irwin](#)..... 54

Dudley

[Hezekiah Conant](#)..... 38

[Amasa Nichols](#)..... 37

[Henry Hale Stevens](#)..... 38

East Brookfield

[Cornelius "Connie" Mack](#)..... 13

Eastford

[Gen. Nathaniel Lyon](#)..... 28

Franklin

[John Hartshorne](#)..... 55

[Dr. Rev. Samuel Nott](#)..... 18

[The Sweet Family](#)..... 84

[Uriah Tracy](#)..... 29

Griswold

[Isaac Glasko](#)..... 49

[The Ray Family](#)..... 14

[Samuel Slater](#).....

Hampton

[Edwin Way Teale](#)..... 64

[Theodore Dwight Weld](#)..... 77

Holland

[Rev. Martin Lovering](#)..... 66

Killingly

[Mannaseh Cutler](#)..... 69

[Emeline Roberts Jones](#)..... 81

[Mary Dixon Kies](#)..... 40

[The Tiffany Family](#)..... 39

Lebanon

[William Beaumont](#)..... 83

[Martha Wadsworth Brewster](#)..... 60

[Sarah Gray](#)..... 14

[The Sweet Family](#)..... 84

[John Trumbull](#)..... 56

[Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.](#)..... 30

[William Williams](#)..... 31

Lisbon

[Anshei Israel Congregation](#)..... 78

Mansfield

[Benjamin Hanks](#)..... 36

[Charles & Augustus Storrs](#)..... 40

[Constant Southworth](#)..... 15

Norwich

[Benedict Arnold](#)..... 21

[John Denison Crocker](#)..... 58

[Charlotte Perkins Gilman](#)..... 79

[Benjamin Hanks](#)..... 36

[Samuel Huntington](#)..... 33

[Christopher Leffingwell](#)..... 32

[James L. Smith](#)..... 67

[Boston Trowtrow](#)..... 16

Oxford

[Dr. Harry Allard](#)..... 62

[Clara Barton](#)..... 73

[Gabriel Bernon](#)..... 41

[Dr. Elliott Joslin](#)..... 80

Plainfield

[James Atwood](#)..... 42

[Walter Dropo](#)..... 19

[Dr. Elisha Perkins](#)..... 85

[Sarah Perkins](#)..... 55

Pomfret

[Ann Hall](#)..... 59

[Rufus Malbone](#)..... 12

[Louise Chandler Moulton](#)..... 65

[Israel Putnam](#)..... 26

[James Abbott McNeil Whistler](#)... 53

[John Gregory Wiggins](#)..... 52

Preston

[Captain George G. Benjamin](#)..... 43

[Beriah Green](#)..... 74

[George Dennison Prentice](#)..... 63

Putnam

[Mannaseh Cutler](#)..... 69

[Lorenzo Dow](#)..... 12

[Rufus Malbone](#)..... 12

[Thomas Taylor](#)..... 21

[Gertrude Chandler Warner](#)..... 68

Scotland

[Samuel Huntington](#)..... 33

[Rev. Martin Lovering](#)..... 66

Southbridge

[George Washington Wells](#)..... 44

Sprague

[Amasa & William Sprague](#)..... 45

Sterling

[Charles Dow](#)..... 46

Sturbridge

[Ebenezer Craft](#)..... 31

[The Wells Brothers](#)..... 51

Thompson

[Ellen Larned](#)..... 70

[Alice Ramsdell](#)..... 16

Union

[Captain Chauncey Paul](#)..... 24

Voluntown

[Elmer Bitgood](#)..... 17

Webster

[Samuel Slater](#)..... 50

Windham

[William Barrows](#)..... 47

[Benjamin Hanks](#)..... 36

[Dr. Samuel Lee](#)..... 84

Woodstock

[Henry Chandler Bowen](#)..... 48

[Margaret Wise Brown](#)..... 61

[Winthrop Chandler](#)..... 59

[Abiel Leonard](#)..... 34

[Sam McClellan](#)..... 35

[Jedidiah Morse](#)..... 71



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAST GREEN VALLEY

While the ancient collision of continents and scarification by centuries of glacial activity have created the geo-physical place known as The Last Green Valley, it is the presence of humans that has most changed the landscape over the past 10,000 years, most notably in the recent 300 years. The Native People in the region used its resources of plants, animals, forests, and waterways to create and support growing communities. Gradually, they began altering the landscape – using fire to encourage the increase of preferred forest animals and to create fields for farming. They developed networks of commerce with other people, trading furs and produce for goods from the sea and inland stone and metal products.

The first Europeans engaged in trade with the Native People, and then took over the land. They gradually cut down the forests – for use as lumber and fuel, and to clear the land – and killed most of the forest animals for furs and food. Their increasingly intensive agriculture produced grains, vegetables, and numbers of domestic animals that not only fed their large families but contributed agricultural and hand-made products in increasing quantities to North Atlantic and American commerce. After the first generation of such use, the fertile soil became depleted. They “fished out” the streams and rivers for food and dammed them to provide energy for grist and saw mills.

During the Revolutionary War, towns within The Last Green Valley became known for their strong economies and contribution of provisions. Productive land equaled power and prosperity. Farmers supported the Revolution by gathering supplies of food and clothing and transported these provisions where the Continental Army needed them. Grains and meat were sent from The Last Green Valley to Boston, to Valley Forge, and farther, wherever Washington and his troops were fighting the British.

Towns in The Last Green Valley also provided human resources for the Revolutionary War. From commanders like General Israel Putnam, intelligence agents like Nathan Hale and strategists like colonial governor Jonathan Trumbull, the men of The Last Green Valley were notable contributors to the cause of freedom.

When the Revolution ended, a distinguished statesman, Samuel Huntington, provided immeasurable service to the new country. His may be the great overlooked chapter in the history of the framing of our present-day government, for he was elected the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation and was noted for his ability to redirect controversy and forge compromises.

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the fertile farmlands of The Last Green Valley, kept in continuous production by traditional, intensive farm practices,

began to wear out. Farms became smaller and harder to farm and people began to seek new lands in other regions of the country. Through the 1800s, The Last Green Valley provided large populations of people to lands in the west, particularly to the Ohio River Valley and the “Old Northwest,” north to Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as to new states in the South.

For those who remained, the newly democratic society after the Revolutionary War brought both political and economic changes. People got together, pooled their resources, joined in voluntary associations to improve their lives and their communities and to try new economic opportunities. Successful merchants and farmers began to transfer their accumulated capital to new enterprises. New industrial manufacturing mills, located along the many rivers and streams to use their energy, provided thread, fabrics, munitions and many other man-made items for a growing country. To transport the raw materials and finished products of these cotton mills, owners began to improve and build transportation systems. Large-scale railroad enterprises, built to support the new industrial demands, made it possible for people to have greater mobility to move in, out and around The Last Green Valley.

By the beginning of the twentieth century as American industry consolidated and “big business” corporations began to dominate the economy, the relatively small mills of the region’s towns had increasing difficulties competing. As the century went on, the textile industry moved out of New England, and gradually many of the mills closed. The railroads almost completely disappeared, replaced by roads and highways. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, there are some industrial enterprises scattered through The Last Green Valley, and the economic base includes new high-tech businesses and distribution enterprises. Tourism is becoming increasingly important to the local economy. Despite the decline in traditional farming, more than 400 agricultural businesses still produce a significant impact on the economy of The Last Green Valley.

Its people, past and present, can be heard telling the stories of The Last Green Valley. They are chronicled by an interpreter at an historic site, in an inscription on a plaque commemorating an important event or carved on a gravestone recording an individual’s life. They are celebrated by action at town meeting, where residents gather to decide issues, each speaking with one voice and one vote as they have for centuries.

James O. Robertson
June 14, 2001
Professor Emeritus, History
University of Connecticut



COLORFUL CHARACTERS

John Capen "Grizzly" Adams (1812-1869)

CHARLTON, MA • SITE 1: *Grave stone erected by his friend P. T. Barnum, in the Bay Path Cemetery on Rte. 31 in Charlton, MA.*

Remembered as a true western frontiersman, John Capen Adams was born in 1812 in Medway, MA. Although he was trained as a cobbler, Adams went to work for a company of showmen who gathered wild animals from New England and put them on display. He was badly mauled by an animal and unable to hunt for a time.

In 1849, he went west in the California Gold Rush. Adams tried mining and claimed to have gained and lost several fortunes. He also developed a disdain for human company.

In 1852, he went into the wilderness vowing to live his life among animals. However, he adroitly came up with another money-making scheme. He established a hunting camp and killed bears and other wild animals to sell their meat and hides. Adams also captured living specimens to sell to circuses and exhibits. These encounters often left him with serious injury. In a famous battle with a grizzly bear in 1855, Adams subdued the animal but was left with a hole the size of a silver dollar on the top of his head.

John Capen Adams kept grizzly bears as pets and was recorded as having visited San Francisco with two of them; one named Ben Franklin was heeled and walked on a leash beside him. With Ben Franklin and another bear, Sampson, Adams opened a zoo in San Francisco called the Mountaineer Museum but this venture failed also. Once again, he landed on his feet, becoming a performer and partner in P. T. Barnum's shows.

"Grizzly" Adams died in 1860 from meningitis attributed to the reopening of his head wound. His friend Barnum erected a stone in the Baypath Cemetery in Charlton, MA, to mark his grave.

"Grizzly" Adams is remembered as a fearless mountain man but also a reckless killer of grizzly bears who eliminated the species from a significant portion of California. His life was the basis of a popular television series in the 1970s called *The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams*.



- *Diablo The Magazine of the East Bay*. "Hunter for Hire." http://www.diablogmag.com/archives/view_story/482/ (accessed December 6, 2007).
- *Town of Charlton*. "Cemetery Commission." <http://www.townofcharlton.net/cemetery.htm> (accessed December 6, 2007).

William Lincoln Higgins (1867-1951)

COVENTRY, CT

William Higgins was the Father of the Dirt Road Bill, perhaps an unusual distinction but one of great importance in 1931. Born in Chesterfield, MA, Higgins graduated from the University of the City of New York with a medical degree. He moved to South Coventry, CT, to practice medicine in 1891. In addition to providing medical treatments, William also served in the Connecticut General Assembly from 1905 to 1927 in non-consecutive terms, and was the town's first selectman from 1917 to 1932.

The Connecticut Dirt Road Bill was passed by the General Assembly in 1931. The idea was to improve rural roads by allocating money from receipts of the Motor Vehicle Department. For the first six years, \$18 million was divided equally among all 169 Connecticut towns, a sum of \$106,508 each.

The roads program worked well for several years until the General Assembly proposed reserving a portion of the funding for "other than highway purposes." In addition, the General Assembly passed a reorganization act in 1937 that transferred the powers of the Highway Department over to the Public Works Administrator. Residents were alarmed that the General Assembly would divert the essential road improvement funds and this gave birth to the Connecticut Rural Roads Improvement Association. It was incorporated by a group of concerned folks from across the state, led by William L. Higgins.

Membership in the Connecticut Rural Roads Improvement Association was \$1 per person for the year of 1937. "We trust that the motorists of the state will appreciate our efforts in helping to promote their happiness and prosperity by providing better rural roads which are a benefit to towns and cities alike by joining this organization. You are cordially and earnestly invited to unite with us in a work that has benefited more people in more ways than any Act of the General Assembly of which we have knowledge."

The Association brought a friendly test case before the Superior Court to get an interpretation of the original Public Act, as it was their opinion that the action of the General Assembly was contrary to the intent of the Dirt Road Bill and not in the best interests of the state. Their opinion was upheld by the Superior Court and the Supreme Court. The funding and the administration of the Dirt Road Bill were kept in tact thanks to Mr. Higgins and his fellow members of the Connecticut Rural Roads Improvement Association.

Dr. Higgins went on to serve as a Congressman for two terms but then resumed his medical practice. He died in Norwich in 1951.

- *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. <http://www.bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000580> (accessed March 4, 2008).
- Arnold Carlson





Rufus Malbone (1824-1884)

POMFRET, PUTNAM, CT • SITE 2: *The monument for Rufus and Dolly is privately owned but may be seen from Rte. 44 in Putnam, near the Pomfret town line.*

Rufus Malbone was a freed slave who lived in a modest dwelling on the hill between Putnam and Pomfret. He earned a living buying and selling produce, and his wagon was frequently seen on the roads in northeastern Connecticut, pulled by his beloved horse, Dolly. He had a mortal accident and, while on his deathbed, his thoughts were only about Dolly's future welfare. He died on October 12, 1884, from the effects of the accident. Dolly was despondent and no one could handle her. Several of the neighbors met to agree on her "disposition." Rufus' grave was opened and Dolly was called to the site. She was shot and buried with her master. A marble obelisk marks the site and is inscribed: Rufus G. Malbone, Died Oct. 12, 1884, Aged 60 years, 7 months and 20 days. Dolly, His faithful Horse, Died October 25, 1884."

• Sally Rogers

Lorenzo Dow (1777-1834)

COVENTRY, CT • SITE 3: *Methodist Church, Grove St. off Rte. 12, Putnam, CT, is near the site where Dow preached in the "grove."*

A well-known itinerant Methodist minister, Lorenzo Dow was born in Coventry, CT, on October 16, 1777. According to John Warner Barber, an early nineteenth-century historian, Dow was extremely eccentric, "For if ever there was a man who feverishly rowed his boat through the waters of life with only one oar in the water, it was 'Crazy Lorenzo' Dow."

Rev. Dow traveled throughout the United States perhaps as many as twenty times to save souls, as well as through Canada. Making three voyages to Ireland and England, he was popular and drew enormous crowds. "It is thought, and not without reason, that during the 38 years of his public life, he must have traveled two hundred thousand miles," wrote John Barber.

Lorenzo was a notable orator with a notorious hell-fire-and-brimstone delivery. His charismatic nature combined with his evangelical mission to produce showmanship of the highest order. He was a masterful story-teller with a long inventory of anecdotes to support his preaching. The legends of Lorenzo Dow are many and it is probable that a large percentage is true. His wild appearance, complete with a long reddish beard, was accentuated by a harsh, grating voice and abrupt gestures. Lorenzo would often appear unexpectedly at the exact minute of



his oration, having scheduled the sermon well in advance. One legend recounts how he delivered a four-hour oration, shut his Bible with a resounding snap, jumped out an opened window and into the saddle of a horse waiting below, then galloped out of town.

Dow apparently loved his first wife dearly. When she died at an early age he had her well-wrapped in lengths of wool and buried standing up without a coffin to facilitate her ascent to heaven.

According to scholar Donna Jacobson, "In my research I have found Lorenzo Dow to be indeed an eclectic individual, but also one who had a significant impact on antebellum society. Besides founding numerous churches in the Deep South, he was nominated for President by the State of Virginia and held company with some of the more prominent politicians of his time."

- Donna Jacobson, *University of Connecticut*
- Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. "Lorenzo Dow." <http://www.iscuo.org/dow.htm> (accessed March 12, 2008)
- Smith, Candi. "History of the Methodist Church in Northeast Connecticut." 2006.

Cornelius "Connie" Mack (1862-1956)

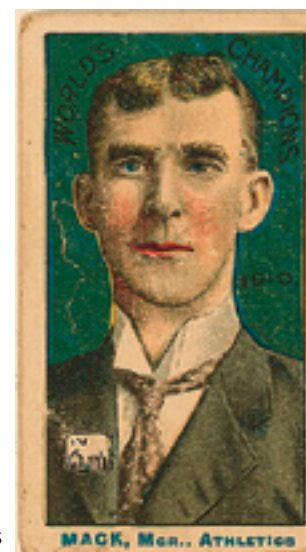
E. BROOKFIELD, MA

Although he once played baseball as a catcher, "Connie" Mack is best known as a baseball team manager. He directed the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1894 to 1896, and Milwaukee from 1897 to 1900. Connie controlled the Philadelphia Athletics from 1901 to 1951, when he retired at age 88. Early in his career with Philadelphia, a colleague called the Athletics a "white elephant" that no one else wanted to coach. Mack adopted the elephant as his mascot and the symbol is still used today by the Oakland A's.

At the time Connie Mack began his managerial career, baseball had a rough reputation. He helped to bring respect and integrity to the sport he loved so much. Nicknamed "the tall tactician," he gained fame as a dignified gentleman who won five World Series and built two amazing teams. The Athletics won four pennants in five years from 1910-1914, and three in a row from 1929 to 1931. Connie Mack still holds the record for wins by a manager, a total of 3,776.

Mack was born in East Brookfield, MA, on December 22, 1862, and died in Philadelphia. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Veterans Committee in 1937.

- Baseball Hall of Fame. "Connie Mack." http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/hofers_and_honorees/hofer_bios/Mack_Connie.htm (accessed August 16, 2006).



The Ray Family (circa 1850)

GRISWOLD, CT

In the mid-nineteenth century, tuberculosis was called "consumption" for the disease's progression from a lengthy, consuming illness to eventual death. No cure was available. Lemuel Ray died from this disease in 1845; his father, Henry Baker Ray, succumbed in 1849; two years later another son, Elisha, was stricken by the same disease and died in 1851.

The family was understandably devastated and just a little bit superstitious. When the third brother, Henry Nelson Ray, came down with consumption, the family felt that the dead members of the family were taking their sustenance from poor Henry Nelson—a case of vampirism. So they went to the cemetery, dug up the deceased Rays bodies, and burned them on the spot to protect the still living son. The incident was reported in the *Norwich Bulletin* in the May 20, 1854 issue.

Henry still died of tuberculosis but his remaining siblings lived to old age. Unfortunately, three of his children perished from unidentified causes sparking more conjecture that vampires continued at work. The fear spread. In at least one other burying ground in Griswold, bodies were disturbed and reburied in other cemeteries, sometimes in curious reconfigurations that included arranging bones in a skull-and-crossbones motif.

Anthropologists have confirmed that vampirism was a common belief among New Englanders, particularly when consumption was the cause of death.

- Mary Deveau
- Sledzik, Paul S. and N. Bellantoni. "Bioarchaeological and Biocultural Evidence of the New England Vampire Folk Belief." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. (1994):269-274.



Sarah Gray (1819-1892)

LEBANON, CT • SITE 4: Sluman Gray's burial site is in the Liberty Hill Cemetery, Rte. 87, Lebanon, CT.

When she was only nineteen, Sarah married Sluman L. Gray, a very successful whaling captain. Sarah is one of an interesting sisterhood of women who kept house and family not on a farm or in a village but on and beneath the decks of a ship. This life choice was not endorsed by the standards of appropriate behavior in Victorian New England. Sarah must have been a free spirit, devoted to her husband and family. During her life, Sarah gave birth to eight children, three of whom were born on shipboard. Sadly, five children died before the age of three.

Based on diary accounts from members of the crew and other whaling wives, Captain Gray was a dichotomy: he evidently loved his wife and generously provided every comfort for her; at the same time he was a brutal commander who dealt out severe punishments for even minor offenses.

The Grays set sail for the last time on June 1, 1864, with their three children. After a nine-month voyage, they were still not at their hunting ground destination in the Pacific Ocean and Sluman became ill "with an inflammation of the bowels." He died two days later. He was not buried at sea; rather, his body was fit into a cask and covered with some kind of spirits to preserve it for the long journey home to Lebanon for interment. Sarah and her family returned to New Bedford, or at least, that is the point where she paid for the shipment of the cask to Liberty Hill Cemetery in Lebanon where it was buried. Mrs. Gray did not return to Lebanon with her husband's remains until March of 1866, nearly two years after the voyage began.

Sarah moved nearer to her sisters in New York and she died in Rosendale, NY, in 1892. She was the epitome of bravery, taking care of her family under the worst of circumstances many thousands of miles away from home.

- Rhinelander, David. "Sea Captain's History Makes Salty Mystery." *Hartford: Hartford Courant*, April 24, 1998.
- Wayland, Alicia. "A Whaling Family in Ulster County." *Ulster County (NY) Genealogical Society Newsletter*, April 1997.



Constant Southworth (1730-1813)

MANSFIELD, CT • SITE 5: Mansfield Historical Society, 954 Storrs Rd. (Rte. 195), Storrs (Mansfield) CT, changing exhibits on town history.

Constant Southworth was quite an amazing person. He was born April 15, 1730, and died on December 19, 1813. During the interim 83 years, he served his community well and his record is a testament to the importance of the volunteer spirit in rural life.

Constant Southworth was elected as town clerk on December 6, 1756, and reelected each fall for the next fifty years. In 1806, the new town clerk, Edmund Freeman, wrote "Constant Southworth, Esq. Who had served the town in capacity of Town Clerk for about fifty years, presented an address to the meeting, in which he manifested a desire not to be reelected to said office... it was unanimously Voted – that the Select-men be a Committee to wait on him the said Constant Southworth Esq. to present him the thanks of the meeting for his long and very faithful service in said capacity of Town Clerk; and also to present him with twenty Dollars as a present or gratuity for his extra service in said office."

While that achievement is significant, it is only a part of Constant's service to Mansfield. While Southworth was town clerk, he was also elected town treasurer from 1794 to 1804, a period of ten years. From 1775 to 1787, he served twelve consecutive terms as selectman, again elected each fall to the position. Yet again these facts represent only a fraction of his work on behalf of the community.

Constant Southworth was elected justice of the peace in 1775 and each year following until 1803. During the time from 1782 until 1803 he also was elected justice of the quorum. Southworth was also a member of the Connecticut General Assembly, attending sessions from October of 1769 to May of 1802. His concurrent years of service to the town and state equal 134 years.

Mr. Southworth also was involved prominently in the ecclesiastical society and school in Mansfield. He managed all his public obligations as well as had a personal life. Constant married Mary Porter in 1754 and they had seven surviving children between 1757 and 1778. Although he was not considered a wealthy man, he did manage to accumulate 142 acres of property, and he had an interest in the silk industry.

So for those folks who regularly bemoan the necessity of another meeting, the difficulty of juggling their calendar to accommodate meeting schedules and that all work seems to be focused on the same deadline – take heart. Imagine what a week must have been like for Constant Southworth!

- Smith, Roberta K. *The Constant Years*. Mansfield, CT: Mansfield Historical Society, 1990.



Boston Trowtrow (n.d. - 1772)

NORWICH, CT • SITE 6: *Norwichtown Old Burial Ground, between Town and Elm Sts. via Old Cemetery La., Norwich.*

Both slaves and free African Americans in the 18th century organized themselves socially and politically under elected governors. The practice grew from traditions transplanted from African culture. Norwich was notable for having the second largest number of black residents in the Connecticut Colony, according to a 1756 census.

Boston Trowtrow was elected governor in Norwich in 1770 and served for two years. His grave marker, carved by a member of the Manning family, serves two important purposes: it is one of the few pieces of evidence that black governors were elected in Connecticut; and it is the memorial of a respected black leader from before the Revolutionary War when most blacks were buried in poorly marked graves. His epitaph reads: "In Memory of Boston Trowtrow Governor of ye Affrican Trib he Died May 28 1772 at 66." Black residents were interred in the back portion of the Old Norwichtown Burial Ground.

- *Connecticut Freedom Trail*
- *Oat, David, "Old Norwichtown Burial Ground," brochure from the Norwich Tourism Office, 1997.*

Alice Ramsdell (c. 1910-1995)

THOMPSON, CT • SITE 7: *West Thompson Dam Information Kiosk, West Thompson Rd. off Rte. 12, Thompson, CT.*

An active and eccentric citizen of Thompson, Alice Ramsdell lived on a farm near the banks of the Quinebaug River. The property was settled by her great-grandfather, Hezekiah Ramsdell, and she had strong feelings about her heritage. Alice was an enthusiastic and loyal member of the Thompson Historical Society and she frequently attended programs about history in other towns where she was always a supportive voice for regional heritage preservation.



Alice was a practical farmer, bringing the chickens and lambs into her house during cold weather. She milked by hand. Her father had acquired a railroad engine, boxcar, and caboose which passed to her on his death. He would never sell his collection and neither would she.

In the 1960s, after the tragic flood of 1955, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed several flood control sites. One was on the Quinebaug River in West Thompson. A small village was removed and the Ramsdell Homestead was the last slated for demolition. Alice met the Army Corps and their eviction notice with a shotgun. She refused to leave her home and, after some negotiation, the Army Corps agreed she could remain until her death if she paid a small land lease.

Thus by her tenacity and love for her home, Alice Ramsdell became the first person in the history of flood control in New England to take on the U.S. Army Corps and win. This crotchety, cantankerous old woman was also the person dressed as the Easter Bunny who appeared on the town common each year to delight children.

- *Sally Rogers*
- *U. S. Army Corp of Engineers. "West Thompson Lake, Resources."*
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/wtl/wtlNat5.htm> (accessed May 16, 2007).



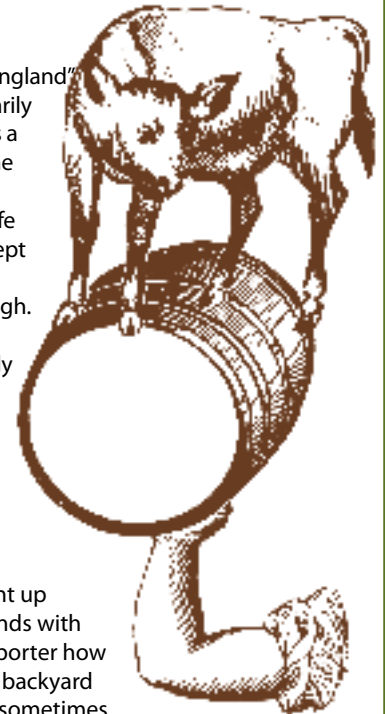
Elmer Bitgood (c.1870-1938)

VOLUNTOWN, CT

Elmer Bitgood has been called the "Paul Bunyan of New England" and "the local Sampson." He was by all accounts an extraordinarily large and strong person. Paul Bitgood, one of his brothers, was a practitioner of natural healing in New London and recorded the size and habits of his sibling. In adulthood, Elmer weighed 340 pounds and stood five feet nine inches tall. He lived a simple life working on the family farm; he consumed no other drinks except milk and water, never married and was a strong and faithful Baptist. Elmer was good natured, gentle, quiet but quick to laugh. He was much loved by those in his community.

Legends of Elmer abound and seem to grow exponentially as each is repeated. However, there are a number of legitimate articles that appeared in contemporary publications that included interviews with his family and acquaintances, justifying Elmer's amazing notoriety.

An article in the *Providence Sunday Journal* in 1916 recorded Bitgood's feats of strength, including "lifting a 180-pound keg with both hands over the head, lifting 175 pounds of good solid Connecticut rock with one hand straight up above the head and ...raising a dumbbell weighing 416 pounds with both hands over the head." Elmer himself explained to the reporter how he backlifted huge weights, adding rocks to a platform in his backyard "until the weight is 4,200 pounds. How often do I lift that? O, sometimes three or four times a day and sometimes not for a week. It all depends;



continued on next page

if I need exercise I try it and if visitors come along and won't believe I can do it. I just show them." Elmer had a pet red Devon calf that he would hold on his lap and carry around on his shoulders, even when the beast was full grown.

Elmer's uncle, Dr. Ellsworth Marshall Bitgood, a veterinarian, recounted to another Providence reporter in 1946, "how when Elmer was thirsty he would place one hand on each end of a keg of cider and drink the contents."

Elmer lived his whole life in Voluntown but his death is a bit of a mystery. There is no death certificate recorded in the town hall. The Robbins Cemetery holds the remains of many generations of the Bitgood family but no marker has been found for Elmer.

- American Heritage. "Bitgood Power." http://www.americanheritage.com/articles/magazine/ah/1978/2/1978_2_108.shtml (accessed March 27, 2008).
- Fair, John D. "The Search for Elmer Bitgood: The Paul Bunyan of New England." *Journal of Physical Culture* (October, 1998): 5-17.
- Erwin Goldstein

Rev. Dr. Samuel Nott (1754-1852)

FRANKLIN, CT • SITE 82: Franklin Congregational Church, Meetinghouse Rd., off Rte. 32, Franklin, CT.

In the late 18th century, a minister was important to the religious life of a community and critical to the education of its most promising youth. During that age, the parish in Franklin hired two clergymen whose tenure each spanned more than 20 years but who were also fired by the congregation. When Rev. Dr. Samuel Nott, a Yale graduate, was selected as Franklin's third minister, he expressed some pessimism about applying for the job. He wrote that while the congregation was composed mostly of respectable farmers, they had fired their first two

ministers and he was not anxious to be the third. However, the Franklin Society did invite him to take the pastorship and he accepted. Later Samuel expressed doubt that his ministering was doing any good, since many of his flock acted imprudently. However, he worried that their past history employing pastors might make it impossible for the congregation to attract another minister and, therefore, Samuel would not abandon them.

Samuel Nott was described as a wise and fair man, "eminently fitted to harmonize any discordant feeling...noted for his teaching and wholesome counsel." The pastor was energetic and always cheerful in his work. He educated more than 40 young men for college and schooled as many as 300 boys and girls in his home, some as boarding students. The Rev. Dr. Nott was regarded as one of the most successful educators of the day.



When Samuel came to Franklin there were 72 parishoners and he is credited with adding 427 more. Rev. Dr. Nott served his flock until age 98 when he was no longer able to perform his duties. He died in May, 1852, two years after retiring. Samuel went to his grave holding a national record – the longest term of a pastor serving one congregation – 72 years on the job!

- Robbins, Marjorie. *Franklin Bicentennial History, 1786-1986*. Franklin, CT, Bicentennial Committee, 1986.
- Town of Franklin. "A Brief History of Franklin."
- <http://www.mainelementhosting.com/frnkin/default.asp?contentID=509> (date accessed June 2, 2014).

Walter Dropo (1923-2010)

PLAINFIELD, CT • SITE 83: Walt Dropo is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery, Rte. 12, Central Village (Plainfield), CT.

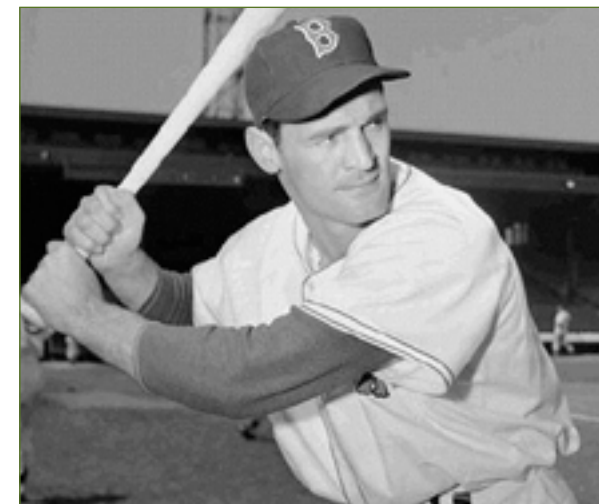
Walt Dropo was born in the Moosup village of Plainfield, the son of immigrant parents from present-day Bosnia/Herzegovina. His father worked in a local textile mill and ran their family farm. Walt played baseball for the Plainfield High School team. He later attended the University of Connecticut at Storrs where he became known as "the Moose," no doubt because of his 6'5", 220-pound frame.

Dropo proved to be a great athlete in several sports at the college. He received an offer to play football for the Chicago Bears and was drafted to play basketball for the Providence Steam Roller. He turned them down and signed with the Boston Red Sox as an amateur free agent, debuting on April 19, 1949. Moose played first base and batted right-handed.

Walt had a great rookie season in 1950, leading the American league in RBIs and total bases, while batting .322 and hitting 34 home runs. He was Rookie of the Year in 1950, All-Star in 1950, Top 10 MVP (6th) in 1950, led the league in RBIs (144, 1950), led the league in total bases (326, 1950), held the MLB record with 12 consecutive at-bats with a hit (1952), and tied an American League record with 15 hits in four games (1952). Dropo was the first rookie in the 20th century to top 100 RBIs, with more RBIs than games played; he was the first Red Sox player to be named the American League Rookie of the Year.

Walt broke his right wrist in 1951 and was never quite the same. He went to the Detroit Tigers in 1952, the White Sox in 1955, Cincinnati in 1958, and finished his career at the Baltimore Orioles in 1961. He retired and lived near Boston until his death in 2010.

- The Dropo Family
- Society for American Baseball Research. "Walt Dropo." <http://sabr.org/bioproj/person/f0f68225> (accessed June 2, 2014).
- www.baseball-reference.com
- www.baseball-almanac.com



SOLDIERS, STATESMEN & SPIES

John Spurr (1759-1816)

CHARLTON, MA • SITE 84: John Spurr House, Main St., Charlton, MA. Gravestone, Baypath Cemetery, Rte. 31, Charlton, MA.

John Spurr was a notable military man in the American Revolution. He was one of 116 people who participated in the dumping of tea during the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773.

According to the Boston Tea Party Historical Society, three ships, the *Dartmouth*, the *Eleanor*, and the *Beaver*, were moored at Griffins' Wharf. On board were 342 containers holding 90,000 pounds or 45

tons of tea. Men, some costumed to resemble Native People, sneaked aboard between seven and ten in the evening and dumped all that tea into the murky brine of Boston Harbor. The removal of the tea from the ships took three hours. In the late 18th century, the cargo would have been valued at a substantial £10,000, a million dollars in today's economy.

Spurr went on to fight at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was commissioned a captain in the Continental Army in 1777 and served under Colonel Thomas Nixon. That same year he saw action in the second Battle of Saratoga in New York and was present when British General John Burgoyne surrendered to General Horatio Gates. Spurr became a major in 1780.

After the Revolution John went home to Dorchester, a settlement which would become present-day Canton. He married Mercy Dunbar on February 21, 1783 (her wedding dress is part of the Old Sturbridge Village textile collection). He purchased land in Charlton, MA, in 1788 and became a prominent land owner. He continued to be active in the military with a rank of Major General in the Massachusetts State Militia. John Spurr was a leader of the Democrats in Charlton and energetically opposed the Federalists. In 1798, he built a house on Main Street, just near the Common. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The Spurr Family genealogy references their practice of intermarriage with the descendants of other men who were involved in the Boston Tea Party action.

- Ancestry Library. <http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames/spurr/20/mb/ashx> (accessed October 24, 2012).
- Boston Tea Party Historical Society <http://www.boston-tea-party.org/facts-numbers.html> (accessed October 24, 2012).
- <http://www.boston-tea-party.org/timeline.html> (accessed October 24, 2012).
- Charlton Historical Society Newsletter, Fall, 2003, vol. 28, no.2.
- Old Sturbridge Village http://www.osv.org/collections/collection_viewer.php?N=26.33.16 (accessed October 24, 2012).



Thomas L. Taylor (1848-1931)

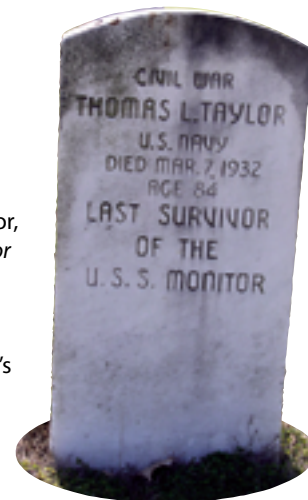
PUTNAM, CT • SITE 8: Grove St. Cemetery, Rte. 12, Putnam, CT.

Although his specific duties are not known, Thomas L. Taylor, an African-American, served in the Civil War on the *U.S.S. Monitor* at the tender age of fourteen. He participated in the notorious battle of the ironclads, the *Monitor* vs. the *Merrimac*. The battle is more correctly called the Battle of Hampton Roads and it was the first fight between two armored vessels. One was the Union's *Monitor* and the other was the *C.S.S. Virginia*, built from the salvaged hull of the *U.S.S. Merrimac*.

The battle took place on March 8 and 9, 1862, near Sewell's Point not far from Hampton Roads, VA. During the first day of fighting, the "*Merrimack*" pummeled the wooden Union fleet. The *Monitor* arrived the following day and a duel began between the ironclad ships. The encounter was a draw but garnered worldwide publicity.

When Taylor died at the age of 84 he was the last survivor of the great battle. His grave in the Grove Street Cemetery in Putnam, CT, is marked by a simple rectangular marble stone.

• Connecticut Freedom Trail



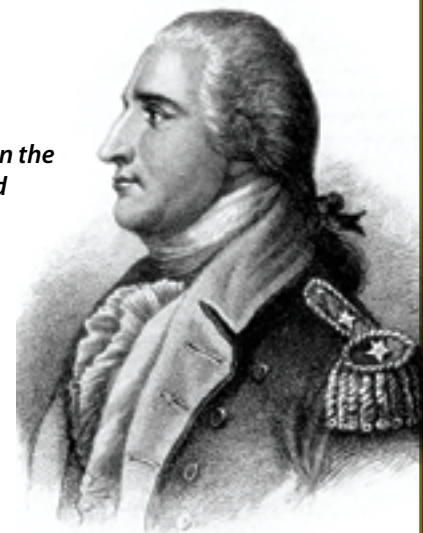
Benedict Arnold (1741-1801)

NORWICH, CT • SITE 9: His birthplace is in private ownership but his mother and siblings are interred in the Old Norwichtown Burial Ground, between Town and Elm Sts., Norwich, CT.

Benedict Arnold – famous or infamous? The Arnolds were an affluent family in Norwich that suffered a reversal of fortunes precipitating Benedict's removal from school before graduation. His passion to regain financial security and position coupled with an abundance of energy and propensity for finding trouble eventually led him to commit an act of treason.

Benedict's cousins, Daniel and Joshua Lathrop, apprenticed him to their apothecary and Benedict worked with them for several years, punctuated by brief military stints in the French and Indian War. Arnold established his own apothecary and bookshop in New Haven. He also developed a lucrative partnership trading in the West Indies but he was also rumored to be associated with smuggling.

When the Revolution broke out, Arnold eagerly sought combat. He was commissioned a colonel and took his company to capture Fort Ticonderoga. Arnold had an uneasy alliance with Ethan Allen, who commanded the Green Mountain Boys, but the campaign was successful and the fort was taken in a surprise attack. Benedict took part in many of the major battles of the Revolutionary War – Saratoga, Ticonderoga, Montreal, Quebec and West Point. He had a brilliant military mind and was most courageous. But his military prowess was always subject to his ultimate aim to regain family position.



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Arnold insisted on his point of view and often argued so adamantly with peers and commanding officers that he risked censure. His constant disagreements brought him public admonishments and legal problems. Arnold was plagued by envy and outrage over the promotions of younger men over his head. He continued to fight for independence but was overlooked, reprimanded and demoted after a succession of disagreements with his superiors and Congress. It is speculated that his anger and his feelings of justifiable indignation resulted in a mind set that led to treason.

Arnold began to negotiate for a place in the British army. He was reportedly offered £10,000 and a commission if he secured West Point as his contribution to the new partnership. Arnold did defect and was given money and lands in Canada and pensions for himself and his family. Neither side trusted him after his treasonous act. Arnold moved to London but could find no work. He tried to establish a shipping concern in Canada but had trouble getting business. He returned to London where he died in 1801, a failure.

- *The American Revolution. "Benedict Arnold."* <http://www.theamericanrevolution.org/ipeople/barnold.asp> (accessed March 5, 2008).
- Oat, David. "A Walking tour of Old Norwich Burial Ground," Norwich Office of Tourism, 1997.
- U.S. History, Historic Valley Forge. "Who Served Here? Benedict Arnold." <http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/served/arnold/> (accessed December 14, 2007).

Moses Cleaveland (1754-1806)

CANTERBURY, CT • SITE 10: *Cleaveland is buried in the Cleaveland Cemetery, west side of Rte. 169, Canterbury, CT. Although he died in 1806, the citizens of Cleveland, Ohio, erected a monument on his grave in 1906 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death.*

SITE 11: *A sign marks the birthplace of Moses Cleaveland on the east side of Rte. 169 in Canterbury, CT*

Moses Cleaveland was an intelligent and industrious person who made notable achievements as a soldier, lawyer, public servant and surveyor. He was born in Canterbury on January 29, 1754, studied law at Yale and graduated in 1777 during the American Revolution. Cleaveland joined the 2nd Connecticut Regiment and became the captain of the Army Corps of Engineers, a newly-formed support unit.

When he left military service in 1781, Cleaveland returned to Canterbury to practice law. He married Esther Champion in 1794 and they had four children. Moses served in the Connecticut General Assembly and was a brigadier general of the militia.

It was Moses' experiences as a surveyor and investor that led to his fame. He was one of 36 founders, and one of the seven directors, of the Connecticut Land Company. Congress had "reserved" an area of land for the state on the western frontier. The Connecticut Land



Company purchased from Connecticut some of the area of present-day northeastern Ohio, known as the Western Reserve, for \$1.2 million. Cleaveland personally invested \$32,600 in the venture.

Moses Cleaveland was asked to head the expedition of 50 people to survey the land and conduct negotiations with the Native People. The Mohawk, Seneca and Iroquois were persuaded with goods and gifts of paltry value to allow Cleaveland's party to cross their land and travel along the shores of Lake Erie.

On July 22, 1796, Moses landed near the Cuyahoga River and noted a beautiful site between the river and the lake. He surveyed the area into lots for settlement and members of his party named the place "Cleaveland." Moses returned to Connecticut and never saw the place again.

Eventually the first "a" in the name was dropped; supposedly when the town's first newspaper was designed, the name was one letter too long to fit the masthead. The abbreviated spelling passed into common use.

- *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History. "Cleaveland, Moses."* <http://www.ech.case.edu/ech/cgi/article.pl?id=CM10> (accessed June 18, 2007).
- *Ohio History Central. "Moses Cleaveland."* <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=86> (accessed June 18, 2007).

Thomas Knowlton (1740-1776)

ASHFORD, CT • SITE 12: *Knowlton Memorial Hall, Rte. 44 in Ashford, CT, was built as a memorial to Thomas Knowlton.*

SITE 13: *Norcross Webster Boy Scout Camp, Rte. 44, in Ashford, was the site of his farm.*

Born with a military heritage, Thomas Knowlton began his illustrious service at the age of fifteen in the French and Indian War, participating in several dangerous forays behind enemy lines. In 1760, at the end of six campaigns, he was promoted to lieutenant. Knowlton then served in Israel Putnam's company in the Battle of Havana, Cuba, in 1762; he survived although nearly 80% of his comrades died in a shipwreck. Thomas returned home to Ashford three years later, settling to a peaceful life and marrying Anna Keyes. Together they raised a family of nine children. A popular and respected figure in his town, Knowlton was appointed selectman at the age of 33.

At the outbreak of the Revolution in April, 1775, militias mobilized throughout the Connecticut Colony to join in the Boston area conflicts. Knowlton volunteered and was chosen



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captain of the Ashford Company, part of the 200-man 5th Connecticut Regiment. In just two months Knowlton was promoted to major by the Continental Congress for his bravery providing the rear guard at Breeds Hill. Within a few more months he had led an incursion into Charlestown, destroying a house used by British officers and, in the process, discovering important plans.

Washington acknowledged Knowlton's bravery and espionage talents by raising him to lieutenant colonel in August of 1776. Knowlton received orders to carry out a spying mission with a select group of men. They were the first American spies - Knowlton's Rangers; Nathan Hale was one of these chosen men. On September 16, 1776, the Rangers, disguised as light infantry, scouted a position in advance of Washington's army at Harlem Heights, NY, and discovered the presence of the Black Watch and a Hessian unit. The Rangers fell back, supported by Major Leitch's unit from Virginia. Knowledge of the enemy positions allowed Washington to reconfigure his lines but Knowlton was fatally wounded in the battle and died shortly after.

In 1995, the Knowlton Award was established by the Military Intelligence Corp Association to recognize individuals who have provided significantly to the promotion of Army Intelligence.

- *The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.* "Lt. Col. Thomas Knowlton, Connecticut's Forgotten Hero." http://www.connecticutsar.org/articles/scarlet_no.3.htm (accessed November 12, 2007).
- *Rose, Alexander. Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring.* New York: Random House, 2006.

Captain Chauncey Paul (1798-1888)

UNION, CT • SITE 14: Union Historical Society, 583 Buckley Hwy. (Rte. 190), Union, CT.

Chauncey Paul lived all his life in Union. He was educated at the district school and learned about the law by attending local legal proceedings. His only legal experience was serving as a deputy sheriff.

Captain Paul was a man of strong convictions and an outspoken nature. He had great personal faith but belonged to no church. He hated rum and slavery. Chauncey signed a temperance pledge after a drunk friend was thrown out of a tavern. He became a staunch advocate of temperance and, together with the local minister, held many neighborhood meetings to encourage others to sign a similar pledge.

He earned his title from serving as captain of the cavalry from Union and surrounding towns. It stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Chauncey held every important office in town. He was town clerk for three years, first selectman for one, and spent three years in the Connecticut General Assembly where he had a reputation for urging business to move quickly. In fact, he was nicknamed "Old Previous Question" for the number of times he moved the previous question.

Chauncey joined the Republican party when it was formed in 1854. He advised the poor and



advocated for widows and soldiers to help them receive their pensions. Captain Paul was a director of the Tolland County Mutual Fire Insurance Company for 50 years. He was a man who lived a simple life and helped his neighbors improve theirs.

- *Hammond, Charles. History of Union, Connecticut.* Union, CT: Price, Lee & Adkins, 1893.

William Eaton (1764-1811)

BRIMFIELD, MA • SITE 15: A modest gravestone marks Eaton's resting place in the Brimfield Cemetery, Rte. 19, Brimfield, MA..

SITE 16: Although his estate was destroyed by fire in the early 20th century, the Brimfield Library, Rte. 20, Brimfield, MA, has photographs of Eaton's home.

William Eaton was notably involved in one of the first U.S. military actions in the Muslim world, and, in fact, the first recorded land battle on foreign soil. He was born in Woodstock, CT, and later transplanted to Brimfield, MA. Enlisting during the Revolution, he spent three years as a young officer before returning to school. Eaton graduated from Dartmouth College in 1790 where he studied Arabic. Two years later he returned to the military, accepting a captain's commission in the army which he held until 1797.

On July 11, 1797, William Eaton was appointed U. S. Consul at Tunis. He developed expertise in dealing with the delicate politics of the region and became Navy Agent for the Barbary Regencies in 1804.

Eaton was authorized by the U.S. Government to create an alliance with deposed Tripoli leader Hamet Karamanli and return him to the throne by waging war against the coastal nation, a part of the Ottoman Empire. Karamanli had been ousted by this brother, Yussif. Eaton and Karamanli gathered a mercenary force of Christians and Muslims to combine with a small detachment of U.S. Marines. They commenced a 500-mile march to Derne, the capital of the province of Cyrenaica. The trip was punctuated with numerous disputes among the culturally mixed force. The attack on Derne commenced on April 27, 1805, with land forces supported by the naval warships *Argus*, *Nautilus*, and *Hornet*. The attack was the inspiration for the Marine's Hymn; "from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli..." The successful campaign against Derne and the threat to all of Tripoli influenced a peaceful end to the conflict. A treaty with the Pasha of Tripoli was negotiated by Tobias Lear and Commodore John Rodgers, but Eaton and Karamanli were disappointed with the diplomatic solution and the mercenary army was angered by the end to the attack on Tripoli. The resulting peace was uneasy at best. Cultural clashes would mark the region for centuries.

Eaton died in Brimfield, MA, on the first of June, 1811.

- *Larry Lowenthal*
- *London, Joshua E. Victory in Tripoli.* Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2005.



Israel Putnam (1718-1790)

BROOKLYN AND POMFRET, CT • SITE 17: *Putnam is buried beneath a large monument in the center of historic Brooklyn, CT, on Rte. 169.*

SITE 18: *Folk tradition recounts that Israel cornered the last wolf in Windham County in her den and slew the beast that had been wreaking destruction on herds in the area. The location is now Wolf Den Park, a unit of Mashamoquet Brook State Park, off Rte. 101 in Pomfret, CT.*

In the center of Brooklyn is an imposing monument to Revolutionary War hero and adventurer Israel Putnam. He was born in Salem Village in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Shortly after his marriage to Hannah Pope, they moved to Pomfret (now part of Brooklyn) where the couple raised their ten children. Putnam, while not well educated, was a prosperous farmer for in the mid-18th century the greatest wealth was concentrated in the farming communities.

Putnam's great adventures began in the French and Indian War when he served as a second lieutenant with volunteers from Connecticut, participating in battles for Fort Ticonderoga and Montreal. He was dispatched on an expedition to Albany and served with Robert Roger's Rangers on numerous forays. Israel was one of only a few who survived a shipwreck during an expedition he commanded to capture Havana in 1762. Six years later, Putnam was promoted to major and during a campaign he was captured by the Caughwagas and was nearly burned at the stake, except for the last moment rescue by General Marin and his troops. By the end of the war, his notable escapades included being captured and imprisoned in Quebec, escaping, and finding his way home through the wilderness of present-day Vermont. Putnam's knack for survival was unparalleled.

After resuming farming back in Brooklyn, Putnam was elected chairman of the town's Committee of Correspondence in 1774. He drove a herd of sheep to Boston to relieve its beleaguered residents. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel of the 11th Regiment of the Connecticut militia. Upon hearing the news from Lexington in April of 1775, he rallied the militia and charged off to the aid of those fighting in the Boston conflict.

Putnam had several clashes with General Washington. History records that his great self-confidence combined with a position beyond his abilities created a poor strategist. He is remembered for the battle cry, "Don't shoot 'til you see the whites of their eyes!"

- *Travel & History. "Wars and Battles, Israel Putnam, 1718-1790."* <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1294.html> (accessed October 10, 2007.)



Nathan Hale (1755-1776)

COVENTRY, CT • SITE 19: *Nathan Hale Homestead, South St., Coventry, CT.*

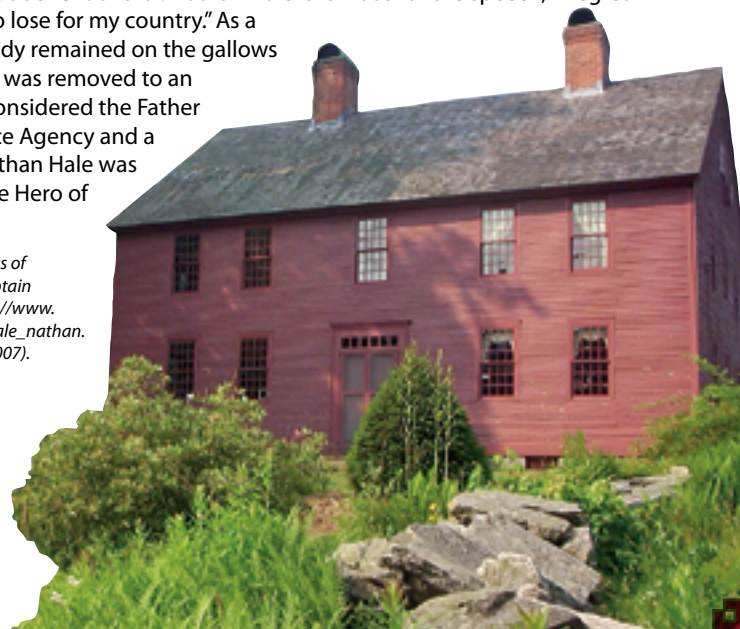
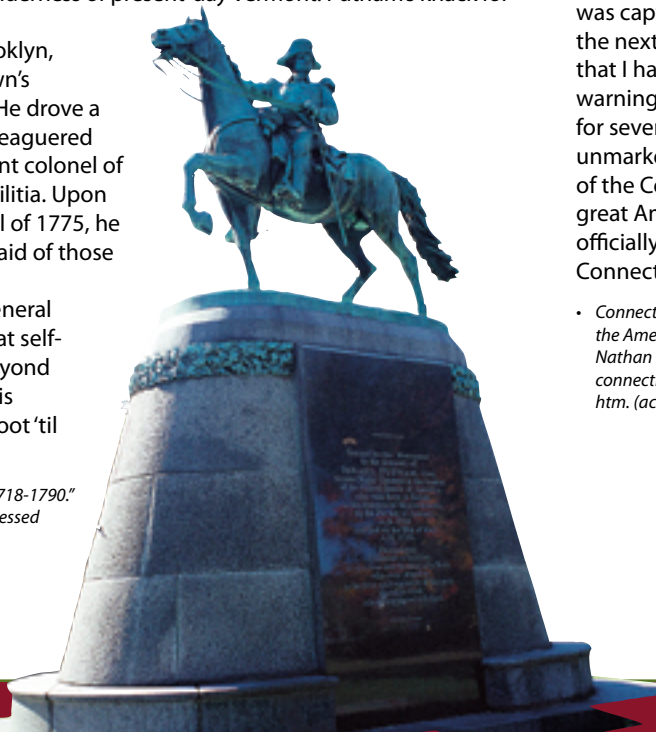
SITE 20: *Nathan Hale Monument marks his burial site in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, off Lake St. from Rte. 31, Coventry, CT.*

Nathan Hale is famous for his patriotism and untimely death. He was hung as a spy by the British after being apprehended behind enemy lines during the Battle of Long Island.

Nathan was born in Coventry, CT, in 1755. His father, Richard Hale, was a prosperous farmer, patriot and deacon. Nathan was the sixth of twelve children; he and his brother, Enoch, were schooled by Rev. Dr. Joseph Huntington for entry into Yale University. While in New Haven, he was a member of the Yale literary fraternity, Linonia, where he debated subjects such as the ethics of slavery. He graduated with honors and became a teacher. His first post was in East Haddam, later in New London. He was popular with his students and controversial with their parents. Nathan believed in rewarding success and praising students who showed good effort, not a customary way to deal with children in the 18th century.

When the Revolutionary War began in 1775 young Hale joined the Connecticut militia as a first lieutenant. His unit was called to participate in the Siege of Boston, but Nathan stayed behind, joining the Continental Army's 7th Connecticut Regiment commanded by Colonel Charles Webb. By the next year, Hale had been promoted to captain and was commanding a small unit of Knowlton's Rangers charged with reconnaissance behind enemy lines. Nathan was captured in British-held territory on September 21, 1776, and ordered to be executed the next morning without benefit of trial. Nathan Hale is famous for the speech, "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." As a warning to rebels, his body remained on the gallows for several days before it was removed to an unmarked grave. He is considered the Father of the Central Intelligence Agency and a great American hero. Nathan Hale was officially named the State Hero of Connecticut in 1985.

- *Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. "Captain Nathan Hale 1755-1776."* http://www.connecticutsar.org/patriots/hale_nathan.htm. (accessed December 6, 2007).



Nathaniel Lyon (1818-1861)

EASTFORD, CT • SITE 21: *Burial site is on General Lyon Rd., off Rte. 198, Eastford, CT.*

Although born on a farm in Ashford (now Eastford), Nathaniel disliked agriculture. He was enthralled with his ancestors who had fought in the Revolution and wanted to step into those military shoes. He attended the United States Military Academy from 1837 to 1841 and graduated 11th in his class. Nathaniel's military service included action with the 2nd U.S. Infantry regiment in the Seminole Wars and the Mexican-American War, although he was outspoken in his denouncement of the latter. Lyon also served on the western frontier, participating in the Bloody Island Massacre of 1850 and in Kansas during the border wars known as "Bleeding Kansas."



He became a strong abolitionist and Lincoln Republican. Writing in January, 1861, he opined on the secession of southern states, "It is no longer useful to appeal to reason, but to the sword." Two months later, Lyon arrived in St. Louis with his command, Company D of the 2nd U.S. Infantry. The state of Missouri and its residents were neutral in the disagreement between the North and the South, but Governor Claiborne F. Jackson supported the South. There was a large arsenal of federal weapons in St. Louis and General Lyon was concerned that Governor Jackson would seize them for the Confederacy. In a secret maneuver to thwart Jackson's purpose, Lyon took control of the arsenal, armed members of the St. Louis Wide Awakes (pro-North organization) and moved the bulk of the weapons to Illinois. An elaborate interplay ensued involving espionage, riots, killings, pursuit of Governor Jackson and his pro-South Missouri State Guard, skirmishes and take over of the state government where Lyon installed pro-North leadership.

The final conflict for Lyon was the Battle of Wilson's Creek. He gallantly led his men in the first charge but was mortally wounded and died. He was the first general killed in the Civil War. Lyon is remembered for his quick thinking, and, at the same time, criticized for his role in the events that unfolded in Missouri. He was buried in his hometown of Eastford where 15,000 people attended his interment.

- Nicholas Bellantoni
- National Park Service. "Wilson's Creek N.B.: Nathaniel Lyon." <http://www.nps.gov/archive/wicr/lyon.html> (accessed March 12, 2009).
- Ulysses S. Grant Camp, No. 68. Historical Information. "General Nathaniel Lyon." <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ma/county/stlouis/lyon.htm> (accessed March 12, 2008).

Uriah Tracy (1755-1807)

FRANKLIN, CT

Distinctive contributions were made by politicians from The Last Green Valley. One such individual was Uriah Tracy, born in Franklin on February 2, 1755. Like most professional men of his day, Tracy was educated at Yale (class of 1778) and was admitted to the bar in 1781.

Uriah settled in Litchfield, CT, where he practiced law for many years and was a major general in the militia. He served as a member of the state legislature (1788-1793) and Speaker of the House in 1793. Tracy was appointed the State's attorney for Litchfield County in 1794 and acted in that capacity for five years.

Uriah Tracy was elected to the Congress of the United States in 1793 and served three years in the House of Representatives. He was then elected as a Federalist to replace Senator Jonathan Trumbull. Tracy spent eleven years in the Senate, serving as President Pro Tempore in the 6th Congress.

But in the annals of history, these are not his great claim to fame. Uriah Tracy died on July 19, 1807, in Washington, D.C. at the age of 52. He was the first member of Congress to be buried in the newly designated Congressional Cemetery. In fact, Uriah was interred one week after the opening of the burying ground. He was not, however, the first person to be buried there. One other, a stone mason working on the Capitol, was laid to rest in the new site just days earlier.

The Congressional Cemetery is located in the southeastern section of Washington, D.C. with views of the Anacostia River. It was the sole burying ground for the United States Congress and other political notables until the Civil War when Arlington National Cemetery was created. It is the final resting place for two vice presidents, 68 congressmen, and sixteen senators, Uriah included.

- *Biographical Dictionary of the United States Congress.* "Tracy, Uriah, (1755-1807)." <http://www.bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=T000348> (accessed March 12, 2008).
- *The United States Senate.* "July 19, 1807, First Senator Buried in Congressional Cemetery." http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/First_Senator_Buried_in_Congressional_Cemetery (accessed March 12, 2008).



Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. (1710-1785)

LEBANON, CT • SITE 22: *War Office and Governor Jonathan Trumbull House, on the Green at the junctions of Rtes. 87 and 207, Lebanon, CT.*

SITE 23: *Gov. Jonathan Trumbull Memorial, Old Trumbull Burying Ground, Rte. 207, Lebanon, CT.*



Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., was the only colonial governor to support the Revolution. After graduating from Harvard in 1727, Trumbull operated a successful retail and wholesale enterprise at his store on the Lebanon Green; he imported goods from Europe; he was an exporter of meats and had the largest meat packing operation in the colony. Trumbull earned a reputation for his merchant's acumen and logic. Jonathan Trumbull was elected to the General Assembly where his abilities continued to be recognized, quickly ascending to prominence. He began to voice his disagreement with England in the early 1760s, opposing taxes and other policies. In 1766, he became deputy governor and governor three years later. Trumbull remained in that office throughout the Revolution until 1784.

Jonathan Trumbull supported the Revolution even in its darkest hours. He established an important supply line to provision the Continental Army and was a close friend and ally of George Washington. His store became known as The War Office, the headquarters that hosted more than 500 meetings of the Council of Safety in which Connecticut's defense was strategized. The Governor not only provisioned Washington's army through the bleak days at Valley Forge but the French Army, as well. He supplied privateers who interfered with English shipping by capturing hundreds of enemy ships. At the same time, Trumbull commanded Connecticut's militia and navy. Because of his efforts, Connecticut became known as "the provision state."

- Wayland, Alicia. *Around the Lebanon Green*. Lebanon, CT: Town of Lebanon, 1999.



William Williams (1731-1811)

LEBANON, CT • SITE 24: *The Welles House (Williams birthplace) and the William Williams House (National Historic Landmark), both on the Lebanon Green at the junctions of Rtes. 87 and 207, Lebanon, CT. Privately owned.*

SITE 25: *William Williams is buried in the Old Trumbull Burying Ground, next to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., Rte. 207, Lebanon, CT.*



Another Harvard graduate, William Williams extended his studies with his father and planned on continuing the family tradition of becoming a minister. His career was sidetracked as he joined the military and served in the French and Indian War, including an expedition to Lake George. However, his great interest was politics, beginning with his election as town clerk at the age of 21. Later he decided to become a merchant. During the French and Indian War, he went to Crown Point on behalf of Trumbull and Company, a military supplier. He was an ardent supporter of independence and a member of the Council of Safety, serving as its clerk. Williams married Mary Trumbull, daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. Along with Samuel Huntington, Williams was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and served briefly in the Continental Congress. Noted for fiery orations in support of the cause for independence, Williams toured Connecticut to enlist recruits in the Continental Army and rally resources for the Revolution. He was involved in sending supplies to Washington, including donating his personal stores of meat to the relief of Valley Forge. His empathy extended to soldiers passing his home and he often helped them with food and money.

Williams was dedicated to his town and state and worked on behalf of the public for decades: he was Lebanon's town clerk, selectman, judge and also served as a member of the General Assembly for more than 50 years.

- Declaration of Independence. "William Williams." <http://www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/WilliamWilliams.com/> (accessed March 13, 2008).
- Wayland, Alicia. *Around the Lebanon Green*. Lebanon, CT: Town of Lebanon, 1999.

Ebenezer Craft (1740-1810)

STURBRIDGE, MA • SITE 26: *The Publick House, Rte. 20, on the Common, Sturbridge, MA.*

Ebenezer Craft was a merchant, born in Pomfret, CT. He married Mehitable Chandler in 1762 and they had three children: two daughters named Lucratia, Matilda, and Augusta, and a son, Samuel Chandler Craft who would become the Governor of Vermont and a U.S. Senator.

In 1771, Craft built "The Elms," (now the Publick House) on the common in Sturbridge. The inn and tavern has served the public for 243 years. The common was also the location where Craft drilled the local militia.

When hostilities commenced in 1775, Ebenezer Craft commanded a company of cavalry and they rode to join the army at Cambridge. He remained in the military until the British



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troops evacuated Boston. Ten years later, Craft was the first colonel of a regiment of cavalry raised in Worcester County. In the winter of 1786-87, his regiment served under General Lincoln suppressing Shay's Rebellion.

Craft and his family moved to Vermont in 1791 where he helped establish the town of Minden, later renamed Craftsbury in his honor. He also established Leister Academy in Massachusetts, and another institution for learning on the common in Craftsbury, Vermont.

• Robert Briere

Christopher Leffingwell (1734-1810)

NORWICH, CT • SITE 27: Leffingwell House Museum, 342 Washington St., Norwich, CT.

In the mid-18th century, Christopher Leffingwell had a successful business trading colonial goods with markets in the Caribbean and Europe. However, economic regulations and new taxes imposed by England on the Colonies spurred him to establish manufacturing facilities that would help replace costly imported goods with domestic products. Leffingwell began a pottery business, Bean Hill Pottery, and a paper mill in 1766 harnessing the Yantic River for power. He later started Connecticut's first chocolate mill, a fulling mill (process in creating woolen fabric) and a stocking mill using knitting machines.

During the American Revolution, Norwich was an advantageous locale for privateers wishing to thwart English shipping and coastal installations. Leffingwell supported such privateers. As a colonel in Connecticut's militia, Christopher Leffingwell also raided English territory on Long Island and patrolled Connecticut's coastline against enemy raids.

Like Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., Leffingwell was an important provisioner of the Continental Army, serving as a deputy commissioner. His paper mill produced paper for cartridges.

• Leffingwell House Museum



Samuel Huntington (1731-1796)

NORWICH, SCOTLAND, CT • SITE 28: Samuel Huntington Homestead, birthplace of Samuel Huntington, Rte. 14, Scotland, CT. National Register of Historic Places.

SITE 29: Tomb in the Old Norwichtown Burial Grounds, between Town and Elm Sts., Norwich, CT.

Samuel Huntington was an important figure in the Revolutionary War period and in the early years of the United States of America. He was born in Scotland, CT, one of nine surviving children in a prosperous family. Huntington studied with the Reverend Devotion and became an attorney but his place in history is secured by service to his beloved Connecticut and the young Republic.

His illustrious career began in 1760 when he moved to Norwich to practice law. Samuel was elected to the Connecticut Assembly in 1764, and appointed the King's Attorney for the Colony of Connecticut the next year.

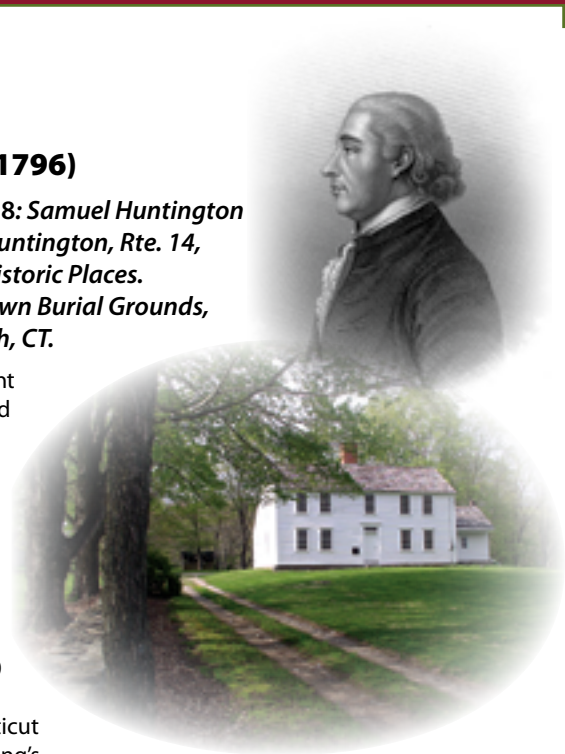
Named to the Council of Safety in 1775, he was appointed a delegate to the Continental Congress. During the course of his service, he was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from Connecticut. He was chosen by his peers as president of the Continental Congress in 1779, and again in 1780. As he left his term he wrote to George Washington on July 10, 1781, "I am now to take leave of your Excellency with respect to my official correspondence but be assured, Sir, my warmest wishes still continue to attend you, that our military operations may be prospered and crowned with the most desirable event, a speedy and honorable peace. . . Whatever my future Situation in Life may be, I shall always love my country. In her Happiness and Prosperity will consist my own personally."

Huntington's successor as president of the Continental Congress was Thomas McKean who wrote on that same date, "I am immediately to succeed a President of so indefatigable an industry, so invincible a patience, so exemplary an integrity, and so staunch yet polite a republican, I confess I am almost discouraged."

It should be noted that Samuel Huntington was president of the Continental Congress on March 1, 1781, when the last state ratified the Articles of Confederation and our country became "The United States in Congress Assembled." In this sense, it can be claimed that Samuel was the first president of the United States.

After his tenure with the Congress, Samuel was elected lieutenant governor in 1784 and then governor of the new State of Connecticut in 1786, serving in that highest office for ten years until his death in 1796.

• Governor Samuel Huntington Trust



Abiel Leonard (1740-1777)

WOODSTOCK, CT • SITE 30: *First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Rte. 169, Woodstock, CT*

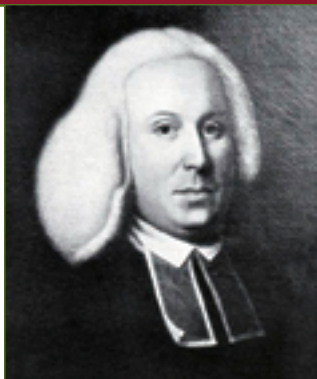
Abiel Leonard was the son of the minister at the old Pilgrim Church of Plymouth, MA. After graduating from Harvard in 1759, he became the pastor of the First Church of Woodstock. He was an articulate speaker, popular with his congregation. When conflicts broke out early in the Revolutionary War, Leonard accompanied 140 men from Woodstock who joined the 3rd Connecticut Regiment under the command of General Israel Putnam. His term of service was six months. During that time, his sermons on special occasions to the troops were well received and he was noticed by George Washington.

After Leonard returned to Woodstock, Washington and Putnam wrote to the Woodstock congregation requesting that they allow their beloved pastor to once again minister to the needs of the army. "Mr. Leonard is a man whose exemplary life and conversation must make him highly esteemed by every person who has the pleasure of being acquainted with him... His usefulness in the army is great as he is employed in the glorious work of attending to the morals of a brave people who are fighting for their liberties, the liberties of the people of Woodstock, the liberties of all America. We therefore hope that, knowing how nobly he is employed, the congregation of Woodstock will cheerfully give up to the public a gentleman so useful."

The Woodstock congregation honored the special request and voted to permit Rev. Leonard to reenlist. He was assigned as chaplain to Colonel Knox and Colonel Durkee. Abiel conducted the burial service for fallen Major Thomas Knowlton after the Battle of Harlem Heights. His ministry to the army was appreciated so much that despite his discharge in December of 1776, the Woodstock congregation was once again asked to give their beloved pastor leave to rejoin the army. The parishioners not withstanding, Rev. Leonard also left behind a family; he and his first wife Dorothy Huntington had one daughter; his second wife Mary Greene gave birth to five other children.

Over the years there have been several accounts of his suicide by a self-inflicted wound to the neck after becoming depressed. However, recent scholarship has concluded that Abiel Leonard had become ill after being inoculated for small pox. It was a dreadful disease that took many soldiers. The inoculation process was risky; virulent discharge was gathered from a poxed patient, and then forced into an open cut on a healthy person. Sometimes other compounds were added to the inoculation. Many people became ill from the process and it appears that Leonard's death was the result of such an inoculation. He died on August 14, 1777.

- Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. *The History of Woodstock Connecticut*. Norwood, MA: The Plimpton Press, 1926.
- Wakely, Cheryl. "A Woodstock Clergyman in the Revolution: Documenting the Tragic Story of Abiel Leonard." *Woodstock Historical Society (newsletter)*, March 2007.



Samuel McClellan (1730-1807)

WOODSTOCK, CT • SITE 31: *McClellan House, currently a private residence, on the South Woodstock Common, Rtes. 171 and 169, Woodstock, CT.*

SITE 32: *Woodstock Hill Cemetery, on the Common, Rte. 169, Woodstock, CT.*

Samuel McClellan's family immigrated from Kirkcubright, Scotland, after participating in the First Jacobite Rebellion. Sam was born on a farm near Worcester and then settled in Woodstock, marrying Rachael Abbe from Windham Center.

McClellan raised horses from his farm in South Woodstock. In 1773, Samuel was made captain of a troop of horse, part of the 11th Connecticut Regiment. The company was dispatched to Boston after hearing the news of the Battle of Lexington.

To mark the departure of McClellan, Rachael had elm saplings brought by horseback from her childhood home in Windham and planted them on the South Woodstock Common in April, 1775.

One hundred and forty Woodstock men under Samuel's command fought at Bunker Hill; 48 lost their life. He was promoted rapidly, becoming brigadier on June 10, 1779.

Samuel McClellan served on the Committee of Correspondence for the town. After the massacre at Fort Groton and the incursion on New London, he was made commander of the posts defending the mouth of the Thames River where he remained until the close of the war. McClellan returned home to Woodstock, serving in the General Assembly. He died in 1807 and was buried in the cemetery on Woodstock Hill.

- Bowen, Clarence Winthrop. *The History of Woodstock Connecticut*. Norwood, MA: The Plimpton Press, 1926.
- Virtual Biographies. "Samuel McClellan." <http://famousamericans.net/samuelmcclellan> (accessed December 17, 2007).



ENTREPRENEURS

Benjamin Hanks (1755-1824)

WINDHAM, MANSFIELD, NORWICH, CT

Benjamin Hanks was born on December 15, 1755, the eldest of nine siblings. His family was quite entrepreneurial. At one time, the Hanks were the largest producers of silk as well as the builders of the first water-powered silk mill in the country. Benjamin was apprenticed at the age of 17 to Thomas Harland, a renowned clockmaker from Norwich. He successfully learned the trade in a fairly short period of time and established his own clock-making concern in that town.

Although his motivations are not documented, Benjamin left Norwich and ended up in Boston in the spring of 1775. He was a military drummer, taking part in the Lexington Alarm and later serving under General Israel Putnam. He returned to Connecticut and was eventually promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Militia.

Between 1775-1777, Hanks settled in Windham, established a trade, married Alice Hovey and raised three sons. Advertisements from the time show that he manufactured buckles, spurs, hilts, watches, and other gold and silver pieces. The family moved to Litchfield in 1780, built a house (which still stands) and shop where Benjamin plied his craft as a clockmaker, compass maker, loom maker and metal smith. Hanks seemed to be equally interested in bell founding and clock making. He built a foundry and began to cast large church bells. He crafted the clock for the Old Dutch Church at Nassau and Liberty Streets in New York. Hanks applied to the General Assembly in 1783 for a patent for his invention – a clock wound automatically by air. Details of the patent stated that the clock would wind itself by air and that it would continue to do so and to operate until friction wore out the mechanical parts. In 1787, he was commissioned to replace a bell in the Litchfield Church. Hanks established great reputation in all his areas of expertise.

In 1790, Benjamin returned to Mansfield and continued to cast bells there. In addition to the foundry and clock making enterprises, Hanks carried on the family's wool trade. In 1797, Hanks crafted the first two bronze cannons made in the United States, carried by the First Company of the Connecticut Artillery. He was granted a patent in 1816 for molding and casting bells but never for the air-wound clock.

- Delaney Antique Clocks. "Benjamin Hanks." <http://www.delaneyantiqueclocks.com/products/maker/26> (accessed October 23, 2013).
- Historic Buildings of Connecticut. "The Benjamin Hanks House." <http://historicbuildingsct.com/?p=6191> (accessed October 23, 2013).
- Towerbells. "Genealogy of Hanks Bellfounders." <http://www.towerbells.org/data/HanksGen.html>. (accessed October 23, 2013).

Benjamin Chaplin (n.d.-1795)

CHAPLIN, CT • SITE 33: Center Cemetery, Chaplin St. off Rte. 198, Chaplin, CT.

The Town of Chaplin owes its name and beginning to Benjamin Chaplin. As a young man he settled near the Natchaug River, earning a living making baskets and wooden trenchers; he was also a trained surveyor. Evidently his enterprises prospered, for upon his marriage to Mary Ross in 1747 he built a significant dwelling. It seemed both he and his wife had an



entrepreneurial spirit that allowed them to expand their holdings, accumulating large tracts of land due to his surveying business. Benjamin and his family built a large enclave in the Natchaug neighborhood.

Benjamin was noted for his strength of character, vision and moral leadership. He died a very wealthy man and his generosity toward others was reflected in his gift of £300 to establish a church in his settlement. The parish was founded in 1809, but it was not until 1822, 27 years after his death, that the Town of Chaplin was incorporated.

Benjamin and Mary are buried in Center Cemetery where their final resting places are marked by table stone monuments believed to be among the first in Northeastern Connecticut.

- Bayles, Richard M. *History of Windham County*. New York: W. W. Preston & Co., 1889.
- Connecticut Genealogy. "Chaplin, Windham County, Connecticut History." <http://www.connecticutgenealogy.com/windham/chaplin.htm> (accessed January 31, 2008).
- Slater, James. *The Colonial Graveyards of Eastern Connecticut*. Hamden, Connecticut: Academy of Arts & Sciences, 1987.

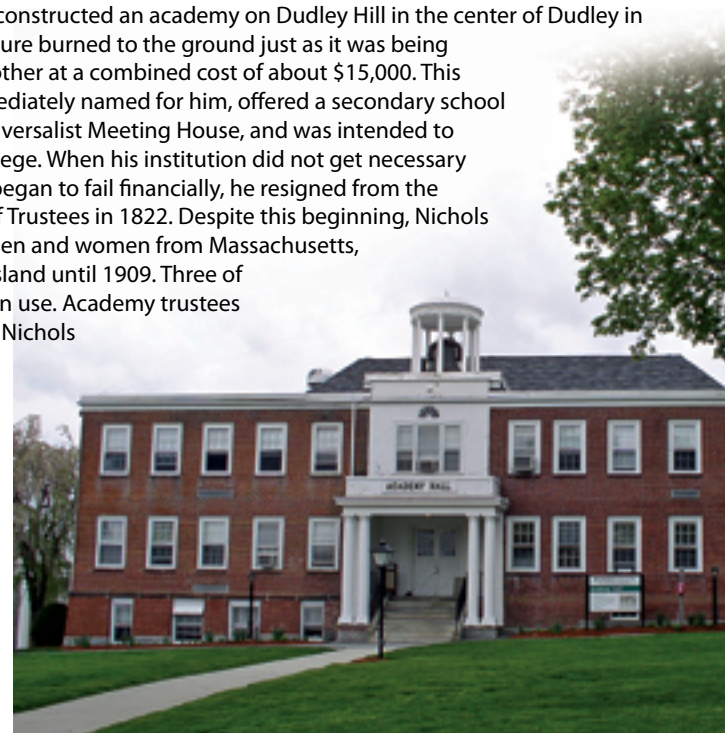


Amasa Nichols (1773-1849)

DUDLEY, MA • SITE 34: Nichols College, 127 Center Rd., via Airport Rd. off Rte. 197, Dudley, MA.

Amasa Nichols, the founder of Nichols Academy in Dudley, MA, was born in Thompson, CT, in 1773. He followed his father to Dudley, became a merchant, and was Dudley's postmaster. In 1812, he took advantage of the water power potential of the French River that ran through Dudley by starting a cotton manufactory. With the assistance of the New England Universalists, he constructed an academy on Dudley Hill in the center of Dudley in 1815 and 1816. This structure burned to the ground just as it was being completed so he built another at a combined cost of about \$15,000. This academy, which was immediately named for him, offered a secondary school education, served as a Universalist Meeting House, and was intended to become a Universalist college. When his institution did not get necessary financial support and he began to fail financially, he resigned from the Nichols Academy Board of Trustees in 1822. Despite this beginning, Nichols Academy served young men and women from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island until 1909. Three of its later buildings are still in use. Academy trustees reorganized the school as Nichols Junior College of Business Administration (now Nichols College) in 1931. But its location on Dudley Hill and its steadfast commitment to education originally had been put in place by Amasa Nichols.

- Text by Jim Conrad.



Hezekiah Conant (1827-1902)

DUDLEY, MA • SITE 35: Dudley Hill, Center Rd. off Airport Rd. from Rte. 197, Dudley, MA.

Born in Dudley, MA, and a student at Nichols Academy on Dudley Hill, Hezekiah Conant pursued a most successful career as an inventor and industrialist. He eventually established the Conant Thread Company in Rhode Island. In 1874, he returned to Nichols Academy as a member of its Board of Trustees. Over the next 20 years, he literally rebuilt the village on Dudley Hill and its academy. First, he constructed a plateau on which he placed three buildings: the Academy building, Conant Library and Observatory, and a boarding house which he named Roger Conant Hall. The architect for these small to medium sized buildings was Elbridge Boyden and Son of Worcester, MA. Next, when the First Congregational Church at the top of Dudley Hill burned in 1890, he replaced it with a majestic structure designed by Charles F. Wilcox, a Rhode Island architect. Wilcox then helped the Town of Dudley to construct yet another building, a grammar school, between the Conant Memorial Church and the Academy buildings. These five buildings now crown the top of Dudley Hill. While he was helping to rejuvenate the Academy and the village, Conant constructed a summer estate for himself to the south of the Academy overlooking the valley created by the French and Quinebaug Rivers, all of which set the stage for Nichols College. His efforts saved the Academy, rebuilt the Dudley Hill area, and established an aesthetically pleasing landscape with buildings of architectural importance. This setting has changed little.

• Text by Jim Conrad.



Henry Hale Stevens (1818-1901)

DUDLEY, MA • SITE 36: Stevens Linen, Rte. 197 near the bridge over the French River, Dudley, MA.

Henry Hale Stevens was from North Andover, MA, and grew up in a textile manufacturing family. He came to Dudley about 1846 and proceeded to construct the largest industrial facility in the community by the 1860s. Easily still visible with its two matching towers of heavy stone construction, the Stevens Linen



Works was built on the site of the Merino Woolen Mill originally constructed in 1812. Unlike his predecessors in the area, Stevens focused on linen rather than cottons or wools. Stevens' primary structure, built in the 1860s, deserves special recognition for its design, workmanship, and structural integrity. It is a singularly impressive building that reminds us of the commitment of 19th-century America to progress through manufacturing. In many respects, Stevens represented a group of American entrepreneurs who invested in the potential of mill towns. Arguably, he can be seen as the leading American pioneer in 19th-century linen manufacturing. Unfortunately, Stevens was not as good a manager as he was a designer. He lost financial control of the mill by 1870 and left the community within seven years. While the textile industry has moved on, Stevens' mill reflects the grandeur of this period and is a monument to the strivings of hard-working people who passed through its portals.

• Text by Jim Conrad.

The Tiffany Family (18th-19th centuries)

KILLINGLY, CT • SITE 37: Trinity Church at the junction of Rtes. 6 and 169 in Brooklyn, CT, near the village center,
SITE 38: Christ Church on Rte. 169 in Pomfret, CT,
SITE 72: First Congregational Church of Dudley, Airport Rd. off Rte. 197 in Dudley, MA, are known to have Tiffany stained glass windows.

Charles Lewis Tiffany, the jeweler and son of Comfort, was born in Killingly in 1812. Comfort had moved to the area several years prior as one of the investors in the Danielson Manufacturing Company (c. 1810), and he operated the mill's store, located somewhere near the mill at the corner of Maple Street in Danielson (Killingly). It is thought that Charles was probably born somewhere in that neighborhood and the premise is supported by census records that put the Tiffany family in the locale. Comfort Tiffany later built a cotton factory on the Brooklyn banks of the Quinebaug in 1827 and moved his family there. Charles attended Plainfield Academy and, while still in his teens, ran the company store for his father's mill.

Charles left home, no doubt to seek his fortune. In the fall of 1837 with a \$1,000 loan from his father, he and John P. Young opened Tiffany and Young on Broadway, in New York City, later to become Tiffany & Co, where fine jewelry and gifts were sold. Always the entrepreneur, Charles acquired an unused portion of the Atlantic cable that the Atlantic Telegraph Company had installed from Ireland to New Foundland. He cut the length into segments and sold them as mementos of the historic telegraph connection between the continents. Charles married John's sister Harriet, and their child Louis Comfort Tiffany was born in 1848 in New York.



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In his adulthood, Louis Comfort Tiffany incorporated the Tiffany Glass Company in 1886. His impact on interior design and glass making would be notable, particularly in the Nouveau and Aesthetic Art movements. Many of his products like pottery, art glass, lamps and paintings were sold in his father's Tiffany Company retail stores.

- Britannica Online Encyclopedia. "Charles Lewis Tiffany." <http://www.britannica.com/bps/topic/595434/Charles-Lewis-Tiffany> (accessed October 14, 2007).
- Connecticut's Heritage Gateway. "Charles Lewis Tiffany." http://www.ctheritage.org/encyclopedia/ct1865_1929/tiffany.htm (accessed October 14, 2007).
- Margaret Weaver

Mary Dixon Kies (1752-1837)

KILLINGLY, CT • SITE 39: Killingly Historical Center, Main St., Danielson, CT, in the old Bugbee Memorial Library building, where samples of Mrs. Kies' work may be seen.

SITE 40: Old South Killingly Cemetery off Rte. 6 eastbound is the location of her memorial.



During the early part of the 19th century, straw weaving was an important economic activity for women. Straw hats were used in the fields in the rural Last Green Valley. The Patent Act of 1790 allowed anyone, regardless of gender, to protect their invention with a patent. Mary Dixon Kies, born in Killingly in 1752 to Irish immigrant parents, was the first woman in the country to receive a patent from the U.S. Patent Office. It was particularly timely, as the U.S. Government had stopped the importation of European goods because of the Napoleonic Wars. The patent was granted on May 5, 1809, for a technique of weaving straw with silk and thread, and the document was signed by President James A. Madison. Dolly Madison was so pleased to see a woman receive a patent that she wrote a congratulatory letter to Mrs. Kies. Mary's invention became essential to making affordable work bonnets and increasing the viability of U.S. products.

Sadly, Mary did not profit from her invention and died a pauper in 1837 in New York. She was placed in a grave marked only by a common field stone. In 1965, the Killingly Grange erected a more respectful marker to the memory of this entrepreneurial woman.

- Killingly Historical Society

Charles And Augustus Storrs

MANSFIELD (STORRS), CT • SITE 41: University of Connecticut, Rte. 195, Storrs, CT.

Charles and Augustus Storrs created the University of Connecticut in 1880 when they donated a former orphanage, barns and 170 acres of land to the State of Connecticut for an agricultural school for boys.

In addition to the property, funds provided equipment and supplies. The Storrs Agricultural School was opened September 28, 1881, with just twelve students taught by three teachers. The first class matriculated in 1883 with two-year degrees. In 1916, the school became known as the Connecticut Agricultural College and offered four-year degrees.



The Connecticut General Assembly appropriated \$50,000 in 1890 for a men's dormitory and the Main Building. It was not until 1900 that the first brick structure appeared on the Mansfield hills, aptly named Agricultural Hall. The institution became Connecticut State College in 1933 and the University of Connecticut in 1939.

The Storrs Brothers could never have imagined how their generous gift would evolve. Today the main campus has reached 4,104 acres with five other regional campuses. The University of Connecticut is a Land Grant College, a Sea Grant College and part of the Space Grant Consortium. It is the top-ranked public university in New England, with annually increasing enrollment of both undergraduate and graduate students.

- University of Connecticut. "History." <http://www.uconn.edu/about/history.php>. (accessed May 14, 2007).

Gabriel Bernon (1644-1736)

OXFORD, MA • SITE 42: Plaque on Rte. 12 and Huguenot Rd., Oxford, MA.

SITE 43: Huguenot Monument and French Fort, west on Fort Hill Rd. from Huguenot Rd. off Rte. 12 east, Oxford, MA.

The Edict of Nantes was issued by Henry IV of France in 1598, granting French Protestants, known as Huguenots, legal rights in the mostly Catholic country. However, when his grandson Louis XIV revoked the Edict, the Huguenots left France for other countries, including North America. Gabriel Bernon was one such Protestant who had become a successful merchant and banker in Quebec. When the revocation occurred, he was returned to France where he was imprisoned. With the help of family members, he was released and fled to Amsterdam.

In 1688, Bernon immigrated to Massachusetts Bay Colony with his family and 40 other Huguenots whose



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passage he had underwritten. The party traveled to North Oxford on foot over the Bay Path. The land was divided among families, with expectations that Bernon would build a grist mill and saw mill.

Another group of Huguenots joined Bernon's colonists and they carved out the beginnings of a settlement. The artisans were skilled in leather preparation and one of their mills was a chamoisiere or leather washing mill.

Marauding Indians from Canada made safety an issue. The Huguenot fort was built on Mayo's Hill (now called Fort Hill, Oxford, MA) but the settlement was abandoned for fear of massacre.

Gabriel Bernon died in 1736 in Providence, RI, where he was part of a group who built St. John's Cathedral. He is interred in the basement.

• Moore, Janice R. *Oxford's Two hundred and Seventy-Fifth History Memory Book 1713-1988*. Oxford, MA: Oxford Historical Commission, 1988.

James S. Atwood (1832-1885)

PLAINFIELD, CT • SITE 44: Wauregan Mills and Village, Rte. 205, Plainfield, CT.

The history of Wauregan Mills in the town of Plainfield, CT, is very much tied to the history of the Atwood family. For more than a century, in each generation, son followed father in the management of the mills.

James S. Atwood was the son of John Atwood, a partner in the Williamsville Mill (now Rogers) in Killingly. Working under his father, James was said to have "mastered every detail of cotton manufacturing, serving in the various positions from bobbin boy to general manager."

In 1853, Amos D. Lockwood founded Wauregan Mills on the Quinebaug River in Plainfield and hired James S. Atwood as superintendent to manufacture "plain and fancy cotton cloth." Water from the river and steam were used to run the factory.

When Lockwood sold his stock and left the mill, Atwood also became agent and through the years bought stock until he had acquired the controlling interest. Wauregan Mills and the company-owned village complete with worker



housing, company store, churches and the Atwood home, became one of the model textile mill hamlets in northeastern Connecticut. The village with its H-shaped fieldstone mills is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

After the death of James S. Atwood in 1885, his twin sons James Arthur and John Walter Atwood ran the business. After the disastrous 1955 flood, James A. Atwood, III, became president of the corporation and the decision was made to cease mill operations.

• Bickford, Christopher. *Plainfield Transformed: Three Centuries of Life in a Connecticut Town 1699-1999*. Plainfield, CT: Plainfield Historical Society, 1999.

Captain George G. Benjamin (1814-n.d.)

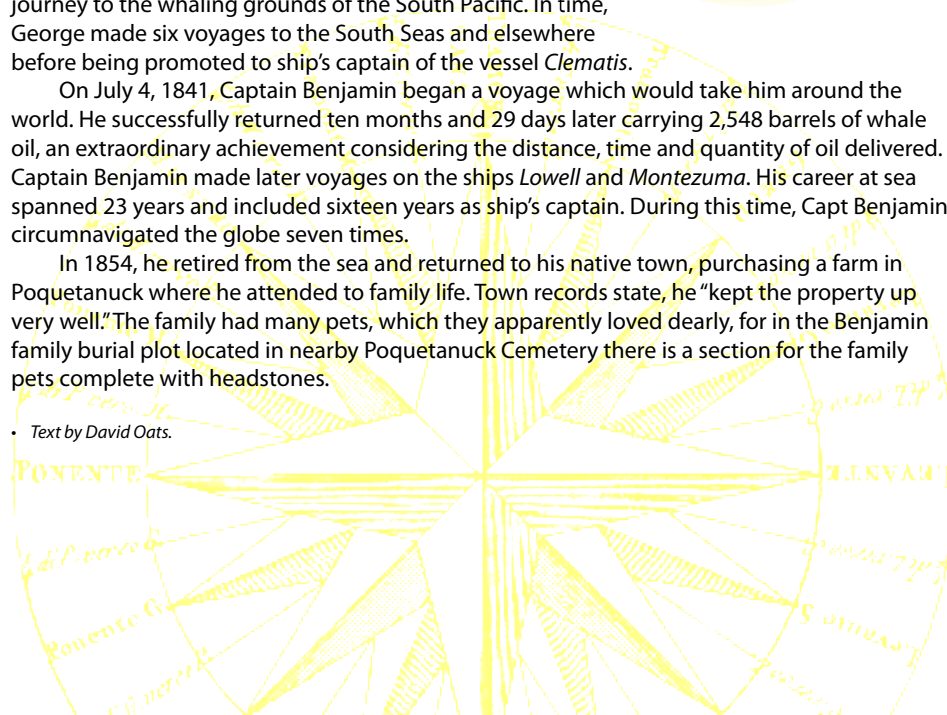
PRESTON, CT • SITE 45: Poquetanuck Cemetery, Rte. 2A, Preston, CT.

Captain George Benjamin was born in Preston, CT, in 1814. His old homestead still stands near the intersection of Route 2A and School House Rd. in the village of Poquetanuck. At age seventeen, possessing a strong desire for adventure and love of the sea, George presented himself at the well-known New London whaling firm of Williams and Barns where he was immediately hired as a seaman. He left port on the ship *Connecticut* which was beginning her ten-month journey to the whaling grounds of the South Pacific. In time, George made six voyages to the South Seas and elsewhere before being promoted to ship's captain of the vessel *Clematis*.

On July 4, 1841, Captain Benjamin began a voyage which would take him around the world. He successfully returned ten months and 29 days later carrying 2,548 barrels of whale oil, an extraordinary achievement considering the distance, time and quantity of oil delivered. Captain Benjamin made later voyages on the ships *Lowell* and *Montezuma*. His career at sea spanned 23 years and included sixteen years as ship's captain. During this time, Capt Benjamin circumnavigated the globe seven times.

In 1854, he retired from the sea and returned to his native town, purchasing a farm in Poquetanuck where he attended to family life. Town records state, he "kept the property up very well." The family had many pets, which they apparently loved dearly, for in the Benjamin family burial plot located in nearby Poquetanuck Cemetery there is a section for the family pets complete with headstones.

• Text by David Oats.



George Washington Wells (1846-1912)

SOUTHBRIDGE, MA • SITE 46: *American Optical Company buildings and campus, Rtes. 131 and 169, Southbridge, MA.*

Born in South Woodstock, CT, George W. Wells was a natural mechanical engineer. He began his career at age eighteen partnering with Robert H. Cole to purchase part ownership of an optical firm. By age 23, he was one of the incorporators of the American Optical Company whose goal was to "manufacture and sell spectacles and eyeglasses of gold, silver, steel and plated metals, also rings and thimbles, and such other articles as said company may from time to time desire to make."

George was responsible for the innovations that moved the company forward. In 40 years, he had 26 patents including a method of edging bifocal lenses and the invention of a lens cutting machine. Wells devised rimless lenses in 1874 and ophthalmic lenses in 1883. After his death, the company grew to cover seventeen and a half acres on the banks of the Quinebaug River. It became the largest optical manufacturer in the world, making industrial history repeatedly for developing new safety lens, goggles and fiber optics.

George is remembered for his inventive intelligence, great work ethic and ability to solve any problem.

- American Optical Manufacturing Company of Southbridge, Massachusetts.
http://www.antiquespectacles.com/american_optical/american_optical.htm (accessed December 14, 2007).



Amasa (n.d.) and William Sprague (1830-1915)

SPRAGUE, CT • SITE 47: *The former Baltic Mills site, on the Shetucket River, Rtes. 97 and 138, in the village of Baltic (Sprague), CT.*

Near Elderkins Bridge over the Shetucket River, a large cotton mill was built by Amasa and William Sprague in 1857. The brothers had experience in large scale development. They were from a well-known Rhode Island manufacturing family that owned the largest calico printing mill in the world. Both sons had been educated at the Irving Institute in Tarrytown, NY, until their father was murdered New Year's Eve in 1843. Amasa and William came home to Rhode Island to run the family business with their Uncle William, their cousin Colonel Byron Sprague, their widowed mother and aunt. Amasa studied chemicals and dyes while William developed expertise with machinery and products.

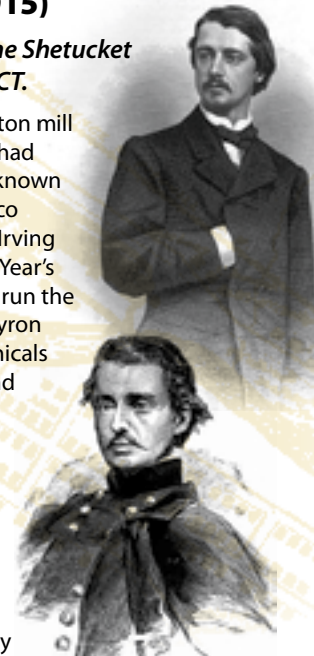
The main Sprague mill building was engineered from locally-quarried gray granite gneiss for \$1.2 million – a huge sum in the mid-nineteenth century. It was 954 feet long with six 30-foot-diameter water wheels. No mill was complete without a support village and so the Spragues also constructed a store, grist mill, boardinghouse, and more than 100 worker's houses. By 1864, there were 1,400 employees at the mill. As its official recognition of the new village, the Connecticut General Assembly incorporated the town in 1861 and Sprague, CT, was born.

The town of Sprague prospered. The Sprague family suffered some grave losses during the Depression of 1873. Over-extension related to their four banks, nine mills and other interests resulted in their property being temporarily given to a trustee to manage until their debts were paid. Three years later, an early spring flood washed out the dam removing nearly 100 feet of the west end of the mill and rendering the headrace and tailrace unusable from silt deposits.

The mill was restored to operation and the Sprague family finances improved. New construction added dams and canals. While the workers now numbered around 1,100, they were still processing 142 bales of cotton each week.

But a third disaster fell in the autumn of 1887. Fueled by cotton lint and grease, a fire erupted in the spinning areas and, according to the *Willimantic Chronicle* (October 19, 1889), "In less than an hour the fire had run the whole length of the mill, and in three hours nothing but the bare wall stood." This was cataclysmic for the mill town and workers had to move on to other communities. Sprague lost its largest tax payer and two-thirds of its revenue. The Sprague Brothers sold the property in 1892 to Ponemah Mills.

- Clouette, Bruce. *Baltic Mill, Sprague Ct.* Hartford, CT: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1998.
- Congressional Biographic Directory. "William Sprague."
<http://www.bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=S000747> (accessed May 15, 2007).



Charles J. Dow (1851-1902)

STERLING, CT • SITE 48: Historic marker on Rte. 49, Sterling, CT.

Charles J. Dow, Jr.'s, birthplace is marked by a plaque on beautiful Ekonk Hill (Sterling) with its incredible view. Charles started his career as an apprentice to become a reporter and printer; he worked for the *Windham Transcript*, later for the *Springfield Republican* in Massachusetts where he was eventually promoted to the assistant editor, and then for the *Providence Journal*. Mr. Dow had a remarkable ability to grasp the importance of economic news and translate it into meaningful articles for the readers. His career really took off after the publication of a series of articles he wrote on the silver mining boom.

By 1879, Charles had moved to New York City where he was employed as a financial reporter, and very soon thereafter, as an editor for the Kiernan News Agency on Wall Street. While working at Kiernan, he was reacquainted with a former colleague from Providence, Edward Jones. In 1882, the two men began their own financial reporting services, Dow Jones & Co., in the basement of a candy store on Wall St. Dow Jones began publishing a daily financial report that realized near instant success. In 1889, their newsletter became the *Wall Street Journal*.



In 1884, Charles Dow came up with the idea for the Dow Jones Average.

He selected eleven representative stocks traded on the market, averaged their closing prices and reported the average as an indicator of market activities. Initially, these were transportation firms. Jones realized the importance of other major industries and spent the better part of the next decade developing a list of companies on which to base the average. The Dow Jones Average was first published in the *Wall Street Journal* in 1896.

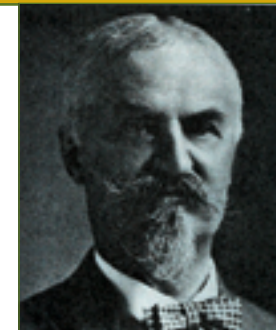
It is still there today, as well as on all news broadcasts on radio, television, and the Internet. The Dow Jones Average is no longer a true average, rather a more sophisticated weighted formula using a larger group of stocks.



- Dow Jones. "Dow Jones & Company." <http://www.dj.com/TheCompany/AboutDowJones.htm>. (accessed January 8, 2008).
- The Oxford Club Investment. "Charles Dow." <http://www.investmentu.com/IUEL/2002/20020211.html>. (accessed January 8, 2008).

William Barrows (1841-1901)

WINDHAM, CT • SITE 49: Windham History and Textile Museum, Union and Main Sts., Willimantic (Windham), CT.
SITE 50: The Oaks can still be seen off Rte. 32, Windham Avenue, and Fairview and Quercus Aves., Willimantic (Windham), CT.



The Willimantic Linen Company was once the wealthiest manufacturing company in the world. Mr. Barrows was its general manager during the 1880s, a man ahead of his time. Working conditions were very poor in those days, with long hours of back-breaking work, child labor, no benefits, and company-owned stores that controlled how meager wages were spent. William Barrows helped to change those standards for the better. For more than a decade, his innovations revolutionized the way workers were treated in the textile mills.

As an experiment, Barrows instituted a break for the children working in the mill, providing them with juice and a muffin. Their renewed energy more than paid for the cost of the snack and the time lost. The advantage was soon offered to the adults and the coffee break was born.

During Barrow's tenure, a library was built for the workers. Since many workers came from European countries, classes were offered in reading, writing and speaking English. Laborers were also encouraged to finish their education. They could learn drawing and music. The workers formed a chorus with management support.

William Barrows was also known for two exceptional building projects: the No. 4 Mill Building and the Oaks neighborhood. No. 4 was the first mill in the world to be lit with electricity. That innovation meant the mill could be built wider than previous mills, since it did not need the sunlight to reach the center of the floor. When completed in 1879, No. 4 was the biggest factory building in the world. It also was designed to be the most beautiful. The windows were glazed with colored glass, making the overall appearance more like that of a house of worship than a factory.

continued on next page



It was Barrow's philosophy that workers and managers should live side-by-side. So he built a new neighborhood called the Oaks. Instead of row houses, the workers were housed in single family homes of three alternating designs that occurred throughout the complex. Barrows built his own house in the same locale. He frugally used the leftover materials from building No. 4 to construct his "summer cottage," still a mansion by most standards. Unfortunately, it no longer stands.

• Beardsley, Thomas. *Willimantic Industry and Community*. Willimantic, CT: Windham Textile and History Museum, 1993.



Henry Chandler Bowen (1813-1896)

WOODSTOCK, CT • SITE 51: *Roseland Cottage, the Woodstock Hill Common, and the Woodstock Hill Cemetery, Rte. 169, Woodstock, CT.*

SITE 52: *Roseland Park, Roseland Park Rd. off Rte. 169, South Woodstock, CT.*

Descended from one of the first thirteen "goers" who came to settle Woodstock in 1686, Henry Chandler Bowen grew up near the Woodstock Hill Common. His father ran a store that housed the post office and Bowen learned the merchant trade first hand. He later moved to New York where he became a successful, rich and extremely influential man, whose outspoken nature made his views on temperance, Congregationalism, abolition and civic pride well known.

Henry used his wealth to enhance his home town, which was always close to his heart. He supported Woodstock Academy, the First Congregational Church, landscaped and fenced the Hill Common, and created Roseland Park. In 1846, Henry built an exuberant pink Gothic Revival summer cottage across the common from his boyhood home. It was much more than a vacation home. The Fourth of July had fallen by the wayside of public celebration and Memorial Day had begun to have greater importance after the Civil War, a practice that Bowen lamented. As publisher of the popular Christian newspaper, *The Independent*, he used his weekly forum to urge Americans to reclaim their truly American holiday and hold it dear. Roseland Cottage became the focal point of his own revival of the Fourth of July.

Beginning in 1870 and continuing until his death in 1896, Henry presented festive observances that drew enormous audiences and made Woodstock the focus of power, position and press. Presidents Grant, Hayes, Harrison and McKinley joined cabinet members, congressmen, senators, businessmen, orators, literary figures, and even the Queen of Romania as Bowen's special guests in Woodstock. The official ceremonies were held on the town common, preceded by an evening garden party on the grounds of Roseland Cottage. Newspaper accounts describe the beauty of the evening scene with flowers in full bloom, paper lanterns adorning the landscape and fireflies – a fairy-like quality. Inside, the cottage was filled with flowers and flags adorning every corner.

As the crowds outgrew the common, Henry Bowen built Roseland Park on the shores of Roseland Lake to accommodate the huge gatherings. He was already planning his next Independence Day fete when he passed away in February, 1896, and was buried in the Woodstock Hill Cemetery. However, he will always be remembered as "Mr. Fourth of July."

• Charlene Perkins Cutler

Isaac Glasko (n.d.)

GRISWOLD, CT • SITE 53:

Glasko Village, Rtes. 165 and 201, Griswold, CT.

Tool inventor Isaac Glasko, also a Native American/African American, bought property in 1806 in Griswold, CT.

His blacksmith shop was constructed near the intersection of Routes 165 and 201. Glasko's production level was enhanced by a trip hammer, a mechanical hammer that sped the manufacture of tools for agriculture and carpentry. He was known for making whaling implements like harpoons and lances, and he held several patents for whaling tools. Glasko was a highly respected craftsman and his work had an excellent reputation up and down the coast.

Isaac's daughter, Eliza Glasko, attended Prudence Crandall's academy for young ladies in Canterbury from 1833-34. Isaac's final resting place is in a quiet burying ground near the center of the village that now bears his name.

• Connecticut Freedom Trail



Samuel Slater (1768-1835)

GRISWOLD, CT, AND WEBSTER, MA • SITE 54: *The remains of the original Green Mill, at the corner of Rtes. 12 and 16, Webster, MA.*

SITE 55: *An obelisk marks Slater's grave in the Mount Zion Cemetery, off Rte. 12, Webster, MA.*

SITE 56: *The Slater Mill, 39 Wedgewood Dr. between Rtes. 12 and 138, Jewett City (Griswold), CT.*

Samuel Slater is considered the Father of American Manufacturers. He was born in England where he received a good education. Samuel was apprenticed to the cotton-spinning industrialist Jedidiah Strutt, the partner of Richard Arkwright, an innovative businessman who harnessed waterpower, designed new machinery and segregated manufacturing tasks among his work force.

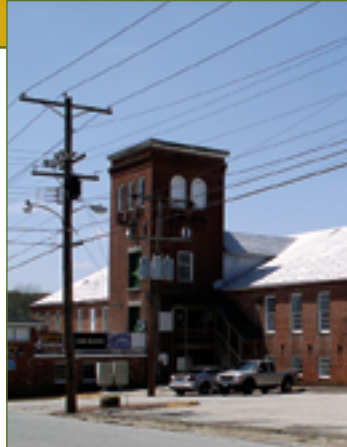
Slater was clever, well-organized and inquisitive, learning all about Arkwright's machines and systems. England had made it illegal to copy and transport industrial methods out of the country, but some states had passed legislation to encourage manufacturing and there were rewards posted for anyone who would bring the Arkwright system to America. Since no drawings or notes were possible, Slater committed to memory the process made famous in England. He has been called the first industrial spy.

Slater immigrated to the U.S. with the cotton spinning techniques firmly planted in his head. In 1790, he settled in Pawtucket, RI, and went into business with William Almy and Smith Brown. The mill they eventually built had different departments, types of machines and processes. The first cotton yarns produced were of very high quality.

Slater's factory system came to include worker housing and company-owned stores, schools and churches. He hired children and their parents, encouraging them to attend school on Sundays to improve their education. He controlled every element of life, essentially creating a whole new community centered around the mill. It became known as the Rhode Island System. In *Memoir of Samuel Slater*, written in 1836 by George S. White, the author recalled a comment by Slater on the effectiveness of his system, "Yes Sir. I suppose that I gave out the psalm and they have been singing to the tune ever since."

By 1812, Samuel Slater turned his attention to Oxford (now Webster), MA, transferring cotton manufacturing to the new mills he built there. Three years later he added a woolen mill and also invested in iron manufacturing. At one time, Slater owned 90% of the present town of Webster and is considered the founder of that community. In 1824, he and his brother also had a successful cotton manufacturing company in Jewett City (Griswold), CT.

- Public Broadcasting Service. "Who Made America? Samuel Slater." http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/theymadeamerica/whomade/slater_hi.html (accessed February 4, 2008).
- Virtual American Biographies. "Samuel Slater." <http://www.famousamericans.net/samuelslater/> (accessed February 4, 2008).



The Wells Brothers (20th century)

STURBRIDGE, MA • SITE 57: *Old Sturbridge Village, off Rte. 20, Sturbridge, MA.*

The sons of George Washington Wells, founder of the American Optical Company, inherited his work ethic and were all very successful executives with the manufacturing firm. However, it was their fascination with the everyday objects from New England's past that created their greatest legacy.

Albert B. Wells started collecting first, gathering handmade artifacts that appealed to his interest in manufacturing. He liked country things with innovative design or style. Joel Cheney Wells collected clocks. Channing Wells enjoyed fine furniture. Their collections became enormous, quickly outgrowing their homes, despite additions.

In 1935, they started the Wells History Museum, a non-profit and educational venture. They plotted a suitable home for the collections, at first envisioned to be early structures around a common space. It evolved into the idea of a real living village with different structures to display collections. Within a week they had bought the Wright Farm in Sturbridge with 153 acres of land. The Wells History Museum became the Quinebaug Village Corporation. The 1938 hurricane destroyed much of the first two years of work but by 1941 several major elements were in place: the Fitch House, the Miner Grant Store, the Richardson House, and the Grist Mill. Old Sturbridge Village officially opened on June 8, 1946, welcoming 5,170 visitors in its first year. The project was passed along to the next generation and the Wells family continues to be involved into the 21st century.

Today, Old Sturbridge Village is a greatly expanded venue educating hundreds of thousands of visitors on its 200 acres with 40 historic structures.

- Old Sturbridge Village. "Early History of Old Sturbridge Village." <http://www.osv.org/museum/history/html> (accessed December 14, 2007).



ARTISTS

John Gregory Wiggins (1890-1956)

POMFRET, CT • SITE 85: Pomfret Public Library, Rte. 44/169, Pomfret, CT, has carvings on display in the Children's Room.

Wiggins was born in Chattanooga, TN, a little-remembered fact since both he and his work as a wood carver are associated with New England. As a child, he and his brother Charles constructed forts and other accessories for their collection of toy soldiers. In an article in the *Alumni Horae*, his colleague J. Randolph Burke remarked, "Greg Wiggins contrived to accomplish what many people attempt unsuccessfully. He turned a hobby into a career." By the age of 30, that career was well established despite his service in World War I.

Wiggins' work was noted for its extensive preplanning, its accuracy and its precise detail. He carved oriental figures, Native People, book characters, chess sets, memorials, archaeological models, figures for dioramas, sea chests and figureheads. Despite his vernacular figures, the majority of his notable carvings were for religious institutions. The Chapel of Trinity College in Hartford includes an enormous quantity of carving that was both designed and crafted by Wiggins.

Perhaps the moment of most acclaim in his career was an exhibit of his work at the Boston Athenaeum in the winter of 1951, five years before his death. It included more than 60 pieces and featured watercolors as well as carvings.

Greg wrote the following in a publication for his Harvard class of 1912: "I am pretty sure that I am the only professional woodcarver in our class. From a pecuniary view point I advise you all to leave me alone in my glory."

- *Alumni Horae*, Spring 1957.
- <http://archives.sps.edu/common/text.asp?img=5187&Keyword=&Headline=&Author=S&S> (accessed April 15, 2013).
- Artprice. <http://artprice.com/artist/211154/john-gregory-wiggins/biography> (accessed June 3, 2014).
- Ohstrom Library Digital archives, St. Paul's School <http://www.ohstromblog.com/spsarshives/the-form-plaques-of-john-gregory-wiggins> (accessed April 15, 2013).
- Smithsonian Institute. http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?print=yes&q=record_ID:siris_sil_120400 (accessed June 5, 2014).



James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903)

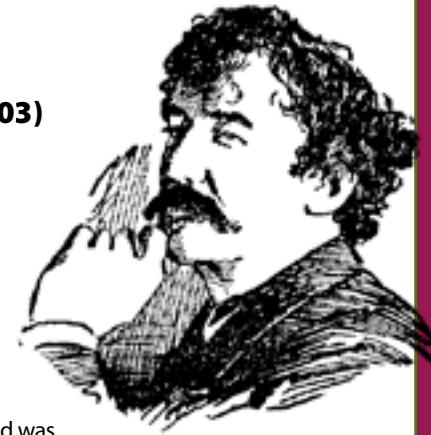
POMFRET, CT

Despite his wide-ranging abilities, James A.M. Whistler is famous for a work known as "Whistler's Mother," an iconic painting. Whistler was born in Lowell, MA. As a child he was described as moody, rude and lazy with frequent sickness and measurable charm. He was acknowledged as having considerable talent in art at an early age. His father was an engineer who moved the family to Russia for a job with the railroad when James was nine. The boy studied at the Imperial Academy of Arts, excelled in classical art training, and was encouraged by painters of the day. He also studied in London.

When Whistler was 15 his father died from cholera and the family moved to his mother's hometown of Pomfret, CT. James was wrenched from the exciting, creative world he had known. His family lived frugally and there was no encouragement of his art. His mother was hoping he would become a minister but James did not show interest in that field and subsequently enrolled in West Point. His inherent resistance to authority coupled with his outspokenness made for an unsuccessful experience with the exception of learning cartography. After his expulsion, James worked as a draftsman mapping the entire United States coastline. When his supervisors found him drawing mermaids and serpents in the margins of his work, they moved him into the etching department, another skill that would become important to his future work.

Whistler returned to Europe, this time settling in Paris where he discovered the artistic principles that would define his work: line was more important than color; and black was the fundamental color of harmony. As his artistic prowess grew, his personal life failed proportionately. Whistler spent a lot, sold very little, was in constant debt, poor health and drank and smoked excessively. His mother, Anna Matilda McNeill Whistler, the Pomfret native, came to live with her son when he moved to London in the early 1870s. She kept house for him, rousing him from his reprobate behavior and stabilizing his home life. Her portrait was an accident – James' usual model did not show up one day and he asked his mother to pose. The resulting painting has become a symbol of motherhood and is one of the most reproduced and recognizable pieces of art in the world.

- Art History. "James Abbott McNeill Whistler." <http://arthistory.about.com/cs/namesww/p/whistler.htm>. (accessed January 24, 2013).
- Ibiblio. "James McNeill Whistler." <http://ibiblio.org/wm/painter/auth/whistler> (accessed January 24, 2014).
- Metropolitan Museum of Art. http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/whis/hd_whis.htm (accessed January 24, 2013).



Benoni Irwin (1840-1896)

COVENTRY, CT • SITES 86: *Nathan Hale Cemetery and Coventry Lake, Coventry, CT.*

Benoni Irwin was a famous portrait painter during the Gilded Age. He came from a humble beginning, born to a Scottish immigrant family in New Market, Canada. While his parents wanted him to go McGill University and work toward an engineering career, Benoni chose a different path. He moved to Toronto and practiced his art skills by copying works from the museum collection at the Toronto Normal School. He was very talented and at an early age produced a pastel of wrestlers that was shown during the 1866 annual exhibition, an exceptional honor for a student.



Irwin went on to study in New York City at the National Academy. He also received training in Italy, France and Germany. While in Paris Benoni worked alongside the famous portrait painter, Emile Auguste Carolus-Duran, honing his skill and exhibiting his work at the Universelle in 1889.

Irwin returned to the United States during the height of the Golden Age when industrialists and the rich and famous were keen to have their portraits done by an artist of his caliber. He worked in Chicago, Baltimore, Louisville, and San Francisco. He was commissioned to paint the portraits of many important people, including Frederic Remington and John Henry Clifford, the governor of Massachusetts. He was a close friend of John Muir, naturalist, author and great advocate for the preservation of wilderness. They both shared Scottish ancestry.

Benoni married Adelaide Velligo Curtis in 1873 and they had two daughters. He owned a summer house in Coventry, CT, for more than 30 years, coming to the town that was the home of Adelaide's father and aunt. In 1896, Benoni was in a small, round-bottomed boat on Lake Waumgumbaug (Coventry Lake) trying to finagle a clumsy camera with a large tripod so he could take a photograph of the sunset. He and the equipment went into the water which was only eight feet deep. Benoni was an excellent swimmer and the accident occurred a mere 20 yards from shore but he nevertheless drowned. An autopsy showed that he had hit his head on the boat during the fall. He, his wife and their oldest daughter are buried in the Nathan Hale Cemetery in Coventry.

- California Digital Newspaper Collection. "Obituary, Benoni Irwin." <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SFC18960829.2.128> (accessed January 16, 2014).
- Find A Grave. "Benoni Irwin." <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=85803330>. (accessed January 16, 2014).
- National Academy Museum. <http://www.nationalacademy.org/collections/artists/detail/806/> (accessed January 16, 2014).

Sarah Perkins (1771-1831)

PLAINFIELD, CT • SITE 58: *Sarah and Lemuel's house is now a restaurant located on Rte. 44 in Pomfret, CT.*

Sarah was the daughter of Dr. Elisha Perkins. She was an amateur portrait painter of considerable ability who took the likenesses of a number of family members, acquaintances, boarders (including Plainfield Academy students and faculty) and patients staying in the Perkins home in the years between 1790 and 1799. Portraiture was comparatively rare in colonial Connecticut. There were few artists plying their craft and few consumers with the necessary means and vanity.



Sarah's portraits are unsigned, but a pastel of Dr. Nathan Perkins of West Hartford has a notation on the back stating that it was the work of "Miss Sarah Perkins at 19 years of age, while on a visit in the family." This and other portraits attributed to Sarah Perkins were brought together for the first time in 1959 in an exhibition organized by William L. Warren, an authority on the decorative arts. The accompanying catalog listed nineteen pastels, most of the Perkins family. Two authorities on 18th-century painting have also made the claim, mainly on the grounds of stylistic similarities with the pastels, that she executed a series of unsigned oil portraits generally known from the name of the subjects as the work of the Beardsley Limner.

Sarah married Lemuel Grosvenor, a widower and leading citizen of Pomfret in 1801.

- Bickford, Christopher. *Plainfield Transformed: Three Centuries of Life in a Connecticut Town 1699-1999*. Plainfield, CT: Plainfield Historical Society, 1999.

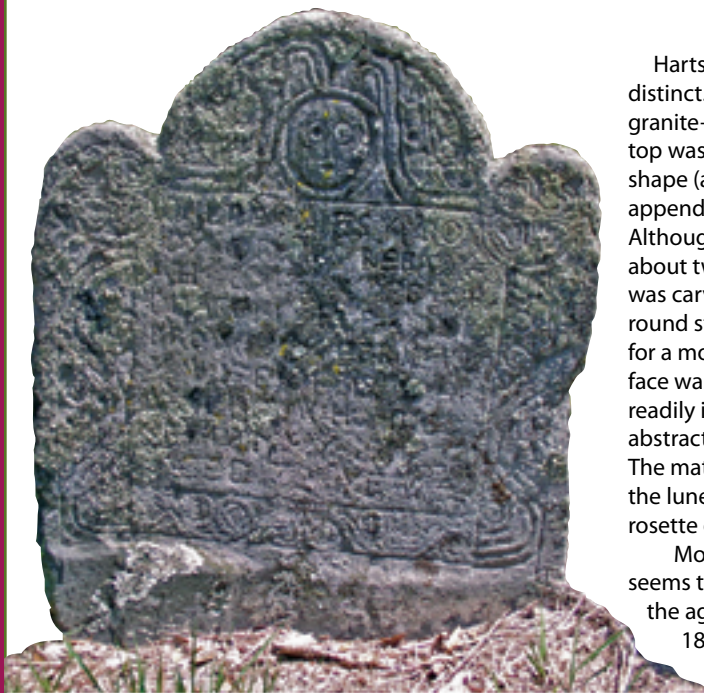
John Hartshorne (n.d.– c.1737)

FRANKLIN, CT • SITES: *Burying grounds in Canterbury, Coventry, Franklin, Hampton, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Norwich, Plainfield, Scotland and Windham, CT.*

The first stone carver to use artistic designs in eastern Connecticut was John Hartshorne, who moved to Franklin in 1722, at the age of 70, from Essex County, MA. He moved to Connecticut to be with his married daughter and family.

About half of the towns in The Last Green Valley have Hartshorne stones in their early burying grounds, a total of 121. Hartshorne is credited with establishing the Eastern Connecticut Ornamental Style, a stone carving tradition that influenced the craftsmen who would follow him through the rest of the century.

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Hartshorne's work was very distinct. The stone was usually granite-schist, gray in color. The top was formed into a semi-circle shape (a "lunette") with small round appendages not unlike ear lobes. Although the stones were only about two feet in height, the lunette was carved with faces including round staring eyes, nose and a dash for a mouth. The area around the face was filled by one of two readily identifiable patterns: an abstract bird or a coiffure-like motif. The matching lobes on each side of the lunette were usually filled with a rosette or four-heart motif.

Most of Hartshorne's work seems to have been done between the ages of 70 and 85. He carved 185 stones in 15 years, an average of 12.3 stones per year.

Despite John Hartshorne's work to memorialize others, neither probate records nor his grave have been found. He is believed to have died in 1737, the date of his last stone, because someone else carved the gravestone of his brother who died in 1738.

• Slater, James. *The Colonial Graveyards of Eastern Connecticut. Hamden, Connecticut: Academy of Arts & Sciences, 1987.*

John Trumbull (1756-1843)

LEBANON, CT • SITE 62: *Governor Jonathan Trumbull House* and SITE 63: *The First Congregational Church, on the Green, junctions of Rtes. 87 and 207, Lebanon, CT.*

Born the youngest of the six children of Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., John Trumbull painted spectacularly detailed images of the Revolutionary War. He bore witness to some of the most important events in U. S. history. Nearly every American history textbook has contained a photo of one of his remarkable paintings. Four of John Trumbull's paintings hang in the Rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, D.C., including the famous *Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776*. That one painting illustrates accurate likenesses of 48 congressmen, including his brother-in-law from Lebanon, William



Williams. As he painted the momentous first event toward independence, Trumbull also painted the final chapter, *The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, 19 October 1781*.

In a letter to his father in March, 1785, John wrote "the great object of my wishes . . . is to take up the History of Our Country and paint the principal Events particularly of the late War."

John Trumbull's talent extended to architecture, as well. He designed the brick meetinghouse that serves the First Congregational Church of Lebanon, built between 1804-1807. It is his only extant building design and features a raised pulpit lit by a Palladian window and accessed by a curved stair on either side.

Trumbull's enormous talent was all the more remarkable considering he was blind in one eye from a boyhood accident.

- The American Revolution. "John Trumbull." <http://www.americanrevwar.homestead.com/files/TRUMBULL.HTM> (accessed March 13, 2008).
- Wayland, Alicia. *Around the Lebanon Green*. Lebanon, CT: Town of Lebanon, 1999.





John Denison Crocker (1822-1907)

NORWICH, CT • SITE 64: Slater Memorial Museum, 108 Crescent St., Norwich, CT.

Born in nearby Salem, CT, Crocker spent most of his life in Norwich. At the age of nine he was working for a wagon maker, at twelve apprenticed to a silversmith. He left that trade to work at the shop of a furniture maker and restorer. It was there where he was first exposed to portrait painting. A portrait brought to the furniture shop for varnishing apparently captivated him and upon seeing it at the age of seventeen he determined to become a portrait painter. From members of his family to founders and leaders of the Norwich Free Academy, Crocker recorded the residents of Norwich in a professional studio in the city.

Several sources allude to Crocker's having sought advice, perhaps lessons or critique, from Charles Lanman of Norwich. A respected artist belonging to a prominent family, Lanman wrote for many publications, including British journals, about the wilds of the new world. Perhaps it was this influence which eventually led Crocker to document the rivers, harbors, trees, agricultural land and livestock of his home.

By the age of 25, Crocker had moved temporarily to New York City and was no doubt exposed to the growing movement of the Hudson River School. As was the practice of the male painters of the era, it is likely that he spent time in a Catskill cabin with other artists. Immersed in the wilderness, they became familiar with the visual language of the flora, fauna, landscape and Native People of the region, developing a style that became ubiquitous from the Northeast to Ohio and from the 18th into the early 20th century.

His skills and vision as a painter notwithstanding, John Dennison Crocker propelled himself into the spheres of patent medicine and mechanical equipment. He created a cure-all called "Crocker's Magical Stomach Powders." Crocker's knowledge of herbs and plant extracts must have made it possible for him to produce and distribute several well-received varnishes and coatings, including a boot polish and water-proofing agent. Riding the swelling wave of the industrial revolution, and reflecting his primary occupation, Crocker, together with Junius A. Brand, applied and received a patent for his canvas stretcher system.

From medicinal cure-alls to boot water-proofing, Mr. Crocker clearly invested energy, skill and intelligence in improving daily life. His powers of observation in portraiture and landscape paintings, as well as in researching materials and techniques for developing "modern" goods, make him a clear product of the industrial revolution.

• Text by Vivian Zoe.



Ann Hall (1792-1863)

POMFRET, CT

In 1833, Ann Hall was the first woman to be honored by the National Academy of Design in New York and accepted as a member. She was born in Pomfret in 1792 to an educated and cultured family. Her father was a doctor and encouraged her artistic endeavors. Ann learned the technique of painting miniatures from Samuel King in Newport, RI; Gilbert Stuart was another of his students. Miss Hall went on to study oil painting with Alexander Robertson, one of the earliest art teachers in the country. Her brother-in-law influenced her style in favor of the old masters when he asked her to copy European paintings for him.

The American Academy of Fine Arts hosted the first exhibit of her miniatures in 1817. She became a full member in 1833 but because she was a woman she did not attend its meetings unless absolutely necessary for a vote. She continued to exhibit characteristically delicate miniature portraits of children and women, floral still lifes, and other paintings in watercolor, gouache and oil until 1858. Her work was also seen at the Boston Athenaeum.

Ann never married but lived with her sister and her family. She died in New York in 1863.

• Ask Art. "Biography for Ann Hall" <http://www.askart.com/AskART/artists/biography.asp?artist=800900> (accessed February 1, 2008).



Winthrop Chandler (1747-1790)

WOODSTOCK, CT • SITE 69: East Woodstock Cemetery, Woodstock Rd. off Rte. 169, Woodstock, CT.

One of ten children born to William and Jemima Bradbury Chandler, Winthrop was a gifted painter. He worked as a gilder, carver, illustrator and an ornamental painter of over mantles, fireboards and house paintings from the 1760s until his death in 1790. One of his over mantle decorations is considered the earliest trompe l'oeil ("to fool the eye") by an American artist. Another mural depicts a 17th-century house in Woodstock, the only proof of the style of the earliest structures in the town, showing half timber construction. He is best known for having executed more than 50 portraits of family and neighbors in the environs of Woodstock.

Chandler's style was flat and linear but his depictions were realistic. He was clearly a gifted painter of the folk genre.

Later in life, Winthrop Chandler fell on hard times, selling off his property in bits to family and friends. He and his wife became very sick; their children were fostered to other family members, Mary went back to Dudley to be cared for by her family and Winthrop made a sad end shortly after, probably in the care of his brother Theophilus.

"One of Woodstock's richest historical legacies is the work of Winthrop Chandler... (he) painted portraits and decorative landscapes for relatives and friends, creating an invaluable record of many of the men, women and children who lived in the area during the Revolution (WTC)."

• Woodstock Tercentenary Committee. *Heritage and Horizons: Woodstock Remembers 300 Years*. Woodstock, CT: Woodstock Tercentenary Committee, 1986.
• Art Encyclopedia. "Winthrop Chandler" <http://www.answers.com/topic/winthrop-chandler-1>. (accessed December 17, 2007).



WRITERS & HISTORIANS

Martha Wadsworth Brewster (1710-c.1757)

LEBANON, CT

Martha Wadsworth Brewster was a singular spirit. She was the first woman born in the colonies to have work published under her own name, a notable accomplishment in the 18th century. Nothing is known of her childhood or how she received her education. Her biography is sparse.

She married Oliver Brewster from Duxbury, MA, in 1732. Given that Lebanon and Duxbury were at quite a distance to one another, particular given 18th-century travel, one wonders how they met. Again there is no answer to the question. The couple lived in Lebanon and had two children, Ruby, the elder, and Wadsworth, the younger. Her husband moved to Bernardston, MA, prior to 1767 and Martha's name is not recorded in any of that town's records. Historians estimate her death around 1757.

Martha placed a high value on education and intellect. She was both a writer and a poet. The 21 poems created by her vary greatly in subject, including verses about love, dreams, meditation, and tributes to friends. She also wrote commemorations of historic events like the capture of French-held Cape Breton by the British.

For an 18th-century woman, Martha expressed surprisingly radical views. She wrote about the evils of war and how it affected the health of society. Much of her work was published as broadsides. Numbered among her writing that have survived are words crafted by a loving parent for each of her children. She urged her daughter, Ruby, "you must go on by Reading and Study to improve the Powers which God has given you." She wrote acrostics for both of her children. The first stanza from Wadsworth's offered motherly advice:

*While amorous, Gay, and Sanguine swells thy Veins,
An Off'ring of first Fruits, Jehovah Claims.
Due Odours of a sweet Perfume Present,
Steep'd in the blood of the new Covenant;
What vulgar Notes Appalud, must be Suspected;
Obeidence to the Standard ne'er Neglected;
Retire within the Mind, and shut the Door,
To all disord'ed Passions, Rude and Sow'r,
Here summons, and exert each Manly Pow'r.*

*What vulgar
Notes Appalud,
must be Suspected;
Obeidence to the
Standard ne'er
Neglected;*

- Donna Baron, Lebanon Historical Society, June 6, 2014 email.
- Encyclopedia.com. "Martha Wadsworth Brewster." <http://www.encyclopedia.com/article-1G2-3400300143/brewster-martha-wadsworth.html>. (accessed May 28, 2014).
- National Humanities Center. "Martha Wadsworth Brewster." <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/ideas/text4/brewsterpoems/pdf> (accessed May 28, 2014).
- Poetry Soup http://www.poetrysoup.com/famous/poems/best/martha_wadsworth_brewster (accessed May 28, 2014).

Margaret Wise Brown (1910-1952)

CANTERBURY, WOODSTOCK, CT

Born May 23, 1910 in the Greenpoint neighborhood of Brooklyn, NY, Margaret Wise Brown became an extremely successful writer of children's books. Her parents had a troubled marriage and moved to Canterbury, CT, in the early 1920s. While they were living there, Margaret attended boarding school in Woodstock, beginning in 1923. She went to college, graduating with a degree in English from Hollins College in Roanoke, VA. She worked at the Bank Street Experimental School in New York where she acquired the nickname, "Brownie." During that period of time, she wrote her first book, *When the Wind Blew*, published in 1937 by Harper & Brothers.

From 1944-46, she published work under the pseudonym of Golden MacDonald; three of her books were published thus by Doubleday. She collaborated with award-winning illustrators like Leonard Weisgard and Garth Williams. Margaret's work was also published as part of the Little Golden Books series and included such titles as *The Color Kittens* and *Scuppers the Sailor Dog*. She lived very well off the proceeds of her children's books. As for her audience, Margaret remarked, "In this modern world where activity is stressed almost to a point of mania, quietness as a childhood need is too often overlooked." Her books were written to provide those quiet moments.

Margaret had a spontaneous and whimsical personality contrasted with an inner turmoil that manifested itself in an unsettled life. She had notorious affairs with men and women and seemed to live her life with a child-like lack of responsibility and reason. She spent her first royalty check on flowers - an entire cart full. She loved her house in Maine where she constructed an outdoor bedroom that included a nightstand and mirror nailed to a tree.

Of her writing, Margaret insisted that her books were her dreams written down. She felt that little ones had a "painful shy animal dignity with which a child stretches to conform to a strange, adult social politeness."

In 1952, Margaret was recovering from appendicitis in a hospital in France when she developed an embolism that killed her. Despite her death, Margaret's books have been reissued and are still sold today. Nearly every parent can recall reading *Good Night Moon*. After her death, more than 70 unpublished manuscripts were found, promising many more wonderful stories to come.



- Margaret Wise Brown. "Biography and Books By." <http://www.amazon.com/Margaret-Wise-Brown/e/B000AQ1N1M> (accessed February 17, 2014).
- Margaret Wise Brown, Children's Author. http://www.margaretwisebrown.com/long_bio.htm (accessed February 17, 2014).
- Roiphe. "Do Childish People Write Better Children's Books?" http://slate.com/articles/arts/roiphe/2011/03/the_restless_life_of_margaret_wise_brown (accessed February 17, 2014).

Dr. Harry Ardell Allard (1880-1963)

OXFORD, MA

Born in Oxford, MA, in 1880, Dr. Harry Allard was one of those special naturalists – both a scientist and an artist. He arrived at that calling after quite an adventure. After he graduated from high school he ran away to take work on a steamer carrying cattle to England. It was his intention to go from there to South Africa and fight with the Boers against the British. However, Britain had instituted travel restrictions and poor Harry found himself marooned. He ended up returning home and enrolling in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Harry worked in the large cotton mills in Oxford during school breaks to pay for his tuition. He received a degree in botany in 1905.

Allard joined the United States Department of Agriculture in the Office of Tobacco Investigations and continued to work for USDA for 40 years. He was the first scientist to explore the effect aphids had on the plant. During work with Dr. W. Garner on seed production issues for Maryland Mammoth Tobacco, they discovered photoperiodism. Photoperiodism is the ability of a flowering plant to determine the time to bloom and how much seed to produce in a season based on the level of daily sunlight. Allard continued to study this aspect of plant life over the next two decades.

Dr. Allard was an important scientist and writer, amassing a huge volume of documentation. It is estimated that he wrote and published 254 papers, 55 of which were based on the flora of Virginia and West Virginia. He was a dedicated field researcher. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation at the Carnegie Mellon University contains a collection of his work, including 364 very precise ink drawings. The University of North Carolina Library has a collection of 21 boxes of biographical materials that Dr. Allard donated. Within the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian, the Botany Department contains books of his field notes both typed and handwritten.

Harry collected specimens on weekly foraging expeditions, sometimes taking along companions to remote areas in the Blue Ridge, Alleghenies and Bull Run. According to Ashley B. Gurney, who wrote a biography of Allard, one of his more stalwart trail companions noted that “He made it a point to avoid the locations of stills, to carry cigars for men with whom he had become acquainted, and to keep an eye open for awkward meetings on the trails.”

Although a botanist, Allard was also a pioneer researcher in the field of entomology, specifically the stridulation of insects. Stridulation is the process an insect uses to create a sound by rubbing body parts together. His work in this field was so admired that colleagues named a new species of cricket found in the West Indies after Harry, *Oecanthus allardi*.

- Field Book Project. “Why the Flowers Bloom.” <http://nmnh.typepad.com/fieldbooks/2011/04/why-the-flowers-bloom.html> (accessed August 19, 2013).
- Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. “Harry Ardell Allard Collection.” <http://huntbot.sndrew.csmu.edu/HIBD/Departments/Art/Allard.shtml> (accessed August 19, 2013).
- Oxford’s 275th History Memory Book. Oxford, MA, Oxford Historical Commission, 1988.
- Plant Physiology. “Obituary – Harry A. Allard.” <http://www.plantphysiology.org/content/38/3/361/b.full.pdf> (accessed August 19, 2013).



George Dennison Prentice (1802-1870)

PRESTON, CT

A native son of Preston, CT, George Dennison Prentice was a clever student. He was born into a farming family in 1802. He did well in school and, according to William Turner Coggeshall (librarian and historian of the 1850s), was the principal of the local school at age 15. George graduated from Brown University in 1823. There was a certain zeal to his interests and within a short time after his commencement, he was contributing to literary publications while simultaneously continuing his education by studying law in Canterbury. Prentice’s interest in literature won out over practicing law, despite the fact that he passed the bar and had a brief practice. At the age of 26, he was the editor of *Hartford New England Review* but he left the post in 1830 to migrate south.

Prentice took up residence in Kentucky. He may have chosen that state because he was writing a biography of Henry Clay. Others speculate that he was asked to go to Kentucky because of his strong political writing. Regardless, he took on the editorship and co-founding of the *Louisville Journal*. The *Journal* was the rival paper to the *Louisville Public Advertiser* and Prentice made it his mission to take on its publisher and his rival, Shadrack Penn, with gusto. The professional conflict proved too much for Penn who left Louisville in 1841.

During Prentice’s tenure the *Journal* became one of the best known Whig newspapers in the country. The paper gained notoriety for George’s seething editorials and the scathing but witty responses he made to rebut comments from the readers. George backed the Whigs, editorialized anti-Catholic, pro-slavery, and anti-foreigners, and generally contributed to the near hysteria that was gripping the nation in the 1850s. He also supported the Know Nothing Party. His editorials referred to the “most pestilent influence of the foreign swarms” and helped to incite the Bloody Monday Riot of 1855, when 22 people were killed as Louisville mobs tried to prevent both Irish and German citizens from voting in the election. While Prentice supported the Union in the Civil War, he disagreed with many Union policies. After the war he also vocally opposed many of the policies of Reconstruction. As an editor and politician, Prentice retains a reputation that is distinctly notorious.

However, as a writer George enjoys some notable repute. The introduction of Prentice’s *Biography of Henry Clay*, published in Hartford in 1831, expounds his somewhat limited goal for the book: “During the last twenty years, scarce a single great and salutary measure has been adopted, upon which the signet of his wisdom is not set, and therefore we may well leave to the Nation’s future historians the task of furnishing a minute record of his intellectual achievements. Our task will be of a less ambitious character.” The book sold 20,000 copies. In 1860, Prentice also published a collection of his humorous writings called *Prenticeana or Wit and Humor in Paragraphs*, published by Derby & Jackson in New York. It was very popular. George was a prolific and talented poet, publishing the very popular *Poems of George D. Prentice* that went through 5 editions, the last published in 1876.

Prentice remained the driving force at the *Journal* until his death on January 22, 1870, from flu.

- All Poetry. “George Dennison Prentice.” http://allpoetry.com/George_D_Prentice (accessed September 23, 2013).
- Internet Archive. “The Poems of George D. Prentice.” <http://archive.org/details/poemsofgeorgedpr00inpre> (accessed September 23, 2013).
- Online Biographies. “George Dennison Prentice.” <http://www.onlinebiographies.info/cele/prentice-gd.htm> (accessed September 23, 2013).



Edwin Way Teale (1899-1980)

HAMPTON, CT • SITE 59: *Trailwood, 93 Kenyon Rd., off Rte. 97, Hampton, CT*

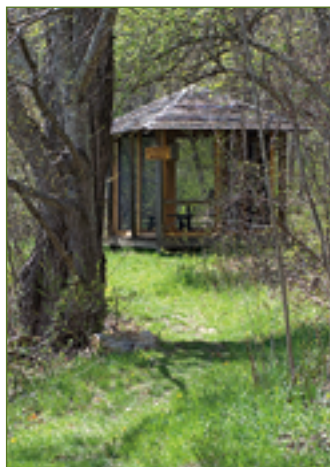
Teale fell in love with the natural world as a child during time spent with his beloved grandparents on their farm, "Lone Oak," in Indiana. He chronicled these happy days in his book, *Dune Boy, The Early Years of a Naturalist*, written in 1943. As a child he was fascinated by dragonflies, reptiles and farm animals. He collected specimens and arranged them in his own natural history museum in the corner of the wagon shed.

In *Dune Boy* he recorded his observations and inspirations. "For a great tree death comes as a gradual transformation. Its vitality ebbs slowly. Even when life has abandoned it entirely it remains a majestic thing. On some hilltop a dead tree may dominate the landscape for miles around. Alone among living things it retains its character and dignity after death."

Teale attended Earlham College and Columbia University, and took a job as a writer with *Popular Science*. Edwin and his wife, Nellie, traveled extensively throughout the U.S. He wrote more than 25 books about his experiences in the natural world between 1930 and 1980. *Wandering Through Winter* was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction in 1966 and *Near Horizons* was honored with the 1943 John Burroughs Medal for distinguished natural history writing.

Edwin and Nellie bought a farm in Hampton, CT, in 1959 and named it Trailwood. Teale had a writing cabin built on the far side of the pond from the farm house. They lived there for the remainder of their lives surrounded by the harmony of the natural world they so loved. The property passed to the Connecticut Audubon Society who maintains the 156 acres as a wildlife sanctuary and museum.

- Nature Writing. "Edwin Way Teale." <http://www.naturewriting.com/edwinway.htm> (accessed December 14, 2007).
- Teale, Edwin Way. *Dune Boy: The Early Years of a Naturalist*. Storrs, CT: UConn Co-op, reissue 2002.



Louise Chandler Moulton (1835-1908)

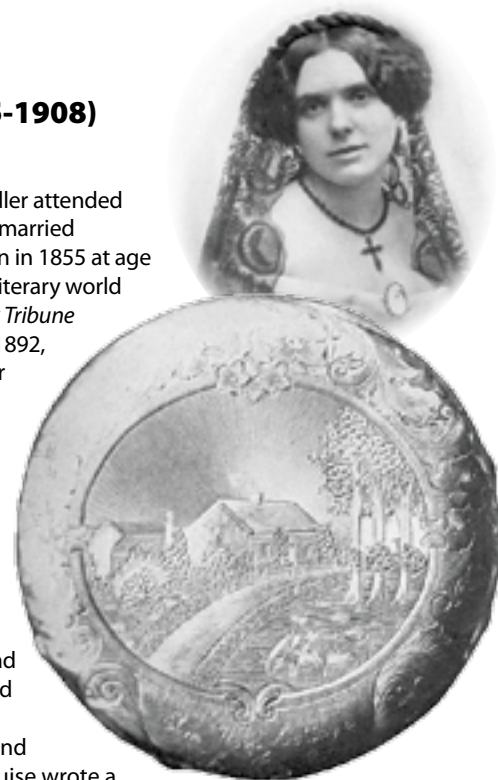
POMFRET, CT

Born in Pomfret, CT, in 1835, Louise Chandler attended the Emma Willard's Troy Female Seminary. She married prominent Boston publisher William U. Moulton in 1855 at age 20. The match launched her headfirst into the literary world of the day. She wrote critiques for the *New York Tribune* for nearly six years. Each Sunday from 1870 to 1892, a literary letter penned by Louise would appear in the *Boston Herald*. Louise was considered an exceptional literary critic. She and her husband traveled to London in the summers and visited European cities, as well. They hosted parties and salons for literary figures of the day. Her Friday night salons welcomed great writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Louise was considered a very influential person in the field and over her life she corresponded and had friendships with the most important writers and poets of the age.

Her own work was impressive. Her husband published Louise's first work, *The True Flag*. Louise wrote a volume that contained both prose and verse in 1854, entitled *This, That and the Other*. The next year she published a story, *Juno Clifford*, and another volume, *My Third Book*. For nearly 15 years, she did not publish new work but in 1883 she began a series: *Bedtimes Stories*, *Firelight Stories*, and *Stories Told at Twilight*. Louise completed another volume of verse in 1889 entitled *In the Garden of Dreams* which enjoyed great acclaim, while she continued writing fiction and travel commentaries, like *Lazy Tours in Spain*. Louise produced an exceptional body of work, all very popular. Her poems, stories and sketches appeared in publications and were regular features of *Godey's Lady's Book*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Scribners* and *Harper's Bazaar*. Her work was melodious and enjoyable, as seen by the excerpt from "Out in the Snow," a poem describing the activities of young people enjoying a recent snowfall and ending with this stanza:

*Shivering graybeards shuffle and stumble,
Righting themselves with a frozen frown,
Grumbling at every snowy tumble;
But young folks know why the snow came down.*

- American Verse Project. "Poems and Sonnets of Louise Chandler Moulton." <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/amverse/BAD9453.0001.001?view=toc> (accessed February 21, 2013).
- Encyclopedia Britannica. "Ellen Louise Chandler Moulton." <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/394533/Ellen-Louise-Chandler-Moulton> (accessed February 21, 2013).



Rev. Martin Lovering (1853-1941)

HOLLAND, MA, AND SCOTLAND, CT
SITE 60: *Holland Congregational Church, 11 Sturbridge Rd. off Rte. 20, Holland, MA.*
SITE 61: *Scotland Congregational Church, Rte. 14, Scotland, CT.*

Martin Lovering devoted his life to teaching. He was born in Harvard, MA, August 15, 1853, and he attended public school in his early years. He went on to attend numerous academies, graduating from Appleton Academy in New Ipswich, NH, in 1877, and Phillips Academy in Andover, MA in 1878. His time at Yale College was uneventful and his scholarly endeavors average but he graduated in 1882.

Martin spent seventeen years teaching in Pennsylvania and New York. He served five years as dean at Talladega College in Talladega, AL, and taught Latin there, as well. He took a year off because of health problems in 1896 but returned to public schools in New York upon recovery.

Lovering applied to and was granted a license to preach by the Woburn Conference of Congregational Clergymen on September 6, 1910. His first job in the ministry was at the Holland Congregational Church in Holland, MA (1911-1913) and he wrote a 749-page history of the town in 1915.

Rev. Lovering understood why history and genealogy are so integral to the character of a town. He delivered his contribution to Holland with eloquence. In the preface, Rev. Lovering cites his reason for putting pen to paper, "He who would write the history of a town must have not only the historic insight but an abounding sympathy for its people. He should be a lover of humanity and enter as completely as possible into the civil and social life of the people, deeming nothing too trivial for notice if it only brings to the reader more clearly the life of the town as it really was in the period covered." Half of the volume contains detailed genealogies of more than 50 Holland families, assembled with the considerable assistance of Ursula Allen MacFarland. The remainder was topically arranged history and biographical sketches.

Even though he was called to a new post at the Scotland Congregational Church in Scotland, CT, on February 1, 1914, he published his history of Holland in 1915.

- Robert Briere
- Lovering, Rev. Martin, *History of the Town of Holland, Massachusetts*, The Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont, 1915.



James L. Smith (c.1814–post 1881)

NORWICH, CT • SITE 65: *The Jail Hill section, School and Cedar Sts., Norwich, CT.*

Born a slave in Northern Neck, VA, James L. Smith wrote a vivid and poignant autobiography in 1881. Smith detailed life on the plantation, a debilitating injury he received as a child, the brutality of slavery, and the heartbreak suffered by separated black families. "We were treated like cattle, subject to the slave-holders' brutal treatment and law." He recounts how he was sold to a ship's captain as a cook, a man who beat him so cruelly that "if I ever got away, I would throw myself overboard and put an end to my life."

James was trained as a shoemaker when he was 18, a trade in which he excelled and worked for several owners. Eventually, he saved some money from bits he kept back from the sale of shoes in a less supervised shop. He ran away, pursued by his owner as far as Philadelphia. Through a network organized by ardent abolitionists, he made his way to Springfield, MA. Smith attended a school in Wilbraham for several years, working as a shoemaker to earn room and board; simultaneously, he earned a license to preach. He traveled with Dr. Hudson throughout Connecticut and parts of Massachusetts including Boston, speaking at anti-slavery lectures. It was at one such program that he met Emeline Minerva and they married in 1841.

James Smith moved his wife to Norwich where he started a shoemaking business. They lived in a tenement on Franklin Street. In two and a half years he saved enough money to purchase a house with a 50% down payment; the mortgage was retired in three years. He and his wife had three daughters and a son. The son carried on the shoemaking trade; two of the daughters graduated from Norwich Free Academy, and the eldest from the "Normal Grammar School."

His autobiography includes his recollections of the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, his fears regarding the Fugitive Slave Law and insights about race, religion and politics. He concludes "With these thoughts I leave, asking you to give your hearts to wisdom, restraining yourself from selfishness and living for the good of others."

- Smith, James L. *Autobiography of James L. Smith*. Norwich, CT: Society of the Founders of Norwich, 1881.



Gertrude Chandler Warner (1890-1979)

PUTNAM, CT • SITE 66: *The Boxcar Museum, South Main St. (Rte. 12), near the Railroad Station, Putnam, CT.*

Born in Putnam, Gertrude Warner was an avid reader and dreamed of being a writer at an early age. Purportedly, her favorite book was *Alice in Wonderland*. She learned to play the cello, encouraged by other members of her musical family. Her secondary school education was cut short because of chronic illness; however she completed her education with the help of a tutor.

During World War I, there was a need for teachers as male educators were called up for active military duty. Gertrude had had some experience as a Sunday School teacher and began to teach first graders in 1918. It was then that she developed the idea for the *Boxcar Children*, a family of orphans who lived in an abandoned boxcar while searching for their grandparents. Gertrude wrote the first book with a very small vocabulary to encourage reluctant readers and she fashioned a story line to appeal to boys who she felt comprised the majority of the reluctant.

The popular series *The Boxcar Children* started in 1942 with the first volume published by Scott Foresman. There were a total of 19 books written by Gertrude Warner and other authors have added stories to the series until today there are 90 *Boxcar* books.

Before her death in 1979, Gertrude Warner also served as a volunteer for the American Red Cross, assisted other charitable groups, and mentored aspiring writers from her cottage on Ring St. in Putnam. She is remembered by many as a sweet and gifted teacher.

- Charlene Perkins Cutler
- Town of Putnam, CT. "Gertrude Warner." <http://www.putnamct.us/putnamatglance/LocalLinks/GertrudeWarner.htm> (accessed December 14, 2007).



Mannaseh Cutler (1742-1823)

PUTNAM, KILLINGLY, CT • SITE 67: *The Cady-Copp Cottage, off Rte. 21, Putnam, CT.*

Manasseh Cutler was a man of many talents and predilections. He was born in Killingly (now East Putnam) on May 13, 1742. In his writings, he talks about the Killingly farm where he spent his early years, "under the guiding influence of his father, the loving, watchful care of a mother who devoted herself to the improvement of her children." Manasseh "grew up with such habits and principles as are calculated to form a useful and worthy character."

Educated at Yale, Manasseh Cutler worked as a schoolteacher, whaling merchant and lawyer. He was ordained a minister in 1771 but supplemented that work by practicing medicine and operating a school.

Manasseh is known as the Father of American Natural History. He wrote his treatise on the flora of North America in 1767 and it was published in the proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The work was the first attempt to catalogue and describe the native plants growing in New England. Rev. Jedidiah Morse (the Father of American Geography from Woodstock) was apparently a close friend.

Manasseh was cited for his heroism as a chaplain in the Revolutionary War. In 1786, he joined with other veterans to form the Ohio Company of Associates. He was selected as the company's primary agent and, as such, obtained a contract from the Continental Congress for the purchase of 1.5 million acres of public land near present-day Marietta, Ohio. He was the leading author of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787, his particular contributions being the paragraphs prohibiting slavery and encouraging public education. He contended that "there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the said States, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted to have been personally guilty."

Manasseh is also credited with proposing the names of the new states in the Northwest Ordinance: Sylvannia, Michigania, Cheronesus, Assenisipia, Metropotamia, Illinoia, Saratoga, Washington, Pelisipia and Polypotamis.

He was elected to Congress in 1801, was considered an all-around scholar, and was elected to many learned societies for his investigations in astronomy, meteorology and botany. He died in Ipswich, MA, on July 28, 1823, having lived 81 long and productive years.

- Cutler, William Park and Julia Perkins Cutler. *Life, Journals and Correspondence of Rev. Manasseh Cutler, LL.D.* Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 1888.



Ellen Larned (1825-1912)

THOMPSON, CT • SITE 68: *The Ellen Larned Memorial Building and Museum, on Thompson Common, Rte. 193, on the Common, Thompson, CT.*

One of the best-known regional historians is Ellen Larned, a life-long resident of Thompson. Her *History of Windham County* was a project that she spent most of her life researching and writing.

Ellen was born June 13, 1825, descended from some of the earliest settlers to the region. She was enamored with the heritage and interconnectivity of the towns in northeast Connecticut. For years, Ellen searched town records, church documents and other original sources like diaries to piece together a regional history. Larned's gift as an historian was ahead of its time – she saw the importance of social history, interpersonal relationships among policy makers, and how local issues develop into regional, state and national agendas.

The first edition of the two-volume *History of Windham County* was published in Worcester, MA, in 1874 and 1880. Ms. Larned paid for the publication herself. The work is dedicated to “the sons and daughters of Windham County, present and absent, and to the descendants of former residents, this record of its settlement, and of the trials and achievements of their ancestors, is respectfully commended, with the hope that it may meet an appreciate welcome from all, and strengthen their love for the old mother country.” It was so complete, well-researched and written that Ellen justifiably earned a reputation as a regional historian. She was inducted into the Connecticut Historical Society in 1870 and remained its only female member for the next several decades.

In 1899, Ms. Larned published a less-academic tome, *Historical Gleanings in Windham County, Connecticut*. She kept a busy schedule of lectures to state and regional organizations. Genealogy occupied most of her research in later years.

Ellen Larned passed away at her home on January 31, 1912. Her histories are still used as a primary resource for the historic period from 1600 to 1880.

- Larned, Ellen. *History of Windham County, Connecticut*. Chester, Connecticut: The Pequot Press, 1976.



Jedidiah Morse, Jr. (1761-1826)

WOODSTOCK, CT

A famous 18th-century geographer and cartographer, Jedidiah Morse, Jr. was born in Woodstock. He was the father of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor. Jedidiah is most noted for writing the first American textbook on American geography in 1784, *Geography Made Easy*.

Morse was educated at Yale and spent many years teaching in New Haven. His portrait is in the collection of the Yale University Art Gallery.

As a young teacher, Jedidiah wrote “so imperfect are all the accounts of American geography hitherto published...that from them very little knowledge of this country can be acquired. Europeans have been the sole writers of American Geography, and have too often suffered fancy to supply the place of facts...But since the United States have become an independent nation, and have risen into Empire, it would be reproachful for them to suffer this ignorance to continue.” And so he wrote his geography.

There were 25 editions of *Geography Made Easy* in his lifetime. It was so successful that he wrote *The American Geography* in 1789, another work to evolve through many editions, some titled *American Universal Geography*. The 1792 edition was two volumes, a compendium of social and physical geography, as well as natural history. Thinking always of students and their needs, he wrote a children's text called *Elements of Geography* in 1795.

Jedidiah is credited with another first. In 1797, he finished what experts believed was the first American gazetteer, *The American Gazetteer, exhibiting in Alphabetical Order, a much more full and accurate Account, than have been given, of the States, Provinces, counties, Cities, Towns... on the American Continent, also for the West-Indies Islands, etc.* It was followed by *A New Gazetteer of the Eastern Continent* in 1802. Morse died in New Haven in 1826, forever with the title of “Father of American Geography.”

- Britannia Online Encyclopedia. “Jedidiah Morse.” <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9053833/Jedidiah-Morse>. (accessed September 24, 2007).
- Virtual American Biographies. “Jedidiah Morse.” <http://www.famousamericans.net/jedidiahmorse>. (accessed September 24, 2007).



ACTIVISTS & ADVOCATES

Celia Burleigh (1826-1875)

BROOKLYN, CT • SITE 70: *The Brooklyn Meeting House, Rtes. 6 and 169, in Brooklyn, CT.*

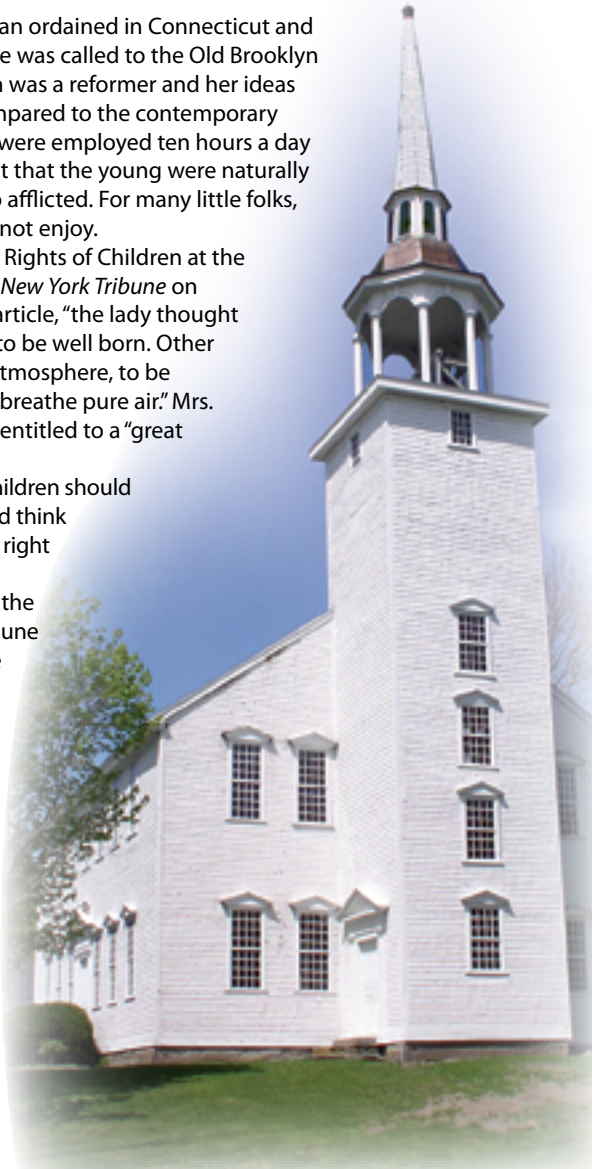
Celia Burleigh was the first woman ordained in Connecticut and the first female Unitarian minister. She was called to the Old Brooklyn Meeting House in 1871. Mrs. Burleigh was a reformer and her ideas must have sounded most bizarre compared to the contemporary point of view. Thousands of children were employed ten hours a day in factories and many people thought that the young were naturally depraved and had to be treated as so afflicted. For many little folks, childhood was something to survive not enjoy.

Celia delivered her paper on the Rights of Children at the Women's Parliament, reported in the *New York Tribune* on October 25, 1869. According to that article, "the lady thought that the first right of every child was to be well born. Other rights were to be born into a loving atmosphere, to be made physically comfortable, and to breathe pure air." Mrs. Burleigh also felt that each child was entitled to a "great deal of judicious letting alone."

The paper also advocated that children should grow up with the idea that they should think and act independently. Adults had no right to take or destroy a child's property or possessions. A child should be taught the "sovereignty of its person and be immune from invasion... more sacred than the rights of property are the rights of the sensibilities. The fears of children are no less distressing because they have no foundation in reality, and they should never be ridiculed."

Today her ideas seem quite ordinary, typical of the ways most parents, teachers and caregivers think of children. But in the 1860s, Celia's ideas were revolutionary.

- Unitarian Universalist Association. "Celia Burleigh." <http://www25.uua.org/uahs/duub/articles/celiaburleigh.html> (accessed September 17, 2007).
- Burleigh, Mrs. Celia. "Rights of children." *New York Times*, May 6, 1870.



Clara Barton (1821-1912)

OXFORD, MA • SITE 71: *Clara Barton Birthplace Museum, 68 Clara Barton Rd. off Rte. 12, Oxford, MA.*

Clara Harlowe Barton was born on Christmas Day, 1821, in Oxford, MA. For eighteen years, she taught school in Massachusetts and New Jersey before moving to Washington, D.C., where she clerked in the U.S. Patent Office. At the beginning of the Civil War, Clara began to work for the relief of wounded soldiers and from that point on her accomplishments were heroic and visionary.

At first, Clara organized an agency to find and distribute supplies to wounded soldiers. In 1865, at the request of President Lincoln, she set up a network to aid in the search for missing men. By the time her office closed in 1868, she had received 63,182 inquiries about missing men, responded to 44,855 of those inquiries, and identified more than 22,000 soldiers. Clara was the first woman to head a federal agency.

After the Civil War, she took a respite in Europe. But when the Franco-German War broke out, she immediately got involved in supplying relief to war victims. It was during that stay that Clara became associated with the International Red Cross and she established the American Red Cross in 1881. A year later she was instrumental in having the United States sign the Geneva Agreement on the treatment of the sick, wounded and dead in battle, and the proper treatment of prisoners of war. Her vision was obvious when she wrote the American amendment to the constitution of the Red Cross that provided for the distribution of relief in times of disasters like floods, famines, earthquakes, tornadoes and epidemics.

The record of Clara Barton's service is a lengthy one. She served in Cuba in the Spanish-American War (1898) organizing relief efforts. She was president of the American Red Cross until 1904. Clara was also the author of several books, including *History of the Red Cross* written in 1882, and *The Red Cross in Peace and War* completed in 1899. She is remembered as the "Angel of the Battlefield."

- American Red Cross. "Clara Barton." <http://www.redcross.org/museum/history/claraBarton.asp> (accessed April 12, 2007).
- National Park Service Park Net. "Clara Barton - Angel of the Battlefield." <http://www.nps.gov/anti/clara.htm> (accessed April 12, 2007).



at the mere fact of a piece of bread
with butter on it: - "Butter! Madam.
I have not tasted butter in eight months
And to see strong men, manly-
educated men, gnawing off the
butter with their little hands."

Beriah Green (1795-1874)

PRESTON, CT

Beriah was born in Preston on March 4, 1795. He attended Middlebury College in Vermont and then pursued ministerial studies at Andover Theological Seminary from 1819-20. He was a free thinker and did not ascribe to any particular denominational teachings. He did not have a quiet personality which was notably apparent in both his prolific writings and passionate orations.

In a paper written at Syracuse University, Milton C. Sernett wrote vividly of Beriah's appearance and character. "Beriah Green was a man of not more than middling stature, earnestly stooping forward with a strongly marked, nervous, decided face... (he) struck some as severe and craggy, like the rocks of his native New England... a scholar of sacred literature and moral philosophy."

During the peak of U.S. western expansion, Green went to teach the subject of sacred literature at the Western Reserve College in Hudson, OH. A hot topic at the college was the American Colonization Society (ACS), known in its entirety as the Society of Free People of Color of America. The ACS supported returning freed slaves to Africa and helped to develop the colony of Liberia. Pro-slavery factions saw it as a vehicle for removing freed blacks from America, discouraging slave rebellions, and an alternative to abolition.

Green opposed the ACS most vehemently. Nothing but immediate and complete abolition would satisfy him. He used Sunday chapel services four weeks in a row to attack the organization and its supporters. Needless to say, his orations created a heated and divisive atmosphere on the campus.

Thinking he had burned his bridges at Western Reserve College, Green took the position of president of Oneida Institute in New York run by the Presbyterians. While it offered some liberal arts courses, Oneida was a manual labor school. Green accepted the position with two conditions: he must be allowed to preach "immediatism" (gaining total abolition by immediate action and not waiting) and be able to accept African-American students at the Institute. Beriah's speeches made the college a magnet for abolitionists and he educated many future black leaders and anti-slavery activists.

The Oneida Institute developed financial problems and the Presbyterians sold it to the Freewill Baptists. Green left the college and became a major supporter of the Liberty Party whose goal was solely the abolition of slavery. Beriah was exasperated by the political process, the use of democracy instead of oligarchy to make something happen. He was so insistent on his point of view and made so much trouble in the religious community that he lost favor with fellow abolitionists who did not support his strident style.

Beriah Green published *History of the Quakers*, 1823, *Sermons and Discourses, with a few Essays and Addresses* 1833, and *Sermons and Discourses with Brief Biographical Hints* in 1860. His powerful oratory style is evident in an excerpt from his speech entitled "Things for Northern Men to Do Against Slavery" written in 1836... *along with myriads of the friends of man, you can put your name to a petition... Less than this you cannot do, without involving yourself personally*



in the guilt of slavery. Harbor not the thought for a moment, that such efforts must be useless. Useless they cannot be... It will do you good, good unspeakable, thus to remember those who are in bonds. It will keep you alive to their condition, claims and prospects. It will give you a deeper interest and greater power, at the throne of mercy."

Beriah died while delivering a sermon on temperance in Whitesboro New York on May 4, 1874.

- American Abolitionist Project. "Beriah Green." <http://americanabolitionist.liberalarts.iupui.edu/greenb.htm> (accessed October 30, 2013).
- Common Cause. "The Antislavery Alliance of Gerrit Smith and Beriah Green." <http://library.syr.edu/digital/exhibits/g/GerritSmith/bggreen/htm> (accessed October 30, 2013).
- Rev. Beriah Green. "Things for Northern Men to Do." <http://medicolegal.tripod.com/green1836.htm> (accessed October 30, 2013).

Samuel J. May (1797-1871)

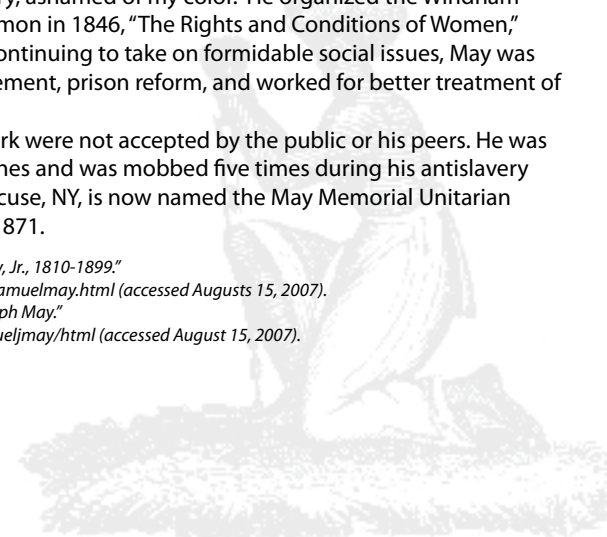
BROOKLYN, CT • SITE 70: Brooklyn Meeting House, Rtes. 6 and 169, Brooklyn, CT.

Samuel May's early education was with children of diverse backgrounds and he grew into an adult without the usual 19th-century prejudices of race, religion and class. May attended Harvard and trained for the ministry; he served as a Unitarian minister in Brooklyn, CT, and South Scituate, MA. May was considered one of the great social and educational reformers of the 19th century.

Rev. May tirelessly advocated for women's right to vote, for equal rights for African Americans and for rights for laborers. He was secretary of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. Rev. May arranged for the defense of Prudence Crandall when she was arrested for violating the "Black Law" that forbade teachers to educate African Americans from outside the state. Samuel wrote of that time, "I felt ashamed of Canterbury, ashamed of Connecticut, ashamed of my country, ashamed of my color." He organized the Windham County Peace Society and wrote a sermon in 1846, "The Rights and Conditions of Women," which was considered most radical. Continuing to take on formidable social issues, May was also involved in the temperance movement, prison reform, and worked for better treatment of Native People.

Samuel May's viewpoints and work were not accepted by the public or his peers. He was forced to resign from two of his churches and was mobbed five times during his antislavery tour in 1835. His congregation in Syracuse, NY, is now named the May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. He died there in 1871.

- Worcester Women's History Project. "Samuel May, Jr., 1810-1899." <http://www.wwhp.org/Resources/Biographies/samuelmaj.html> (accessed August 15, 2007).
- Unitarian Universalist Association. "Samuel Joseph May." <http://www25.uua.org/uahs.duub/articles/samuelmaj.html> (accessed August 15, 2007).



Prudence Crandall (1803-1890)

CANTERBURY, CT • SITE 73: *Prudence Crandall Museum, Rtes. 14 and 169, Canterbury, CT.*

A Quaker woman who believed in education for all, Prudence Crandall opened a school for young women in her house on the Canterbury Green in 1832. Her students were from wealthy families and the institution flourished until the fall of 1833. It was then that Prudence admitted Sarah Harris, a 20-year-old black woman who wished to be trained as a teacher herself. Racism was pervasive in Connecticut at that time, and parents withdrew their daughters. A great controversy ensued.

After conferring with black communities throughout New England and staunch abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison, Prudence reopened her academy on April 1, 1833, for the purpose of instructing "young ladies and little misses of color." It was the first academy for black girls in New England.

Public sentiment was still strongly positioned against Prudence. On May 24, 1833, the General Assembly in Hartford passed the infamous "Black Law," making it a crime to teach "colored persons who are not inhabitants of this State." Because Prudence was in violation of this law, she was arrested and imprisoned overnight in the local jail. She was prosecuted and brought to trial on three separate occasions. Samuel May of Brooklyn orchestrated her defense and her case was ultimately dismissed on a technicality.

But that was not the end of difficulty for the Crandall school. The students and their teacher were repeatedly harassed. In September of 1834, a mob attacked the building, breaking many windows. Prudence feared for the safety of her young students and closed the school.

The Black Law was repealed in 1838 but by then Prudence Crandall had moved away with her husband, Rev. Calvin Phileo. However, her courage during those difficult years operating the first academy for black women in New England has earned her the title of Connecticut State Heroine.

- Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, "Four Great State Museums."
- Exploring Amistad at Mystic Seaport. "The Prudence Crandall Museum." <http://www.amistad.mysticseaport.org/forum/links/others/prudence.crandall.html> (access June 18, 2007).
- Kansas State Library. "Prudence Crandall." <http://www.skyways.lib.ks.us/history/crandall.html> (accessed June 18, 2007).



Theodore Dwight Weld (1803-1895)

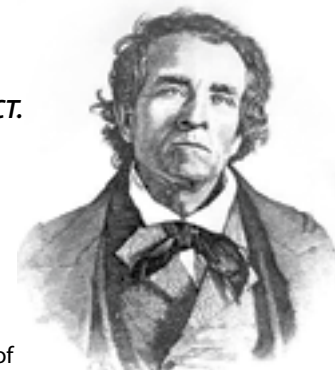
HAMPTON, CT • SITE 74: *Parsonage Rd., Hampton, CT.*
His birthplace is now in private ownership.

The great advocate Theodore Weld was born in Hampton in 1803. Weld studied at Phillips Academy from 1820-1822 but disintegrating eyesight caused him to leave school. He periodically studied at the Oneida Manual Labor Institute in Oneida, NY, and at Hamilton College where he became a follower of the famous evangelist Charles Finney. Weld became a fierce defender of black emancipation, manual labor, women's rights, temperance and moral values. He was one of the leading forces in the American abolitionist movement from 1830-1844.

Weld advocated as a writer, editor, speaker and organizer of public events. His best-known publication was *American Slavery As It Is: Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses*, co-written with his future wife Angelina Grimke and her sister, Sarah, and published in 1839. It is said to be the inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

In 1854, Weld established a school opened to students of any race or gender in Englewood, New Jersey. Ten years later he moved to Boston, continuing his speaking engagements and founding another academy to provide education to any willing student.

- Connecticut Freedom Trail
- Ohio History Central. "Theodore D. Weld." <http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=401> (accessed August 3, 2007).
- Virtual American Biographies. "Theodore Dwight Weld." <http://www.famousamericans.net/theodoredwightweld/> (accessed August 3, 2007).



Anshei Israel Congregation (1936-1945)

LISBON, CT • SITE 75: *Anshei Israel Synagogue, Rte. 138, Lisbon, CT.*

The Anshei Israel Synagogue is a small country Jewish house of worship built in the twentieth century. The founding congregation of fifteen families included Harry Rothenberg, Oscar Silverleib, Isaac Zuckerbraun, Mr. Cohen, Morris Epstein, Morris Goldberg, Jacob Goldstein, Mr. Lieber, Mr. Moskowitz, Hyman Muscatine, Samuel Polinsky, Isadore Rosen and Isaac Seidman. They never had a rabbi; the services were led by members of the congregation. A quorum of ten men was necessary for services; the women sat separated from the men of the congregation at a table near the door.

The founding members had immigrated from Poland and Russia prior to World War II. Harry Rothenberg gave the land for the structure in 1936. One of the abutters, Oscar Silverleib, was also a member of the group. Isaac Zuckerbraun's son Jerome recalls that the founding members were easily known in town as they wore ill-fitting "Russian clothes" and large hats. After the second World War, the synagogue was rejuvenated by refugees from Europe.

The Jewish house of worship was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places and received the designation on June 14, 1995. The building is a small, gable-roofed clapboard building with a central tower that sits near the road and seems to echo the rural traditions of Lisbon. Its very simple architectural style is in the Colonial Revival tradition. The front of the interior was carved by Mr. Sakowitz and features two doves called "aron kodesh" painted in color and symbolizing peace. Each dove looks to the center where a stylized crown painted silver represents divine power and inspiration. The last of the founding members died in 1990. The structure is being restored and maintained by the Lisbon Historical Society that hosts meetings and special events at the site and maintains ties to the congregation's successors.



- Kenneth Mahler
- Read-Burns, Carolyn. "A Refuge in the Country: Anshei Israel Synagogue." Lisbon, CT, April 2006.
- Rosaano, Geoffrey. *Historical and Architectural Resource Survey of Lisbon, Connecticut*. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 2000.

Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860 - 1935)

NORWICH, CT • SITE 76: *The neighborhood of Washington St., Norwich, CT.*

Ms. Gilman was a poet, a lecturer, a nationally known social activist and women's rights advocate. She was part of the new breed of women in the later Victorian era who worked in offices, using the new type writing gadget and becoming an indispensable part of modern business. Women became "free-thinkers" who spoke their mind and found ways to express their opinions in lectures and publications.

Charlotte was born in Hartford in 1860, the great-niece of Harriet Beecher Stowe and a distant relative of Louisa May Alcott. She was characterized as feisty and exuberant. For example, the *Norwich Bulletin* published a story that reported on the contentious issue of chewing tobacco. Charlotte wrote a poem, *Unmentionable*, expressing her opinion, part of which reads:

*As some foul slug his trail of slime displays on leaf and stalk,
These street-beats make a horror in the ways of those who walk.
We cannot ask reform of those who do - they can't or won't,
We can express the scorn, intense and true, of those who don't.*

Ms. Gilman was a fascinating figure. She married a Providence artist named Charles Stetson, had one daughter named Katherine, and divorced soon after. Suffering from a mental breakdown, she wrote about that experience in a short story called "The Yellow Wallpaper." In 1890, she moved with her daughter to California where she became active in the Women's Congress, help found the Women's Peace Party and lectured in America and Europe.

Charlotte was very busy with the lecture circuit through 1920. She also owned, edited, published and wrote a feminist magazine called *Forerunner*. While she seems to be most remembered for her advocacy of women's rights, her very progressive views on euthanasia and evolution were unusual. In September of 1896, she visited Norwich with her second husband Houghton Gilman and they moved to 320 Washington Street in 1922. Her major work, *Women and Economics*, was primarily written during that first visit. It advocated communal dining halls, professionally staffed childcare facilities and professional house cleaners – all to free ladies from the "tyrannies of cooking, childcare and housework."

- Lathrop, Arthur Lester. *Victorian Norwich Connecticut*. Salem, MA: Higginson Book Co., 1999.



MEDICAL MARVELS

Dr. Elliott Joslin (1869-1962)

OXFORD, MA

Dr. Elliott Proctor Joslin was born in Oxford, MA, in 1869 to a successful shoe manufacturer and his wife. "EPJ," as he became known, was a motivated student and excelled. He attended Leister Academy, then Yale and Harvard Medical School where he graduated at the top of his class. Joslin went on to study metabolism in Germany and Austria before returning to Boston and setting up his practice.

Dr. Joslin started his career as a general practitioner although he already had an interest in diabetes, as it afflicted his Aunt Helen. He saw his first diabetes patient, Mary Higgins, in 1893. Beginning with that first patient, EPJ made an entry in a ledger for every diabetic he treated, understanding the importance of documenting the course of the disease in each person. By the end of his 70-year career, those ledgers numbered 80 and constituted the first method of recording data about diabetes in the U.S.

Even before Dr. Joslin became a leading authority on diabetes, he valued detailed patient histories. It was that close observation that led Dr. Joslin to develop a radical approach to the treatment of the usually fatal disease of diabetes with amazing results. His patients were prescribed a rigid diet of low carbohydrates and high fat that regulated blood sugar levels. Even more revolutionary, the patient became his own medical caregiver. Sara Proctor Joslin, his mother, is listed as the eighth patient in his first ledger. She was diagnosed in 1900. However, Sara lived 13 years utilizing the patient self-care developed by her son.

Dr. Joslin published a textbook in 1916, *The Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus*, that shared his innovative approach to treatment. The results were incontrovertible. Patients adhering to his strict diet lived longer. Dr. Joslin was quickly acclaimed as the leading expert in the field of diabetes and became its first specialist. His book is presently in its fourteenth edition and is still the basic text on the disease.

In addition to EPJ's special diet and patient self-care, he developed another innovation – the "wandering diabetes nurse," an in-home health care professional for people recently discharged from the hospital.

Elliot Joslin was part of a six member team to document the first medical trials of insulin. He included insulin in this practice which, by 1934, expanded by 800 new patients each year. He eventually hand-picked additional doctors to continue to expand his practice while maintaining essential laboratory research.



EPJ never forgot the focus on patient self-care. Even today, the practice of rewarding patients that he began continues at the medical center bearing his name, the Joslin Diabetes Center. Medals are presented to patients for controlling diabetes. Dr. Joslin claimed, "If a diabetic with his disease can live longer than his neighbor of the same age without it, I consider the he has attained a distinction, and should be recognized as outstanding."

Dr. Joslin was the first to pronounce diabetes a serious public health issue. Shortly after World War II he convinced the Surgeon General of the U.S. and the U.S. Public Health Service that there was an epidemic that needed to be studied. In 1946, such a study was undertaken in his birthplace of Oxford, MA and continued for 20 years. The study confirmed both his contention that diabetes was of epidemic proportions and his place as a notable historic figure from The Last Green Valley.

Dr. Joslin died in his sleep on January 29, 1962.

- *Diabetes Spectrum*. "Wisdom to your Perscription." <http://spectrum.diabetesjournals.org/content/19/1/58.full> (accessed September 6, 2012).
- *Joslin Diabetes Center*. "Elliot P. Joslin, M.D." http://www.joslin.org/about/elliott_p_joslin_md.html (accessed September 6, 2012).
- *Mass Moments*. "Dr. Joslin Makes First Entry in Diabetic Ledger." <http://massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=224> (accessed September 6, 2012).

Emeline Roberts Jones (1837-1916)

KILLINGLY, CT

Listed in the historic annals of dental practitioners is Emeline Roberts Jones. She was the first American woman, if not the first woman in the world, to practice dentistry.

A native of Winchester, CT, Emeline was only 17 when she married Dr. Daniel Albion Jones in 1854. (That's not Daniel Albion "Jack" Jones, the major league baseball pitcher from the early 20th century.) Dr. Jones had been trained by Dr. R. B. Curtis of Winsted and traveled about with regular visits to Otis, New Boston, New Hartford and Ansonia in the western part of the state. In 1855, he established a practice in Danielson where he worked until his death in 1864.

Emeline was very interested in dentistry. Given the lack of preventative care, one can only imagine how common the need was for what is now consider emergency care – fillings and extractions. She learned the skills of dentistry from her husband as well as their mutual mentor, Dr. Curtis. She watched her husband and assisted him. In her spare time, Emeline began to practice drilling and filling on extracted teeth. After accumulating a two-quart jar filled with her impressive efforts, Emeline shared her progress with her husband. The quality of her work could not be denied, although sources indicate Daniel was reluctant at first to allow her to practice in his office.

From May of 1855 until 1859 she assisted Daniel. Subsequently, she became a full partner in the practice and garnered the confidence of her patients by her considerable skill. Her work established some renown. She continued the practice after her husband's death, an unusual circumstance for a woman. Emeline later moved to New Haven and opened her office there. She was not only the first woman dentist - she was the first woman to own a private practice, offering her services as a "competent dentist." Emeline's New Haven office was described as



continued on next page

"one of the largest and most lucrative practices in Connecticut," according an article in the *California Dental Association Journal*.

Emeline Jones was a member of the Woman's Advisory Council of the World's Columbian Dental Congress in 1893. She was elected as an honorary member of the Connecticut State Dental Society in 1912, and then to the National Dental Association in 1914. Emeline was 80 years old when she died in 1916.

Emeline Roberts Jones was a wife, a mother of two children, and a pioneer dentist. She was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 1994.

- *British Dental Association*. "Women in Dentistry." <http://www.bda.org/library/displays/womenindentistry.aspx> (accessed October 16, 2012).
- *Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame*. "Emeline Roberts Jones." <http://cwhf.org/industeers/science-health/emeline-robert-jones> (accessed October 16, 2012).
- *Women in Health Sciences*. "Women in Dentistry." <http://beckerehibits.wustl.edu/mowihsp.health.womenindentistry.htm> (accessed October 16, 2012).

Dr. William Morton (1819-1868)

CHARLTON, MA • SITE 77: A memorial for Dr. Morton is on the Charlton Common, Rte. 31, Charlton, MA.

Generations of medical and dental patients owe gratitude to Dr. William Thomas Green Morton for eliminating pain in surgery and dental procedures. He was born in Charlton, MA, in 1819, and educated at nearby Leicester Academy and Northfield Academy. An unremarkable student, he tried various professions to find his niche – clerk, printer and salesman. None turned out to be his calling.

In 1840, Morton entered the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, the first of its kind in the world. He left before graduating and became the partner of Hartford dentist Horace Wells. Unfortunately, that relationship lasted only six months. Morton seems to have been plagued by a consistent lack of achievement.

William enrolled in the Harvard Medical School, once again failing to graduate. Morton conducted a dental practice in Boston without credentials. However, he excelled at developing new ideas for the field. He introduced a new kind of solder that would allow false teeth to be fastened to gold plates. He experimented with opium, stimulants, and even hypnosis to find a better method of extracting the roots of diseased teeth. He was introduced to ether after attending a lecture by Professor Charles Jackson, although no one had connected relieving pain via unconsciousness.

After trying it out on himself, Morton administered ether to a patient on September 30, 1846, with great success. The break-through made the newspapers and a public performance of this revolutionary advance was scheduled at Massachusetts General Hospital. True to his inconsistent nature, Dr. Morton was late to appear, rescuing the apprehensive patient at the very last second. The audience was justifiably skeptical of the less than professional Morton but was truly amazed when he performed pain-free surgery on the patient.

One would think that this act would successfully clinch Dr. Morton's place in dental and medical history. He secured a patent for ether administration and the international community recognized him with a number of awards. He made his method available for free



to charitable institutions. However, he was unsuccessful in convincing Congress and President Pierce to recognize his rights to the profits derived from his discovery. He died quite suddenly of a brain hemorrhage at the young age of 48.

- *Britannica Online Encyclopedia*. "William Thomas Green Morton." <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9053858/William-thomas-Green-Morton>, (accessed March 12, 2007).

Dr. William Beaumont (1785-1853)

LEBANON, CT • SITE 78: William Beaumont House, on the Green, Rtes. 87 and 207, Lebanon, CT.

Born in 1785 in the house his father Samuel built, William Beaumont is known as the "Father of Gastric Physiology." He took a teaching post in Champlain, NY, in 1806 but within a few years was studying medicine with a doctor in Vermont. Beaumont received his medical license in 1812 and served as an assistant army surgeon during the War of 1812. After briefly practicing on his own, William reenlisted in the army and was stationed at a wilderness post in Michigan.

While at Fort Mackinac, Dr. Beaumont treated Alexis St. Martin, a French-Canadian trapper. St. Martin was suffering from a gun shot wound to the stomach and chest. Although he recovered, a small hole into his stomach never healed over. For the next 11 years, Beaumont studied the human digestive process by examining and testing various foods as St. Martin's stomach digested them. William's process was primitive, lowering and raising food directly in and out of the stomach cavity by a thread, but he was able to decipher the way digestion worked and the chemistry of gastric fluids. Beaumont published his findings in 1833 and was instantly recognized for the importance of his work.

Dr. Beaumont moved to St. Louis where he practiced medicine until his death in 1853. His research still holds up today.

- *Wayland, Alicia*. *Around the Lebanon Green*. Lebanon, CT: Town of Lebanon, 1999.



The Sweet Family (19th century)

LEBANON, FRANKLIN, CT • SITE 79: *Lebanon Historical Society, Rtes. 87 & 207, Lebanon, CT.*

In the nineteenth century, modern medicine had only progressed a few faltering steps. Many entrepreneurial and innovative doctors strove to come up with medicines and procedures that would alleviate suffering. Dr. Charles Sweet (1810-1896) of Lebanon, and his brother, Dr. Stephen Sweet of Franklin (1798-n.d.) were two such men. They invented a line of patent medicines in the mid 1800s, but were more notable as bonesetters. Although not trained medical doctors, they were called “doctor” by laymen because of their ability as bonesetters.

If one suffered with complaints of paralysis of the limbs, then “Dr. Chas Sweet’s Rheumatic or Stimulating Liniment” was advertised as a cure. “Dr. Chas Sweet’s Healing, Cooling Extract Salve” was touted as a cure for scrofula (tuberculosis of the lymph glands), ulcers and other ailments. Those patients needing to quell other stresses were recommended “Dr. Chas Sweet’s Relaxing Liniment.” Dr. Stephen Sweet sold “Stephen Sweet’s Infallible Liniment,” touted as a cure-all.

The Sweets reputation as bonesetters was famous. Dr. Charles Sweet had offices in both Hartford and Springfield, MA, where he practiced once each month. Dr. Stephen Sweet was acclaimed in the *New York Times*, April 4, 1874: “Dr. Stephen’s Sweet’s father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were distinguished bone-setters. So were his uncles and great-uncles back to the original Benoni, who died in North Kingston, R.I. in 1751 at the age of 90.”

William Lloyd Garrison, a prominent abolitionist of the day (1805-1879), sought out Stephen Sweet to treat Mrs. Garrison, who had been injured in an accident in Springfield, MA. “Mrs. Garrison’s right arm dislocated at the elbow, but was maltreated by an ignorant doctor as if broken, so that weeks of suffering ensued till the limb be set.” Garrison recounts a special trip to Dr. Sweet, “the famous bonesetter” in Franklin “who succeeded in the difficult operation.”

- Garrison, Wendell Phillips and Francis Jackson Garrison. *The Story of His Life Told By His Children*. New York: The Century Co., 1889.
- Marshall, Benjamin Tinkham., *A Modern History of New London County, Connecticut*. New London: Leis Historical Publishing Co., 1922.
- Alicia Wayland

Dr. Samuel Lee (1773-1814)

WINDHAM, CT • SITE 80: *Windham Center Cemetery, Rte. 203, Windham, CT.*

Little is known of Samuel Lee’s early life other than his birth date. During the Revolution, he was “discharged from the office of surgeon to Col. Durkee’s regiment in Continental service.” He is most famous, or perhaps infamous, for a medicine he patented in 1796 called “Samuel Lee’s Genuine Windham Bilious Pills.”

No doubt the need to include the word “genuine” had to do with another doctor named Samuel H. P. Lee who lived in New London and who in 1799 also created “Bilious Pills.” Samuel Lee of Windham was not happy about what he felt was an incursion on his patent and said “If people incautiously purchase his pills for mine, I shall not be answerable for their effects.” For years, a competition was waged for the public’s trust in newspapers and ads. The market appeared to tolerate both preparations and each doctor prospered.

Dr. Samuel Lee’s original pills were touted as a cure for dysentery, dropsy, bilious and yellow fevers, worms and complaints common to women. They were composed of aloe, soap, nitrate of potassa and garboge. Whether the ingredients were effective is not documented,



but garboge, an Asian tree resin of distinct yellow, is known to be a purgative. Dr. Lee was a clever marketer. He labeled his famous pills with an American eagle – what could be a more reliable symbol in the new country?

Dr. Samuel Lee died in 1814 and was buried in the Windham Center Cemetery where his age was noted as 42 years. After his death, his brother, Dr. Charles Lee of Norwich, got into the drug trade and carried on the family patent for the famous Windham Lee’s Pills.

- Anderson, Ann. *Snake Oil, Hustlers and Hambones: The American Medicine Show*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2005.
- Caulkins, Francis Manwaring. *History of Norwich, Connecticut: From Its Possession by the Indians to the Year 1866*. Hartford: H.P. Haven, 1874.
- Hinman, Royal Ralph. *Historical Collection from Official Records, Files, etc. of the Part Sustained by Connecticut During the Revolution*. Hartford: E. Gleason, 1842.
- The Medical Messiahs: A Social History of Health Quackery in Twentieth-Century America. “Chapter 2: The Lawless Centuries.” <http://www.quackwatch.rog/12Hx/MM/02.html>. (accessed May 16, 2007).

DR. ELISHA PERKINS (1741-1799)

PLAINFIELD, CT • SITE 81: *The Plainfield Academy, now privately owned, may be seen on Rte. 12 across from the Stone Meetinghouse in Plainfield, CT, and is part of the Plainfield St. National Historic District.*

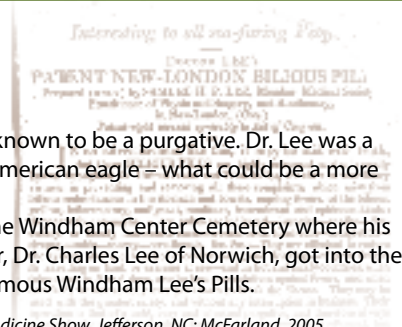
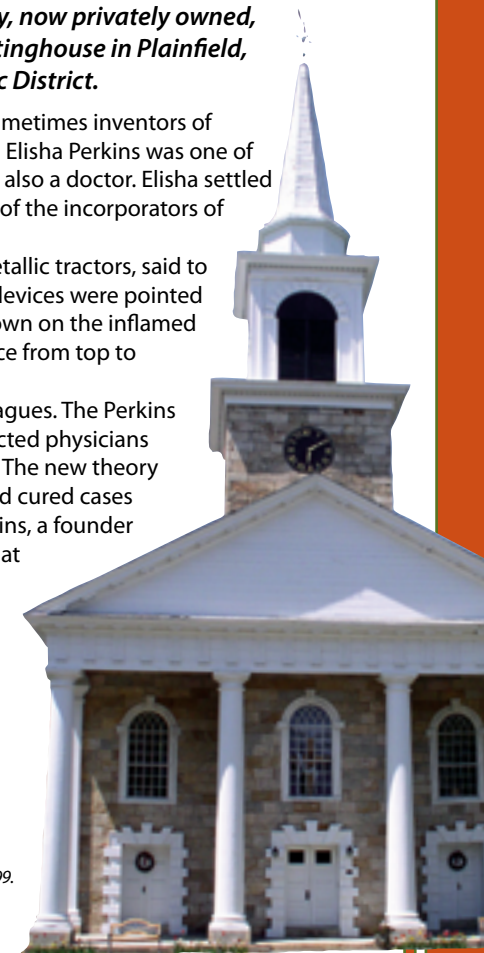
Along with patent medicines, early healers were sometimes inventors of devices to alleviate or eliminate physical complaints. Dr. Elisha Perkins was one of these men, born in Norwich and educated by his father, also a doctor. Elisha settled in nearby Plainfield and began his practice. He was one of the incorporators of Plainfield Academy.

As a cure for inflammation, Dr. Perkins invented metallic tractors, said to have been composed of a peculiar alloy of metals. The devices were pointed objects only inches in length and were applied point down on the inflamed area. Then they were repeatedly pulled across the surface from top to bottom.

Dr. Perkins received many accolades from his colleagues. The Perkins Tractors were studied and recommended by well-respected physicians and medical institutions in the U.S. and parts of Europe. The new theory of treatment was then named “Perkinsian” and published cured cases numbered in excess of 5,000. However, in 1797, Dr. Perkins, a founder of the Connecticut Medical Society, was ejected from that prestigious group due to his efforts to promote the use and sale of the tractors. The official grounds for his ejection were that he was “a patentee and user of nostrums (Bickford).”

In an effort to develop a better treatment for dysentery and sore throats, Dr. Perkins invented an antiseptic. He tested it during the 1799 outbreak of yellow fever in New York. However, he died after contracting the illness himself.

- Bickford, Christopher. *Plainfield Transformed: Three Centuries of Life in a Connecticut Town 1699-1999*. Plainfield, CT: Plainfield Historical Society, 1999.
- Virtual American Biographies. “Elisha Perkins.” <http://famousamerican.net/elishaperkins/> (accessed October 31, 2007).



THE REQUISITE QUIZ

1. Who pickled their husband in spirits before burial?

2. Who was nearly burned at the stake by the Caughwangas?

3. Who was the first woman to receive a U. S. patent?

4. Whose tractors were designed to alleviate inflammation?

5. Who was the first woman to head a federal agency?

6. Who won the Pulitzer Prize for *Wandering Through Winter*?

7. Whose gravestone was purchased by P. T. Barnum?

8. Who is the Father of the Dirt Road Bill?

9. Who advocated for communal dining halls for husbands and children?

10. Who was the first member of Congress to be buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.?



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Answers
1. Sarah Gray, Lebanon, CT; 2. Israel Putnam, Brooklyn, CT; 3. Mary Dixon Kies, Killingly, CT;
4. Dr. Elisha Perkins, Plainfield, CT; 5. Clara Barton, Oxford, MA; 6. Edwin Way Teale, Hampton, CT;
7. John Capen "Gitzzy" Adams, Charlton, MA; 8. William Higgins, Coventry, CT;
9. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Norwich, CT; 10. Uriah Tracy, Franklin, CT

