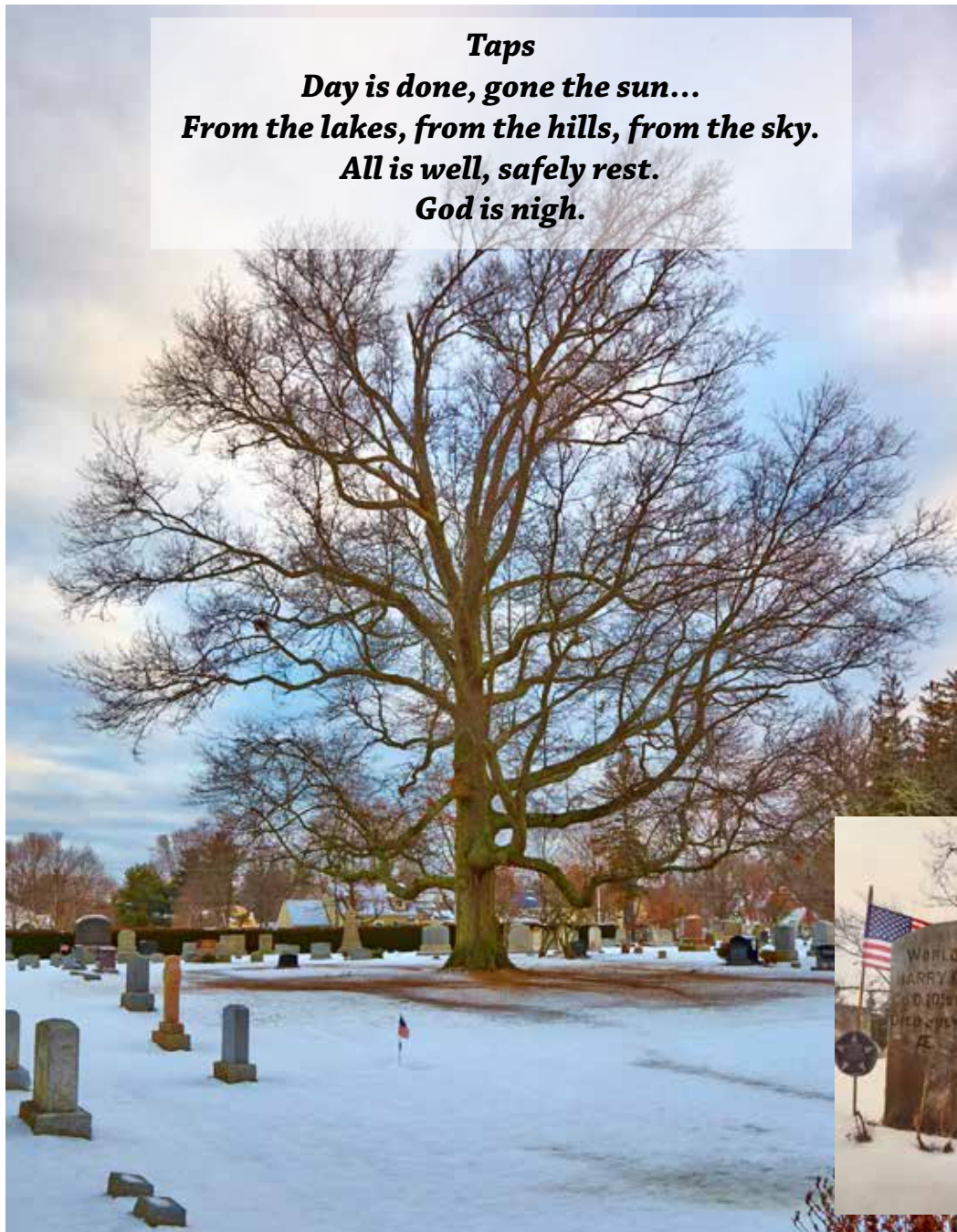




Still We Remember



While 77 men from Old Saybrook served during World War I, Harry Faulk was the only resident killed in action. Harry, who grew up on Saybrook Point, died near Chateau-Thierry, France, July 25, 1918, and was buried at the U.S. cemetery in Belleau Wood. His father went to France in 1921 to retrieve his body and reinterred him in Old Saybrook's Cypress Cemetery. Harry was honored with the planting of a National Honor Roll Memorial Tree at the Cemetery. Over the years since then, the sapling has grown into a massive oak. See Page 2 for coverage of the Society's World War I exhibit. (Photos: Robert Lorenz)

WWI Exhibit: War of Images, Images of War



Bill Temple, left, shows Ed Armstrong an American trench knife that incorporates studded brass knuckles. (Photos: Bill Roberts)



During the war, soldiers were engraving and carving everything from spent shell casings to soup bones, transforming them into poignant mementos and useful historical records of the "war to end all wars."



The exhibit publicity poster, designed by JH Torrance Downes, has become an asked-for commemorative item in its own right.

This summer the Old Saybrook Historical Society has been commemorating the centenary of the First World War with an exhibit of uniforms, artifacts and posters.

The propaganda-style posters come from the Society's collection. Many of the items lent for display come courtesy of Bill Temple, owner of Essex Saybrook Antiques Village, who has an extensive collection of items, many with a local connection. The exhibit committee of Tedd Levy, Torrance Downes, Ed Armstrong and Marie McFarlin coordinated assembly, set up and promotion.



During a special program to kick off the exhibit, Rick Spencer, well known for his work at Mystic Seaport, entertained an enthralled audience at Grace Episcopal Church with a range of First World War songs, while detailing the evolving mood of the Allied public as the war dragged on.



The exhibit was an eye-opening opportunity for Cold Springs School students to get a close-up look at war-related artifacts. See Page 3 for more about their visit to Old Saybrook. (Photo: Ed Armstrong)



From Bill Temple's collection, Lt. Elmer Stephens' uniform purchased from his daughter, Dr. Martha Stephens, an Old Saybrook resident. Lieutenant Stephens served in France during the war.



A display at the Old Saybrook's Acton Library promoted the Historical Society's special program and exhibit.

President's Message

There are times in life when the stars align and wonderful, unimaginable surprises happen. This spring and early summer was our time.

The first experience revolved around the Cromwellian Chair, one of our most treasured artifacts. Robert Trent and Marc Anderson, noted experts in the field of early American furniture, representing Winterthur, visited to examine the Chair and spoke of the need to properly preserve it with a museum quality display case (See photo on Page 7).

We realized the expense in doing this and tried to decide what to do when a message arrived from a Robert Chapman descendant and benefactor stating that she wanted to contribute funds for something on our wish list. We told her about our need for a display case and it happened!!! She sent a check to cover the entire cost. We did not plan it and there she was...

Our gardens are becoming more and more the topic of conversation with their stunning beauty and access to the public. With recognition comes the need for proper upkeep and, as all gardeners know, water. Our discussions spoke of a sprinkling system. It was a dream for so long. The dream turned into reality with the arrival of the Eleanor Bischoff legacy. We did not plan on it and

there it was... the financial means to provide a wish for the gardeners. (See special Ms. Bischoff remembrance on Page 6.)

Our exhibit plans were set to highlight our fabulous collection of First World War posters. Tedd Levy, a trustee, met Bill Temple, who has an incredible collection of World War 1 memorabilia. He agreed to be part of our exhibit and the combination of his collection and our posters has worked perfectly. We did not plan it and there it was...

Our desire to develop a donation herb garden was realized when Bonnie Penders, a new member, came forth offering to see that it happened...we had not planned on it and there she was.

There were so many other great moments including the sponsorship of our Antiques Sale and Appraisal Day; the outpouring of gifts from merchants all over town for our benefit auction; the sold-out "Hosting for History" event; the stories from the Archives as descendants came to study their family history and rejoice in their discoveries.

There it was... a fantastic spring and early summer at 350 Main Street.

Marie

Society Campus a Draw for Groups across the Region

A group of students, teachers and parents of the Cold Spring School in New Haven took the train to Old Saybrook June 10 for a special tour of the Hart House, Archives and our First World War exhibit. They subsequently walked to Cypress Cemetery for an additional tour. Their leader was Saybrook resident and teacher Karen Zwick who said the students had been studying quite a bit about colonial Connecticut.



Diane Hoyt, Archives Administrative Assistant, explains the scope of the Archives' collection. The Cold Spring students will be studying Ann Petry, noted Saybrook best-selling author, during the coming school year. (Photo: Bill Roberts)



Babcock-Smith House Museum visitors prepare to tour the Hart House. Group coordinator, Mary Ann McCarty (smiling, standing in the doorway), incorporated stops on Main Street and Essex in the itinerary. (Photo: Ed Armstrong)

Later that month the Society hosted the docents of the Babcock-Smith House Museum, Westerly, R.I., on their annual "historic field trip." The visitors were intrigued with the Hart House because of its architectural similarities to their own museum (also a historic Georgian home), as well as its unique features, including the restored basement.

Rain Doesn't Dampen Success of "Summer Festival"

One hundred fifty people braved the inclement weather on June 27 to attend our annual Hosting for History "Summer Festival" in the gardens on the campus of the General William Hart House. Thank you to those who attended and supported this year's event.

The wine tasting provided by Deep River's Shore Discount Liquors started at 5 o'clock followed by the New Haven Pizza Truck staff, who provided the food. The Donn Trenner Trio with Chris DePino played jazz on the Hart House side porch, making for a special evening.

A giant thank-you to our sponsors for their continued support -- Platinum: Adelmann's Service Inc., Jean Cowles, Hadass and Matthew Rubin, and Essex Financial Services (David LaMay, CFP); Gold: John Aldi; and In-Kind: Saybrook Recycled Furniture and Shore Discount Liquors. Our 50 Tea Cup Auction Donors will be listed in our year-end newsletter.

The entire committee did a marvelous job soliciting local businesses who donated terrific prizes. They are "worker bees" directly responsible for netting a profit of \$10,000 from this event!

Here is the Best Ways and Means Committee anyone could ever ask for: Barbara Aubin, Erin Colwell, Jean Cowles, Sally D'Aquila, Karen Emack-Dolson, Drinagh Garofalo, Irmey Hermanson, Marilyn Kalal, Linda Kinsella, Tedd Levy, Cathy Logiudice, Marie McFarlin, Ed Mosca, Suzanna Otto, Matthew Rubin, Lynn Schott and Christine Yanelli.

--Donna DiBella, Chair

Thank you, Donna, for planning and executing another great event!



Attendees sampled fine cuisine at the Hosting for History "Summer Festival." (Photos: Robert Lorenz)



Marie McFarlin, left, and Donna DiBella.



Among the silent-auction items were flowers and herbs from the Society's own historic gardens.



Some of the items for sale. (Photos: Bill Roberts)

The Historical Society hosted its Third Annual Antiques Sale & Appraisal Day, May 30, drawing 85 antique dealers and more than 1,000 visitors. Attendees viewed items at booths set up throughout our grounds and, thanks to the generosity of our Congregational Church neighbors, their historic Trivet Green across the street. Thank you to Karen Emack-Dolson and Peter Dolson of Saybrook Recycled Furniture for their sponsorship and for serving as chairs of the event. Thanks also to Lorensen Auto Group for their sponsorship.



Flower-decorated hats, created by our Garden volunteers, proved to be popular sellers.

Student Volunteers: Spirited & Committed



Maddie Bradley, an Old Saybrook High School freshman, student volunteer, helped us during the July Civil War encampment. (Photos: Bill Roberts)

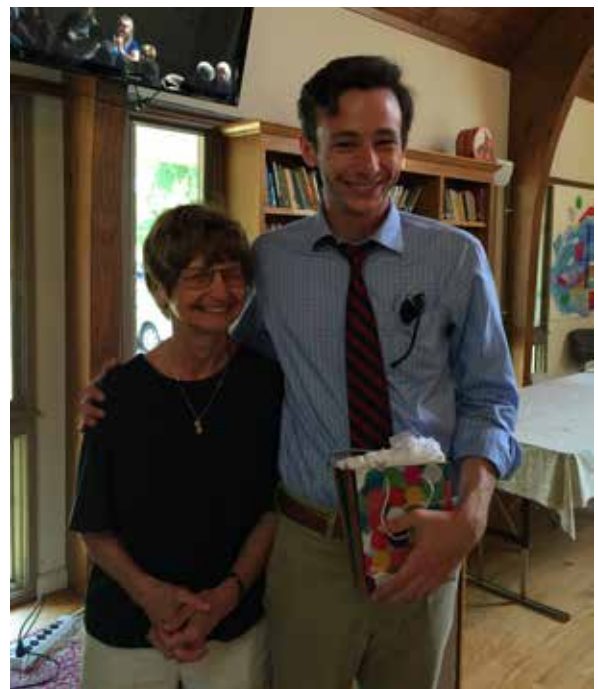
Old Saybrook High School student volunteers have made significant contributions to the Society over the years. During their four years of service, they may guide tours through the campus, help at events and do a myriad of tasks whenever needed.

This year graduating senior Eric Mitchell received a Society scholarship

for his commitment and excellent work as a student volunteer. Notably, he used his Eagle Scout project to manage the construction of a Hart House Garden pergola. Eric not only served as a Hart House guide, but also created a guidebook for future volunteers. He will be attending Wesleyan University, Middletown, Ct.



Hart House maintenance is a continual requirement, including this spring's work on the South Chimney. (Photo: Ed Armstrong)



Marie McFarlin presents Eric Mitchell with a Society scholarship and mementos.

What's Happening in the Archives

Visiting researchers from California, Florida, Texas, Illinois, Colorado and Virginia came to research here at the home of their ancestors. Our mission to preserve and protect the history of Saybrook and its original colony is appreciated by these folks. Of course, where would we all be without the generosity of those who have donated these materials?

Dr. Bernard Parker is completing work on the Parker's involvement in the Pequot War. He expects to publish in 2016. The Parker family is one of the oldest in Saybrook.

Jolene Abrahams has been researching her family for many years. Interestingly, she is researching both her adoptive and birth families. She refers to this as the "triangle". She took much pleasure in seeing the town, homes and final resting places of her Hulbert/Hurlbert/Hurlbet ancestors. We were the first stop in New England.

Gerald L. Chapman's ancestors have been an important part of the town's history since its founding. He had come to town for a Chapman gathering for the re-dedication of the Chapman monument in Cypress Cemetery. I am afraid I overwhelmed Mr. Chapman with the sheer number of records we have- some that he had not known existed. He planned to visit the sites of his ancestor's homes and farm lands, the fort, and the cemeteries. Gerald lives in Roanoke, Virginia.

Only one of Robert Chapman's (founder) descendants, his great-grandson Levi, remained in Saybrook. The rest moved elsewhere, including Ohio,

where Gerald Chapman was born. The Chapman descendants are outstanding supporters of the Society.

Barbara Meek and Mary Jane Brownmiller, sisters from Illinois and Texas, are descendants of Post, Bushnell, Jones, Stannard, Chapman, Chalker and other early settlers. They had planned this trip for months so were pleased with the amount of information we have; in fact, too much for one visit. They are continuing through New England before heading home with many copies and an idea of the scope of records available here and the contributions of their ancestors to Saybrook's history.

Greg Sharp discovered his family history only two years ago. It seems his father and grandfather lost their fathers at a very young age and knew nothing about their respective families. He came upon one clue and that was enough to spark his interest. He found he was descended from six of the founders of the Saybrook Colony! Imagine going from zero to hundreds of records in two years. He made many copies and found the old cemetery, the Buckingham home, the Fort location and North Cove area. He left with an even greater appreciation of his new "old" family.

Willis Whittlesey, from Holladay, UT. visited the Archives in preparation for the family reunion held the weekend of July 28 in Old Saybrook.

The inquiries, via our webpage, continue to grow as people search for the history of homes, a family name, or a business, etc. We are proud that we can answer many of these questions.

-- Diane Hoyt, Archives Administrative Assistant

Newest Contributions

We are forever grateful to both past and present donors who have entrusted us to protect and preserve the history of Old Saybrook. Once again the vault door swings open to welcome the newest donations to the Society and there are many.

- Westbrook Veterans Honor Guard: Oral histories of WWII and Vietnam veterans. Donated by **Robert Wilcox**.
- 1874 Atlas of Middlesex County in excellent condition. Donated by **Anne Sweet's** estate.
- Large chart of American History, 1776-1830 (contains date of Saybrook Platform) from an old Atlas published 1830. Donated by **Elsie Manning**.
- Records from Max Miller, including a transcript of an interview done with William Dawes, 93 years old, on October 9, 1981, regarding the local railroad. Donated by **Barbara Maynard**.
- American flag flown in Mrs. Shumway's classroom at the Main Street School (prior to 1985). Donated by **Joanne Pace**.
- Framed Epply print of Hart House and Congregational Church in winter. Donated by **Sandra Childress**.
- Pease House matchbook. Donated by **Shirley Malcarne**.

- 1927 map of Cornfield Point Beach Club. Donated by **Jeanne Putnam**.
- Old Saybrook tax bills and receipts (8 pages), 1799-1821. Donated by **Scott Yeager**.
- Lead-glazed Staffordshire plate and teapot commemorating Commodore MacDonough's 1814 victory during War of 1812 at Lake Champlain. Donated by the estate of **Anne Mosca**.
- Framed pen-and-ink drawing of the Tulip Tree at Hart House. We lost the tree in 1996. (Painting is now hanging in Archives above a table made from the wood of this tree.) Donated by **Barbara Dondero**.
- Various silverware, silver plate and sterling-various dates. Donated by **Barbara Smith and William Phillips**.
- Miscellaneous documents, letters, personal items and memorabilia. Donated by **Elizabeth Callender** estate.
- Postcard of Old Saybrook Jr. & Sr. High School taken in the 1950s. Donated by **Alvin Schaut**.
- Photos of Baldwin Bridge, 1991-1992. Donated by **Joseph Berzoni and Kelly Duda**.
- Large collection of photos, genealogy, bibles, etc., of the Shepard family. Donated by **Merry Hill**. (See story in next edition)

Elise Bischoff: Remembering a Special Person

There was a special Memorial Service, on April 23, at the Grace Episcopal Church for Eleanor Elise Bischoff. Elise died at home on March 22, at the grand age of 93.

Rev. Ellendale Hoffmann gave a fitting eulogy citing her many contributions to the church and the community. A procession followed to the gravesite at First Church of Christ Memorial Garden. Her ashes are buried next to her deceased husband, Edward.



Elise Bischoff

Elise was one of the original Hart House Garden Group of 12, formed in 1974 when the Society bought the Gen. William Hart house. With help from other members, they tamed the heavy growth of bramble and bittersweet into an award-winning garden.

Elise was at heart an herbalist. She took charge of the culinary herb section in 1982 and served as the Garden Committee Chairman from 1988 to 2000. She was a dedicated gardener who shared her abundant horticulture knowledge generously. We are grateful for all she did to create a place of lasting beauty.

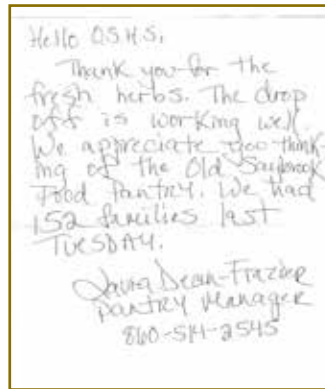
--Linda Kinsella, Garden Committee Chairman



Winterthur conservators Mark Anderson and Robert Trent examine the Society's "Cromwellian Chair." (See President's Message, Page 3.) They explained that the chair was made between 1660 and 1680 with a seat and back covering of seal skin and is probably the only one of its kind in existence today.

Garden Herbs Aid Congregational Church's Food Pantry Efforts

This summer we began donating fresh herbs from the Hart House garden to the food pantry operated by our neighbor, First Church of Christ. We regularly deliver a large basket of chives, parsley, rosemary, thyme and dill to the "Heat & Eat" cooks. They are delighted, as they use the herbs in the preparation for food served at the Tuesday Food Pantry. Lane Bolton, the church secretary, said its Tuesday food pantry regularly provides approximately 150 area families with groceries, fresh produce and hot meals. The Hart House gardeners are happy to participate in a small way.



Food Pantry thank-you note.



Hart House Garden herbs for food pantry. (Photo: Linda Kinsella)



Leaving a Legacy

The Society received a legacy gift of \$10,000 from the Elise Bischoff Estate. Our gardens and grounds, where Elise spent so many productive hours as an outstanding volunteer, will now receive needed improvements. Gifts, such as this one, are incredibly important to the Society and its work.

The members, who have included us in their legacy, show the utmost commitment to our mission and give us the financial foundation to leave our legacy of a vibrant organization that understands to preserve the past, we must prepare for the future.



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Mark Your Calendars

Annual Meeting – Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Hart House. House open from 5-7 p.m. Meeting begins at 5:30. Light refreshments served.

Wassail Party -- Sunday, Dec. 13, 4-6 p.m. at the Hart House.

Contact us by phone (860-395-1635), email (contact@saybrookhistory.org) or stop by the Archives Thursdays between 9 and noon. Check the **Events** page on our website for the latest updates.

www.saybrookhistory.org

