



DEDICATED TO PRESERVING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE HISTORY OF OLD SAYBROOK

Fall/Early Winter 2018-19

## 20th Anniversary

### Frank Stevenson Archives & Martha Soper Library



Patrica Osborne

## 60th Anniversary

### OSHS



Frank Tinsley, Founding President of OSHS

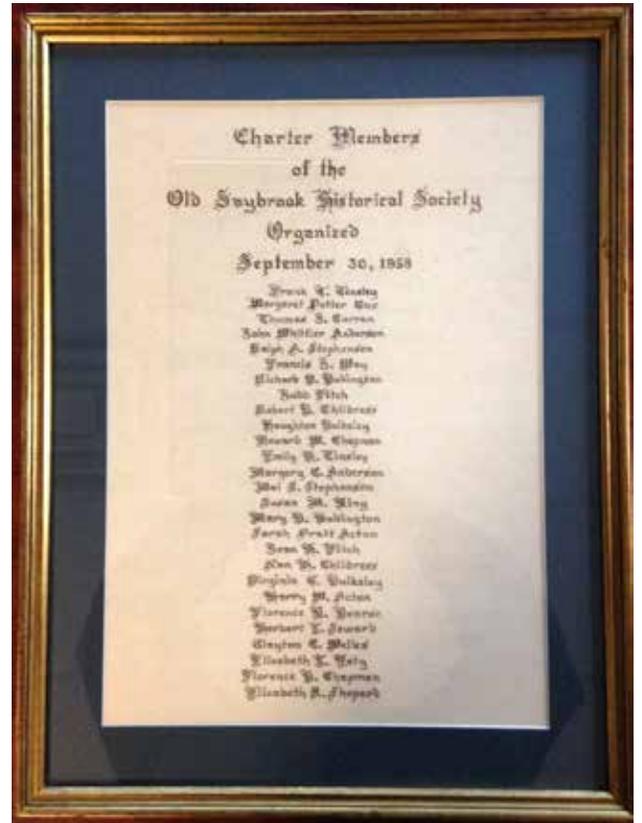
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Mrs. Frank Stevenson at building dedication



William (Bill) Philips, benefactor, and his wife Barbara Smith at 15th anniversary celebration



Martha Soper, Robert Ingham, Margaret Bock, Elaine Staplins and Donald Swan at dedication



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*Ways & Means*

Donna DiBella

*Layout and Printing*

Essex Printing

Dear Members,

We are daily engrossed in fulfilling our mission and, as a result, the history of the Society as an organization does not always get the attention it deserves. Last year we were engrossed with the plans for the 250th celebration of the Hart House and this year we had two more celebrations that should be recognized as major achievements. The founding of the Society in 1958 began the shift from the haphazard effort to preserve, protect and promote Old Saybrook's rich and important history. Therefore, not a day goes by 60 years later, that the mission is not addressed. The Campus came, after tremendous effort, in 1974 with the purchase of the Gen. William Hart House (1767) and grounds which led to the wonderful public colonial gardens, the Exhibit Gallery and 20 years ago our outstanding Frank Stevenson Archives Building that today serves also as our Welcome and Business Center.

These accomplishments, along with major events, such as, the Centennial Parade, lectures, exhibits, extensive growth of our collections, major improvements to the House, publications, tours, involvement with our schools (and much more) is inspiring.

These are community celebrations and come with gratitude from the support of our Town, the marvelous volunteers, merchants, our neighbors, the Grace Church and First Church of Christ, the craftsmen, generous Foundations, state agencies, descendants of the early settlers from all over the Country, generous members and friends. We will look now to our future with the strong will to continue to improve, grow and always be the best that we can be. The potential is endless.

We are thankful to Tom Stevenson for his dedicated trusteeship for the past six years and welcome William Temple as his replacement. I am personally grateful and proud to work with the Officers, Trustees and dedicated volunteers. We are fortunate to have this committed and talented group.

With best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year...

*Marie*

*May the following members rest in peace*

**PHILIP BROADHURST**

**STUART OTTO**

**WILLIAM E. PHILIPS**

**JOHN SIKORA**

**LEN SIMONI**

# Lifetime Preservation Award Presented to Barbara J. Maynard

To raise awareness of Old Saybrook's unique historic resources and recognize individuals who have preserved these treasures, the Old Saybrook Historical Society established a "Preservation Award" three years ago.

This year's recipient of the Society's "Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation" is former eight-time First Selectwoman Barbara J. Maynard for her many achievements in historic preservation.

She becomes the third recipient of the Preservation Award and the first to receive the award for her Lifetime Achievements.

Recipients of the first Preservation Award were Herb and Sherry Clark, owners of the 1678 Bushnell House and Farm, Boston Post Road and the second award was presented to Stephen and Carol Huber, owners of the John Whittlesey House, Ferry Road.

Ms. Maynard served as First Selectwoman from 1973 until 1989 and her love for the town and love of history, plus a touch of political savvy, found expression in her signature campaign materials which were large size postcards of old time photos of Old Saybrook.

More notably, she led efforts to obtain both the Saybrook Point area that included the mini-golf course and the nearby Sandbar Restaurant, today's Vicki Duffy Pavilion and, in 1985, in observance of the town's 350 anniversary, arranged with the State of Connecticut for the purchase at \$1 of what is today the Saybrook Fort Memorial Park.

She is also credited with arranging to purchase Harvey's Beach and obtaining the Kirtland House, now the offices for Youth and Family Services.

Long a lover of local history, she worked with Elaine Staplins to conceptualize the history of Old Saybrook for the tile wall in Acton Library.

She was a major contributor to the publication of "Faces and Places," co-author of "Old Saybrook: Postcard History," and instrumental in publishing "Glimpses of Saybrook in Colonial Days" by Harriet



*Barbara Maynard with First Selectman Carl Fortuna*

Chapman Chesebrough.

Her efforts have also extended to natural history and she has nurtured and planted seedlings from the town's 1876 Centennial Elms. She almost single-handedly saved the Centennial Elm in front of McDonald's Restaurant when the Department of Transportation wanted to remove it to widen the Post Road.

While she grows nostalgic recalling her childhood days at Saybrook Manor and the summer smell of salt water and sand flats, she has been a visionary for

practical preservation and her lifetime achievements have defined our community and made it a unique and better place to live, work and play.

In honor of her achievements, the Historical Society is planting a tree and placing a marker on the Town Green. Public ceremonies will be conducted in the spring.

*Tedd Levy*



## Hart House Basement Hatchway Door Handle – Evidence of Colonial Witchcraft Superstitions

During an early autumn inspection of the Hart House basement door, a colonial-era hexmark was noticed on the door handle. This hexmark inscription is a significant reminder of Colonial-Saybrook witchcraft superstitions.

Witch trials conducted in colonial Connecticut and “Massachusetts created numerous superstitions throughout the entire Puritan society. These superstitions originally began in Europe, and then moved over to colonial America. They thought that in order to believe in God and angels, you had to believe in evil spirits as well.”<sup>(2)</sup> Hysteria behind these superstitions led to witch trials in Connecticut, which were followed three decades later with the Salem witch trials.

One of the first witch trials in Connecticut resulted from the charge of suspicion of witchcraft against “Goody” Garlick for the death of Elizabeth Gardiner Howell, the daughter of Old Saybrook’s famous engineer and colonist Lion Gardiner. (In Puritan society, the honorific “Goody,” short for goodwife, was given to most women of what we now call working class status). In February 1658, 16-year-old Elizabeth, who had recently given birth to a child, fell ill. While stricken to her bed before she died, Elizabeth screamed “A witch! A witch! Now you are come to torture me because I spoke two or three words against you.” When Lion Gardiner was called to his daughter’s bedside, he found her at the foot of her bed and he asked her what she saw. Elizabeth replied “A black thing at the bed’s feet” she answered, flailing at an invisible adversary.<sup>(3)</sup>

Several days before Elizabeth passed, her mother, Mary Gardiner, tried to console her and told Elizabeth that she was not bewitched, but must have had bad dreams. However, Elizabeth was insistent

and said that she could see figures in the two corners at the foot of her bed; there stood “Goody Garlick in the far corner and a black thing in the near corner...” she said. The death-bed accusations were alone sufficient evidence to bring a charge of suspicion of

witchcraft against Goody Garlick.<sup>(4)</sup>

At the time, Lion Gardiner and his family lived in East Hampton, but the local magistrates decided to refer the case to a higher court in Hartford, CT. Historian T.H. Breen believes that the deference to Hartford was in some senses an admission of failure. “A little village had proven unable to control the petty animosities among its inhabitants,” he wrote in his 1989 history of East Hampton, *Imaging the Past* (Addison Wesley).<sup>(5)</sup>

Goody Garlick was brought to trial in Hartford, but there was a new sheriff in town in 1658: John Winthrop, Jr. - son of the co-founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony - had recently been persuaded to take position of Governor of the Connecticut Colony. This was a stroke of good luck for Garlick. Winthrop was dubious that your average farmer’s wife could perform the magical acts attributed to witches. So he looked to another explanation for people like Goody Garlick and their alleged crimes. “He saw witchcraft cases as an incidence of community pathology,” says Connecticut state historian Walter Woodward, an associate professor

at the University of Connecticut. “The pattern is clear in cases in which Winthrop was involved. It is the pattern of not finding the witches quite guilty, but putting pressure on them to better conform to social norms.”<sup>(6)</sup> Goody Garlick was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Over the following three years (1658 to 1661)



*The hexmark looks like the Roman numeral ten with a horizontal line drawn through the center. In colonial New England the hexmark was meant to protect the inhabitants against “ye evils of witchcraft and diverse other manifestations of devilltry” that the supposed colonial witches carried with them. If you had this mark on your door, it showed others that you believed in the superstitions that came with wanting good spirits as well as being a means of keeping evil spirits from your house. This mark on your door was a “sign” that you stood behind the Puritans and their belief in witchcraft. Without the hexmark on your door there was a risk of becoming a target of the believers.<sup>(1)</sup>*

## Facilities Report

Our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2018 facilities projects include many annual cold-weather preparation tasks. We are ever vigilant to prioritize safety-first tasks including the security/fire alarm systems, fire-extinguisher checks, securing all garden & outdoor plumbing, servicing the heating systems and cleaning the gutters.

This fall we also chose to conduct some minor but important Hart House repairs. A cracked wide-pine floor board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was found to be a decades-old makeshift access for at least two generations of electrical wiring. The repaired floor board is now easily removed for electrical maintenance, and also serves as a way to observe the 250-year-old plaster construction of the ceiling below. Volunteer-repair of a Hart House Gallery door-threshold as well as repair of moisture damage to portions of the Hart House Gallery siding and working-kitchen siding has been completed. The Hart House double dutch-door latch mechanism was also repaired this fall.

The latch mechanism is unique for a 250-year-old building in that it includes a simple cam-lever design that translates the motion of turning the interior door-knob to an upward exterior-latch motion, releasing the exterior door latch.

Upcoming maintenance is planned and contracted for completion of the Hart House window restoration, repair and painting of the Hart House Dudley Room and Library, and reconstruction of the Gallery brick walkway to correct the current “unsafe” surface and improve drainage. We have received a generous gift of \$3,500 for the repair of the Gallery brick walkway, and we are hoping to receive more donations to cover the \$6,750 cost of replacing all the bricks. Updated electrical outlets and switches are also planned for the Hart House followed by an inspection from the Old Saybrook Fire Marshall.

*Ed Armstrong*

## Hart House Basement Hatchway Door Handle, *continued from page 4*

other events shook the residents of Old Saybrook and tested their religious faith. At a court in Hartford on September 5, 1661 Nicholas and Margaret Jennings of Old Saybrook were indicted for the death of Reynold Marvin’s wife and the child of Balthazar de Wolfe. For most Old Saybrook residents, the trial of two of its citizens had shaken the community to its core.<sup>(7)</sup> The following indictment was read at the court:

*“Nicholas Jennings (of Sea Brook) thou art here indicted for not having the fear of God before thine eyes, thou hast entertained familiarity with Stan the great enemy of God and mankind and by his help hast done works above*

*the course of nature to ye loss of ye lives of several persons ... according to ye law of God and ye established laws of this common wealth thou deserves to die.”*

Jennings replied NOT GUILTY.<sup>(8)</sup>

Although the Jennings were not found guilty, they were not cleared either. The court apparently found that they were not fit parents and both their sons (John and Joseph) were “apprenticed” to others. Nicholas Jennings continued to live in Old Saybrook, and died there in 1673, whereupon his estate was administered by his son John.<sup>(9)</sup>

*Ed Armstrong*

### References

<sup>1</sup> Salem Cross Inn Website “[The Hexmark and the Salem Witch Trials](#)”

The Salem Cross Inn is a restaurant on a working farm at 260 West Main Street in West Brookfield, Massachusetts. It is located in the White Homestead, a c. 1740 Georgian style house, pg. 1

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 1

<sup>3</sup> Smithsonian.com, *Before Salem, There Was the Not-So-Wicked Witch of the Hamptons*, (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com>, Oct 25, 2012), 1-2.

<sup>4</sup> R.G. Tomlinson, *Witchcraft Trials of Connecticut: The First Comprehensive, Documented History of Witchcraft Trials in Colonial Connecticut*, (Hartford, CT, The Bond Press, 1978), 20-21.

<sup>5</sup> Smithsonian.com, *Before Salem*, 1-2.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 3.

<sup>7</sup> Donald Perreault, *Saybrook’s Witchcraft Trial of 1661, Old Saybrook Historical Society Chapman Lecture Series, Thursday, October 25, 2012*, (Centerbrook, CT, Essex Printing, 2013), 4.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 4.

<sup>9</sup> Tomlinson, *Witchcraft Trials of Connecticut*, 25

## December Memories



*Stephen Sakatos, with the Governor's Foot Guard, just before he marches with us at the Fife and Drum Parade. He had a great time!*



*Great crowd, beautiful decorations ... wonderful food and libations and who could forget the voices of our student volunteers as they filled the dining room with the songs of the season?*



*Linda Kinsella at the Torchlight Parade*



*Tulip ornaments made by Teddi Kopcha as gifts to be given to all at the party as a reminder of the seasons, change and rebirth*

## **“If I am Dead and Gon’”: Oliver Graham of Saybrook, Connecticut and Elizabethtown, Upper Canada (1758–1838)**

**--Pamela Vittorio, Professional Genealogist, Brooklyn, NY**

*Oliver Graham was both patriot and opportunist. His reasons for accepting acres of Crown Land with a Loyalist's oath, may have included coercion and despair. Having no family ties and no home to return to in America may have pulled him into the sphere of the Loyalists and away from the Patriot dream. Later, he returns to the U.S. to draw a Revolutionary War Pension.*

**“Liberty or Death,”** the well-known phrase from Patrick Henry’s famous 1775 speech, symbolized the battle cry etched into many Revolutionary War powder horns. Oliver Graham’s horn was no exception. Born in Saybrook, Connecticut on September 27, 1758, Oliver Graham stood only five feet five inches tall when he volunteered in the summer of 1776. He served for a few months in Col. Samuel Mott’s Regiment and then under the command of Lt. Matthew Scoville in Col. William Hart’s regiment, never knowing that one day his horn would be displayed at Hart House in his birthplace. By 1777, Oliver was a non-commissioned private in the infantry of Colonel Seth Warner’s 8th Company in the Seventh Regiment. For a good part of his military career, he had received no pay. Oliver’s service records reflect the chronology of a young man who had bravely joined the rebel cause. But Oliver’s story takes an unexpected twist that led him from New England to New York’s Champlain Valley and later, to the wilderness of Upper Canada.

### **Connecticut Yankee or Green Mountain Boy?**

Oliver Graham’s service was not without tragedy: he was severely injured at Mount Independence, Vermont, in the spring of 1777, when a tree fell on him. After he recuperated, he mustered back in. His exploits continued in Hubbardton, Vermont, where his regiment engaged in several skirmishes. Oliver and his company marched to Bennington in August, and from there, to Saratoga where Burgoyne was captured. In the fall of 1777, Oliver was made a drummer and he troops moved back and forth between Fort Edward and Fort George several times. He was with Wait (Weight) Hopkins’ company at Fort Stark, Bennington, Vermont until 1779. Oliver remained under the command of the Green Mountain Boys, in Col. Seth Warner’s Regiment. He was a drummer at Fort George from March until October

1780 – when events occurred that would forever change his life.

### **Captured and Turned**

On October 10, 1780, Guy Carlton’s forces attacked Fort Ann, Fort Edward, and Fort George, burned the valley, and took hundreds of soldiers and civilians as prisoners. In his pension deposition, Oliver described having been shot and wounded and how he was captured by another corps of Carlton’s militia. He was recovered from his wounds at a Montreal hospital, and then imprisoned at Fort St. Jean. By 1781 Oliver’s attentions had been turned toward the Loyalists, and he joined Ruiter’s Company, part of the King’s Rangers. In his testimony, Oliver claimed he had returned to Fort Edward in 1781 – confirmed by Kezia Baker, who had conveyed her father Albert’s eyewitness accounts to New York historian A.W. Holden, in 1867. Baker said that Oliver came back to Sandy Hook briefly after the war.

Guy Carlton and Robert Rogers endeavored very seriously to recruit captured Colonial militiamen, as numbers in the British army had greatly dwindled. Perhaps Oliver realized it was a “join-or-die” situation. His future father-in-law, Jacob Thompson, a Vermonter who was also a member of the King’s Rangers, may have influenced Oliver’s decision. Both men’s names are found on a Loyalist muster list in 1781. In his deposition, Oliver claimed that he stayed at St. John’s for two years and then proceeded to Upper Canada. He must have known he had to withhold the story of his time spent with the Loyalist regiments. In his deposition, he remains silent about his time in the King’s Rangers.

### **A New Life**

When the Treaty of Paris was signed in September 1783, Oliver Graham was freed from his military obligations to the King’s Rangers and briefly returned to New York. Apparently, there was not enough to persuade Oliver to remain. The offer of Crown land in Upper Canada and perhaps a young wife, held enough promise for him to settle in Elizabethtown, Johnstown District. By 1784 the name Oliver Graham appears on Crown Land petitions and on a landowner map of Elizabethtown, Upper Canada. Oliver married Mary Thompson, daughter

continued on page 8

## Recent Book Donations

I am pleased to accept the donation of two books written by Lois A. Chalker and Tara A. Emerson.

The first book, "The Lineage of the Chalker Family of Old Saybrook, CT" begins with the Chalkers of Old Saybrook and follows the southern branches of the family through the Carolina's and Georgia. Very well illustrated with pictures, articles and newspaper clippings and much more. A must read for Chalker descendants.

The second book, "Alexander and Sachem III, A Young Puritan migrates to New World", is by Lois A.C. Askew. This non-fiction book concerns the decision of a young man's family in England to settle in Guilford, CT in 1639; eventually moving to Old Saybrook where he and his family assume a comfortable life. A fascinating and interesting story for those interested in history.

*Greg Thompson, Archivist*

## If I am Dead and Gon, *continued from page 7*

of fellow Ranger, Jacob Thompson and had eleven children – ten of whom survived into adulthood. For a while, Oliver and his father-in-law shared 200 acres on the St. Lawrence River and many acres of farmland in Elizabethtown. An "early settler," Oliver's name appears on a 1797 Nominal Census of Elizabethtown. By 1818, Oliver had been appointed one of the area's constables. By 1827, Oliver, was a widower. He went to live with his son Oliver Jr., in Brownville, in Jefferson County, New York. He returned to Elizabethtown in 1832, and shared half of a lot of property with his daughter Mary, and her husband, Peter Peer.

### Final Years

On the morning of May 20, 1834, Oliver Graham of Elizabethtown, Upper Canada, put on his best clothes, and left the home he shared with his daughter and son-in-law and his grandchildren. Oliver crossed the St. Lawrence to Ogdensburgh, New York with three former Loyalist soldiers: one was a well-known judge from his neighborhood and the other two were close friends. During his testimony, Oliver recalled his military career and experiences that had taken place half a century before. The court valued his service and good character, and later granted him a very modest Oliver's final years were spent with his youngest son William, in Fredericksburg (today in Lenox and Addington County). On August 12, 1838, was attacked near his home, where he lived with his son, William T. Graham. A man named Young, suffering from mental instability, had gone on a rampage throughout the county. When he encountered the elderly Graham, Young turned his rage upon him. Oliver was brutally stabbed and left for dead in a marshy area near his

home. William did not find his father's body until later that day. Oliver Graham's obituary called him an "old UE...of nearly 80 years – with 10 children." Though Oliver had survived the perils of war, he sadly met with a violent end.

### A Painting Leads to the Original

Oliver Graham's Powder Horn is part of his legacy. Its chain of custody from the end of the Revolutionary War until it came into the possession of Samuel Ludlow Frey is unclear. Perhaps Oliver gave it to Oliver Jr after he had applied for his pension, so it remained in New York. In October 1887, nearly 100 years after Oliver's capture, artist Rufus A. Grider, of Canajoharie, NY, included Oliver's horn in a special project that immortalized hundreds of powder horns.

After viewing Grider's watercolor sketch in the New York Historical Society's archives in 2014, I contacted the Old Saybrook Historical Society in search of the original horn, but it eluded discovery. For three years, I sent messages to various horners' guilds and historical societies, in an attempt to track it down. Finally, in 2017, I contacted OSHS after seeing an image of the horn in an annual appeal; it had been in storage and rediscovered in 2016. I hopped the train from New York to Saybrook and was soon able to actually hold my ancestor's powder horn. This little piece of family history was a thrill to see.

Grider's painting and the original powder horn will be together on exhibit at the OSHS for visitors to see. Descendants of two of Oliver's daughters, Mary Peer, and Lydia Billings, are in touch to this day.

The Oliver Graham powder horn reminds us of the fragility of life – particularly through the eyes

*continued on next page*

## If I am Dead and Gon, *continued from page 8*

of a young man during wartime. His personalized inscription speaks to his own sense of mortality: "When this you see, remember me, if I am dead and Gon'." Oliver will never be forgotten.

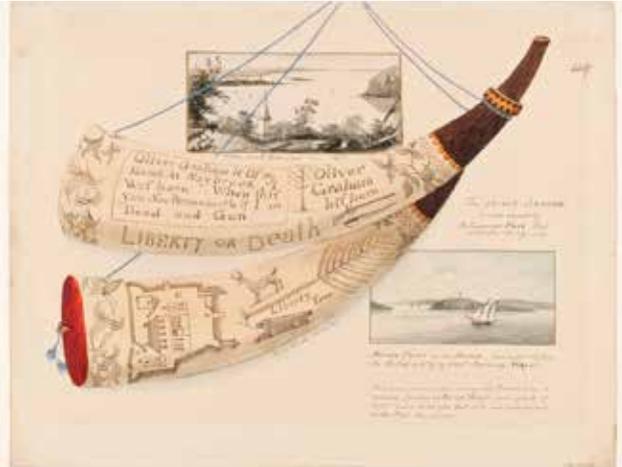


Photo: Powder Horn: Oliver Graham (R-49), Two Sides Depicted, with Vignette Views of Stony Point, New York, and the Alexander Hamilton Monument,

*Weehawken, New Jersey* by Rufus Alexander Grider. Courtesy of the Department of Rights and Reproductions, New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, NY, NY. Permission granted to Pamela Vittorio expressly for scholarly publication. This image may not be reproduced without permission of the New York Historical Society.

*Pamela Vittorio is an associate professor at the New School, historian, linguist, and professional genealogist. Her areas of interest are workers on North American Canals, genealogy in Canada, Italy, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, women's suffrage, railroad workers, and migration patterns. Pamela obtained a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and is currently working on her PLCGS in Canadian Studies and Librarianship from the National Institute of Genealogical Studies (Toronto U). She is a member of APG, NYG&B, NGS, Ohio GS, Ontario GS, NEHGS, CNYGS, Old Saybrook Historical Society, and several other genealogical organizations and historical societies. Pamela is also a Trustee of the Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum and on the Collections Committee at Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse.*

## Getting Saybrook Fort on the List

A capacity crowd filled the Vicki Duffy Pavilion at Saybrook Point in mid-October to hear about the plans to list the sites related to the siege and battles of Saybrook Fort (1636-1637) on the National Register of Historic Places and to take a guided walking tour of nearby sites.

Through a project funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program, National Park Service, the Old Saybrook Historical Society is working to help preserve these sites and develop educational materials for schools and the public.

Fort Saybrook was the first military post to be built by European in the Connecticut wilderness and the area at and around the fort became the site for the most prolonged and intensive fighting of the Pequot War.

This original fort was constructed in 1636-37 and located at the highest point on Saybrook Point, not to be confused with Saybrook Fort Memorial Park which was the location of the second fort. The first fort was destroyed by fire in 1647.

After the October walking tour Dr. Kevin McBride and his team from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center discussed the development of an informational brochure, the placement of historic markers, and the application for listing the sites in the



National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

If you missed this informative and enjoyable walking tour, the Society is planning another tour in the spring.

For more information about Saybrook Fort and the project, or to receive email notices of future events, send an email to: [contact@saybrookhistory.org](mailto:contact@saybrookhistory.org). Changes to the battlefield must go through a compliance process. In addition, there may be state or local preservation laws that place restrictions on any property listed in the National Register.

*Tedd Levy*

## Ways & Means

On Saturday, September 8, the Society held its annual Hosting for History event on the campus of the General William Hart House and Stevenson Archives Building. A one-hour wine and beer tasting followed by food stations from restaurants/caterers and music provided by the Rhode Island Fiddlers



completed the evening. All those who attended had a wonderful time. I am compelled to

mention the following sponsors especially since all food and beverages were graciously donated: Paradise Wine and Spirits; 30 Mile Brewery; Alforno Trattoria; Atlantic Seafood; Caffè Marche; Fromage; Pasta Vita; Himalaya Restaurant; Killam & Bassette Farmstead; Saigon City; The Little Pub; Walt's Market; Mirsina's; The Back Porch/Scotch Plains Tavern; Dagmar's Desserts; Starbuck's. Remember to thank these sponsors when shopping or visiting their restaurants! They need to know how grateful we are for their generosity.

Also, thanks go out to our basket auction donors as well as our silent auction donors. The Ways and Means Committee put lots of miles on securing these items and

arranging them so attendees would find them attractive for bidding. The flowers were hand-picked by a



committee member and arranged in mason jars. So many others, too many to mention, helped the entire event come together....ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

The support of businesses from the Town of Old Saybrook speaks volumes. We continue to be eternally grateful to those who believe in us and our mission: Dedicated to Preserving, Protecting and

Promoting the History of Old Saybrook.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 7, 2019, the first Saturday after Labor Day. We'll do it again. You'll not want to miss it!

*Donna DiBella, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee*

## New Members 11/1/17-12/9/18

Auld, Kerry	Old Saybrook	CT
Brandelli, Donna	Stonington	CT
Campbell, Ed	Athens	PA
Carson, Scott	Old Saybrook	CT
Carswell, David	Clinton	CT
D'Oench, Nancy & Woody	Old Saybrook	CT
DeLisa, Diana & Peter	Old Saybrook	CT
Dziaman, Nancy	Old Saybrook	CT
Farman, Kristin	Chevy Chase	MD
Fleming, Sallyanne	Raleigh	NC
Harris, Carol	Aylett	VA
Heise, Carl & Margaret	Old Saybrook	CT
Hobbs, Reverend Mercy	Pierre	SD
Jackson, Sadie Chapman	Spartanburg	SC
Jones & Family Bill&Kathi	Old Saybrook	CT
Kately, Hanna & Richard	Old Saybrook	CT
Keefe, Jim	Old Saybrook	CT
Koch, Gary R. & Baiden, Mandy	Old Saybrook	CT
Kopcha, John Louis & Christine	Old Saybrook	CT
Lay, Kenneth & Anita	Fernandina Beach	FL
Lewis, Gerri	Old Saybrook	CT
MacChesney, Michael	Fresno	CA
Mahan, Russell	Santa Clara	UT
McKeller, Ian	Alameda	CA
Petrasek, Sandy	Old Saybrook	CT
Purdom, Ned	San Anselmo	CA
Rapping, Judith	Albuquerque	NM
Roberge, Lenoir	Old Saybrook	CT
Roberts, Kristen	Old Saybrook	CT
Ruck, Lee	Old Saybrook	CT
Satmary, Paula & Mike	Old Saybrook	CT
Smith Jr, Robert H.	Hartford	CT
Smyth, Penny	Lyme	CT
Soper, Susan	Atlanta	GA
Sulinski, Nina	Chester	CT
Van de Wetering, Carol	Santa Rosa	CA
Vittorio, Pamela	Brooklyn	NY

# Garden Report

The old English Carol for the Twelve Days between Christmas and Epiphany begins and ends with “And a partridge in a pear tree”. It is a Christmas favorite of mine, because I dearly love the espalier pear tree in the Hart House Garden. Although I have never seen a partridge in the tree, some small winged friends do find it a lovely perch. After the autumn leaves drop, you can usually see one or two robin nests hidden in the branches.

Our pear tree is a prolific producer of the Williams (Bartlett) variety. The pears are ripe for picking in late September.

By December, the gardens have been put to bed for another season and gardeners receive a special gift of pear “spoon” jam and a bottle of golden pear liqueur.

True “fruit of their labor” (and another good reason to be a HHG gardener).

Six dedicated, hard-working volunteers tend the gardens from April to October; Nancy Dziama, Joanne Goduti, Anu Koiv, Bonnie Penders, Carin Roaldset, and me. Ed Armstrong is our angel go-to-guy for help with repairs and lots of incidentals throughout the season.

It’s a good team that works together to make the Hart House Gardens a beautiful part of the Old Saybrook Historical Society. If you would like to be a member of the HHG garden group please call the Archive 860-395-1635. Experienced or just starting out, either way you are welcome to join.

This year the weather presented a challenge for gardeners. We went from winter to summer with only a brief “hello” to a spring that came with heavy rains. The effect was delayed flowering of cool weather bulbs and spring perennials that wilted fast with the summer heat. It was not a typical New England summer, and the high humidity brought lots and lots of broad leaf weeds all summer long.

The gardens were the site of many activities

this summer: The annual Antiques Fair, and our perennial plant sale, a garden lunch for members of the Old Saybrook Garden Club, two weddings, the U.S. Coast Guard Jazz concert, the Hosting for History, Taste of the Town fundraiser, an auction

winner’s “Lunch in the Garden” and many school and private tours.

It is a pleasure to have these special events but it’s also a pleasure to see the garden enjoyed by people taking their daily walks.

Note cards: We have so many lovely photos of the flowering plants we decided to have note cards made and offer

them for sale. We chose eight pictures and had them professionally printed by Essex Printing.

The sets sold out quickly, we plan to reorder; a set of eight cards with envelopes is \$15.

If you are interested in placing an order email: [contact@saybrookhistory.org](mailto:contact@saybrookhistory.org).

Best wishes for Happy 2019,

*Linda Kinsella,  
Keeper*



*Fundraising luncheon in the garden*





## The Old Saybrook Historical Society

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## Upcoming in 2019

**May 19** – Pamela Vittoria’s discussion of her family search ... “Talks from the Hart”

**May 26** – Upper Cemetery Tour

**June 1** - Antiques Auction

Exhibit and Programs related to the Pequot War

**September 7** - Our fabulous fundraiser under the tent featuring wonderful local restaurants and specialty food stores

*More on all these in our Spring Newsletter ...*



*Tom Stevenson and incoming trustee Bill Temple at the Annual Meeting*

