

CESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 40, No. 2

Keeping Cheshire's History Alive!

Fall 2017

Cheshire Architect: Alice Washburn (1870-1958)

The Society hosted a tour of Alice Washburn homes in May of this year. Pat Vita chaired this event. We are providing a closer look at Washburn, a woman clearly ahead of her time.

FEATURE ARTICLE: HIDDEN IN PLAIN "SITE"

By Jaime Grant, edited by Mitzi Romano

In 2016, a Cheshire homeowner discovered that his house was an "Alice Washburn Colonial", built in 1928. He had the original blueprint elevations for the house framed and on display in the living room, so how did he not know it was a Washburn house? Quite simply, the plans were not signed!

The owner explains, "She worked in a male-dominated industry in an era where I'm told she couldn't even sign her own papers, so she had her male builders sign instead", if at all. In addition, Alice is reputed to have simply destroyed a lot of important documents, possibly not recognizing their importance.

Once the house was verified and officially recognized as a Washburn Colonial, the typical Washburn design elements were obvious! From the outside, the large windows, arches, and welcoming entryways are evident. Once inside her ideas flow throughout the house with built in corner china cabinets, intricate woodwork, and an ornate fireplace, which were all typical of any of Mrs. Washburn's creations. The owner notes, "The house's design and the way the sunlight shone throughout the space, warming the rooms and the wide-plank hardwood floors, along with the arched doorways, made the home so inviting."

How Many Washburns Are There?

In 1990, the booklet "Alice F. Washburn, Architect", by Martha Yellig, listed six Washburn houses in Cheshire, one of which was the house she designed as a wedding gift for her granddaughter. In addition, the Preston/Trythall family homestead on Cornwall Avenue should be counted since this was the "laboratory" where Alice tested out many of her design ideas. Finally, the May 19, 1990 Washburn Celebration Cheshire House Tour brochure added one more house on Maple Avenue as undocumented but attributed. The 2016 discovery brings the total to nine.

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ALICE USED TO LIVE HERE:

A Biography of ALICE WASHBURN

By Mitzi Romano

Alice Frances Trythall appears to have had a fairly traditional late-19th century upbringing in Cheshire. She was born in 1870, and was the youngest of four sisters who survived to adulthood (a brother and another sister died in infancy). Her father, Samuel Trythall, was a farmer. He was born in Cornwall, England and came to the United States with his family when his father came to work in Cheshire's barite mines. Her mother, Frances Preston, was the daughter of one of Cheshire's early settlers, Amasa Preston. In fact, Alice grew up in the

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Spirits Alive Tickets – Special Pre-Sale For Society Members ONLY until September 1st

Go to our website: www.cheshirehistory.org and click on our on-line ticket service (through Eventbrite) to order your tickets ahead of the general public. Tours are Friday, October 13th and Saturday, October 14th. Tours leave every 15 minutes starting at five o'clock and the last tour is nine o'clock. Ticket prices start at \$10.13. All new stories! All new tales! This is our major fundraiser for the year. Please come out and support our historic cemetery tour. We have sold out three years in a row – take advantage of this pre-sale for our members! Promotion for ticket sales for general public will begin on Labor Day Weekend.

Spirits Alive: Conversations from the Grave Monday Evening, October 23, Seven O'clock

Please join us to hear the rest of the tale! There is more to the stories told at Spirits Alive 2017. Who descended from Benedict Arnold? What became of the faithful servant Jane? And there is much more! What news articles reported some of these stories and what did they say? Where did the researchers find the information to piece the stories together? The actors would also like to share with you their thoughts on their dearly departed and how it feels to spend the dark late hours in the cemetery.

Our Mission

Keeping Cheshire's history alive through our museum's collections, exhibitions and programs.

Our Vision

The Cheshire Historical Society will be integrated in the life and interest of the community as an accessible source of historical information and knowledge.

CORRECTION

Our Spring 2017 Newsletter listed Meredith Sturges as the *President* of the Lady Fenwick Chapter of the DAR. Ms. Sturges is the *Secretary* of this organization.

President's Message – Getting the Message Out

The Society was thrilled to be invited to the West Main Art Market held on July 16 by the Ball & Socket Arts. We were even more thrilled to feel like the popular girl at the dance. Several hundred people stopped by our table to talk about our town's history, to look at our display of buttons and memorabilia from the Ball & Socket Manufacturing Company and to play our History Game. It was a great day. For several years I have been concerned that our Society is important but not as relevant as we could be to our local Cheshire community. Our dedicated volunteers, our focus on our mission of keeping Cheshire's history alive, and listening to the needs of our Cheshire neighbors has enabled us to make that jump to relevance. We could not have done this without your support as a member of the Cheshire Historical Society.

—Diane Calabro, President, Cheshire Historical Society

Post Office Box is Retired for Cost Savings

For cost saving reasons, we have released the Society PO Box and are now having mail delivered directly to 43 Church Drive. Please be sure to send all correspondence and donations to CHS, 43 Church Dr., Cheshire CT 06410-3104.

Come visit the Society on Sunday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. We have a lot to offer our visitors so please take some time to stop by! We have wonderful docent-led tours.

There's always *something happening* at the Society!

@YOU! Do We Have Your Email?

Contact Justin.Navarro@che.necoxmail.com or at (203) 272-2574 to update all of your contact information. This will ensure that you not only continue to receive important Society e-mail alerts, but also the link to our newsletters.

The Cheshire Historical Society, Inc. (CHS) was organized in 1951 and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Connecticut as a non-profit, educational institution. All contributions to CHS are tax-deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes. CHS operates the 1785 Hitchcock-Phillips House Museum (HPH) which is located on the Church Green at 43 Church Drive, Cheshire CT 06410. Corporate headquarters for the organization are located at the HPH and can be reached by phone at (203) 272-2574. Visit our website at www.cheshirehistory.org. Membership in CHS is open to anyone with an interest in history. Benefits include annual mailings, two newsletters a year, and voting privileges at organizational meetings. Dues payments are a significant part of our operating budget for the HPH. Members are also eligible for volunteer programs.

Contributions of original articles, news items and/or photographs, in addition to suggestions for the improvement of our newsletter, are solicited and welcomed. Contact Diane Calabro at CHS. Design and layout of the newsletter is provided by the CHS Board of Directors.

Like Us. Love Us.

Facebook and Instagram are the new tools to let you know what's going on with our Society. Instagram is managed by Mitzi Romano, a crackerjack photographer who captures photo vignettes of our house and collections. Facebook is managed by Joyce Mulholland along with Mitzi and others. This time of year our Facebook page is all about Spirit's Alive and gives our Facebook friends a real insight into the day-to-day activities required to build and execute our major fundraiser. Our volunteers work very hard to bring new images and new information to our social media pages. Please, if you haven't already, like us on Facebook. If you can make your way to Instagram, click on the little heart to show you like our photos. And Trip Advisor! Please stop by the Society and then give us a plug on Trip Advisor!

SAVE THE DATE!

Cheshire Historical Society Holiday Open House and Christmas Party is Sunday, December 17th from Noon to Five O'clock . The theme is The Durand Family and Vaudeville as interpreted by the Suburban Garden Club. Please make every effort to stop by and enjoy this splendid event!

Society Board of Directors

Officers:

President	Diane Calabro
Vice President	OPEN POSITION
Membership Secretary	Justin Navarro
Recording Secretary	Mitzi Romano
Corresponding Secretary	Shirley Brady
Treasurer	David Dent

Directors:

Three year terms begin in the month of May

Colleen Fitzgerald	2015- 2018
Cara A. Luciani	2015- 2018
Diane Ulbrich	2015- 2018
Clare Leake	2016- 2019
Jaime Grant	2016- 2019
Marshall Robinson	2016- 2019
José Rodriguez	2017- 2020
Lois Van Almkerk	2017- 2020
Pat Vita	2017- 2020

Curator Team:

Curator: Open

Assistant Curator:

Ilona Somogyi - Clothing Historian

Facilities:

House & Grounds Manager: David Calabro

Student Liaison: Jacob Lanzer, Class of 2019

FALL CALENDAR**FALL CALENDAR**

Except for holiday weekends, the Cheshire Historical Society (CHS) Hitchcock-Phillips House (HPH) will be open to the public every Sunday, 2-4 p.m. through the end of the year. Check website for more information. It is also open by appointment on other days. Call (203) 272-2574 to schedule a visit for a private tour or for research purposes. CHS now offers WiFi to our researchers and guests.

SUNDAYS: Visitor Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Tours are available.

AUGUST

August 26 & 27 – See you at the Cheshire Grange Fair

SEPTEMBER

September 16 – See you at the Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival

September 17 - Speaker Afternoon—Stone Age Artifacts Workshop

September 23 – See you at the Land Trust Ives Farm Day at the Farm

September 18 – Board Meeting

September 25 – Speaker Evening – Who Still Collects Antiques?

OCTOBER

October 13 & 14 – Spirits Alive at Hillside Cemetery

October 16 – Board Meeting

October 22 – Speaker Afternoon – Tracking Wild Animals

October 23 – Speaker Evening – Conversations from the Grave

NOVEMBER

November 20 – Board Meeting

November 21 – Speaker Evening – How Warfare Changed in WWI

DECEMBER

December 11 – Gingerbread House Workshop

December 17 – Christmas Party & Holiday Open House

Cheshire Toastmasters meet at the Society on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:15 pm. Cheshire Horse Council meets at the Society on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. If you would like to stop by the Society for research or a tour, please do so as a Society member will be on site.

Curator Update

WANTED: A very special person or persons to coordinate Curator, Collection Management, Archiving, Electronic Inventory, Acquisitions, and more. We are looking for volunteers who could manage 10 to 20+ hours per week for many, many years. This is the perfect “encore career” for people interested in history and keeping history alive in Cheshire. Call the Society at 203-272-2574 or email cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com.

SPIRITS ALIVE NEEDS JARS

Mason jars, spaghetti sauce jars, and any quart-sized or larger jars clean and with the label removed (soak for a bit in hot, soapy water and most labels slide right off). Drop them by the Society back door at your convenience. We would plan to use about 1,000 jars for the Spirits Alive Tour in October so please do not put these glass jars in your recycle! Save them for the Society.

Continued from Page One

WASHBURN: HIDDEN IN PLAIN “SITE”

But there may be even more! In 2017, one more homeowner traced back his house’s history to Alice Washburn, but we are still waiting to hear if this has been verified. So how can you tell if your house is a “Washburn”?

Identifying a Washburn Colonial

Most of the houses designed by Alice Washburn were in the Colonial Revival style and were therefore the basic two-story colonial shape. Many were saltboxes. Her granddaughter’s house was a Cape Cod style.

She started designing and building in 1919, but it appears that most of her Cheshire houses were built between 1924 and 1928. Of course, that time period could expand as other houses are rediscovered. Aside from her granddaughter’s house, she built her final house in 1931.

From the Outside

On the exterior, Washburn houses are marked by design symmetry. The front door is typically flanked by columns and sidelights and topped by a fan ornament. Design elements are repeated (often from the exterior to the interior) and Palladian windows are common.

In addition, these houses sport oversized windows that often run from floor to ceiling, flanked by decorative shutters. Regardless of the size of the house (some are almost palatial while others are quite modest and unassuming), they typically have a porch, a sunroom, or a terrace. The larger houses may have all three elements.

On the Inside

Many Washburn houses contain a sweeping front staircase leading to an open windowed second floor landing. Alternatively, the staircase may begin in the back of the house and open to two first floor rooms, such as the kitchen on one side and the living room on the other.

Typically, there are wide, arched openings leading from front hall into living and dining rooms.

In addition, the houses are virtually covered with wainscoting, with elaborate corner cupboards built into the dining room. One of Alice’s sons-in-law managed a millshop in Hamden that supplied much of the elegant millwork and moldings found in her houses.

For all that Alice believed that women were uniquely qualified to design houses because they were traditionally placed in charge of domestic affairs, it is interesting to note that most of her houses contain small kitchens. However, these kitchens usually had an adjoining maid’s room.

Better Late Than Never

While Alice Washburn houses were highly valued during her building spree, she did not receive much formal recognition from the architectural community during the 1900’s.

But since 2003, the AIA Connecticut, a statewide chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and Connecticut Magazine have sponsored two awards honoring Alice Washburn:

- The *Alice Washburn House Award* to acknowledge excellence in traditional house design; and
- The *Alice Washburn Accessory Building Award*, which recognizes Connecticut’s architectural heritage of small and subsidiary buildings.

Sources are available upon request.

Continued from Page One

Biography of ALICE WASHBURN

Preston family homestead on Cornwall Avenue, which her mother had inherited when Amasa Preston died in 1866.

As a child, Alice attended a local school for young ladies. An 1868 map of Cheshire shows a “Young Ladies School” located on the corner of Main Street and Cornwall Avenue, which was then known as Elm Street. This was literally just down the street from a building labeled “S. Trithall”, Alice’s family home.

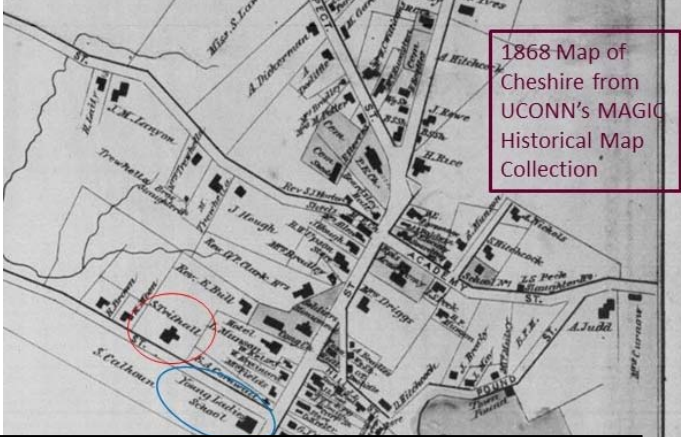
Alice Washburn

According to family history, Alice was formally trained as a teacher and by her mid-twenties she was the principal of a high school in Springfield, Massachusetts. Interestingly, the 1940 federal Census indicates that she never attended college and the highest grade she completed was the third year of high school. However, she is listed as a member of the faculty of Springfield High School in 1895.

When Alice was 26 years old she married Edward M. Washburn, whose family owned a wallpaper business in Springfield. One year later, their daughter Frances Preston Washburn was born. Shortly after, the family relocated to Philadelphia while Edward managed a well-known wallpaper company. This was most likely the National Wallpaper Company, which had acquired Cresswell & Washburn Wallpaper in 1892. By 1909, their second daughter, Martha, was born and the family was back in Cheshire.

According to the 1910 census, Edward remained a wallpaper dealer and Alice was not employed. As of the 1920 Census, Edward was described as a “commercial traveler” in the wallpaper industry and Alice was still described as not employed. However, Alice had actually begun her house building venture in 1919.

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**Alice Frances Trythall Washburn
1870-1958**



Photos from some of the Washburn Homes in Cheshire



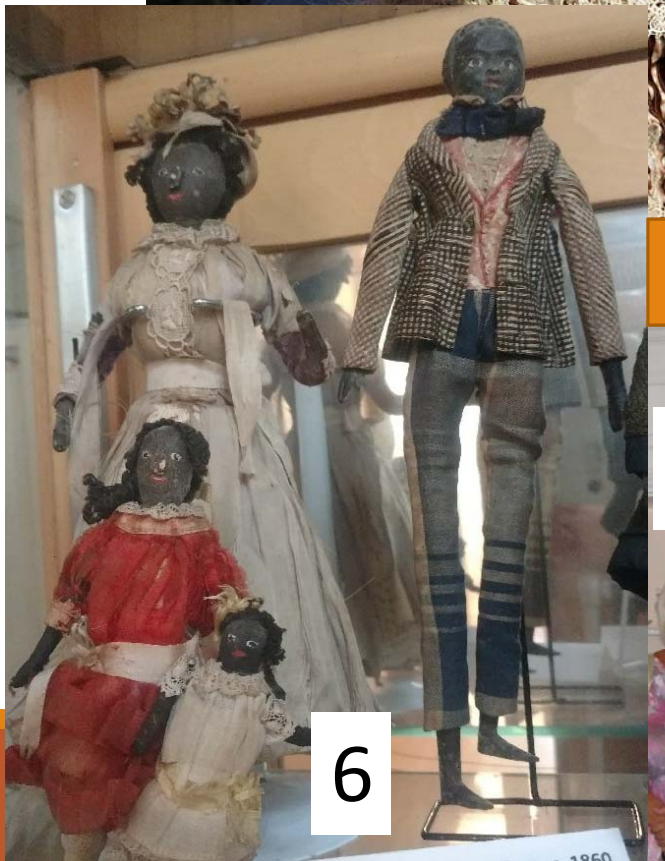
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Photo Captions – Alice Washburn – Page 5

This may be the only known photograph of Alice Washburn, courtesy of Ann Farist Butler

Photo Captions – Page 6

1 - Our New Student Liaison: Jacob Lanzer, Class of 2019. Jacob is working on a WWI Display in our Exhibit Room. Please come see this.

2 - Jim Vibert demonstrating Colonial Woodworking at CT Open House Day in June

3 - Angela Jannetty and Wade Elmer reading parts for October's Spirits Alive Cemetery tour

4 - The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Board Meeting held at the Society in July presided by CHS member Inge Venus. Board Members enjoyed their docent-led tour of the Hitchcock-Phillips House

5 - Collections Policy Workshop in August funded by CTH Grant: Holly Crowell, Pat Vita, Colleen Fitzgerald, Clare Leake, Jose Rodriguez, Brenda Milkofsky (Independent Curator and Facilitator), Dottie Drufva, Val Joyce, Diane Calabro. Our Spring 2018 Newsletter will cover this Workshop in more detail.

6 - Rag Dolls (see article on Page 9)

7 - Lois Van Almerck, Chair of the 45th Annual Antiques & Collectibles Sale held in June

Continued from Page Four

Biography of ALICE WASHBURN**Becoming an Architect**

Architecture was first recognized as a profession in 1857. While it was a male-dominated profession, there have been a handful of notable female architects. In fact, Alice believed that women were uniquely qualified to design houses because society had traditionally placed them in charge of domestic affairs.

Interestingly, one of Alice's contemporaries (just two years older than her) was Theodate Pope Riddle, who grew up in Farmington, Connecticut, and designed homes such as Hill-Stead. Theodate came from a well-to-do family and was able to hire faculty members to tutor her in architecture. But where did Alice learn this trade?

Certainly, Alice was exposed to classic New England architecture by simply growing up in Cheshire. Just around the corner from her family home stood the First Church of Christ Congregational, which was designed by David Hoadley, one of Connecticut's foremost architects. Hoadley was especially fond of the Federal style of architecture. Also located on the Green are examples of Georgian (the Hitchcock-Phillips House), Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival homes.

In addition, it is possible that she was exposed to additional architectural styles once she married into the Washburn family and their wallpaper business, as she may have accompanied her husband on his "commercial travels".

Family stories indicate that at one point, Alice hired a driver and made an extended tour of New England. During this tour, she took photographs, measurements and plaster casts of details of the houses that she saw.

A "Designing Woman"

It appears that once she completed this tour, she set about experimenting with her design ideas in the Preston/Trythall family homestead. For example, the traditional staircase that ascended from the front door was moved so that it ascended from the rear of the house. She must have liked the result as several of her later house designs contain this feature.

Alice built her earliest houses in 1919 in Hamden, with financing provided by her own inheritance and supplemented by her husband's investments. But her enterprise really got going during the early 1920s, when the New Haven suburbs experienced a building boom as the result of several farms being sold off and subdivided. The vast majority of the almost 90 houses she built were in Hamden. In addition, she designed and built houses in New Haven, North Haven, Woodbridge, Orange, and Cheshire. The Cheshire houses were built from 1924 through 1928. Most of the houses were of the Colonial Revival style, although she occasionally tried out other styles.

Alice was known as a stickler for excellence. She often "gave" expensive millwork, elaborate windows or elegant mantels to clients if she felt that they were necessary for the house but the owner could not afford them.

While she rarely signed her own blueprints, the 1930 federal Census listed her as a "Building Contractor" and "Employer".

The End of an Era

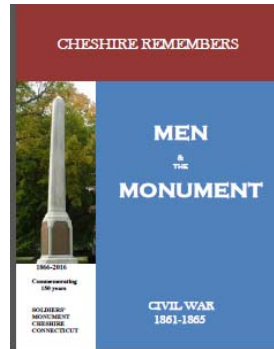
Just one year later, when she was 61 years old, Alice Washburn stopped building houses and declared bankruptcy. She lost the family homestead to creditors and moved to an apartment in Cheshire with her sister (Edward Washburn had died in 1926).

It appears that her inability to compromise and lack of business training, combined with the troubles of the building industry during the Depression were her downfall.

Her last known architectural project was a 1952 Cape Cod house in Cheshire that the family gave to her granddaughter as a wedding gift.

Alice Washburn died on November 17, 1958, at the age of 88. She is buried at Cheshire Hillside Cemetery. But the houses she designed and built live on in town, with additional "Washburns" being discovered every few years.

The Cheshire Historical Society is proud to offer “Cheshire Remembers.” This is a fascinating book about the history of our Monument. It is available for \$10 at the Society. Supplies are limited. Call Diane at (203) 272-2574 to purchase your copy. We can mail this to you, as might be needed.



Requests to Cheshire Historical Society

If you have included the Cheshire Historical Society in your will, thank you! We'd like to keep a record of your generous action. Kindly send a copy to: The Cheshire Historical Society
Attn: David Dent, Treasurer
43 Church Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410-3104

Give Local!

This was the first year that we participated in the Give Local! Program sponsored by the Connecticut Community Foundation. Mitzi Romano chaired this activity and also attended several workshops on creating effective videos and other marketing tools. Mitzi's many volunteer hours paid off as we received a check for \$590.85. Well done Mitzi! We have BIG plans for the 2018 Give Local! Thank you to all our members and friends that contributed to this fundraiser.

Yes, we'll take your pennies, and your nickels, and the rest of your change. We'll roll them up and give you credit for a wonderful donation to the Society! We also have a number of people who are routinely giving us their nickel-back deposit bottles. Leave clean nickel-back deposit bottles at our backdoor.

A Message from our friends at Cheshire Land Trust



Runners
&
Walkers
Welcome

It's a run like no other!

No asphalt. No pavement.

2nd Annual

Ives Farm Tractor Trot 5K

Saturday October 28, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Traverse soft woodland trails & planting fields, run along the Quinnipiac River. Start & Finish at the picturesque red timber barn. Post run party. Live band. Awards!

www.RunSignUp.com

A fundraiser for the Cheshire Land Trust
IvesFarmTractorTrot5K@gmail.com



THANK YOU!

WE WANT TO THANK YOU!

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

♥Give Local, CT Community Foundation

♥Diane Ulbrich

♥Donald Baille

♥Cheshire Academy

♥DAR

♥Frank Donovan

♥Reed Durand

♥Sally Bowman Real Estate

♥General Electric

♥Katherine Smith

♥Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut

Benevity Community Impact Fund

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Ralph Roland

Ruth Ann Turley

Diane Calabro

We received donations of \$2,553.09. We also collected \$157 in door donations. Both figures reflect the February 21, 2017 to July 22, 2017 time period. We very much appreciate those who have contributed beyond their dues when they renew their membership.

From Rag Dolls to Riches

By Mitzi Romano

The Exhibit Room at the Hitchcock-Philips House contains a rather eclectic collection of dolls. This collection includes a number of rag dolls. Other than the approximate ages of these dolls, there was not much information provided about their background. Recently, as volunteers were reorganizing files and folders one Sunday afternoon, we came across a July 21, 1968, letter from Miss Helen J. Moss to Dr. Robert Craig about the origin of the two small rag dolls that her mother donated to the Cheshire Historical Society:

“From what I remember my mother saying about the dolls they were bought at a huge fair that was held in Brooklyn (where my mother lived) perhaps about 1863. This big fair was probably held to raise money for the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

“This Commission may have been the forerunner of the American Red Cross.”

Hmmm.

What was the U.S. Sanitary Commission?

According to the New York Public Library online Archives and Manuscripts, the United States Sanitary Commission (USSC) was a civilian organization authorized by the federal government to provide medical and sanitary assistance to sick and wounded Union soldiers during the Civil War. It was in existence from 1861 through 1879. The American Red Cross was established in 1881 and many of its ideas and principles were based upon the duties of the USSC.

The USSC did not receive funding from the federal government. It was supported by donations of cash and supplies from private citizens at home and abroad.

USSC volunteers, who were primarily women, collected food, clothing, bandages, and medicine for the soldiers. Many served as volunteer nurses in army hospitals and camps. They also provided free room and board to soldiers traveling to or from the war.

Most notably, USSC volunteers assembled and distributed thousands of “comfort bags” to Union soldiers. These packages typically contained shaving supplies, a comb, needles and thread (so that soldiers could repair their own uniforms), packets of coffee and sugar, a miniature Bible, and a small knife for woodcarving (which was a popular hobby). Their most welcome contents were a letter from the sender, blank paper, a stamped envelope, and a pen or pencil. The USSC’s goal was to provide one comfort bag to each soldier every month.

“Sanitary Fairs” supplemented fundraising

In October 1863, the first “Sanitary Fair” or “Sanitation Fair” was held in Chicago, to supplement basic fundraising for the USSC. Eventually, major cities across the Union hosted their own fairs. Cincinnati hosted the Great Western Sanitary Fair in December 1863. Baltimore and Boston also hosted fairs. In April 1864, the Metropolitan Sanitary Fair was held in New York.

Apparently, these Fairs were quite the experience. They included opening night galas, parades, large scale exhibits, and demonstrations of new medical technology. They also featured booths with donated items for sale, including antiques and costly works of art.

In Chicago, the Northwestern Sanitary Fair raised \$80,000, which would be comparable to \$1.5 million in 2017. Part of this came from the sale of the original Emancipation Proclamation document, which had been donated by President Lincoln. In Boston, the most notable transaction was the sale of a painting by the Italian Renaissance painter Andrea del Sarto, which was donated by the son of Boston’s first millionaire.

The Metropolitan Sanitary Fair topped all Sanitary Fair fundraising records by collecting \$2 million – which equates to almost \$30 million in 2017. It was held at the Palace Garden on 14th Street. Among its most popular attractions was the Knickerbocker Kitchen. This was a temporary restaurant with a staff of socialites, including the Roosevelts, who waited on tables.

These Fairs also tapped into the love of dolls with booths that just sold dolls and children’s booths that sold toys and dolls. In addition, raffles were held for more elaborate dolls and those with extensive wardrobes. At the Metropolitan Fair, raffle tickets for a wax doll sold for \$1. One report from the Baltimore Fair stated that the “Children’s Table with toys and dolls raised \$700” – the equivalent of over \$10,000 in 2017!

The Moss connection

Helen Moss’s mother was Mary Adelia Beach, who was born in 1853 in New York City. In 1864, she was 11 years old – prime doll-buying age. It is entirely possible that her rag dolls were purchased at the Metropolitan Sanitary Fair, to benefit the work of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Sadly, Helen Moss passed away at age 85, just four months after sending this letter to Dr. Craig.

Sources are available upon request.

House & Grounds Update

By David Calabro

Our Old House is doing well since the winter. The Suburban Garden Club and the Cheshire Garden Club continue to maintain beautiful plantings and gardens on the grounds. We are always so grateful to them for their hard work, especially watering these gardens in the very hot summer weather. Some Society volunteers added some herbs to the back garden. You are welcome to come and pick basil and oregano which are planted on either side of the cellar doors in the back. Don't be shy! There is plenty. There is also some fine sage growing in the Herb Wheel, but be very careful as you snip these leaves.

Jake Butler is a Boy Scout with Troop 92. This Cheshire High School Senior is working on his Eagle Project to landscape the back of the Society grounds. This area has been long neglected. Jake and his team have been hard at work to clear out brush and debris and to lay down mulch and wood chips. Jake plans to make this a beauty spot in our yard. We very much want to thank Jake for this effort!

We do need to contact our electrician to replace some failing ceiling lights. We'll have these replaced with energy efficient LED lights. We want to thank GC Electric for their fine work for the projects they have done to date. There is some painting (front stairway, rear bathroom, second floor hallway) being scheduled for January 2018. We want to thank Ray Vissat for his work. Both contractors are paid for the work they do as per Town regulations.

We are now at a point where every room in the house has been made functional. There are always betterments and improvements that need to be made and will continue to be made in the coming years, but we are now in a position to draft an operational Maintenance Plan that will be of great aid to us now and to future volunteers.

Part 2.

Supper at 10 1/2 P.M.

Bill of fare:

Soup. Mud Turtle

Fish. Sharks Fins

Roast Lobsters, Oysters, clams.

Fried: frogs & flounders.

Entrees: Mashed peas, sunflower seeds, boiled.

Pickled Eels Feet.

Dessert:

Strawberries, peaches, plums, cherries, Pot-pie.

Nutmegs & Alspice.

Drinks: Sea & Saratoga waters:

(doctored with pure Kerosene)

Ghostly Gatherings in Cheshire in 1871

Don't You Wish You Could Have Attended This!

We have been archiving the many books and pamphlets at the Society and we came across a small pamphlet (about 3" x 5"), actually a program, from an event held in Cheshire in 1871. With Spirits Alive Cemetery Tour scheduled for October 13 & 14, this seemed like a timely piece to share. We don't have any other information beyond this program, so far. If you have any ideas as to how we can research this further, please let us know! REF: ARC #422

Order of Exercises at the Ghostly Gathering: Cheshire Conn.

Dec. 28, 1871

"Can such things be (in Cheshire)

And overcome us like a summer cloud

Without our special Wonder?

When no I think you can behold such sights (in town),

And keep the ruby of your cheeks

When mine are blanched with fear."

[Macbeth.]

Part 1.

DANCING, will commence at 8 P.M.

1. Procession of Ghosts, Music by the Band

2. Quadrille

3. Polka

4. Lancers

5. Waltz

6. Quadrille

7. German

8. Cotillion

9. Country Dance

10. Quadrille

11. Waltz

12. Spanish Dance

13. Lancers

14. Virginia Reel

15. Quaker Dancing

By the entire company, Vanishing March by all the

Ghosts

Part 3.

Programme:

Lecture on Love, Etc. by a Professor

Pas Seul, on the tight rope

Irish Jig

Ground & Lofty Tumbling

Popular Peculiarities

Cookery by Prof. Blot.

Slack Rope performance by the little Russian

Mrs. Jarleys Waks Wurks

Dancing by the company

Music by the Band

The Minstrels will sing a choice selection of songs: concluding with "We wont go home 'til morning, &@."

Volunteer Wish List

Our volunteers are the strength of our organization. People tell us they would like to volunteer and here is a list of what you can do if you might consider volunteering your time. This is not all we need and frequently people stop by and volunteer their time to do things we didn't even know we needed doing!

Typing At Home – This volunteer would take two or three sheets of typed information about our collection and enter this into a simple Excel spreadsheet. Training provided. Call Diane at 203 250-9350 to get this set up. This would be a huge help for us!

Front Door Greeter – Sunday afternoons and for special events and tours. This person would welcome visitors, ask what they would be interested in seeing or doing at their visit, and record the day in a notebook (e.g., “A nice sunny day today and we had about 30 visitors”). Also encourage visitors to fill out a survey when they leave.

Sunday Afternoon Docent – This person would give a tour of the HPH museum. Training would be provided. Volunteers also needed for Third Grade School Tours offered several times through the school year.

Carpentry work at a discounted rate – We are looking for shelving and cabinet units to be upgraded in several rooms.

Archive Help – This volunteer would carefully photograph, package and box items for long term storage. Also seeking volunteers to help type the information about these items into an Excel file (this can be done on site or at home at your leisure). Training provided.

Scanning Help – This volunteer would help with the flatbed scanner to scan our many photos and documents into .tiff files. Training provided.

Cleaning – We spend a lot of our Sunday afternoons carefully dusting, sweeping, vacuuming and doing light gardening. Do you have time and energy after cleaning your own house to come and help at the HPH? We have 20 rooms, two baths, hallways, closets, and a half dozen storage areas.

Craft Workshops – Share your hobby with others: embroidery, knitting, woodworking, etc. We can set up a Sunday Afternoon Tea where you can show people what you do or you can provide a hands-on workshop. Nuela Hall is organizing these workshops.

Writers – We are always looking for writers to help with our newsletters, our publicity and promotional pieces, interpretation of our collections, and generating or revising our policy and procedure documents. If you are a person who likes to write, we have plenty of areas where you can dip your quill and help us out.

There is always plenty to do! We are open on Sunday afternoons, on the first and third Wednesday evenings and second Monday evenings of the month. We're looking for a group of volunteers that might be able to commit to every Wednesday evening for scanning and archiving work. Contact cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com for more information.

Society Wish List

People ask us, “What do you need?” Below is our “wish list.” If you have something like this at home that you're not using or you might be out on a shopping spree, please let us know. You can contact us or stop by on a Sunday afternoon.

Area Rug for Library Office – 5' x 7'. Room has wood paneling and an awful carpet. In 2018 or 2019, we would plan to pull up the 1970s carpet and have this floor refinished as we did in the Meeting Room but in the meantime, we could really use something in this space.

K-Cup coffee machine for Meeting Room – We had a donated unit but it stopped working and needs to be replaced.

Trashcans – exterior (we have none)

Paper towels, paper plates, paper cups, napkins, toilet paper rolls. Plastic or paper tablecloths.

Acid free archive supplies such as acid free tissue paper or donations specific for Gaylord and Uline orders.

Use of a high-volume copier for our spring and fall newsletters.

Folding Chairs – perhaps up to two dozen sturdy chairs (we are down to 47 chairs right now).

Any history-themed DVDs.

Gingerbread House Workshop Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 to 4 p.m.

The Society is very pleased to offer our hands-on holiday workshop to decorate a gingerbread house.

This is limited to 15 houses and reservations go quickly. Call (203) 272-2574 to reserve your spot.

Participants are asked to bring their own candy to decorate the houses. Most everyone brings candy to share with the group. There is no fee for this event but we do ask that if you are attending as a non-member that you consider joining the Society.

SPEAKER PROGRAM

- ◆ **Sunday, September 17, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**
Stone Age Artifacts Workshop—bring your stone artifacts collection to this event for others to see
Speaker: Eric Nelson
- ◆ **Monday, September 25, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**
Does Anyone Collect Antiques Anymore?
Challenges in the Antique Business Today
With Possible Antiques Appraisals (\$)
Speakers: Panel of Local Antique Dealers
- ◆ **Sunday, October 22, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**
How Cheshire Colonists and Native American Indians Tracked Wild Animals
Speaker: Eric Nelson
- ◆ **Monday, October 23, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**
Spirits Alive: Spirits Alive –
Conversations from the Grave
Speakers: Cast of Spirits Alive Cemetery Tour
- ◆ **Sunday, November 19, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**
A Survey of Weapons Used in World War I.
A New Century Heralded New Forms of Defense
Speaker: Marshall Robinson

◆ **Spirits Alive Teaser**

Maggie Eagan (portrayed by Claire Lasher) our red headed actress who highlighted the Ball and Socket and the Industrial Revolution but also told us of a long forgotten tragedy. She will perform her part from 2016 at A Day at Ives Farm

around 1:00 or 1:15.



Dead men tell no tales until
 Hillside Cemetery Comes Alive!
 October 13 & 14

Fall 2017

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Visit our Website
www.cheshirehistory.org

E-MAILS FOR HISTORY QUESTIONS

Town Historian: cheshirehistorian@cox.net
 Historical Society: cheshirehistory@che.necoxmail.com
 Cheshirepedia: cheshirepedia@gmail.com

Our Telephone: (203) 272-2574

Spirits Alive! October 13 & 14 – **Tickets On Sale Now with Eventbrite**

Dead men (and women) tell no tales until Cheshire's Historic Hillside Cemetery opens after dark just once a year! Spirits Alive Historic Hillside Cemetery Lantern Tour will be held in Cheshire, Connecticut on Friday and Saturday, October 13th and 14th, 2017. Purchase tickets on-line via the Cheshire Historical Society website at <http://cheshirehistory.org/wordpress/>. All new stories always! More than seven hundred tea lights will illuminate the path! Guests will be guided by lantern among the tombstones to hear firsthand accounts of the lives of the dearly departed conveyed by actors. In 2017, Cheshire's forgotten history is revealed as we unearth true stories of local history including that of sea captains, smugglers and privateers; whispers of witchcraft; the dark story of Lock 12; an epidemic more deadly than the Black Plague; the hobo and his mystery; the spinsters with a mission; and more. Limited tickets available as tour groups are fixed in size. Ticket prices start at \$10.13 plus on-line transaction fee. The event is sponsored by the Cheshire Historical Society and is a fun way to learn about our local history. The stories are sometimes funny, sometimes sad, sometimes shocking, and always entertaining and educational. Spirits Alive puts the spirit into Cheshire's local history.

Cheshire Historical Society
 43 Church Drive
 Cheshire CT 06410-3104