

# CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## PROGRAM

**Monday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Annual Meeting and Reception**

**Program: Civil War Monuments at Vicksburg and in Cheshire” - Robert Larkin**

In honor of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, Society member Bob Larkin will present a power point presentation on the new Civil War monument honoring the Ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers and the US Navy monument, which features a large statue of Admiral Andrew Hull Foote, both at Vicksburg National Military Park, and also our own Cheshire Soldiers' Monument on the green. Bob, who is a retiree from Southern New England Telephone Co., is descendent of a 9th Regiment soldier. He was deeply involved in the planning and approval process for the 9th Regiment monument, which was installed and dedicated in October 2008. Eleven men from Cheshire served in the 9th, known as the “Irish Regiment.”

The annual meeting will take place before the presentation, and a reception for members and guests will follow in the dining room

### **Election of Officers & Directors**

The Nominating Committee has announced the following slate of officers and directors for a one-year term, 2011—2012: President, Cara Luciani; Vice-President, Diane Calabro; Recording Secretary, Janice Yusza; Membership Secretary, Brad Zambruski; Corresponding Secretary: open; Treasurer, Ed Kania. Also directors for 3-year terms, 2011-2014: Christine Pittsley, Lois Van Almkerk, and Pat Vita.

Continuing directors are: Bob Cawood, Ron Gagliardi, Ann Massimino to 2012, and Bob Larkin, Marshall Robinson, Art Sides to 2013. Nominee for vice-president Diane Calabro, a longtime member and webmaster, will be new to the board. Ray Verner, who has been as a director since 2006, and Joe Robinson, vice president for one year, retire from the board.

## Spring Calendar

*The Hitchcock-Phillips House is open to the public every Sunday afternoon, 2—4 PM, for the remainder of the year except for holiday weekends.*

April 3	Sunday 2—4 p.m.	House reopens for Sunday visiting hours.
April 18	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
April 25	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting & Speaker
May 16	Monday 7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
May 29	Sunday	House closed for Memorial Day weekend
June 4	Saturday	Combined Cheshire/Suburban Garden Clubs Flower Show
June 11	Saturday	Antiques & Collectibles Sale Strawberry Festival at Church

*Starting June 12 through fall, the Boutique-in-the-Shed also will be open during Sunday hours. **Boutique donations needed! Call Kathy, 860-621-8786.***

## Thank you!

Special thanks to the following contributors who made donations to the Society in addition to their 2011 dues and to our valued Business/Professional and Supporting Members.

### **Major Contributors**

Apple Valley Bank	John Romanik, Sr.
Sally Bowman	Ray & Eleanor Verner
Mary B. Hobler-Hyson	Richard & Janice Yusza
John & Judy Knott	

### **Business/Professional & Supporting**

Apple Valley Bank	Jay & Carole Cunningham
Sally Bowman	Joy Deegan
Bristol Insurance	Robert & Ann Fennelly
O. J. Mann Electric	Addie Marx
Donald Baillie	Joan Rinaldi
Martha Connolly	(continued on page 3)

# Recollections of 64 Cornwall Avenue

Following are excerpts from the recollections of Richard Williams, now of East Aurora, NY, about the family home where he grew up, 64 Cornwall Ave.

Note: The house was built from the medical office of Dr. Thomas Cornwall and his coachman's quarters, two separate buildings built about 1816 and moved to the present location, then an apple orchard, by his grandson Dr. Edward T. Cornwall in the 1890s.

"It was originally Dr. Thomas Cornwall's waiting room, examination room, surgery and medical storage and was originally located close behind the doctor's house. When Dr. Cornwall's coach driver married, it was moved to its present location...became the driver's home.

"I don't know...if it was occupied by any other family before my grandparents purchased it about 1900. My aunt, Esther Aldrich, was born in 1899 in an apartment in a house of Maple Avenue. My father, Nelson Williams, was born in the parlor of 64 Cornwall in 1901 so 1900 is the best I can estimate for a purchase date. He died in the kitchen in 1987.

"When the house arrived at its new location, it was placed on boulders for support but had no basement. Later my grandfather (John H. Williams) and my dad improved the boulder structure and then proceeded to dig a basement, shored up with rock walls, and added a stairwell up to the ground floor as well as another to the outside...talk about backwoods engineering! A central chimney was already in place and wood stoves on the ground floor were connected to it. ..

"As you entered the house from the front, moving toward

the back, there was a living room to the right and a parlor on the left—very popular for the period. My parents had the dividing wall between the two removed just before WWII and added a free-standing garage which still exists. What was the dining room area had been the waiting room and an examination room. Further back were a surgery and a storage room for medical supplies, now transformed into a kitchen...

"In 1955, my parents added a screened porch on the west side of the house and converted the kitchen storage room to a half-bath. At the same time, my mother (Lucille Williams) painted the murals in the dining room...

"My grandparents, and later my mother, had a large garden at the back of our property which butted up to the property be



64 Cornwall Ave. today. It is now the home of Lee ("Joe") and Lisa Franco.

**Nelson Williams, father of Richard Williams who wrote this reminiscence, in front of the house at 64 Cornwall Avenue. Richard's grandfather bought the home in 1900 and Nelson was born in the front parlor in 1901.**



... *Thank You!* (continued from page 1)

#### Other Contributors

Donald Baillie	Jane Richards
Bristol Insurance	Ralph & Bernice Rowland
Peg Boutwell	Lori Rusnack
Barbara Christoff	David & Sally Schrumm
Gordon Drazen	Timothy & Kristen Slocum
Sterling Jewett	William Suter
Richard Miller	D. Evelyn Watkins
Ray & Mary Ellen Morgan	

#### ...64 Cornwall Ave. (continued from page 2)

longing to the Congregational Church. My grandfather and the Rev. Ralph Bainton, the pastor of the church at that time, farmed a strip of land the width of our property which extended north to the church parking lot...This garden was a combined effort, which each of them sharing the cost and the labor and dividing the produce..."

"My great grandfather was a Welsh miner who was recruited to emigrate to Cheshire to be the foreman of a copper mine... When the ore played out, he was hired as foreman of one of the barites mines. My grandfather worked for Ball & Socket as a tool & die setter... He suffered a heart attach in the late 20s and could no longer continue his trade so the company promoted him to be the foreman over the Finishing Room , which plated or painted the products and packaged them for shipment. He died during the summer of 1931 when he came in from working in the garden for much of the day...my grandmother, Sarah Moon Williams, died in her sleep in the west-front bedroom of the house in 1945."

#### Three Cheers for ...

Two St. Peter's parishioners who paid the cost to finally add the date of death to the name of adopted daughter Rose E. Woodbury(1904—1986 ) on the gravestone of Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Eri D. Woodbury in St. Peter's Cemetery. Little is known about Rose, who was listed as an "incompetent person," except that late in life, Professor Woodbury and his second wife adopted her, age 6, in 1911. Why the date was not added at the time of her death is not known, but the omission has been confusing to visitors to the grave site in recent years.

Volunteer **Alice Santello**, who has been replacing the old folders in our Cheshire Individual & Family and Cheshire Historical Events files with new acid-free, archival ones. A big job! Thank you, Alice!

## New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Ana Arellano & Sam Dunlop, 175 Paul Ney Rd.,  
Cheshire  
George Adair & Cynthia McMillian, 855 Cornwall  
Ave., Cheshire  
Roberta Glidden, 14 Fairway Dr., Cheshire  
Edward & Gayle Kushner, 100 Oak Ave., Cheshire  
Stephen & Joyce Mulholland, 1218 Side Hill Rd.,  
Cheshire  
Anne Murphy, 307 Wiese Rd., Cheshire  
Kathy Queen, 985 Sperry Rd., Cheshire  
Charles & Carolyn Waggoner, 637 Ashley Ct.,  
Cheshire

## "Pressed Glass Crystal" Means Glass is "Crystal Clear"

*We are grateful to Doran Anderson of Woodland Drive, a Duncan & Miller collector who visited the "Mardi Gras" glass collection of Mona and Ernest Rumburg at the Society, for the follow explanation:*

Like the majority of glass manufactured by major glass companies between the mid-1800's and the early 20th century, the Duncan & Miller "Mardi Gras" collection now on display at the Cheshire Historical Society is classified as "pressed glass crystal."

Crystal, as defined in this collection, did not mean flint glass, but denoted lack of color as in "crystal clear." Pieces would be listed as crystal, amber, blue, etc. These mold-pressed pieces could be polished, cut, etched, or engraved, and often a bit of each, in order to enhance their beauty. Duncan also produced flint glass of the type that with a flick of your finger produces a bell-like ring. These pieces were **lead-blown** stemware, not pressed glass.

## In Memoriam

Aidamae Fowler	October 3, 2010
Josephine "Josie" Banach	January 8, 2011

We were deeply saddened by the deaths of these members and extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

# CHESHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS



If your membership is still unpaid for 2011, you'll find a dues envelope enclosed. Please remit.

## SPRING 2011

Cheshire Historical Society  
PO Box 281, 43 Church Drive  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
[www.cheshirehistory.org](http://www.cheshirehistory.org)



#### *Society Officers*

##### **President**

Cara Luciani

##### **Vice President**

Joseph Robinson

##### **Secretaries**

Janice Yusza

Christine Pittsley

Brad Zambrski

##### **Treasurer**

Ed Kania

##### **Board of Directors**

Robert Cawood

Ron Gagliardi

Robert Larkin

Ann Massimino

Marshall Robinson

##### **Art Sides**

Lois VanAlmkerk

Ray Verner

##### **Pat Vita**

##### **Curators**

Edgar Johnson, *emeritus*

Mary Ellen Kania

Warren VanAlmkerk, *asst.*

Kathleen Connolly, *asst.*

##### **Webmaster**

Diane Calabro

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Mary Ellen Kania

Annual Meeting—Monday, April 25, 7:30 PM  
Civil War Sesquicentennial 1861—2011