

Some of Our Volunteer Cast and Crew for the Titus Moss Walk Back In Time

Event Date: May 7, 2006

Lizz Abbate - *Josephine Foote* Elizabeth Anne Abbate (Costume Consultant and Josephine Foote, the Admiral's daughter) is the granddaughter of two WWII US Navy men. She spends her free time studying and re-enacting the Civil War and WWII, as well as collecting clothing, uniforms, accessories and memorabilia of the two periods. She has appeared on Cheshire stages in *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, *Night of January 16th*, *Cinderella*, *Shakespeare's R & J*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Rumors*. When not appearing on stage, she often works backstage as director, stage manager, choreographer, costume designer, or wherever she is needed. Lizz is a graduate of Cheshire High School and Mount Holyoke College, where she studied Art History and Theatre Arts. She is happy to be collaborating again with her mother, Sylvia, on another dramatic project.



Sylvia Abbate - *Jennette Beecher Moss (wife)* Sylvia Van Sinderen Abbate, like Titus Moss, is a direct descendent of John Moss, an original Proprietor of New Haven who became better known as the first citizen of Wallingford for having started the settlement there in 1669. She lives with her husband Richard on Yalesville Road in the 1846 Terrell Farmhouse, which they bought from the Terrell family 14 years ago. She is president of Cheshire Community Theatre and Vice Chairman of the Cheshire Performing and Fine Arts Committee. Cheshire audiences have seen her as Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*, Hermia's mother in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mrs. Stanley in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and Miss Chandler in *Night of January 16th*. On behalf of her alma mater she has made two appearances in the Greater New Haven area as Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College. She has also appeared as Elizabeth Moss, a fictitious friend of John Frederick Kensett. In addition, Sylvia performs a variety of WWII living history impressions, utilizing her own collection of vintage uniforms and accessories.

David Amann – *Understudy for Howard Moss as a Young Boy (son of Titus and Jennette)* David is nine years old and is interested in Pokoman cards and basketball. Like his father, he has an interest in Civil War history. David has a younger brother, Kevin. He also has two sisters, Kira and Sarah.

Eric Anderson - *Capt. Timothy Guilford* Fourth generation Cheshire resident, preservationist, conservationist, restorationist, SCSU Physics Faculty, Cheshire Historical Society Trustee, amateur museum curator, audiophile and pop musicologist; avid collector of treasures, interesting trash, and coin-operated devices



Kenneth D. Backman - Plays *Martin Brennan* Ken is a Cheshire resident who has restored his historic home which is now part of the Historic District. Professionally, Ken is a Director of Sales and Marketing. Hobbies include restoring antique oil paintings and light fixtures.



Lauren Backman - *Sarah Moon* Lauren Backman is a life long resident of Cheshire who lives in a late 1800's home on Cornwall Avenue with her husband and twin daughters. Her appreciation of cherished objects from the past has increased over the years while restoring her home. "It is not that I belong to the past, but the past that belongs to me"—*Mary Antin*. Her BA and MHS in microbiology along with a degree in nursing has led to a professional career as an epidemiologist for the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health since 1988. In addition to her love of antiques, she is an avid sailor and musician.

Kevin Bowman - *Howard Moss as the young boy (the son of Titus Moss)* Kevin Bowman is a 12 year old 7th grader at St. Bridget School. He is a member of the Cheshire Youth Theater. He is currently cast as the King of Hearts for the upcoming *Alice in Wonderland* this summer at Cheshire Park. His past acting experience in CYT includes Pee Wee Drummond in *Meet Me in St. Louis*, Prince Baba of Ganoush in *Aladdin* and Barnacles in *Honk*.



Diane Calabro – *Event Coordinator and Secretary to the Narrator* Diane moved to Cheshire in 1989 after marrying Cheshire native, David Calabro. She has worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford since 1992. Diane is active in many Cheshire organizations including the Cheshire Historic District Commission, Cheshire Land Trust, and The Church of the Epiphany. Diane also maintains the Web site for the Cheshire Historical Society, www.cheshirehistory.org. Diane has three Anatolian Shepherd Dogs of Caatskill: WenWood Aladdin, Leydi Be Goode, and Color Me Blue.

Michelle Carone - *Mary Beach* Michelle is 16-years old and is a Sophomore at Cheshire High School. She has a part time babysitting job that she does every day after school for her two neighbors: Alex who is three and Ben who is one. Michelle loves to be with children and hopes to earn a college degree in a field where she can continue to work with children. She also enjoys reading, listening to music, shopping, playing basketball and tennis, and hanging out with her friends.

Jeanné Chesanow - *Nancy Upson Moss (mother)* Jeanné Chesanow is the author of two books, *Honeysuckle Sipping* and *Gardening in Connecticut*, a short story *Benediction*, and numerous unpublished works including children's books and two plays written for friends. For Preservation Week 2004 she researched the daily life of women in the 1860s and played the part of Sarah Moon, a barite miner's wife who, with her family and two boarders, lived in the house where Ms. Chesanow now resides.



Shane Cianci - *Howard Moss at age 16 (the son of Titus Moss)* – Shane is a Junior at Cheshire High School. Shane is a member of Cheshire Land Trust. He is also studying dog handling and has appeared at several area dog shows, most recently at the Blue and Grey Cluster in Harrisburg, PA where he won several classes. Shane works part time and during the summer months doing farm work with John Carmody of *Carmody Farms* on Peck Lane.

Dorothy Drufva - *Mary Farrell, Peter Clark Household Servant* Dorothy Drufva has been an avid public supporter of local historic preservation efforts. She is a member of the Cheshire Historical Society and for several years she served as corresponding secretary and was responsible for production of a newsletter. Dotty is interested in colonial era historic gravestones, and she has created paper embossings from historic gravestones in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. She is also a member of the Association for Gravestone Studies, an international organization which is dedicated to preserving historic gravestones.



Ron Gagliardi – Narrator Ron Gagliardi is a teacher of elementary art and cartooning, and the author for Arcadia Publishing *Images of America: Cheshire* and *Images of America: Naugatuck Revisited*. Well known in Cheshire, Ron is the Town Historian as well as the Historian of Cheshire High School. Ron is also the Director of the Lock 12 Museum at the Farmington Canal. He is also active at the Cheshire Historical Society, the Barker Animation Gallery, The New England Carousel Museum, Naugatuck Historical Society Museum, and coordinator of the Cheshire’s Townwide Dinosaur Festival. Ron is also a professional videographer and writes a monthly local history column, *Register North* section of The New Haven Register newspaper.



Emma Gaudio - *Emma Moss (daughter)* Emma is a third grade student at Doolittle. She enjoys dance lessons and lacrosse. Emma lives in the Abijah Beach Tavern with her Mom and Dad and older brothers Michael, Matthew, Nathan and Evan.

Eleanor Herrmann - “Nurse” Old house (1750) owner, concerned citizen, nurse historian, published author, retired professor. By taking responsibility for protecting the historic fabric of our community, we honor the past, engage and enlighten the present, and provide hope and security for the future.

Larry Herrmann - *Carlos Huntly, Telegraph Operator* Larry Herrmann is a country lawyer who has been digging among the rocks and roots of his Cheshire wood line since 1977. He trained for the part of Huntly the Telegraph Operator by using the Morse Code during his 14 years in the Marines. He does not remember the Civil War, but recalls speaking with others who did.

Edwin Kania - *Edward Cornwall* Ed Kania is a retired treasurer of MacDermid, Inc., and has been a Cheshire resident since 1954. He has served as president of the Cheshire Historical Society for five years, is a trustee of the Julia A. Humiston Trust and a member of the board of the Cheshire Land Trust. He was Cheshire's first mayor under the Council-Manager form of government in 1972-73



Mary Ellen Kania - *Lucretia Hitchcock Clark* Mary Ellen Kania is house chairman and newsletter editor for the Cheshire Historical Society. She retired as a training coordinator at Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield in 1998. Mary Ellen says she particularly identifies with her character, Lucretia Hitchcock Clark, who was mistress of the Hitchcock-Phillips House for more than 30 years. She and her husband Ed have three adult children, all married, and nine grandchildren.



Julianna Marone - *Sally Moon (daughter of Sarah Moon)* Julianna is a freshman at Cheshire High School. She has volunteered her time in assisting First Graders with reading, activities and games. She has two older sisters, Dana and Gina. Julianna would like to be a teacher. She works part time at *Carmody Farms* on Peck Lane in Cheshire.

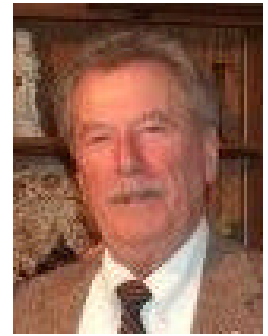
Joanna Miller - *Roxanna Hitchcock* Joanna is married, and has a five-year-old son, Richard. She has lived in Cheshire for about a year. She is a physical therapist but her full-time job is taking care of her home and family. Joanna enjoys history from a sociological point of view-- what people did and how they lived. She volunteers at the Cheshire Historical Society. She originally wanted to wear a gown that her great-great-grandmother made in the 1880s but the style isn't quite right and the material a bit too delicate. Young Richard will be in costume next to his mother for the event.

Jerome Palmeri - *Media and Production* Jerome Palmeri is a sophomore Media Production Major at Quinnipiac University. In his Senior year at Cheshire High School his Eagle Scout project entailed interviews with WWII and Korean War veterans for Cheshire and submitting copies to the Cheshire Public Library, Cheshire Historical Society and the Library of Congress.



Thom Peters - *Titus Moss* Thom Peters is currently the Senior Warden at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cheshire, a member of the 27th Connecticut Volunteers, and a history teacher and School Archivist at Hopkins School in New Haven.

Marshall Robinson - *Captain Joel Moss II (father)* Marshall Robinson is a member of the First Congregational Church in Cheshire and a Past Master of both King Hiram Lodge #12 A.F. & A.M. in Shelton, CT and Harmony Lodge #42 A.F. & A.M. in Waterbury (the Masons). He is a past Associate Grand Marshal in Masonic District 3B. Marshall is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wolcott Landowners Protective Assoc. (Shooting club). He is a trustee of Harmony Lodge #42 in Waterbury (Masons again). And he is the Past State President of the Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.) and past President of the General David Humphreys Branch No. 1 of the S.A.R. Marshall is a member of the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendant and of the Order of Founders and Patriots. Marshall is also involved with the Cheshire Historical Society and it was he who transcribed the original handwritten Titus Moss letters (written in 1862 and 1863).



Josiah Rowe – *Joseph Beach* has lived in Cheshire since 2000, and has appeared on many Connecticut stages since then. Cheshire audiences may remember him from the title role in Cheshire Community Theatre’s production of *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, or as Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, which he also directed. Other local roles include Christy in *The Playboy of the Western World* (Gaelic Players, North Haven), Anton Chekhov in *The Good Doctor* and Professor Bhaer in *Little Women* (Actors’ Ensemble, Branford). Josiah has also appeared with the Yale Rep in New Haven and Capitol Classics in Harford, with whom he will appear in *Macbeth* this summer. Josiah is originally from Fredericksburg, Virginia, and is descended from the Chancellor family of Chancellorsville — a house which gave its name to the battle in which Titus Moss died.

Ray Verner - *Commodore Robert Hitchcock* I am a 4th generation Cheshire resident. The first five years of my life I lived on the second floor of the old library on Main Street. My grandmother, Helena D. Williams was the town's second librarian. My grandfather, Richard Williams, was a charter member of the Cheshire Fire Department and served as chief for many years. My father, William was a town constable and my mother, Myra, worked at the library. I retired from Sealtest Foods in Hartford and for the past eight years serve as a Judicial Volunteer at Waterbury Superior Court. I am a member of Cheshire Lutheran Church. My wife, Ellie and I are the parents a son, Robert W. Verner and have two granddaughters.

Ingeborg Venus – *The Garden Cultivator* Inge Venus is a 22 year resident of Cheshire, retired Yale Associate in Research and Junior UConn Faculty in Genetics. Past President of New Haven Chorale. Performed on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Past President and Honorary Board Member of Cheshire Garden Club. Current Executive Board Member of Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. Avid Preservationist, conservationist, naturalist, and hobby photographer. Participant in several television programs including PBS. Inge is a published author. She designed and helped construct several memorial and historic gardens in Cheshire, including the Cheshire Historical Society Herb Garden featured in our Walk Back In Time.



John White - *Adm. Andrew Hull Foote* John White has lived in Cheshire since 1950 and is now retired. He has held teaching positions in high school and college, and communications positions in science and industry. He holds degrees from Dartmouth and Yale. John is an internationally known author of 15 books, including *The Meeting of Science and Spirit*, *A Practical Guide to Death and Dying*, *What Is Enlightenment?* and a children's book, *The Christmas Mice*. His writing has appeared in magazines and newspapers around the world, including *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *Omni*, *Esquire* and *Woman's Day*. His books have been translated into ten languages. He holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree from

Yale University. From 1998-99 he wrote a column on patriotism for the *Cheshire Herald*. John has initiated various local project and events. In 1993 he suggested to the Town Council that we observe the Tercentennial of Cheshire's founding in 1694, and then served on the committee for that event. In 1995 he suggested that Cheshire recognize its two Medal of Honor recipients, Eri Woodbury and Harvey Barnum, and then served on the committee which created the Medal of Honor Plaza and Living Classroom. In 1999 he suggested that Cheshire have a Millennium Celebration, and also served on that committee. In 2003 he received the Cheshire Exchange Club's "Book of Golden Deeds" Award for his patriotic activities. A Vietnam veteran, John attended college on an NROTC scholarship and then served four years as a naval officer, primarily in antisubmarine warfare and nuclear weaponry. He is active in veterans affairs in town as a member of the American Legion, the VFW and the Veterans Council of Cheshire, where he oversees the Memorial Day Parade and Concert and the Veterans Day ceremony on the Green. He met his wife Barbara when they were in Cheshire High School. They have been married 45 years, have four grown children and five young grandchildren.

Tim White – *Understudy for Adm. Andrew Hull Foote (Tim is the son of John White)* Tim graciously agreed to be his father's understudy at the April 30th dress rehearsal. Tim is on the Town Council, 4th District. He is a Red Sox fan. He has a very useful Web site: <http://timwhitelistsens.blogspot.com/>

Brad Zambruski - *George Keeler*. Brad is the Membership Secretary for the Cheshire Historical Society. He has been a Cheshire resident for 18 years. Brad is a student at Naugatuck Valley Community College. He also is a collector of Cheshire Pocket Watches.

Gavin Zambruski - *Alonzo Smith*. Gavin is a second generation Cheshire resident. Currently, Gavin is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at the University of Hartford's graduate Institute of Professional Psychology. He is currently a part time employee of Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living.