

# Commission gets grant for historical programs

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Cheshire, Connecticut

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has come through for one of Town Hall's newest commissions.

The Historic District Commission, which was formed less than a year ago, got a grant from the state agency late last month for \$3,000. It will help it in its reenactment of a local man's enlistment in the Union Army in the Civil War, and with the cost of a brochure about the commission, and with ongoing workshops for owners of historic homes in town.

The commission has been planning "A Walk Back in Time" since last summer. It's a reenactment of the day in which Cheshire resident Titus Moss told his neighbors in Cheshire that he was going to enlist. He later died in the war. The commission has written a working script for the May 7 event, which is posted on its Web site, [www.cheshirehistory.org](http://www.cheshirehistory.org), and is soliciting volunteers to act in the event. Technically, they won't act, but read scripts. Diane Calabro, a member of the commission, put the script on the Web site last Wednesday.

The commission and the Cheshire Historical Society will hold a meeting on Jan. 29 at which they will hold auditions and take suggestions for

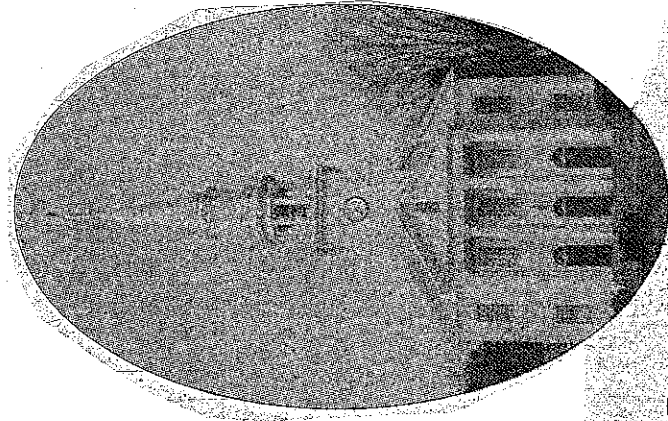
possible changes to the script from those knowledgeable about town history. The two lead roles have been assigned already. Thom Peters will portray Titus Moss, and Sylvia V. Abbate will portray his wife, Jeanette.

Jeanne Chesnow, chairwoman of the Historic District Commission, is pleased to have received the grant. In her application, she asked for money for catered food and costumes for the reenactment; she learned last month that the grant money can't go toward those items.

Calabro has heard from several people who want to participate in the reenactment.

"The strangest query I received is from a woman in Australia who said she's related to the Moss family," Calabro said. "She's been emailing with me, she's thinking wouldn't it be wonderful to come out, but she's a mom with kids. There's a whole group of the Moss family there, originally from Cheshire. You think it's a small neighborhood. Having that Web presence opens this up."

Gerald Sitko, the town's economic development coordinator, oversees the commission and said the grant is "a good accomplishment" for the commission, which only started meeting after the ordinance creating it became effective Jan. 14, 2005.



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*The Post is a small sampling of local stories from last week's Record-Journal.*