



**A May 2006 Preservation Month Activity** *Partially Funded By A Grant From CT Trust For Historic Preservation In Cooperation With The CT Humanities Council*  
**A WALK BACK IN TIME: CHESHIRE CT IN THE YEAR 1862**  
**TITUS MOSS, CHESHIRE FARMER JOINS THE CIVIL WAR**  
The Cheshire Historical Society, 43 Church Drive, and The Cheshire Historic District Commission, 84 South Main Street ? Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

**FINAL SCRIPT**  
**FOR**  
**TITUS MOSS**  
**WALK BACK IN TIME**

Eleven Scenes From July 1862, Cheshire, CT

**SCENE 1. BACK OF CHESHIRE TOWN HALL**

NARRATOR

Welcome everyone to July 1862. Look around you. We are standing in an open field - the town hall will not be built for several years. Wallingford Road is here with all the houses you see now. Cheshire is a small town of about 2000 people. The main industry is still farming but five hundred men, from England and Ireland, have come here to work in the barite mines. And the Cheshire Manufacturing Company, later called Ball & Socket, is making buttons for the uniforms of Union soldiers.

The Civil War began a year ago and we are now in the thick of fierce battles on land and water. Eleven southern states have seceded from the Union and formed their own government.

The United States is now divided in two. Emotions are running high with vigorous differences of opinion on the war, often called the Rebellion. Many in the North view the withdrawal of the Southern states as acts of treason and are ready to fight for a unified country. Others think that abolishing slavery is the main reason to keep fighting. In a few weeks 53 young men from Cheshire will form Company A, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Union Army. During our walk this afternoon you will meet and get to know a few people who were alive in Cheshire in the summer of 1862,

and how their stories were changed because of this war. For example --

(seemingly interrupted by a woman who bustles through the crowd, talking, and handing out invitations to an Independence Day party at the Hitchcock House)

MARY FARRELL, SERVANT OF THE CLARKS

(circulates through the crowd and hands out invitations to a party Others will also have stacks of invitations and will help hand them out to the crowd)

My mistresses are having a party and you're all invited. Today, this very afternoon. At our house on the Green. Refreshments will be served.

(She calls out to Titus Moss who is standing near the Narrator.)

Pardon me, Mr. Moss, did you know your wife is over there now, at the Clarks?

TITUS MOSS (a bit startled)

Yes, yes, thank you kindly. My daughter Emma is sick so my wife and my mother have taken her to your mistress's herb garden in hopes of a cure.

MARY FARRELL

My mistress has a request of you, Mr. Moss -- would you go about to some of the neighbors and make sure they are coming to the party?

TITUS MOSS

I would gladly do that. I am in her debt.

(Mary Ferrell returns toward the Green.)

NARRATOR

Well, as I was saying, many people's lives were changed because of the Civil War. For example, Titus Moss...

TITUS MOSS

Good day to all of you. I am Titus Moss from Moss Farms Road, and this is my father Joel. We've come into town today to see about getting some help for my little daughter Emma. She is only three and has a sickness in the chest. I hope it is not serious. Since Mrs. Clark has requested that I go find the neighbors and see that they get to the party I will attend to that. But my thoughts are not of a party today. Emma's sickness is weighing on my mind. And other thoughts have been troubling me. I have a difficult

decision to make. My family needs me, but President Lincoln may need me as well if this war is to be won. I have heard some good speeches using the strongest language possible. The point was that slavery was the cause of the rebellion and the way to put down the rebellion was to destroy the cause. Every man must to do his duty and if he met with anything that needed to be crushed he should do it if possible.

JOEL MOSS

Come, my son, do not dwell on this just now. Let's go to the neighbors and then quickly get back to the herb garden to see if Emma is feeling better.

(They start walking up the street towards S. Main.)

NARRATOR

Everyone, please follow!

(Narrator leads the crowd to a location near the Keeler Stove Shop where Scenes 2 and 3 will be acted out.)

## **SCENE 2. ALONZO SMITH'S HOUSE**

NARRATOR

Alonzo Smith's house stood here in 1862. He is a carpenter, in his 20s. He is also thinking of enlisting in the Union Army.

## **SCENE 3. GEORGE KEELER HOUSE**

(George Keeler is standing out in his front yard. Titus and George Keeler shake hands.)

TITUS MOSS

Mr. Keeler, I took note of your house while you were building it, and admire it often as I pass by.

GEORGE KEELER

Thank you, yes the house was finished two years ago. And (gesturing to the white building just north of the house, a vacant space in 1862)

right here, next door, I plan to put up a simple building, one where I can build stoves and sell them, maybe have an undertaking business in the back. There'll always be a need for that business, am I right?

(smiles at the crowd, Titus nods unsmilingly)

But that will have to wait until the Rebellion is over.

NARRATOR

We're off to Scene 4, at the Squire Beach House. In 1862 the house was owned by Roxanna Hitchcock. She has a visitor today, historian Joseph Beach.

#### **SCENE 4. SQUIRE BEACH HOUSE**

(Joseph Beach is outside smoking his pipe or pacing up and down in thought. Roxanna Hitchcock stands near the steps of the house.)

JOEL MOSS

Good day, Mistress Hitchcock. I am Joel Moss, and this is my son Titus. We are asked to remind you of the Clarks' party this afternoon and to escort you there.

ROXANNA HITCHCOCK

Good day to you, and thank you kindly. Did you know that Joseph Beach is visiting me? He grew up in Cheshire just down the street and often comes home to see friends. He and his daughter are staying with me.

JOEL MOSS

Did Mr. Beach grow up in this house?

ROXANNA HITCHCOCK

No, his house was that brick one down the street. But Joseph is related to the Squire Beach who owned this house. There is Joseph now, (points) lost in thoughts about his book, as usual. (Calls to him loudly) Joseph! This is Mr. Joel Moss and his son Titus.

JOSEPH BEACH (approaching)

How delighted I am to meet you both. Do you know I am working on a history of Cheshire? I am very interested in the Moss family since they were among the first to come from Wallingford and settle here - up on the TenMile River, correct?

TITUS MOSS

Yes, exactly so. In the year 1694, John Moss Jr. was granted 100 acres of land, more or less, on 'Ye Tenn Mile River. In those early years our family encamped in a lean-to shelter near a large flat rock. Every Saturday night they returned to Wallingford in order to attend the Church services on Sunday. And the following day they traveled back to Cheshire to clear more land for the farm. The rock where my family sheltered can still be seen today, several hundred yards to the north at the corner of Moss Farms Road and Jarvis Street.

JOSEPH BEACH

Most interesting. And then after that, they built a house?

TITUS MOSS

My grandfather Joel built a one and a half story house in 1795 - that's where I live now.

JOSEPH BEACH

I would enjoy talking with you at length. But that will have to wait bit. I understand we're all to be at a party soon. Let me get my hat and I will walk with you to the Foote House. I understand that Admiral Foote is visiting in town for this weekend, what an honor it will be to talk with him.

(Daughter Mary appears, gives her father his hat, he offers her his arm. Joel takes Roxanna's arm and they head toward the Foote House.)

NARRATOR:

Everyone, off to the Foote House if you please. And watch out for horse and carriages passing by - the traffic on a Sunday afternoon can be hectic!

**SCENE 5. THE GOVERNOR FOOTE HOUSE (OWNED SINCE 1846 BY  
TIMOTHY TROWBRIDGE)**

Admiral Hull Foote appears on crutches, walking down the front walkway of the house with his daughter Josephine, at his side. They walk toward the crowd.

TITUS MOSS (goes up the steps to the walkway and approaches the Admiral, bows to daughter)

Congratulations, Admiral! I read that President Lincoln asked Congress to vote a thank you for your service in the war so far.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

I am most appreciative of that, thank you, but this war is far from over.

TITUS MOSS

Sir, I admire so much your efforts to rid us of the evil practice of slavery.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

In the 1850s I commanded the brig Perth off the coast of Africa on a mission to stop the shipment of slaves.

TITUS MOSS

I have listened to much news and speechifying about the Rebellion including denunciations of slavery. I have kept my troubled thoughts to myself thus far.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

My grandfather John Foot owned a slave, I am ashamed to say. Right here in Cheshire. Early on, I vowed to do all I could do against that inhumane practice.

JOSEPHINE FOOTE

(tugging gently at her father's arm)  
Come Father, let's be on our way to the party. But slowly..

NARRATOR

On we go - to the Cornwall House, built by Dr. Thomas Cornwall -- Again, watch for traffic!

**SCENE 6. THE CORNWALL HOUSE**

(Beach and Moss and Walkers arrive at house) Edward Cornwall is standing on his porch.

JOSEPH BEACH

Good day to you Edward. We are all going to the party, are you joining us?

EDWARD CORNWALL

By all means, I would not miss it.

JOSEPH BEACH

May I ask for a few details about your family and this house?

EDWARD CORNWALL

Well Joseph, as you know, my father Thomas was a doctor. I myself was born in 1802 and this house was built five years later. My father had a sanitarium here for cancer patients. It is now my home.

(Edward walks out to the steps and notices Foote coming along. He calls out to him.)

Cousin Andrew, you seem to be coming along well. Is this your first time out? These parties at the Clarks have a way of bringing everyone together.

(Cornwall and Foote now speak briefly to one another with Titus standing next to Cornwall)

EDWARD CORNWALL

What are your impressions of the war? Will the North prevail?

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

It is going to be a long hard fight. We'll need many more soldiers and very soon.

EDWARD CORNWALL

I've heard a rumor that the President will call for more troops any day now. With quotas for each state. CT has already sent many men...

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

Yes, three regiments! Last year Connecticut was requested to send one regiment and ended up sending three.

TITUS MOSS

Your courage, Captain Foote. I am in awe of you. I wish I knew what I should do. Enlist or tend to my family here at home.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

You're a good lad. You'll make the right decision.

EDWARD CORNWALL

(putting his hand on Titus' shoulder)

Not everyone is cut out to be a soldier.

(All walk towards the Brennans.)

NARRATOR

Our next stop will be the former Abijah Beach Tavern. In 1862 this was a residence, owned by Martin Brennan. On our way we will pass by the Russell Cook House, owned by the Fields family in 1862 and noted for its attractive gardens.

**SCENE 7. ABIJAH BEACH TAVERN (NOW OWNED BY MARTIN BRENNAN)**

EDWARD CORNWALL

(seeing Brennan appear at door)

Come along Martin - Can you leave your grand huge house, five fireplaces, and a ballroom -- and come along to a party?

MARTIN BRENNAN

I can always be tempted away by a party at the Clarks!

NARRATOR

On to the Church Green if you please. Please gather there. Scene 8 will begin when everyone has arrived at the Green.

**SCENE 8. SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE CHURCH GREEN.**

MARTIN BRENNAN

Gentlemen, what do you say we stop off at the Munson Hotel before going to the Clarks? (Gestures towards the location of the Hotel.) Anyone for that? George Munson might be about.

TITUS MOSS

We must go see how little Emma is doing. (He and his father head for the HS house and garden)

JOSEPHINE FOOTE

Pa, you need to get to the Clarks and sit down for a bit.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

(speaking to the crowd)

I'm looking forward to seeing my old boyhood friend, Robert Hitchcock. We grew up together, we both went to the Academy, and now we're both visiting our old haunts.

(He and daughter begin to walk toward the Hitchcock House where chairs are set up on the front lawn.)

NARRATOR

Let us walk slowly now and stop to look at the Congregational Church, designed by the famous architect David Hoadly, and built in 1825.

(Crowd proceeds across the green toward the HS House, pauses in the center of the green.)

MARTIN BRENNAN

Is it true that there is a church pew where slaves sat?

EDWARD CORNWALL

Yes, I am sad to say that some of our parishioners and even one of our ministers kept slaves in the past, but those days are gone here in the North. Now some homes in Cheshire are part of the Underground Railroad where slaves are helped to escape.

(Titus and his father have proceeded to the herb garden behind the Hitchcock House where the women and children are gathered)

NARRATOR

Please come with me to the herb garden in back of the Hitchcock House. Living in the Hitchcock House in 1862 are

Lucretia Hitchcock Clark, now a widow, and her two daughters.

(Cornwall goes to the front of the Hitchcock House where there are chairs and where Foote is already seated along with Hitchcock, and a number of other men including Capt. Guilford)

#### **SCENE 9. HERB GARDEN AT THE HITCHCOCK-PHILLIPS HOUSE**

There is room for a number of people to gather on the lawn outside the garden. Titus, Joel, Jennette and six year old son Howard are seated on a bench well off to one side of the garden. The Caretaker of the garden is working within the garden, cutting things and handing them to the Nurse. Lucretia (Lucy) Clark stands in front of the garden along with Nancy Moss and little Emma.

LUCRETIA (LUCY) CLARK:

Nancy, this granddaughter of yours is most delightful. She is very sweet and has wonderful manners, regardless of her current health.

NANCY MOSS

Thank you for your kind words and your care of my young Emma. What shall we do for her?

(Nurse has approached the group and is standing near.)

LUCRETIA (LUCY) CLARK

Nancy, you may have met our nurse. She has taken care of many people in Cheshire.

(Nancy and Nurse nod at each other.)

Nurse, can you help Emma?

(Lucy steps out of the scene now and goes to sit near Titus or goes into the house. Jennette has come to join Nancy as Nurse tells about the remedies for Emma) (Note: the next part of this scene is a close grouping of the women-- Nancy, Nurse in center, Jennette, and little Emma in front of them. The hands of each of the women touch Emma during this scene showing tenderness and worry.)

NURSE

My cousin (points at the woman tending the garden) is the faithful caretaker of this garden. She and I have given

careful thought as to what medicinal herbs will help. We have selected three remedies.

(shows Nancy and Jennette some green leaves )

This is hyssop to help control Emma's cough. We have steeped the leaves in boiling water to make a tea.

(Hands a bottle or other container to Nancy.)

Heat this until quite warm, and let her drink a bit of it from time to time when she is coughing.

NANCY MOSS

Thank you Nurse. I am most grateful for your help.

NURSE

The second remedy is a mustard plaster which you can prepare at home. Here is mustard seed. (hands a container to Nancy) Grind this into a fine powder, then mix it with flour and water to make a paste. Spread the paste on a muslin cloth. (shows a piece of white cloth --then, as she speaks, she holds the cloth up to Emma's chest.) Before you put the plaster on her, rub her chest with sweet oil to protect her skin.

JENNETTE MOSS

How does this plaster work?

NURSE

It dilates the blood vessels and increases the blood supply to the area. This will encourage healing.

JENNETTE MOSS

We are most grateful, Nurse. Emma also has trouble sleeping from time to time. I worry that she is not getting the rest she needs.

NURSE

Here is a bundle of dried lavender blossoms. (she holds the bundle to Emma's nose so she can smell it) Put this under her pillow at bedtime or for her mid-day nap.

(She hands the bundle to Jennette who puts it to her nose.)

The sweet scent of the lavender will overcome the odor of the mustard plaster and will encourage sleep.

JENNETTE MOSS

So then, my daughter will get well?

(She looks about for reassurance. Lucy has come back and is at Jennette's side.)

LUCRETIA (LUCY) CLARK

(Smiling down at Emma.)

Young Emma is strong and willing. It is our hope that these remedies will restore her to good health.

JENNETTE MOSS

My sincere thanks to all of you for your help and good wishes.

(She takes Emma by the hand, turns and heads toward where Titus was sitting. He has risen from the bench and is moving toward her. Howard age 6, follows behind him. Titus reaches out his hand to Jennette.)

TITUS MOSS

My dear wife, I need a moment to speak with you.

(Titus Moss and Jennette Moss turn away from the crowd. Titus speaks softly to Jennette, she bows her head and her shoulders shake. They and their children go off to front of house. Lucy and Nancy are still standing near the garden.)

LUCRETIA (LUCY) CLARK

Oh my, my. I see the signs of melancholia and strife. Perhaps some chamomile tea is needed?

NANCY MOSS

I think, dear Lucy, that there are times of heartbreak when nothing seems to help.

(Sarah Moon has appeared at the side of the garden shortly before Titus and Jennette go with children to front of Hitchcock House.)

LUCRETIA (LUCY) CLARK:

(calling out) Mrs. Moon! We didn't want to ask in front of the Mosses. How is your son doing? He enlisted last year, right?

SARAH MOON

Yes, young William. is fine. He enlisted in the 15th Regiment last year. He was at the battle of New Orleans. So, thank God, he survives thus far. Thank you for asking. And, I must tell you, that the money he got when he enlisted has made it possible for us to buy our house. When we first came here from England -- for my husband to work in the mine - we rented a house that Mr. Cornwall had

had built. Now we are the owners - with a mortgage to Mr. Cornwall. And my son is out of the mine, for which I am thankful.

NANCY MOSS

The waiting is hard, isn't it. I know Titus, my son, is thinking that he should enlist, but he's also needed here at home. A hard decision. He was always a thoughtful boy, maybe even a bit too serious

MARY FARRELL

(poking her head out the back door)  
Everything is ready for the party!

LUCRETIA (LUCY) CLARK:

Thank you. (taking a few flowers from the Garden Caretaker)  
We're ready too! (she calls toward the house) (Then, holding the flowers out to Nancy) This nosegay is for you, Nancy, my dear friend. Now let us go. (They head to the front of the house)

#### **SCENE 10. FRONT OF HITCHCOCK HOUSE.**

(At the Narrator's request, all head around to front of the Hitchcock-Phillips house. If raining, the entire event will take place in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall)

NARRATOR

If you could please find a seat. Thank you.  
For those of you joining us now, I'd like to welcome you to the Town of Cheshire in the year of 1862. We are at the Cheshire Historical Society, the Hitchcock-Phillips House built in 1785 by the merchant Rufus Hitchcock. Passed down to his daughter the widow Lucretia Hitchcock Clark who lives here now with her two daughters. We are gathered here to celebrate the Fourth of July which is coming up in two days! Let's have some music to begin!

(Music begins to play a CD of some popular song of the era)

Just at this moment, when everyone is seated and the music is playing, a noise is heard

(someone points and shouts, Who's that? and the music stops in mid-song)

A man is running, running, waving a piece of paper.  
Everyone stops talking - silence-- to look at this  
man!

EDWARD CORNWALL (calls out)  
It's Huntly! The telegraph operator!

ANDREW HULL FOOTE  
This can't be good news.

CARLOS HUNTLY  
(Comes to a stop near the Hitchcock House, goes up on  
front step and announces)  
**News bulletin, just in over the telegraph -President  
Lincoln calls for more troops. (Reads aloud from a sheet of  
paper) "I have made a decision to call for 300,000 more  
troops, chiefly infantry; that I hope will be raised  
without delay, and that an order fixing the quota required  
from each State will be issued by the War Department at  
once."**

(Silence - then cheers from the Home Guard members --  
Smith, Keeler, etc. - clustered around Tim Guilford.)

CAPT. TIMOTHY GUILFORD (very excited)  
This is what we've been waiting for men! We'll be the  
first to enlist--Hurrah for our Russell Rifles! Watch out  
Rebs, you traitors, you won't get away with deserting our  
country.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE  
I fear that things are not going well for the Union

CARLOS HUNTLY  
There will be money for soldiers. and I hear that Cheshire  
will vote to allot another \$100 in addition for soldiers  
with families. \$50 for single men.

TITUS MOSS  
It's not a matter of money. It's a matter of conscience.  
(Noisy discussion breaks out among the men. The women  
standing/sitting silently, sadly by.)

JOSEPH BEACH  
I have heard that Prospect has contributed the largest  
proportion of soldiers to the Union cause of all  
Connecticut towns. Cheshire boys will feel obligated to  
go.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

The southern people are saying. "The fatal blow has been dealt this 'grand army' of the North." They think that their General Lee has turned the tide, and I fear Lee's army may begin to have a lot of success.

EDWARD CORNWALL

There will be many objections to this draft! The protesters say this is a total war - a war to destroy the old South instead of to restore the old Union.

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

The old South includes slaves and I for one intend to keep on fighting, if only to end slavery -- an inhumane practice!

TITUS MOSS

(Steps forward - discussion ceases, all eyes are upon him as he makes his announcement)

I too must go fight for what I believe in.

CAPT GUILFORD

Hurray for you, Moss! (the women look on in silence - young Howard Moss is standing with his mother and grandmother)

TITUS MOSS

(Titus hugs Emma, gestures son Howard to come near.)

Son, come to me. Howard, while I am gone, be a good boy at school and try to do just as Miss Minor wishes. At home you must mind mother and do all you can to help her. Mother has so much to do and Emma is not big enough to help much yet. Father will be so far from home that I won't be able to help, so you must help and be as good as you can. You must kiss mother and Emma and be just as kind and good as you can so you will grow up a good and useful boy.

HOWARD MOSS

Father, I will try. I will try to be a good boy. (Holds onto his father.) But must you go?

TITUS MOSS

It is my aim and prayer that I may act as it becomes a soldier. I have been blessed beyond what I have right to expect with health and friends, and endeavor to be thankful for them.

(Silence. Then a murmuring through the crowd.)

EDWARD CORNWALL

(Stepping forward towards Titus.)

We wish you well, dear Titus, and (looking out over the crowd toward Capt Guilford and others) to all you soldiers and your families, our thoughts will be of you.

COMMODORE ROBERT HITCHCOCK:

Well said. (Raises his arms, as if asking for attention) Now let us put serious thoughts aside and enjoy the rest of this beautiful summer afternoon. Let's not forget, everyone needs some fun. Especially at a time like this. My dear cousins have prepared food and drink for one and all.

NARRATOR

(interrupting) Wait, Commodore Hitchcock, we need a few more minutes of serious thought. All our guests from the 21<sup>st</sup> century want to know - what will happen to Titus Moss? How about Admiral Foote, and all those they have met today. Come, everyone, over to the Civil War Monument! We will travel forward in time!

## **SCENE 11. CIVIL WAR MONUMENT ON THE CHURCH GREEN**

NARRATOR

Connecticut sent over 54, 000 men to the Civil War. Over 5000 died, many from diseases. From Cheshire 126 men enlisted; their names are here on this monument which was put in place in 1866 a year after the war was over. In our stories today, we have met a number of people, both soldiers and civilians. You may wonder what became of them. Let's find out.

NARRATOR

Edward Cornwall!

EDWARD CORNWALL

Edward Cornwall was a popular man, active in many roles. He was justice of the peace, selectman, judge of probate, town clerk, and served in the General Assembly seven times. After his death Elm Street was re-named Cornwall Avenue. His home is now an office building.

NARRATOR

Joseph Perkins Beach!

JOSEPH BEACH

Joseph Beach came back to live in his home town in 1867, at about the same time he finished his History of Cheshire. The book describes the earliest beginnings of Cheshire in 1694 with many farms and families described in detail: the Mosses, Ives, Brooks, and Doolittles.

NARRATOR

Admiral Foote?

ANDREW HULL FOOTE

Even though Andrew Hull Foote was 56 in 1862, he wanted to go back and serve again after his wound healed, but he died on his way to his next command in June 1863. He is buried in the Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, in a large ornate tomb. The Navy Department obituary said of him, "A gallant and distinguished naval officer is lost to the country."

NARRATOR

Commodore Hitchcock?

ROBERT HITCHCOCK

Commodore Hitchcock's military career was a long and successful one. In his 50s at the time of the Civil War, he commanded several ships and following the war was in charge of a navy yard at Cold Spring, New York the town where he is buried. Hitchcock presided over the ceremony held right here in 1866 when this monument was put in place Look for the portrait of Commodore Hitchcock over the fireplace inside the Historical Society House.

NARRATOR

William Moon?

SARAH MOON

(Sarah Moon steps forward and tells of her son)  
William Jr. was mustered out in 1865 at the end of the war and came home to Connecticut. We sold the house on Elm Street after the barite mines closed in 1878 and hoped to head west in search of more opportunities. William stayed here in Connecticut for several years after the war.

NARRATOR

Alonzo Smith served, then was mustered out, and became the secretary to Connecticut's 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, keeping in touch with all the men in that regiment. Nettie Smith, his granddaughter took over after his death as secretary to that Regiment. Her notes are in the Historical Society library. George Keeler was a Sergeant in Co. A with all the Cheshire boys including Titus Moss. Keeler was wounded twice. Finally he was discharged because of disability on Dec.22,1864.

(Narrator now calls out more names - actors step forward and tell what happened to their character.)  
Captain Guilford? What became of you?

CAPT. GUILFORD

Captain Timothy Guilford enlisted in the CT 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment - formed up in New Haven September 8, 1862. He served during the whole war, survived, and went to work for the Waterbury Button Co. His final resting place is in Waterbury.

NARRATOR

About the Mosses: The house where Titus Moss lived, 859 Moss Farms Road, is pictured in Landmarks of Old Cheshire, 1976, but has since been demolished. As for Titus?

TITUS MOSS

I enlisted with Guilford, several of the Doolittles, Alonzo Smith, George Keeler all of us in CT's 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment. I died on the battlefield at Chancellorsville the last day of the battle, in the spring of 1863. I was struck and wounded, and did not think it was serious at first. As I lay there, my final thoughts were of Jennette and my beloved children. Capt Guilford had the onerous task of writing the news of my death to my family.

JENNETTE MOSS

I'll never forget. The letter arrived on my 36th birthday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of June in the year of 1863.

(Reads)

*"To Mr. Julius Moss from Capt. Timothy Guilford.*

*Camp of the 20<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Volunteers  
Near Stafford Court House  
June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1863*

*Friend Moss  
Dear Sir,*

*I must perform an unpleasant duty today ... Col. Wooster returned to Camp yesterday and gave me some information in regard to our missing men. He says he knew your brother. Had often seen him talking with Mr. Sanford (our old chaplain) when they messed together and has the distinct recollection of seeing him on the Battle Field at Chancellorsville lying among the dead. This was when he was permitted by his captors to pass along under a strict guard near the line of works where our regiment lay on that terrible Sunday morning May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He says he knew the face and figure of the man well, but associated him with the name of Joel I. Brooks and that is the reason your brother's name did not appear in his report of the killed and wounded left on the field.*

*After talking with Colonel, I am forced with the conviction that the most worthy and useful man of Company A was killed on the field of battle while nobly fighting the enemies of his country ... It would be difficult to find a man in the whole regiment who left his home and interesting family from motives as purely and unselfishly patriotic as Titus Moss.*

*... Always helpful toward others and never wanting help himself, always considerate of others and forbearing, and maintaining a truly Christian spirit and conversation amid the demoralizing influences of the Camp, he won the respect of, and endeared himself to, the whole company. The return of none was looked for after the battle with more earnest hope, and now that hope seems to be extinguished...*

*... I feel, my friend, that any attempt I can make towards assuaging a grief so profound as that you and the family of the deceased must feel, must fall far short of its object...*

*I am with respect, Yours Truly  
Timothy Guilford"*

NARRATOR

Titus Moss's remains never came back to Cheshire. He was buried where he fell, on the battlefield at Chancellorsville, Virginia. The Moss family's place of rest is marked by an obelisk at St. Peter's graveyard.

(Pauses a second or two, then asks)

And what of Emma?

JENNETTE

With the kind permission of those gathered here, I will read something that I wrote.

"Little Emma is gone. Gone to heaven. On November 26th, 1863, an angel came and took her away. She was a lovely child - gentle and loving; the pet of our family, the youngest, only in her sixth year. But she could not stay with us any longer. Now that she has gone, I do not feel that I have sinned in loving her too well. If I went from home she claimed it as her right to be the first to welcome me on my return. But all this has changed now. Death has set his seal on my beautiful one and I am bereaved indeed. Many long and gloomy weeks have passed since I saw her in her last untroubled sleep. O much as I had always loved her, I never looked upon her with such pride and tenderness as when I saw her wrestling with disease and death. Her sufferings were terrible but she bore up against them with a brave fortitude that seemed wonderful in one of her tender years."

(Silence for a second or two. Then the Narrator speaks.)

NARRATOR

Mrs. Moss, what became of Howard, your son?

JENNETTE MOSS

My son Howard was such a blessing throughout this time. If we could look forward at Howard in 1872. He is 16 then, and the man of the house. Howard, dear, would you please carry on from here?

HOWARD MOSS, age 16

Of course, Mother. I remember my father every day of my life and try to be what he wanted me to be. I hope he would be proud of me for being active in our church, for my looking after Mother -- and even for my choice of a wife.

(Goes up to Joseph Beach whose daughter Mary is standing beside him.)  
Mr. Beach, sir, I am asking for your lovely Mary's hand in marriage.

JOSEPH BEACH

You have my blessing. He takes Mary's hand and puts it into Howard's.

(Mary blushes, smiles at Howard.)

(Great cheer goes up from the Crowd)

ROBERT HITCHCOCK

And now that the future has been revealed - let's go back in time once again to this day in 1862 - back to my cousin's house. My cousin has on display many fine needleworks and other items for your interest. The herb garden is open. There is punch, pumpkin bread, strawberry shortcake and many other treats for you. Please, please come. Enjoy yourselves.

(Someone, perhaps his cousin Lucretia, hands him a glass filled with punch.)

Let's not dally in the future. The present is what we have. Let's enjoy it. Let's drink to 1862 and the better times that lie ahead.

(Hitchcock lifts his glass and says,  
Here's to Cheshire!

(sips and lifts his glass again)  
And to the Union!

ALL (shout)

The Union! The Union!

(Someone waves a Union flag (34 stars in 1862 - Lincoln did not want the stars for the seceded states taken off)

END

All go into the house or over to a table set up on the lawn and get refreshments.