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# Founders News

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*Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford* April 2011

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## History of Oldest Newspaper To Be Dinner Topic

The Hartford Courant is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States. It reported the signing of the Declaration of Independence as news in 1776. But why did the Courant choose to run this story – probably the most important of the decade, if not the century – on Page 2, not on the front page?

That mystery, and others, will be explained at the May 10, 2011 Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, where the nearly 250-year history of the Courant will be the topic of a talk by Henry McNulty, longtime former writer and editor at the Courant and former Governor of the Founders of Hartford. Mr. McNulty worked for the Courant from 1969 to 1995, and now is a communication consultant in Cheshire, Conn.

The dinner will be held at the Officers' Club of Connecticut. Cocktails will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:45 and Mr. McNulty's talk following.

He will discuss how the Courant won a case before the Supreme Court of the United States that was brought in 1806, and how that case established important new limits on the

## Hartford Courant

power of the federal courts; how Mark Twain interacted with the Courant; how in 1898 the newspaper used the most advanced technology of the time to give Hartford almost-instant election results; and why the Courant is no longer the Republican Party standard-bearer in Connecticut, as it was for more than 100 years.

The Courant now shares its Hartford headquarters with TV Channel 61; both the paper and the station are owned by Chicago-based Tribune Company.

### New Location for Dinner

Please note that this year, the Founders of Hartford Court and Dinner will be in the Officers Club of Connecticut, which is located in the State Armory (by coincidence, directly across the street from the Hartford Courant building).

The Armory is at 360 Broad Street, Hartford. Parking is available in the nearby garage of the Legislative Office Building. Follow signs in the Armory to get to the club.

### Behind the Scenes

Much of the work of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford goes on out of the immediate view of its members. And one of the chief "behind the scenes" people is our Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs of West Hartford.

Every prospective new member must have his or her descent from a Founder of Hartford proven. Checking all those proofs is a time-consuming and meticulous job, and Tim has been at it for years. In addition to his work for the Founders, he's also the Registrar at the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Registrar General at the Order of Founders and Patriots of America.

Tim also performs research, for a modest fee, for those who have run into a dead end researching their own genealogies. Those interested may contact him at 860-233-8414 or [tim@piratesprivateers.org](mailto:tim@piratesprivateers.org)

## Could You Be On the Council?

The Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford is always looking for members willing to serve on its Council (executive committee).

Council meetings are held twice a year in Hartford, so a requirement of Council membership is that a person live close enough to Hartford to be able to attend meetings.

Anyone interested should contact Governor Bob Hall at the Founders post office box (see below) or by writing him at rshallct@gmail.com.



## Insignia Available

Three types of insignia are now available to members of the Founders of Hartford.

The rosette, shown above, costs \$15.

Small medals, about the size of a dime, made of enameled silver, are \$60 by mail or \$55 at the annual Court and Dinner. Large medals, about the size of a half dollar, are \$135 by mail or \$125 at the dinner. Each medal has a ribbon attached. To order by mail, send a check payable to "Founders of Hartford" to the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.

## Fly a Founders Flag

If you have attended the annual Court and Dinner of the Society, or if you have been part of the Massing of the Colours, you will have seen the official flag of the Society. We are now making these flags available to our members. Each is 3 by 5 feet, and is suitable for flying on a flagpole. For more information, write to Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215. The cost of each flag, including mailing, is \$200.

## Members of the Founders Council

Current members of the Council (executive committee) of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford are: Governor, Dr. Robert Hall of West Hartford; Deputy Governor, Perry Green of New Hartford; Corresponding Secretary, Wilson Faude of West Hartford; Recording Secretary, Susan Motycka of Glastonbury; Treasurer, Ethel Davis of West Hartford; Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs of West Hartford; Grants Chair, Carol Lee Joslin of West Hartford; Historian, Barbara Ulrich of West Hartford; Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon of Hartford; and Council members Terry Harlow of Glastonbury; Henry McNulty of Cheshire; Robert Pease of Bloomfield; Stephen Shaw of East Haddam; and Robert Storm of Canton.

## Looking for Obituaries

The Council of the Founders of Hartford is looking for obituaries of people who were once members of our Society. These help us keep our records straight, and they also may provide names of their descendants who would be eligible for membership.

Please forward any such obituaries to us at the West Hartford postbox address. The death need not be recent. Any death notice of any member from 1931 onward will be most useful to us. Thank you!

## Do You Know People Eligible to Join Founders of Hartford?

Many people have become aware of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford by speaking with a present member. In fact, "old" members are a prime source of "new" members! Do you know someone eligible to join our Society? If so, please either recommend that person to us, or suggest that he or she apply for membership.

Membership information may be found on the Society's website, [foundersofhartford.org](http://foundersofhartford.org) (select "Membership" on the home page). Or a prospective member may write us at P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.

If you belong to another patriotic or hereditary organization, it is likely that other members might qualify as descendants of Founders.