
Founders News

Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford April 2015

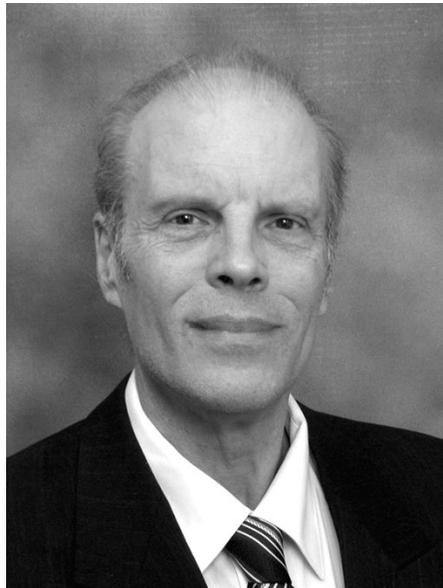
What Was Life Really Like in Colonial Hartford?

How closely do movies, television, or even history books reflect the realities of life in the Hartford Colony 350-plus years ago? That's a question that is seldom asked, let alone answered. But at the spring 2015 meeting of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford you will find out the sometimes surprising answer.

The speaker will be our own Timothy Jacobs, the Society's genealogist.

Perhaps you have envisioned the brave group of men, women and children who trekked through the wilderness from Massachusetts to form the infant Hartford Colony as a peaceful community of mutual believers drawn together by the harshness of the New England winters and the steaming hot summers that they had not known back in England. But is that what it really was like?

Tim Jacobs has been a professor of anthropology and sociology at Naugatuck Valley Community College since 1986. He is an accomplished genealogist who is currently compiling a comprehensive three generation genealogy of the families of the Founders of Hartford. In the process of this research, he has discovered sixteen previously unrecognized founders of Hartford, and quite a few interesting facts about the realities of life in the early Hartford Colony.



Professor Timothy Jacobs

Prof. Jacobs will speak at the 2015 Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, which will be held Tuesday, May 12, at the Town and County Club on Woodland Street in Hartford. Please plan to attend – and discover what “lurked under the rocks” of colonial society here.

Another Request For Your E-Mail

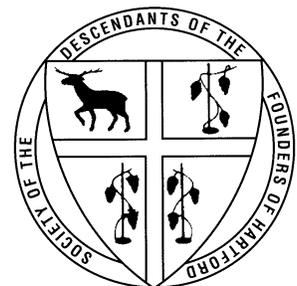
Postage expenses are among the biggest annual costs of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. In an effort to better serve our members, we are moving toward sending this newsletter electronically instead of by postal mail. This will allow us to provide more timely and complete news of

the Society's doings, and will also save us considerable expense – funds that can go toward supporting groups that promote the history of Hartford.

A year and a half ago, we asked all members to send their current e-mail addresses to Bob Hall, Governor of the Society, and many did. But we still need to hear from the majority of members, so please take this as a request to write him. Bob is at rshallct@gmail.com.

Please be assured that the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford will use your e-mail address solely for the purpose of communicating news of the Society to you. Your address will not be shared with anyone else, nor will it be used for advertising.

If you do not presently use e-mail, send a notice to that effect to our post office box: Founders of Hartford, P. O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215. We are planning to print a limited number of newsletters and send them by postal mail to the few members without e-mail.



Founders Council Members Sought

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

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.

Meet the Society's Newest Members

Thanks to the hard work of Genealogist Timothy Jacobs, we are pleased to welcome several new members to the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. They are:

No. 1886, Christopher Paileur Smith of Brooklyn, N.Y., from *John Warner*; No. 1887, Donn Edward Smith of Darien, Conn., from *Ozias Goodwin*; No. 1888, David Marchuck Barbour of Highlands Ranch, Colo., from *Zachariah Field*; No. 1889, Thomas Briggs Rice of Providence, R.I., from *Thomas Spencer*; No. 1890, Nancy Kay Hollis Philipps of Anna, Texas, from *Zachariah Field*; No. 1891, Margaret Oldridge Hartke of Virginia Beach, Va., from *Thomas Upson*; and No. 1892, Robert Hastings Bainbridge of West Hartford, Conn., from *George Graves*.

We extend a warm welcome to all our new members!

We Need Your Vote On Bylaws Change

The Council (executive board) of the Society of the Descendants of Hartford is requesting a change in the Society's bylaws. Such changes must be approved by members at the annual Court and Dinner, which this year is May 12 (see Page 1), although proxy votes may be sent by those unable to attend.

The Bylaws of 1931 say a Founder is someone "who settled in Hartford before February, 1640, as evidenced by the Book of Distribution of Land."

That definition was fine 84 years ago, but recent scholarship, largely by our Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs, has uncovered authentic and reliable sources that list several other British people as having settled in Hartford before February, 1640. The Founders Council has decided that these people are, and ought to be considered, Founders of Hartford, along with those named in the Book of Distribution of Land.

To do so will require a change in the Bylaws. All members are urged to read the suggested change to the Bylaws (below) and attend vote, either in person or by proxy.

The present wording in the Bylaws is this: "Any person above the age of eighteen (18) years of good moral character and good reputation shall be eligible to membership in the Society provided he or she be descended from an ancestor who settled in Hartford before February 1640, as evidenced by the Book of Distribution of Land, the judgment of the Council in such matters to be determinative."

The suggested change to this wording is: "Any person above the age of eighteen (18) years of good moral character and good reputation shall be eligible to

membership in the Society provided he or she be descended from an ancestor who **owned property or** settled in Hartford before February 1640, as evidenced by the Book of Distribution of Land **or other authentic and reliable historical source**, the judgment of the Council in such matters to be determinative."

The Founders Council recommends a YES vote on this change. Proxy votes may be mailed to Founders of Hartford, P. O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215 or emailed to rshallct@gmail.com.

Consider Membership For Your Descendants

Looking for the perfect gift for a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild? How about lifetime membership in the Society?

If you are a member, it's easy for your descendants to join. All they, or you, need are your membership number, proof that the person is descended from you by blood, and the lifetime membership fee.

All the "heavy lifting" of proof establishing your descent from a Founder of Hartford has already been done, so all your child, grandchild, or great-grandchild need do is prove descent from you. That can be done using birth certificates, easily obtained from the town of birth. Wouldn't it be a meaningful gift to a newborn to have a lifetime link to Hartford's earliest days?

Membership information may be found on the Society's website, foundersofhartford.org (select "Membership"). Or a prospective member may write us at the post office box shown elsewhere in this newsletter.