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# Founders News

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Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford April 2018

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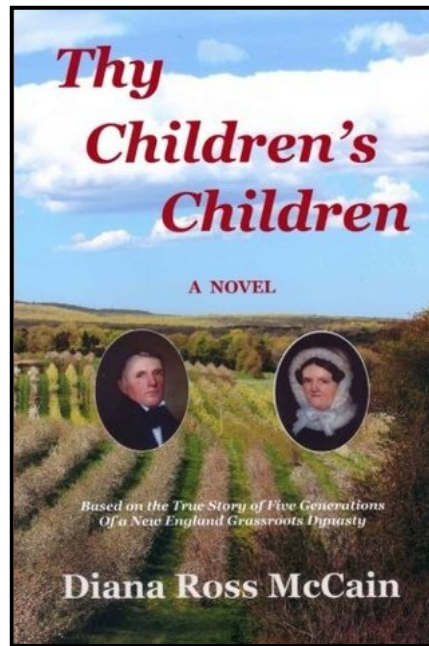
## May Dinner Talk: A Connecticut Family, Explored

**D**iana Ross McCain, author of the novel *Thy Children's Children*, will be the speaker at this year's Annual Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. The meeting will be on May 8 at the Town & County Club in Hartford.

Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 p.m. at the club, 22 Woodland St., Hartford. Dinner will be at 7:00, with Ms. McCain's talk to follow.

Her book is based on the true story of the first five generations of the Lyman family of Middlefield, Connecticut. Between 1741 and 1871, Lyman men and women established and nurtured a farm and homestead that are owned by descendants to this day. Their dreams were much the same as those of people of today: opportunity and freedom to create and support a family, a home, and a community, and to leave the legacy of a bright future for their children and grandchildren.

They pursued these goals while grappling with the harsh challenges of life in a time when every aspect of existence, from housekeeping to medicine to transportation to communication, was far different from modern circumstances – and usually more primitive. Sometimes they succeeded, sometimes they failed, but always they persevered.



Lyman men also took part, often at great personal peril, in political, moral, and economic movements that shaped the course of American history. One generation fought for American independence on the battlefield and the home front. Another crusaded to abolish slavery from the United States. Another pioneered manufacturing and transportation innovations. Today the eighth and ninth generations of Lyman men operate Lyman Orchards, an 1,100-acre agricultural and recreational complex that includes the land first purchased in 1741.

Ms. McCain will provide an overview of the role the Lyman men played in the critical events that transformed a handful of American colonies into a young nation on the cusp of the modern industrial era.

She will share how she melded historical fact with imagination to craft a work of fiction that breathes life into the people and the events of this period, making it more accessible to readers. She will highlight examples of how information gleaned from historical records provided the framework for chapters on everything from daily life to historical milestones, as well as for shaping the personalities of characters in the novel.

“While any good novel needs to tell a compelling and entertaining story,” says Ms. McCain, “well-researched historical fiction offers something more. The reader knows that much of the action in the book actually happened, and that even

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### Here Are the Society's Newest Members

Meet the newest members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford:

No. 1920, Sara Ann White of Longwood, Florida, a descendant of *John Webster*.

No. 1921, Kristin Kimball Krause Jones of Ocean View, Delaware, a descendant of *Richard Church*.

No. 1922, Judith Ann Irving of Richmond, Texas, a descendant of *the Rev. Thomas Hooker*.

Congratulations to all!

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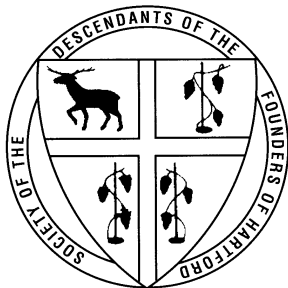
portions that are mostly or entirely invented reflect the realities of the time period and culture in which the novel is set.”

*Thy Children's Children* is based on two decades of research into the Lyman family by Ms. McCain, an independent historian with more than 30 years of experience in researching and writing history.

Connecticut State Historian Dr. Walter Woodward, who has addressed the Society in the past, praised the book as “the story of a real family in the thick of Connecticut and American history for more than a century, told in a novel that accurately portrays the past and is also a great read.”

Ms. McCain holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history, and was on the staff of the Connecticut Historical Society for 25 years.

She is the author of several non-fiction works of history, including *It Happened in Connecticut*, *Mysteries and Legends of New England*, and *Connecticut Coast*. She is a partner in “Come Home to Connecticut,” an enterprise which offers historical and genealogical research services, consulting, and programming.



## Society's Website To Get An Upgrade

For several years, the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford has had a website, [www.foundersofhartford.org](http://www.foundersofhartford.org). While this site has served us well, it's time for an upgrade, which will happen soon.

The newly designed site will make it much easier for those seeking to learn about membership in the Society to do so. “After all,” says Governor Bob Hall, “that's the main reason people visit our website to begin with.”

There will also be a section devoted to places in Hartford of particular interest to those who want to enjoy the city's history, such as the Ancient Burying Ground and the Coltsville Historic District. It will include specific directions on, for example, how to find the Founders Monument.

Another feature to be added will be audio recordings of Founders of Hartford member Wilson Faude reading from some of his books on historic Hartford. Bill, who organized last year's Court and Dinner presentation, sadly passed away less than a month after the event. He originally taped the recordings for Books for the Blind, but it makes sense to include them on the website, and will doubtless lead interested people to find out more about the Founders of Hartford.

If you have not recently visited the Founders of Hartford website, why not do so this summer? And if you see ways it could be further improved, please contact Gov. Hall at [rshallct@gmail.com](mailto:rshallct@gmail.com).

## 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 now 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.

Two years 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 many members, so please take this as a request to write him. Bob is at [rshallct@gmail.com](mailto: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.