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# Founders News

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*Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford November 2013*

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## E-Mail Addresses of Members Being Requested

In an effort to better serve members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford by providing more timely and complete news of the Society, we are moving toward sending this newsletter electronically instead of by postal mail. Changing to e-mail will also save us considerable expenses – funds that can go toward supporting groups that promote the history of Hartford.

All members are therefore being requested to send their current e-mail addresses to the Society's Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs, at [theregistrar48@gmail.com](mailto:theregistrar48@gmail.com).

The Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford will use these addresses solely for the purpose of communicating news of the Society to our members. They will not be shared with anyone else, nor will they be used for advertising.

Those who do not use e-mail are asked to send a notice to that effect to our postbox: Founders of Hartford, P. O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215. We will print a limited number of newsletters and send them by postal mail only to these members.

Thank you for helping your Society move toward a more efficient and up-to-date way of keeping you informed!

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### 18 New Members

We are pleased to welcome 16 new members into the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. They are:

No. 1857, Donal D. Rhodes of Portland, Ore., descended from *Richard Church*; No. 1858, Patricia A. W. Grogg of Williamsburg, Va., descended from *John Warner*; No. 1859, Marilyn N. R. Hardsand of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, from *Richard Olmsted*; No. 1860, Henry C. Howell IV of Richmond, Va., from *Thomas Hooker*; and No. 1861, Teresa A. Boice of Shelby, Ohio, *Thomas Lord*.

Also, No. 1862, Kelley C. D. Rosenbach of Irving, Texas, *Thomas Gridley*; No. 1863, James R. S. Rayner of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, *Richard Olmsted*; No. 1864, Jenny Lynn R. Sullivan of Rochester, N.Y., *Richard Church*; No. 1865, Allison N. R. McNeil of Aloha, Ore., *Richard Church*; No. 1866, and Valerie R. W. Turner of Boulder, Colo., *Samuel Stone*.

Also, No. 1867, Raymond S. Anderson Jr. of West Hartford, Conn., *Samuel Hale*; No. 1868, Shirley Jean K. Arendt of Santa Ana, Calif., *Thomas Upson*; No. 1869, James E. Church Jr. of Redding, Calif., *Richard Church*; No. 1870, Constance Ann M. Myers of Milford, N.J., *Benjamin*

*Munn*; No. 1871, Emery G. Olcott of Key Largo, Fla., *Thomas Olcott*; and No. 1872, Jonathan W. Hall of Philadelphia, Pa., *John Hall*.

Congratulations to all!

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### More Added to List of Founders

For more than a year our Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs, has been doing painstaking research into exactly who should be considered a 17th century Founder of Hartford. He has been working on an extensive and thorough re-examination of "The Original Proprietors," the booklet about the Founders originally published using information written some 125 years ago.

In the course of his research, Tim has not only found many inaccuracies and omissions in that text; he has also discovered people who were not listed among the "Original Proprietors" when our Society was founded in 1931, but ought to have been.

This newsletter has already reported on the discovery of **Nicholas Jennings** (also spelled Gennings), **William Watts**, **Abraham Pratt**, and **Nicholas Olmsted** (or Olmstead). But recent research has turned up even more of those who legitimately ought to be considered Founders.

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*Continued from the front*

**Priscilla Wakeman Richards** was the sister of Hartford founder Samuel Wakeman. She qualifies as a Founder of Hartford by virtue of being a land owner recorded in the Hartford land inventory of February 1639/40, when she held land on the west side of the road from John Barnard's to the Little River and two acres and two roods on the east side of the Great River. She later acquired more land.

**Jarvis Mudge** was in New England by December 1638, when he appeared in court in Boston. That he was indeed among the Founders of Hartford is shown in the Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society Vol. VI, Hartford Town Votes, Volume I, 1635-1716: "Ther shall be Sequestered to the use of Jeruise [Jarvis] Mudge six acres of yt grownd." (That's the way some English words were spelled 375 years ago.) He moved to New London probably about 1649, where he had purchased a house and six acre-lot from Edward Higbee.

**John Latimer** was first noted in Hartford on Aug. 1, 1639 when he was "censured & was fined for unseasonable and immoderate drinking att the pinnance," Again, it is the Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society Vol. VI that shows him as a landowner: "it is furdermore ordred yt thear shall bee Sequestered 2 aceres of that growne that shall be for the vse of John Latymore."

**Matthew Beckwith** was another person fined for immoderate drinking at the pinnance, which was probably a boat landing. There is an undated land inventory for him, probably from about 1645, as he purchased his home lot of Hartford founder William Pratt in that year. In March 1650 he sold all his holdings to Andrew Sandford, and moved to be among

the first settlers of that section of New London called Lyme in 1651.

**Samuel Ketcherell** (who also was fined for drinking!) may have been one of the numerous servants of either George Wyllys or Edward Hopkins, but this is conjecture. On the undated inventory he held several acres of land.

**Richard Lyman, Jr.** arrived in Massachusetts November 1631, along with his parents and siblings. He came to Hartford with Thomas Hooker's party in 1636. He lived in his father's house located on the south side of the road from George Steele's to the South Meadow. Later, he most likely owned nine acres in the South Meadow and six acres of swamp on the east side of the Great River.

Not much is known of **Thomas Goodfellow**. He is listed in "The History of the First Church of Hartford," in which it is stated that "it appears to be in evidence that the following named persons owned lots previous to 1639...". His name is among those listed, but no evidence can be found anywhere of where he lived, to whom he was married, or where and when he died.

**Rebecca Taylor Greenhill** was a founder of Hartford by virtue of the death of her husband Samuel Greenhill before 1637, at which time his holdings passed to her. She had a home lot of one acre on which stood her dwelling house, outhouses, yards or gardens, located on the corner of the road to Wethersfield and the road from the Mill to the South Meadow.

**Robert Sandford** was in Hartford by 1637, as he fought in the Pequot War of that year. He is first noted as owning land in January 1655. A clue as to his residence in 1639 is to be found in the inventory of his land holdings of 1655. He probably lived on a one acre plot, which was the combined original homesteads of

Samuel Hale and Benjamin Munn, located on the south side of the road from Centinel Hill to the Cow Pasture.

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## New CHS Director To Speak in May

Following the retirement of Kate Steinway, Jody Blankenship has been named the new Executive Director of the Connecticut Historical Society. He comes to Connecticut from the Kentucky Historical Society, where he was Education Director.

He has accepted the offer of the Founders Council to speak at the 2014 Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, to be held next May (exact date and place to be determined).

His topic will be Connecticut's Western Reserve. This is land, now mostly in Ohio, claimed by Connecticut from 1662 to 1800. More details on our speaker and the Court and Dinner will appear in the next issue of the Founders newsletter.

Mr. Blankenship earned a B.A. in History and Education from Ohio Northern University and an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, State University of New York at Oneonta.

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## Do You Know People Eligible to Join Us?

Many people have become aware of us by speaking with a present member.

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