
Founders News

Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford April 2016

Our May Talk: New Techniques, New Discoveries

The speaker at the 2016 Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford will be Beth Caruso, a scholar and the author of *One of Windsor: The Untold Story of America's First Witch Hanging*.

Her topic, however, will not be witches *per se*, but the modern mapping techniques she used to do research for the book.

By combining old land records and modern mapping techniques, ancient mysteries can be solved, or at least better understood. Ms. Caruso will explain the process in her illustrated talk.

Her discussion will be sure to be of interest to those interested in better ways to do important genealogical research.

To research the book, Ms. Caruso used mapping techniques to help uncover the story of Alice Young, who was hanged on May 26, 1647.

The dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 10, at the Town and County Club in Hartford. Cocktails are at 6:00, the dinner is at 6:45, and a brief business meeting and the talk will follow.

All are encouraged to attend this year's Court and Dinner. Invitations to the event will be sent soon by email. Guests are welcome, at the members' rate.



Author Beth Caruso

We're Electronic

Starting with this issue, the biannual newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of Hartford will be sent via email. If you have not sent us your preferred email address, please send it now to Bob Hall, Governor of the Society, at rshallct@gmail.com.

Those who do not or cannot use email may request postal delivery. This is to be used only by those members who really cannot or do not use electronic mail. It is not to be considered an option for those who simply would prefer paper.

This change will cut our annual expenses by about \$1,500. Thanks for your cooperation.

Massing of Colors Is October 2, 2016

The annual Massing of the Colors ceremony and worship service will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2016, at the First Congregational Church in Lebanon, Conn. This colorful event brings together hereditary and patriotic organizations.

This year's host organization is the Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Save the date!



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 P. O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215 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. 1897, Dr. Jack Robert Sherwood of Kissimmee, Fla., descended from *Joseph Eaton*; No. 1898, David Eugene Schrader of Sandwich, Mass, from *Thomas Bliss*; 1899, Flynn Ridgway Stanley of Bozeman, Mont., from *John Stanley*; 1900, Susan Lee Whitlo Clasen of Golden, Colo., *Samuel Stone*; 1901, Judy Dianne Taylor-Kebodeaux of Spring, Texas, *Thomas Blatchley*; 1902, Beulah Ruby Ecklund Bauman of Hastings, Minn., *James Ensign*; 1903, Donald Herbert Daniels of Topeka, Kan., *Thomas Hooker*; and 1904, Nancy Snow West, Shrewsbury, Vt., *Thomas Hungerford*.

Our congratulations to all, and welcome to the Society!

Where Are The Founders Buried?

Part Two

By **Raymond S. Nichols**
Council Member

The story of the first caretaker of the Ancient Burying Ground is instructive not only in its founding, but also in the history of the migration out of Hartford. Thomas Woodford, a founder (and my ninth great-grandfather) was "Appointed to act as sexton, March 3, 1640, to attend the making of graves of an corpses deceased; to receive for giving notice by ringing the bell, making the grave, and keeping of in seemly repair." Woodford moved to Northampton about 1658, and died there March 6, 1667.

When attempting to find the gravesite of a founder, one must take into consideration the growth of Hartford as well as the migration of Hartford founders up and down the Connecticut River. My father's early ancestors moved to Fairfield County, and I have found gravesites of these ancestors in Stratford and Fairfield. One was the site of Nathan Gold, not a Hartford founder, but nevertheless active in early Hartford as the Deputy Governor under John Winthrop, Jr.

One of the great joys of genealogy is finding the remains of an ancestor. If you are looking for your ancestors' remains, you may have to study the history of your founder's time and be prepared for some field trips outside of Hartford. Studying the history can itself be a great joy, and you will come away with a deeper understanding of the widespread and wonderful accomplishments of those who went before you.

Ray Nichols is also a member of the Board of the Ancient Burying Ground.

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"). A prospective member may write us at the post office box shown elsewhere in this newsletter, or use email.

Donations Made

In the past year, the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford has given a total of \$1,500 to organizations concerned with the history of Hartford:

- \$500 to the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library.
- \$500 to the Connecticut Historical Society.
- \$500 to the History Day program of Hartford's Old State House.

We welcome suggestions from members for future donations.