

# Founders News

Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford April 2021

## May Talk: 'Hidden' History of the Ancient Burying Ground

**K**atherine Hermes, Interim Chair of the Department of History at Central Connecticut State University, will be the speaker at the 2021 Annual Court of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. She will discuss her work uncovering the early African, African American, and Native American burials in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground – a subject unknown to many.

**Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, her talk will be a virtual one, held on Zoom. For information about attending, see the accompanying box.**

The Court will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Hermes received her A.B. in history, *cum laude*, from the University of California-Irvine, in 1985; an M.A. (1987) and M.Phil. (1988) in history at Yale; a J.D. from Duke School of Law in 1992; and her Ph.D. in Colonial American history from Yale in 1995. She has taught at Central Connecticut State University in the History Department since 1997 and was Department Chair from 2012-2018. She teaches courses on Anglo-American legal history and Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands, as well as other courses in Early America.

To investigate burials of non-Europeans in the Ancient Burying Ground, a part of the history that has largely been hidden, Dr.



Dr. Katherine Hermes

Hermes developed a type of software that allowed her to look into the early history of the Lord and Woodbridge families with their slaves and servants.

She is the co-author with Alexandra Maravel of several articles and book chapters on Native American history in New England and the author of book chapters on Native legal history. She is the director of the "Uncovering Their History" project.

Although much has been written about the history of the English who founded Hartford, relatively little has been told of the lives who accompanied these families. Dr. Hermes' presentation should be a compelling one.

The Ancient Burying Ground is Hartford's oldest historic site and the only one remaining from the 17th century. During that period, anyone who died in town could be buried there. Until recently, little was known about the identity of

those of African and Native American heritage buried there.

### How to Attend This Year's Annual Court

To join the Zoom presentation at the May 11 Annual Court, e-mail [clerk@foundersofhartford.org](mailto:clerk@foundersofhartford.org) and you will be provided a link and information about how to sign in.



### Society's Seal Is Re-Drawn

From the first, the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford has prescribed a seal for the corporate body:

"The seal of the Society shall be: within a beaded annulet, bearing the words 'Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford' on a shield argent, a cross of St. George gules for England; in the first quarter, a hart trippant proper for Hartford; and in

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each of the other three quarters, a grape vine leaved and fructed proper for Connecticut.” (From Article VI of our By-Laws)

This description -- not quite a heraldic blazon, nor yet an ordinary prescription for a seal -- has received more than one interpretation, with the ‘annulet’ misprinted most recently as an ‘amulet’! (Henry McNulty, who was Founders Governor from 1995 to 2005, also tells of one apologetic artist who regretted that he couldn't get quite right ‘the moose’ in the first quarter! The artist didn't realize it was a hart.)

This new redrawing has now been cut in a brass embossing matrix, with which engraved diplomas of membership or other documents of great importance would be sealed. It restores the annulet, adds the year in which our Society was established -- and, we may hope, has a hart in the first quarter instead of a moose.

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## Welcome New Members

Since the publication of the last Newsletter, 41 people have joined the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. They are:

No. 1934, Elizabeth White-Peters of Stratford, Conn., descended from *Thomas Lord Sr.*; 1935, Mary Jeanne Anderson Jones of Farmington, Conn., from *Gov. Thomas Welles*; 1936, Lucy Ann Campbell Cartland of West Hartford, Conn., from *Matthew Marvin*; 1937, Douglas Jackson Carter of Dayton, Ohio, from *Richard Risley*; 1938, Ida Ransom, of North Grosvenordale, Conn., from *Thomas Lord Sr.*; 1939, Tara Leigh McCarthy Squier of Avon, Conn., from *William Lewis*; 1940, Carol Irene Strong Nelson of Vernon, Conn., from *John Bronson*; 1941, Elsie Mae Scheider of Kitchener, Ont.,

Canada, from *Capt. Richard Olmsted*; and 1942, Sarah Kathryn Curtis of S. Huntsville, Ala., from *Andrew Warner*.

Also, No. 1943, Robert Neff Harcourt of Santa Fe, N.M., from *Thomas Upson*; 1944, Sharon Elizabeth Waterman Skowera of Enfield, Conn., from *William Spencer*; 1945, Benjamin Ganson Webster of Stuyvesant Falls, N.Y., from *Gov. John Webster*; 1946, Raymond Christopher Bliss of West Hartford, Conn., from *Thomas Bliss Sr.*; 1947, Roger Culver Whiting of Mill Valley, Calif., from *Maj. William Whiting*; 1948, Jennifer Nolte of Seymour, Conn., from *Thomas Blatchley*; 1949, William Franklin Cole of Silsbee, Texas, from *Governor Thomas Welles*; 1950, John Lucius Buttolph III of Lake Elmore, Vt., from *William Hyde*; and 1951, Dr. Kimberly Kay Ormsby Nagy of Downers Grove, Ill., from *Andrew Warner*.

Also, No. 1952, Craig Monday Ashbrook of Abingdon, Va., from *Thomas Bliss Sr.*; 1953, Sandra Gail Newsome Berman of Westford, Mass., from *Rev. Thomas Hooker*; 1954, Gary Ray Mitchener of Zionsville, Ind., from *Gov. George Wyllys*; 1955, Patricia Lynn Benson Morgal of Mesa, Ariz., from *Stephen Hart*; 1956, Lisa Ann Leonard of Overland Park, Kan., from *Jeremy Adams*; 1957, Cherleen Ann Mullenweg of Pflugerville, Texas, from *Giles Smith*; 1958, Carol Ann Parks of Naperville, Ill., from *George Hubbard*; 1959, Thomas Irving Parks of Naperville, Ill., from *George Hubbard*; 1960, Linda Detlefson Nicosla of Saint James, N.Y., from *Benjamin Burr*; and 1961, Kenneth Herbert Harrington of Louisville, Tenn., from *Thomas Olcott*.

Also, No. 1962, Kyle Brian McLain of Lyden, Ont., Canada,

from *Rev. Thomas Hooker*; 1963, Cody Travis McLain of Woodstock, Ont., Canada, from *Rev. Thomas Hooker*; 1964, Keith Leigh Kingman of Fort Mill, S.C., from *Thomas Stanton*; 1965, Victoria Maxine Hinton Johnson of Hope, Idaho, from *Matthew Marvin*; 1966, Tier Cherie Nelson Register of Crescent City, Fla., from *Richard Lyman Sr.*; 1967, Deborah Lynn Misiag of Williamsburg, Va., from *John Steele*; 1968, Judith Ann Weaver Lohavanijaya of Phoenix, Ariz., from *Thomas Bunce*; 1969, Stephen Christopher Clark of Bel Air, Md., from *Thomas Blatchley*; 1970, Mary Ann Miller LaBash of Naples, Fla., from *Thomas Lord*; 1971, Margery Lee Hendrick Piersen of Deerfield, Ill., from *William Cornwall*; 1972, Owen Andrew Kloter of New York, N.Y., from *Thomas Hungerford*; 1973, Benjamin Wesley of Davie, Fla., from *William Kelsey*; 1974, Philip Horton III from Germantown, Tenn., from *George Hubbard*; and 1975, Richard Andrews, Jr., of Hudson, Mass., from *Arthur Smith*.

A warm welcome to all!

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## Current Officers and Council

Governor, Robert Storm  
Deputy-Governor, Barbara Ulrich  
Recording Sec'y, Susan Motycka  
Corresponding Sec'y, Ethel Davis  
Treasurer, Ida Ransom  
Genealogist, Raymond Nichols  
Chaplain, Robert Carroon  
Historian, Jean Kelsey  
Council members: Mark Giddings, Perry Green, Raymond Andrews Jr., Karl Fransson, Thomas Trumble

All except Genealogist Ray Nichols have agreed to stand for re-election this year (he will move to the Council). Former high school history teacher Greg Andrews, if elected at the Annual Court, will be the genealogist.

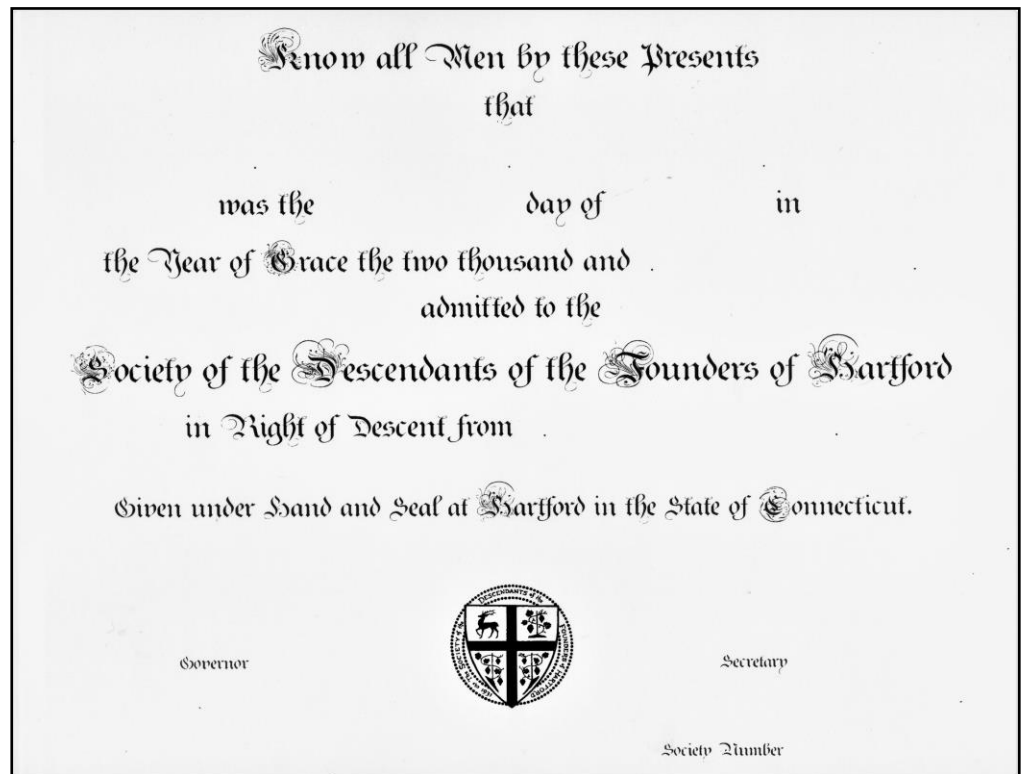
## A New Look for The Certificate

Sometime after the establishment of our Society in the Spring of 1931, we began to issue small printed certificates to newly admitted men and women. Most recently, the certificate was printed in a Roman typeface, showed the then-current rendition of the seal of the Society, and provided spaces for entry of the new member's name, qualifying ancestor, date of admission, and Society serial number. Space was provided, too, for the signatures of the Governor and Secretary.

The new certificate is printed in "Ayres", a typeface more appropriate to the seventeenth-century founding of Hartford. Named after John Ayres, a famous writing master (that is, calligrapher and instructor in handwriting) working in London a generation after the event we celebrate, this typeface is a transitional form between the late chancery hand in which the better-educated amongst our ancestors still wrote in the 1630s and the Spencerian script which our older members may still remember from tedious grammar-school hours with dip pen and inkwell.

In drawing the typeface, modern German type designer Gert Wiescher aimed to present a clear and legible vertical script which nonetheless remains faithful to the more ceremonial English writing of four centuries ago.

In keeping with the mid-17th-century spirit, the new certificate, while providing all the information given on earlier certificates, has been reworded to approximate the formal presentations of that period. The appearance, too, is appropriate to a legal document of



the Puritan age, while retaining space for official signatures and the newly redrawn seal of the Society.

Although this new certificate, in black offset printing on a stiff white card stock, is issued to members only at the time of their admission to the Society, the Council is investigating the possibility of obtaining larger, engraved diplomas of membership which all members, new or venerable, may obtain in similar format.

## Help Keep Our Records Complete

The Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford needs your help to bring, and keep, our membership list up-to-date.

Presently, we list 472 active members. However, there are also 116 people in the Society's database whose basic information – even whether the person is still alive – is unknown. We are looking for volunteers to seek out members whose basic information,

such as a postal or email address, has shown to be inaccurate.

If you would like to be part of this important initiative, please contact the Society at [clerk@foundersofhartford.org](mailto:clerk@foundersofhartford.org). You will be given a list of people to research.

(A number of years ago, we went to an e-mail-only communication system except for those who specifically asked to be contacted by postal mail)

Separately, the Society has been working hard to update our website and make it more useful. We hope to have a Members-Only section up and running by the end of 2021.



## Buy Medals, Rosettes

Show your pride in our organization! Rosettes are \$15 each; small medals are \$60.

For more information about purchasing, send e-mail to [clerk@foundersofhartford.org](mailto:clerk@foundersofhartford.org).