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# Founders News

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*Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford* November 2008

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## Founders of Hartford Identification Cards Are Now Available

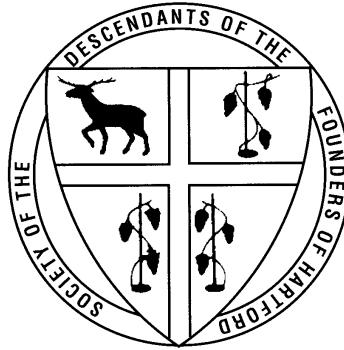
All Life Members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford may now receive new identification cards at no charge. They make it easier for members to do genealogical research in Connecticut.

Having membership cards, in conjunction with a photo ID, will allow members special provision under the Connecticut State Statutes to access vital records at city and town halls in the state.

In addition to the cards, which are a new membership benefit, our Society is now being placed on a specified listing of genealogy societies that are allowed to do research using vital records.

For members who do not intend to do any further genealogical research, the membership cards (which carry no expiration date) are a handsome identification as a member of the Founders of Hartford. Cards need to be signed by the member certifying that they will respect the books and records, custodians of the records, and the privacy of information that they may discover.

To receive a card, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215. (The cards are not available for annual dues-paying members.)



## Founders Directory Is Due Out Soon

A brand-new Founders of Hartford Register and Membership directory has been in the works for about a year, and is due to be published soon.

The last time a Register was printed was in 1996; this new one will list all Founders who have been approved for each member. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will be included. And the directory will be much more complete, as we have done a thorough review of information from the mailing list and the original applications.

### Save the Date

The annual Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford will be Tuesday, May 12, 2009 in Hartford. More details will follow in the spring newsletter.

## Do You Have Obituaries Of Former Members?

The Council (Executive Board) of the Founders of Hartford is looking for obituaries of people who were once members of our Society. These help us keep our records straight, and they also may provide names of their descendants who would be eligible for membership.

If you have copies of obituaries of any former members, please consider sending them to us at Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.

These need not be recent. Any death notice of any member from 1931 onwards will be most useful to us. Thank you!

## More Links Are Added To Founders Web Site

Have you visited the Founders of Hartford web site recently? It not only has downloadable forms for those wishing to be new members, but it has links to several organizations involved with Hartford history.

[www.foundersofhartford.org](http://www.foundersofhartford.org) is the web address. From the home page, select "Links" in the red banner at the top.

The web site also has a brief history of very early Hartford, a map of important historical monuments in the city, photos of Founders of Hartford plaques, and much more.

## **New Members Welcomed to Founders of Hartford**

We are pleased to say that the following people have been accepted as members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford in the past year: John Edward Idenden of Belvedere, N.J., descended from *Matthew Marvin*; Dianne Claire Bunning of Gold Beach, Ore., descended from *Richard Butler*; Scott Bushnell Macdonough of So. Glastonbury, Conn., descended from *Thomas Welles*; Robert Lafayette Clark of Albuquerque, N.M., descended from *Thomas Upson*; Shelly Ann Jakes of Tampa, Fla., descended from *Ozias Goodwin*; and Nancy Ann Legerski of Bismarck, N.D., descended from *Thomas Barnes*. Congratulations to our newest members!

## **New Plaques Mark City's Historic Spots**

The Greater Hartford Arts Council has begun putting up plaques marking Hartford's historic spots. Some 25 plaques have now been placed, and 75 more are planned.

They mark everything from the spot where the Hartford Treaty of 1650 was signed and the place Noah Webster lived when he wrote his dictionary to the spot where Abraham Lincoln spent the night, and the home of the 19th century painter Frederic Church.

More modern historic structures have not been forgotten; Katharine Hepburn's birthplace and the location of Savitt Jewelers are also identified by the new plaques.

You are invited to check them out the next time you are in Hartford.

## **Donations Made To Organizations**

Each year, the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford financially supports organizations connected with the history of Hartford. This is in keeping with our Certificate of Incorporation, which lists as one of our purposes "to make grants to other organizations" in support of strengthening public understanding of the history and traditions of the City of Hartford.

This year, the Council voted to give \$1,000 to the Connecticut Historical Society (including \$500 for a History Day prize), and \$1,500 to the Hartford History Center, formerly known as the Hartford Collection, at the Hartford Public Library.

## **Members of the Founders Council**

Current members of the Council (Executive Board) of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford are: Governor, Dr. Robert Hall of West Hartford; Deputy Governor, Carol Lee Joslin of West Hartford; Corresponding Secretary, Perry Green of New Hartford; Recording Secretary, Susan Motycka of Glastonbury; Treasurer, Ethel Davis of West Hartford; Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs of Middletown; Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon of Hartford; and Council members Barbara Abraham of Glastonbury; Wilson Faude of West Hartford; Terry Harlow of Glastonbury; Henry McNulty of Cheshire; Peter North of Woodbury; Meredith Richardson of West Hartford; Stephen Shaw of East Haddam; Robert Storm of West Hartford; and Barbara Ulrich of West Hartford.

## **Society Hopes to Have All 'Life' Members**

For several years, all new members of the Founders of Hartford have been Life Members. The category of members who pay annually has been discontinued. Those who were annual members when the change was made were allowed to keep paying dues each year if they so chose.

The Founders Council has taken a new look at the Society's dues structure, and has issued an appeal to all annual members to consider switching to Life Membership. Maintaining two sets of member lists is cumbersome, and the expense of sending out annual dues notices to yearly members is not inconsiderable.

The Council has attempted to reach annual members to discuss a switch to Life Membership. The present cost of Life Membership for a brand-new member is \$300 – but this figure does not apply to annual members who decide to switch now. The Council is willing to play "Let's Make a Deal" in an effort to get everyone transferred to the Life category. Each case is carefully considered on an individual basis.

There are benefits to being a Life Member besides the obvious one of not having to pay every year. Only Life Members are eligible to receive the free Membership cards described on Page 1 of this newsletter. The Council has decided that Founders of Hartford medals and rosettes may be purchased by Life Members only.

So far, several dozen annual members have opted to change to Life Membership. If you are currently an annual member, expect to be contacted.