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# Founders News

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*Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford* October 2010

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## History of the Hartford Courant To Be Dinner Topic

The Hartford Courant is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States – and may be the oldest in the English-speaking world. Founded in 1764 as the Connecticut Courant, it has always been published in Hartford. Its frequency – weekly, daily – and format have changed over the years, but it has outlasted all its competitors. The Courant reported the signing of the Declaration of Independence as news.

At the May 10, 2011 Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, the 246-year history of the Courant will be the topic of a talk by Henry McNulty, longtime former writer and editor at the Courant and former Governor of the Founders of Hartford. Mr. McNulty worked for the Courant from 1969 to 1995, and now is a communication consultant in Cheshire, Conn.

The dinner will be held at the Officers' Club of Connecticut, located in the State Armory in Hartford, which coincidentally is right across the street from the Hartford Courant. Cocktails will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:45 and Mr. McNulty's talk following.



Henry McNulty

He will discuss how the Courant was sued by Thomas Jefferson for criminal libel; how the Courant helped form the Republican Party in Hartford; and how, when the newspaper's source of paper was interrupted during the Revolutionary War, the (female) publisher acquired paper. The Courant now shares its Hartford headquarters with TV Channel 61; both the paper and the station are owned by Chicago-based Tribune Company.

### New Founders Members

We are happy to say that seven people have been accepted as new members of the Founders of Hartford since the last newsletter. They are:

Diane Burnham Wilcox of West Hartford (*ancestor: Richard Seymour*); Joanna Louise Campbell Dellenbaugh of Glastonbury (*Thomas Hooker*); William Hale Kirby of New Canaan (*Samuel Kirby*); Elaine Terhofen of LaHabra, Calif. (*Matthew Marvin*); Rhea Doris Stocking Landes of Camino, Calif. (*George Stocking*); James Reid Hancock of Louisville, Ky. (*John Haynes*); and Douglas Mather Mabee of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. (*Thomas Welles*).

Congratulations to all!

### Could You Be On the Council?

The Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford is always looking for members willing to serve on its Council (executive committee).

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 the Founders post office box (see page 2) or by writing him at [rshallct@gmail.com](mailto:rshallct@gmail.com).



## Insignia Available

Three types of insignia are now available to members of the Founders of Hartford.

The rosette, shown above, costs \$15.

Small medals, about the size of a dime, made of enameled silver, are \$60 by mail or \$55 at the annual Court and Dinner. Large medals, about the size of a half dollar, are \$135 by mail or \$125 at the dinner. Each medal has a ribbon attached. To order by mail, send a check payable to "Founders of Hartford" to the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.



## Fly a Founders Flag

If you have attended the annual Court and Dinner of the Society, or if you have been part of the Massing of the Colours, you will have seen the official flag of the Society. We are now making these flags available to our members. Each is 3 by 5 feet, and is suitable for flying on a flagpole. For more information, write to Founders of Hartford, P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215. The cost of each flag, including mailing, is \$200.

## Members of the Founders Council

Current members of the Council (executive committee) of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford are: Governor, Dr. Robert Hall of West Hartford; Deputy Governor, Perry Green of New Hartford; Corresponding Secretary, Wilson Faude of West Hartford; Recording Secretary, Susan Motycka of Glastonbury; Treasurer, Ethel Davis of West Hartford; Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs of West Hartford; Grants Chair, Carol Lee Joslin of West Hartford; Historian, Barbara Ulrich of West Hartford; Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon of Hartford; and Council members Terry Harlow of Glastonbury; Henry McNulty of Cheshire; Robert Pease of Bloomfield; Stephen Shaw of East Haddam; and Robert Storm of West Hartford.

## Massing of the Colours

All members and friends of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford are invited to the 2010 Massing of the Colours of hereditary and patriotic organizations.

The Massing will take place on Sunday, October 24, at the First Congregational Church of Lebanon, which is on the town Green. Organizations will assemble at 2:30 p.m., and the ceremony itself will start at 3.

This year's sponsor of the Massing of the Colours is the Thomas Rogers Society.

## Do You Know People Eligible to Join Founders of Hartford?

Many people have become aware of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford by speaking with a present member. In fact, "old" members are a prime source of "new" members!

Do you know someone eligible to join our Society? If so, please either recommend that person to us, or suggest that he or she apply for membership.

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

If you belong to another patriotic or hereditary organization, it is likely that other members might qualify as descendants of Founders.

## Looking for Obituaries

The Council 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.

Please forward any such obituaries to us at the West Hartford postbox address. The death need not be recent. Any death notice of any member from 1931 onwards will be most useful to us. Thank you!