
Founders News

Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford February 2010

Archivist of HPHS Museum to Speak at Dinner

R. J. Luke Williams, archivist of the Hartford Public High School Museum, will be the speaker at this year's Annual Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. The dinner will be held on Tuesday, May 11, at the Town and County Club in Hartford.

Hartford Public High School, founded in 1638, is the second oldest public secondary school in the United States. It was founded as Thomas Hooker's Latin School; in the 18th century it was known as the Hartford Grammar School, and in the 19th century acquired its present name. The school has been relocated several times; it is presently located on Forest Street, not far from the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe houses.

One of the goals of the Hartford Public High School History Project started in 1995 was the establishment of a museum for school history. That goal was realized in 2007. The museum and archive contains items from the historic Hopkins Street building (1883) as well as 500 books, scrapbooks, memorabilia, paintings, photos, and engravings.

R. J. Luke Williams, a native of Hartford, taught Spanish, history, and social studies at Hartford Public from 1969 to 2004. He is a member of several historical organizations, including the Noah Webster House, Connecticut



Luke Williams

Landmarks, and the Connecticut Historical Society.

The Court and Dinner will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 and Mr. Williams' talk following.



New Members

The following have been approved as new members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. Our congratulations to all:

No. 1808, James Talcott Kelsey of Greenwich, Conn., descended from *John Talcott*.

No. 1809, David Wade Morton of Manlius, N.Y., descended from *Matthew Marvin*.

No. 1810, Jean Downes Clark of Carlisle, Ky., descended from *Thomas Roote*.

No. 1811, Jane Doherty Holbrook of Fairfax, Va., descended from *Benjamin Munn*.

No. 1812, Brian Starr of Henderson, Tenn., descended from *William Hills*.

No. 1813, Marilyn Jane Wilcox Bauer of Peoria, Ill., descended from *John Wilcox*.

No. 1814, Thomas Ray Trumble of West Hartford, descended from *Richard Church*.

No. 1815, Michael Glenn Gaba of Salt Lake City, Utah, descended from *John Webster*.

No. 1816, Carol Joan Hannie Westall of Normal, Ill., descended from *Jeremy Adams*.

No. 1817, Lewis Seymour Stone Jr. of Peterborough, N.H., descended from *Richard Seymour*.

No. 1818, Lillian Alice Eaton Stewart of Jacksonville, Ore., descended from *Thomas Hooker*.

No. 1819, Leslie Joan Steuben of San Francisco, descended from *John Arnold*.

No. 1820, Anne Caussin Henninger of Prince Frederick, Md., descended from *Stephen Post*.

If you know someone who is eligible for membership as a descendant of a founder of Hartford, please let the Society know at P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.



Show Your Pride: Wear a Founders Medal

New medals have been struck for members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, and are available for purchase by mail or at the annual Court and Dinner.

Large medals, about the size of a half dollar, are \$135 by mail or \$125 at the dinner on May 11. Small medals, about the size of a dime, are \$60 by mail or \$55 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.



History Day Winners

Each year, the Society sponsors two prizes at History Day in Connecticut, put on by the Connecticut Historical Society. In 2009, winners were:

Junior Division, Liam McLean of Hall Memorial School in Willington, for "Mark Twain: America's First Great Author."

Senior Division, Justin Clark of Torrington High School, for "Nathan Hale: Actions and Legacies."

More about the contest may be found at www.chs.org/hist_day.

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, Robert Hall of West Hartford; Deputy Governor, Perry Green of New Hartford; Corresponding Secretary, William Faude of West Hartford; Recording Secretary, Susan Motycka of Glastonbury; Treasurer, Ethel Davis of West Hartford; Genealogist, Timothy Jacobs of Middletown; 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.

Grants Made in 2009

Last year, the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford made grants totaling \$2,500 to area organizations.

They were: A total of \$1,000 to the Connecticut Historical Society. Half of that went to the Historical Society's annual fund, and half for History Day in Connecticut prizes (see article at left).

And \$1,500 was given to the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library. These funds were designated to support the Parks Collection project at the Center, a multi-media archive of manuscripts, photos, maps, lantern slides, prints, and books.

Flags Available

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 of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford.

The Society is 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.

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.

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 – only Life Members.)