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# Founders News

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*Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford* March 2009

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## Manager of Hartford History Center to Speak

**B**renda J. Miller, manager of the Hartford History Center and curator of the Hartford Collection at the Hartford Public Library, 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 12, at the Town and County Club in Hartford.

The title of her talk will be "Bringing History Home – The Return of the Hartford Collection." The Hartford Collection is, at its core, a collection of printed words – by Hartford authors, about Hartford, and published in Hartford. Today, it is a growing multi-media compilation of more than 50,000 items including books, pamphlets, maps, photographs, postcards, films, CD's and DVD's, and more. The collection conveys close to 300 years of community life in Hartford.

The collection is housed in the Hartford History Center on the third floor of the Hartford Public Library. Officially named in 1945, the archives and special collections of the Hartford Public Library date back to the 18th century, to the library's own beginning. The collection includes first edition volumes of Hartford authors Mark Twain, Lydia Huntley Sigourney, Thomas Tryon, Noah Webster, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Chuck Stone and Wallace Stevens.



Ms. Miller is a graduate of the University of Connecticut (BA, History), and earned an MA from Trinity College in American Studies – Museums, Archives, and Communities. She has been with the Hartford Public Library since 2002, focusing on community programming and outreach. In 2007, she assumed responsibility for the Hartford Collection.

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

**Please note that this year, the Court and Dinner returns to the Town & County Club on Woodland Street in Hartford.**

### New Members

The following have been approved as new members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford:

No. 1806, Tamara Joan Holland of West Hartford, descended from *John Hopkins*.

No. 1807, George Thomas Ferguson III of Copley, Ohio, descended from *Zachary (or Zachariah) Field*.

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.

## Identification Cards Are Now Available

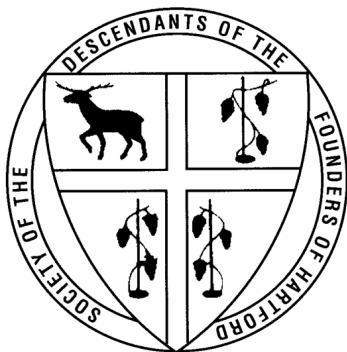
All Life Members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford may now receive new identification cards at no charge. They make it easier for members to do genealogical research in Connecticut.

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.)



## 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!

## 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 in the news article at left. 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.