
Founders News

Newsletter of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford November 2011

Connecticut's Witch Trials To Be 2012 Dinner Topic

Mention “witch trials,” and Salem, Mass. springs to mind – in part because that community has promoted that aspect of its history for tourism purposes. But Connecticut had its own witch trials in the mid-to-late 1600s, and much less is generally known about them than about the more celebrated events to our north.

At the May 8, 2012 Court and Dinner of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, the “hidden history” of Connecticut’s witch trials and executions will be discussed by Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward. Dr. Woodward is an acknowledged expert on the subject of 17th century witchcraft trials; he is the author of a new biography of John Winthrop Jr., a man instrumental in changing Connecticut from a place that fiercely pursued and punished alleged witches to one in which execution of “witches” was abolished.

The dinner will be held at the Officers’ Club of Connecticut, located in the State Armory in Hartford, 360 Broad Street. (This was the location of last year’s Court and Dinner.) Cocktails will begin at 6 p.m.,



with dinner at 6:45 and Dr. Woodward’s talk following.

The crime of “witchcraft” was included in laws enacted by the parliament of England during Queen Elizabeth I’s reign. Witchcraft and its penalty were thought to be the express law of God as stated in Exodus 22: 18 (“Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live”). In each of the New England colonies, witchcraft was a capital crime that involved having some type of relationship with or entertaining Satan. The earliest laws of Connecticut and New Haven colonies made it a capital offense for “any man or woman [to] bee a Witch.” Come hear the whole story at next May’s Court and Dinner!

New Founders Members

We are happy to say that 11 people have been accepted as new members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford since the last newsletter. They are:

Douglas W. Crase of New York City (*ancestor: James Ensign*); Alice E. C. Cogdell of Arlington, Texas (*ancestor: Thomas Woodford*); Bernard S. Parker of Ocala, Fla. (*William Parker*); Jennifer R. Vasquez of Westfield, Mass. (*Thomas Woodford*); Ruby R. Stauber of Grove, Okla. (*Andrew Warner*); Janet L. Downing of Arlington, Va. (*Richard Watts*);

Continued overleaf

New Members, Continued

Katherine H. Loomis of South Glastonbury, Conn., (*Thomas Lord*); Kent D. Worley of Gilbert, Ariz. (*John Pratt*); Roger E. Kranich of Riviera Beach, Fla. (*Thomas Blatchley*); Dorothy L. S. Dreher of Black Creek, Wis. (*Richard Seymour*); and Michael T. Bates of Belle Mead, N. J. (*Thomas Munson*). Congratulations to all!



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. Worn without the ribbon, they make a quite attractive pendant.

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.



Recent Gifts Made

According to our bylaws, one of the purposes of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford is to make financial gifts to organizations that support the goals of the Society.

This year, the Society has donated \$500 to the general fund of the Connecticut Historical Society, and another \$500 for prizes at the CHS' History Day. Also, \$1,500 has been given to the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library. The Council is presently considering other gifts.

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 Kenneth Buckbee of Torrington; Terry Harlow of Glastonbury; Henry McNulty of Cheshire; Robert Pease of Bloomfield; Stephen Shaw of East Haddam; Robert Storm of West Hartford; and Thomas Trumble of West Hartford.

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.

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.

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

Many people have become aware of the Founders of Hartford by speaking with a present member. Membership information may be found on the Society's website, foundersofhartford.org (select "Membership"). Or a prospective member may write us at P.O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.