



The Chronicler

Newsletter of the Hartland Historical Society, Inc.
Gaylord House Museum, 141 Center Street, West Hartland

Mail to: P.O. Box 221, East Hartland, CT 06027—hartlandhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

HartlandHistoricalSociety.com

Spring Edition 2022

**This is your invitation to our Spring Meeting followed by a
Spinning Wheel and Drop Spinning demonstration by our town residents**

Pam Lindau & Andrea Leshinskie

Town Hall, Friday, May 20th, 7pm

Light Refreshments

Did you know the Gaylord House Museum has a piece of the famous Charter Oak tree of Hartford.?

Come and visit on the first Sunday of each month May through October, 2-4pm
to see for yourself and enjoy the grounds and many other Hartland artifacts.

Hartland's Own "Charter Oaks" by Terri Atwood

Many of you may be familiar with the most important tree in Connecticut's history – the Charter Oak. Connecticut's history of constitutional government dates back to the seventeenth century and two significant documents: the 1639 Fundamental Orders, which placed the towns in Connecticut under one governed entity, and the Royal Charter of 1662 granted by King Charles II that empowered this colony with a legal basis to govern themselves. In 1682, King James looked to rescind the charter in Connecticut so he could unite the New England colonies.

Daniel Wadsworth of Hartland (1762-1840) is a descendant of the key figure in the protection of Connecticut's Charter, Joseph Wadsworth. This story is recapped from a story told during a Wadsworth family reunion.

King James sent his emissaries to take control and retrieve the charter, so a meeting was set up with the Governor and other leading officials of the Connecticut Colony – of whom Joseph Wadsworth was one. On October 31, 1687, the two sides met across a long table in Hartford, with the charter in the middle. As the story goes, during a heated debate on the surrender of the charter, the candles in the room were suddenly extinguished, and when they were re-lit, the Charter was gone, and Joseph along with it. He ran down Main Street, and hid the Charter in a hollow oak tree, now known as the Charter Oak. Joseph Wadsworth kept the Charter in his possession until May of 1715, when the government was stable enough to ensure its safety. Connecticut was the only one of the thirteen colonies to maintain self-rule until the American Revolution. The story became legendary, and for over 150 years the "Charter Oak" was a widely recognized landmark. When it toppled in a storm in 1856, acorns, along with a considerable number of twigs, leaves, branches and lumber were collected. "Grandchildren" of the Charter Oak can be found here in Hartland.

The original grandchild of the Charter Oak planted in the East Hartland Cemetery is gone, after it was severely damaged in a storm in 1997. This original tree was planted in 1930 by Governor Trumbull and first selectman of Hartland, Wilbur Miller, dur-

ing a patriotic celebration commemorating Bunker Hill Day, and as a dedication to George Washington.

Two years later, in 1932, the **East Hartland Cemetery Association** planted additional “grandchildren” of the original Charter Oak. Mr. Edward P. Jones of Winsted, the Association Secretary/Treasurer, led the project set out to recognize the contribution of Hartland to the Revolutionary War. **The text below is recounted from the minutes of the Association’s meeting on June 23, 1932, presented by Edward Jones.**

“Two years ago, 6000 people journeyed to this hilltop to honor the memory of the 360 Hartland men who responded to the call for freedom and fought in the Revolutionary War. We have met today, not only to honor these same men, but also to honor the memory of that great man, the Father of His Country, the Commander-in-Chief of all Revolutionary forces, General Washington. Two hundred years have passed since his birth and every year adds to the honor which the world pays him. Noble in birth, in character and in deeds, he will live in the hearts of his countrymen as long as these hills remain peopled with the descendants of those who gained freedom under his able leadership.



Two years ago, in order to perpetuate the memory of those brave Hartland men, 360 Boy Scouts were brought to Hartland, and on the old training ground in front of the church, was formed a reproduction of what might have been and old Continental Army, had the Revolutionary soldiers ever been brought together at one time. This was an object lesson in Patriotism that will probably remain in the minds of these Boy Scouts as long as they live. *Photo showing boy scouts in front of church 1930.*

Today, we are honoring these same men and also their Commander, in a more material way – a way we hope will remind, not only the present generation, but succeeding generations as they visit East Hartland, of the achievements of their fathers. Two years ago we set out a grandchild of the Old Charter Oak – Connecticut’s historical landmark, and placed a table of enduring bravery on an old mill stone used to grind grain for the Revolutionary soldiers. Today, we have set out six grandchildren of this same famous Charter Oak. In keeping with the day, and as a part of the Bicentennial Celebration, we now dedicate this Charter Oak, which was set out two years ago and which, at that time, was three years old, to the memory of General Washington. White Oaks grow slowly, but they live to a great age if their roots are in friendly soil. The Original Charter Oak was old enough, and the trunk was hollow enough so that the Charter of the original Colony of Connecticut was hidden in it’s trunk in 1687, but it stood until a terrific wind storm blew it down 169 years later in 1856. It has been stated that white oaks set out this year may be alive when the 1000th anniversary of the birth of General Washington is celebrated.

As I have said, two years ago we formed, in imagination, an Old Continental Army with Boy Scouts here in East Hartland. This year we have, in imagination, formed another Continental Army and **each soldier is represented by a living, growing tree.** The hollow square is sometimes used when honor is show to a distinguished officer or official. Let us suppose that these trees represent, as they do, the officers and men from the town of Hartland, arranged in a hollow square with the tree representing General Washington growing in the center. There were among these Hartland men, one Colonel, one Lieutenant Colonel, and four Majors. To these **six officers are dedicated the six Charter Oaks set out just inside the front fence.** The **Oak set out just east** of the gate is hereby dedicated to the memory of Colonel Israel Jones. The **Oak set out just west** of the gate is dedicated to Lieut. Col. Benjamin Hutchens. It is hoped that they will be protected and cared for until their branches touch and form a solid archway in commemoration of the noble deeds of these men and their brave Commander. The other **four Oaks are dedicated to the four Majors**, Daniel Cone, Uriel Holmes, John Skinner, and Theodore Woodbridge. On the **west side of the Church Yard are set out Oak trees**, and on the **east side are set out Hard Maples, 22 in all.** These trees represent and are dedicated to the **22 Captains** which led separate Companies in the war for freedom. The names of these men were: Nehemial Andrews, Sr., Samuel Banning,

Jr., Oliver Bates, Daniel Beeman, Abel Brace, Daniel Bills, Alexander Bushnell, Timothy Coe, Elijah Coe, Eleazer Ensign, Thomas Giddings, Sr., Samuel Hall, Nathan Hurd, Israel Jones, Sr., Joel Meacham, Stephen Pardee, John Porter, Jonathan Roberts, Jonathan Shipman, Thomas Sill, Abner Waters, Israel Williams.

There were **88 officers and musicians** below the rank of Captain. The division of these officers was as follows: Lieutenants – 14, Ensigns – 10, Sergeants – 24, Corporals – 23, Drummers – 5, Trumpeters – 2, Fifers – 6, Quartermasters – 1, Cornets – 2, Surgeons -1. **88 Hemlock trees** have been set out in memory of these men in the **northwest corner** of the Church Yard near the spring. Besides the above there were **244 Privates**. To these 244 men who should be given great honor for the position they filled, are dedicated the **244 Pine Trees** set out along the **north side** of the Church Yard. They will form the background of the Church Yard, the same as the army forms the background of every military advance. These together with the Charter Oak set in the center of the cemetery, makes a total of **361 trees**.

Besides these men, whose names are all known and recorded, there were also the older men who were too feeble to fight and whose identity has been lost, but whose patriotism was as great as that of their sons, to them are dedicated **22 Soft Maples**. These Soft Maples are set **between the Oaks and between the Hard Maples**, and like the old men in the time of the Revolution, will pass from the picture first. They are set out as fillers while the Oaks and Hard Maples are growing.



Hartland men were among the “Minute Men” who marched to the assistance of the brave soldiers who fought at Concord, Lexington, and Bunker Hill. Others were in the various campaigns and battles of the war. Colonel Israel Jones was with General Washington during that memorable winter at Valley Forge when there was neither sufficient food or clothing. Tales of heroism, privations, and plain Yankee determination could be told of these men that would be an honor to their descendants and an inspiration to future generations.

The records of the town contain information of the women, the old men, and the children who remained at home. They were not only obliged to live without the help and support of their husbands and fathers, but were obliged to forward beef, grain and clothing to the men at the front – even the salt for the use on their table and to preserve their beef and pork, was rationed out – a certain amount for each family. How they could do all that was done is almost beyond our imagination. We not only honor their memory, but are thankful that they were our ancestors. And so today we leave these trees – 360 in number, on top of East Hartland Mountain, redolent with the patriotism of the past. Their roots reach down into the soil; their branches reach toward Heaven to be bathed in the rain, the snow, the sunshine and the ozone of this hill top. Men will come and men will go, but the Church Yard and trees will remain to carry inspiration to generations yet unborn. In the name of those who have caused these trees to be placed in their respective positions, I present these 360 living, growing trees to the East Hartland Cemetery Association and the people of Hartland.”

The Charter Oak and what it stands for lives on - **it is said that the six Charter Oaks placed in the East Hartland Cemetery are the longest row of Charter Oaks in the country**. The original Connecticut Charter is preserved in an ornate frame made from wood from the original Charter Oak and can be viewed at the State Library in Hartford. There is a

historical marker erected in 1905 at the corner of Charter Oak Avenue, and Charter Oak Place in Hartford commemorating the tree. The Lieutenant Governor of Connecticut presides from the Charter Oak chair. This chair was carved from the original Charter Oak, and can be seen on a guided tour of the State Capitol in Hartford. You may be carrying the symbol in your pocket – the Charter Oak is the symbol on the quarter representing the state of Connecticut.

A Sad Farewell to Hartland's Miniature Houses by Monica Cegelka

We all have them. Mine are on a ledge above my front door. My friends have theirs on bookshelves or on their mantels. Acquiring the ones special to us has been a pastime for us Hartlanders for 25 years. But now it's time to say good-bye to The Hartland Historical Society's best seller, the Hartland miniature houses and landmarks. Karen Delton was the mastermind for the intricate replicas that bring us all just joy.

Karen has been a Hartland resident since 1988. In 1997, Karen and Joan Stoltze, former president of the Hartland Historical Society, collaborated on having HHS buy Karen's creations and then resell them at membership meetings, the yearly fire department carnival and the Santa Breakfast. Selling at \$15 each, the miniatures soon became a signature item for the society.

The creative process for the wooden models is complicated. Karen takes 12-20 photos of the structure and paints the likeness on wood in great detail. She then has the image printed on linen paper. These paper copies are decouped onto a long piece of wood. Each landmark is then cut out with a scroll saw and the sides and backs are sanded. Next the back is stained, the sides painted and the item's description glued onto the back. Karen has also made the little houses for Granby, Simsbury, Windsor, East Granby, Enfield and New Canaan.



The first in the Hartland series were the Coach and Four Restaurant (now Coach Stop), First Church in Hartland, Gaylord House Museum and the Hayes Store (destroyed by fire 1988). The last one, issued in 2011, was the carnival Ferris wheel. Many of these mini houses were created by Karen for an HHS historic home open house event. There are 34 landmarks in the Hartland series, and Karen kept HHS's inventory filled as needed throughout the years. Once our present inventory is sold there will be no more. You can see the entire collection at the Gaylord House



Thank you, Karen, for your 25 years of support. We will miss adding to our collection.

Welcome Committee formed just before Covid reaches its goal in 2022

The Hartland Land Trust started the idea of a Welcome Committee and of having the 3 non-profits work together. The Hartland Historical Society and Lions Club answered the call and action was taken in 2020 but stymied for the next year and a half.

But the Welcome Committee has taken off and this winter representatives from the three organizations mailed introduction letters and then delivered Welcome Bags to 66 families who are new to our community, having moved to Hartland between 2018 and 2021. The bag (courtesy of the Library) includes information on the Non-Profits, Town Library, Town Resources and Fire Departments. An HHS phone book, Land Trust calendar, Lions Club magnet and a map were also included. The Committee looks forward to continuing this as new families move in.

Santa Breakfast "Rain or Shine" by Monica Cegelka

With all weather forecasts promising a delightful day of weather with highs approaching the 60's, the Hartland Historical Society Santa Breakfast volunteers and elves were looking forward to our second drive through and pick up event on December 11. The sunny 60's never arrived in Hartland. We did get to experience the frigid 40's with a bonus of fog and rain with occasional downpours and lightening and thunder. But that didn't keep 123 intrepid Hartlanders from venturing forth to purchase their freshly made breakfast of pancakes with homemade maple syrup, sausages, orange juice and steaming hot coffee. Santa's elves, better known as Hartland School's 6th, 7th and 8th graders, braved the elements to make the process seamless. Their smiles and cheery holiday greetings were such a holiday pick-me-up on that dismal day. Santa even arrived without a rain delay! All the Hartland children had the opportunity to tell him what they wanted for Christmas and pose for a photo op with the ho-ho-hoing icon. The Santa Shop returned this year to the delight of all the children who wanted to buy mom, dad, and others gifts at prices kids could afford. Despite (or maybe *because of*) the weather, the 2021 Santa Breakfast was one that will bring back fond memories. HHS would like to thank all the volunteers who devoted their time before, during and after the breakfast. And of course, we would like to thank all the hearty Hartlanders who showed up and purchased a meal and supported our goal to preserve the history of your town.



Hartland's Historical Society and Hartland's Public Library have been collaborating on a new community section in the library. Come in and learn more about Hartland and see our new Hartland history posters! The Library has new books and DVDs - including James Patterson and Nora Roberts - and new non-fiction too. We have re-organized the children's and non-fiction areas so they are easier to use. Come in on Tuesdays (5-8), Thursdays (3-6) and Saturdays (10-2)!!

The Hartland Historical Society receives grant funds

Support has been provided to Hartland Historical Society from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature

HHS will work towards utilizing these funds to build our website, update computer hardware/software, schedule performance with our State Historian Walt Woodward and more.



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East Hartland, CT
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The Hartland Historical Society's mission is to discover, procure and preserve whatever historical facts may be available relating to the civil, military, literary, cultural, and ecclesiastical history of the town of Hartland; and to investigate and preserve such traditions and knowledge as now exist only in the memory of persons. The Society will be responsible for sponsoring and exhibiting the collection of historical articles, pictures and other items relating to the town.

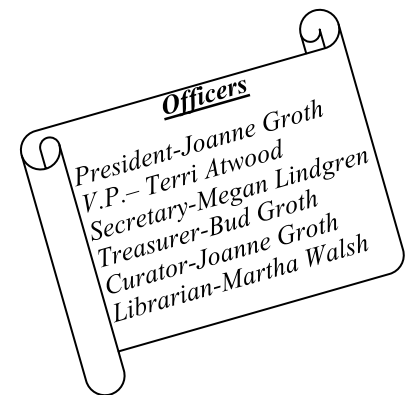
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TOWN ANNOUNCEMENT

- ⇒ May 22 Wade Cole bench dedication at the West Hartland Cemetery
- ⇒ June 4 First Church Flea Market & Artisan Sales, 9AM-2PM
HHS will be there. Contact Church by May 27 for sales booth.
- ⇒ New Women's Community Group formed-2nd & 4th Wed. 9:30am
Parish Hall., Megan 860-653-7213



Officers

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2022 Calendar

- ◆ Spring Meeting, May 20
- ◆ Carnival Booth, July 27—30
- ◆ Blueberry Picnic, August 14
- ◆ Fall Meeting, October 2
- ◆ Santa Breakfast, December 10