May Talk: Two Notable City Landmarks Examined

The Isham-Terry House and the Butler-McCook House are two homes with fine Hartford pedigrees. At this year’s Annual Court and Dinner, Jana Colacino, from Connecticut Landmarks, will discuss the history and importance of these Hartford properties. Her program will be a slide show about the significance of these Hartford landmarks, the very interesting people who lived in them, and their rich connections to the Founders of Hartford.

The Court and Dinner will be Tuesday, May 7, at the Town and County Club. Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 p.m. at the club, 22 Woodland St., Hartford. Dinner will be at 7:15, with Ms. Colacino’s talk to follow.

Ms. Colacino is Connecticut Landmarks’ Hartford Educator and Site Administrator for the Butler-McCook House and Garden and the Isham-Terry House. She joined Connecticut Landmarks in 2015 and oversees educational and public programming at the Hartford properties. She spearheads education for all ages, including K-12 school programs and internship programs for college students, and she oversees CTL’s participation in the inaugural year of Trinity College’s Public Humanities Collaborative.

Since 2016, Jana has led Connecticut Landmarks’ Youth Employment Program (YEP), a cornerstone mission of the organization. This gives Hartford-area high school students from urban and underserved populations an opportunity to learn about their hometown’s rich history and create a sense of pride-of-place.

The program introduces students to the nonprofit world through hands-on projects; to Hartford’s and Connecticut’s cultural resources through field trips and research; and to the career world through work experience and by talking with a variety of professional guest speakers.

A number of YEP interns remain active with Connecticut Landmarks after the summer program by helping with events including Butler-McCook’s Sunset Sounds Concert Series and the Hale Homestead Corn Maze. YEP alumni are also employed as site interpreters at the Butler-McCook House and Garden.

Jana is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Art and Art History at Eastern Connecticut State University, teaching courses on American Art, Visual Culture, and Women in the Visual Arts. She holds a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Notre Dame, an M.A. in Art History from Syracuse University, and she has completed doctoral work at Indiana University in American Art with minors in African Art and American Studies.

New Council Members Up for Election

At the Annual Court and Dinner May 7, members will vote on a new slate for the Council (Executive Board) of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. Those proposed will be:

Governor, Ken Buckbee.
Deputy Governor: Barbara Ulrich
Recording Secretary: Catherine Bue-Hepner.
Corresponding Secretary: Laura Shafer.
Treasurer: Ray Nichols
Chaplain: Robert G. Carroon
Genealogist: Timothy Jacobs
Meet the Society’s Newest Members

Meet the newest members of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford:

No. 1929, Jared James Nathan of Thousand Oaks, California, a descendant of John Higginson;

No. 1930, Denise Elaine Holton DeCrescito of Franklin Square, New York, a descendant of William Holton;

No. 1931, Glenn David Reasoner of Burbank, California, a descendant of William Hyde;

No. 1932, Grace Elizabeth Bliss Smith of Macomb, Michigan, a descendant of Thomas Bliss;

And No. 1933, Endres Mac Campbell, Jr., of Bonita Springs, Fl., a descendant of Matthew Marvin.

Congratulations to all!

New Map Shows Hartford in 1640

Genealogist Tim Jacobs has enhanced a 1640 map of Hartford so that it shows, legibly, the names of most of the original settlers and the properties they owned.

An 11-by-14-inch version of the new map will be given to those attending this year’s Annual Court and Dinner in May.

A larger version of the map, suitable for framing, will be able to be ordered at the Annual Court and, later, through the Founders website foundersofhartford.org.

The new map should be of interest to all with a connection to 17th century Hartford.

Another Request For Your E-Mail

Postage expenses are among the biggest annual costs of the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford. In an effort to better serve our members, we are now sending this newsletter electronically instead of by postal mail.

This will allow us to provide more timely and complete news of the Society’s doings, and will also save us considerable expense – funds that can go toward other initiatives of the Society.

Two years ago, we asked all members to send their current e-mail addresses to Bob Hall, longtime Governor of the Society, and many did. But we still need to hear from many members, so please take this as a request to write him. Bob is at rshallct@gmail.com.

Please be assured that the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford will use your e-mail address solely for the purpose of communicating news of the Society to you.

Your address will not be shared with anyone else, nor will it be used for advertising.

If you do not presently use e-mail, send a notice to that effect to our post office box: Founders of Hartford, P. O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215.

All the “heavy lifting” of proof establishing your descent from a Founder of Hartford has already been done, so all your child, grandchild, or great-grandchild need do is prove descent from you. That can be done using birth certificates, easily obtained from the town of birth. Wouldn’t it be a meaningful gift to a newborn to have a lifetime link to Hartford’s earliest days?

Membership information may be found on the Society’s website, foundersofhartford.org (select “Membership”).

Show Your Pride With Our Insignia

There are several ways you may show your membership in the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford:

Rosettes are $15 each; small medals are $60, or $55 if purchased at the Annual Court and Dinner; large medals are $135, or $125 if bought at the Court and Dinner; and a genuine full-size Founders of Hartford Flag is $200.

Anyone interested should write to P. O. Box 270215, West Hartford, CT 06107-0215 or email Governor-Elect Ken Buckbee at buckb@snet.net.

Consider Membership For Your Descendants

If you are a member, it’s easy for your descendants to join. All they, or you, need are your membership number, proof that the person is descended from you by blood, and the lifetime membership fee of $300.